

Carolina

ACTION

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Elephants in the Corn Patch





A Chance Encounter?

by Jim Davidson, Carolina Conference President

We never know what impact a seemingly chance encounter will have. For often that “chance” encounter is really a divine appointment. I believe such an encounter took place years ago that has benefited the Carolina Conference and its ministries ever since. Let me just briefly outline that encounter for you.

Back in 1960 the Conference was approached by a Mr. Winslow of Elizabeth City, NC, and asked if they would be willing to build and operate a nursing home facility in that city. He said he would pay to have it built, and if in 15 years he was pleased with how the Adventists operated the facility, he would donate it to them. Well, in 1964, after only four years he was so pleased with how it was operating that he donated it along with 12 acres of property to the Carolina Conference. The Winslow foundation still continues to provide a grant each year to assist in the operation of this facility. You may wonder why an individual would approach a church and ask them to operate a healthcare facility. This is where the divine appointment comes in.

After Mr. Winslow moved from Elizabeth City he went to Washington, DC, where he was blessed

with a very successful business. While there he became acquainted with Washington Adventist Sanitarium and Hospital. He was impressed with not only how it was operated but with the Christian philosophy that pervaded its operations. Then he had a family member who was treated at Florida Hospital in Orlando, FL. Again, he was impressed by the quality of care and the spirit of compassion that was shown. As he was impressed to provide his home town of Elizabeth City with a skilled nursing facility, his first thought

turned to the Adventists who operated hospitals across the country and who had

nursing as well as 24 beds of independent living to that community. What a blessing that seemingly “chance” encounter has been for God’s work for over 50 years!

In 1975, a group of laypeople had a vision to create a skilled nursing facility in the western part of the conference that would not only provide quality healthcare but also provide jobs for students at Mt. Pisgah Academy. Over the course of time this facility grew and prospered and it, too, became a part of the long-term care ministry of the Carolina Conference. On this campus an independent living community was built known as Pisgah Estates. Later an assisted living facility was added, known as Pisgah Villa. Also, a wellness facility has been built which includes a fitness gym, indoor swimming pool and physical therapy facilities.

For over 40 years these healthcare organizations operated independently of each other and greatly blessed God’s church. However, it was believed that even greater strength could be gained by unit-

ing these healthcare holdings into one operating entity. In 2007, the Pisgah Campus was integrated into one coordinated Continuing Care Residential Community (CCRC). It provides for a continuum of care

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Winslow Memorial Home

served his family in such a caring way. Thus he sought out the Caro-

lina Conference and asked them to work with him on establishing a quality skilled nursing facility in his home town. Today, that healthcare center has relocated to a 20 acre property in Elizabeth City and provides 146 beds of skilled



Pisgah Valley Retirement Community

Featured Story



Photos by Ken Ford

The “Real Diehl” at Raleigh Church

Hundreds of visitors from the community and from Adventist churches as far away as Georgia came to see and hear Dr. Hans Diehl, the father of CHIP, during “Life at Its Best: A Weekend to Take Charge of Your Health” at the Raleigh Adventist Church.

The church’s Health Ministries Department asked Dr. Diehl to speak at this two-day event in January to kick off their very first CHIP – Coronary Health Improvement Project - program. Dr. Diehl, a very dynamic and highly motivational health lecturer, explained in five lectures how it is never too late to take charge of your health through simple lifestyle changes.

Other highlights of the event included special music on Sabbath by the Mount Pisgah Academy choir, Meno San Cielo, followed by a deli-

cious, organic haystack lunch and healthy refreshments, courtesy of Whole Foods Market of Cary. On the second day of the event, Whole Foods

Market demonstrated and provided mouth-watering samples of plant-based recipes for a Rainbow Kale Slaw, Homemade Hummus, and a Double Green Smoothie.

A special Reaching In and Reaching Out luncheon before Sunday’s afternoon lectures provided a forum for health directors and other church leaders to share innovative ways to use our health message in outreach. Dr. Diehl also gave useful suggestions for health evangelism and stressed how health reform within our churches will save many from physical,

mental, and moral degeneracy.

The event culminated with a CHIP information session, after which the Spirit of God led approximately fifty people, many of whom are not church members, to participate in the February CHIP program.

DVD’s of the two-day event can be ordered by visiting the Raleigh Health Ministries website at www.raleighadventist.org/health.

by Antoinette Ware Martin, Raleigh Health Ministries Leader



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A Special Child of God

Yes, a special child of God lives across the street from the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church in a mobile home park. Some might even call her a special angel. Children call her Santa's helper.



Barbara Bottsford is a native of western North Carolina whose Christianity is always on display.

Her big smiles are infectious, and children know they can stop in any time and get a cookie and a story.

Barbara graduated from Fletcher Academy and later Southern College with a degree in education. Because of her love of children she has taught in many Adventist church schools.

Barbara, now 75 years young and a widow with medical issues and poor eyesight, doesn't let those things stop her from counting her blessings. In 1985 to honor her father when he died at the age of 85, she started a special mission project of making Christmas Stockings for children.

The first year she made 20 stockings and yearly the number increases. This year she made 411 stockings. The stockings are truly beautiful, made from red felt with white fur around the top. They're 12 inches long, filled to bulging

with children's literature and candy that she buys at a discount with her limited budget, and sealed in a plastic bag. Barbara then gives these stockings to local churches and community organizations for needy children's programs at Christmas time.

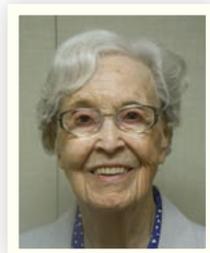
The Arden Seventh-Day-Adventist Church is happy to claim Barbara Bottsford as a member. God must have a big smile as he looks down on Barbara in her Christmas workshop.

by Owen Spencer

Centenarians Honored

This January the Fletcher church was privileged to honor two members as centenarians.

Anita Kohler, a vibrant member of the Fletcher community and church for 32 years, became 100 on January 7. She and her late husband, "Hans" Kohler, were married for almost 65 years. Being Danish, Anita married Hans in



Denmark, but because he was German with English citizenship, they left for London five days later. That was just two days before World

War II was declared! "Scary," she said. Eventually they became US citizens.

Anita, pictured above, attributes her long life to her love for God, her husband's love and to her enjoyable work, first as a teacher, then as a secretary at the DC seminary and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, where her late husband worked as a denominational treasurer. Amazingly,

Anita's only siblings are 97 and 95 years old. Anita prefers to stay out of the limelight, but her infectious smile and positive outlook puts her there. She faithfully exercises by climbing stairs and walking daily.

Florence Ready, below, who turned 101 on January 17 of this year, has been a vivacious member of the Fletcher church for about two years. Her life's work was with the Federal Government, serving mostly in administrative capacities



which took her to several different states, including Washington, DC. When asked about her long life, she immediately says it is because of lifestyle changes she made when younger. She smoked from age 17-47 and used some alcohol until 1969. At some point she and her late husband became Seventh-day Adventists, and it was then that she chose vegetarianism. She makes aerobic exercises and walks a part of her daily routine. Florence's blue eyes dance as she radiates an energetic love for God and life.

God has been gracious to Anita and Florence. What treasures they are to Him and to the Fletcher church family.

By Marie Sandborn

Religious Liberty Sabbath

The Fletcher church on Sabbath, January 15, welcomed James Standish, associate director of the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department. He encouraged members to live in the "now," saying they cannot be relevant and uncontroversial at the same time, being both a friend



of the world and a friend of God. Adventist Christians must have a voice in society to arrest evil, recognizing that political parties cannot be our voice. Our silence brings moral culpability.

He suggested assisting with community pregnancy programs that encourage sonograms (most mothers choose life when seeing their unborn child). There is also a need for awareness and daily prayers for fellow believers who are being persecuted around the world.

The Religious Liberty Department assists with such matters.

The Religious Liberty Department also deals domestically with Sabbath work issues, working for more protective religious liberty legislature and the separation of church and state issues that are a danger to church views. He encouraged believers to have balance, to not use their voice as a hammer for small issues but to be



firm in the non-negotiable issues.

The Fletcher church and community was blessed by these profound reminders of our faith's responsibilities, and will trust Jesus to show them how to live "now."

By Marie Sandborn

Christmas in Hickory

On Christmas Day, 2010, the Hickory Adventist, Christ Lutheran and Penelope Baptist churches, along with Shell's Bar-b-que, joined together to provide Christmas lunches for approximately 100 homeless and indigent families in Catawba County. There were approximately 40 workers from the three churches there to serve these people.

Singers and musicians from the Hickory church provided a Christmas concert. One young lady from a local shelter said, "Hearing the music alone was worth being here. It's the best day I've ever had."

In addition to the meals were 100 canvas "goody bags," which

included a Bible, soap, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste (donated by Dr. Gina Covington, a local dentist), sunglasses, travel size lotions, etc., fruit, candy and more.

They saw the Lord's providing from the beginning. He provided the turkey and dressing for half the original price, nearly all the canvas bags were donated, as were all 100 toothpastes and brushes. And non-members donated just because they had heard others talking about it.

Perhaps His biggest blessing was that each and every person was able to arrive and get home safely, even in a snow storm that brought six to eight inches of snow. A white, and very bright, Christmas!

by Sarah Kaylor

Photo by Amanda Huffman



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Forks Over Knives Comes to Charlotte Sharon Church

The documentary, “Forks Over Knives” about the relationship between food and health based on the China Study, was screened in February at the Charlotte Sharon Church. David Parker, (pictured below, far left) a Physical Therapist, and his wife, Pamela, worked tirelessly with other church members to make this event happen. Along with the movie, there were samples of nutritious foods provided by Earthfare. They also had a panel of experts present to answer questions about health and whole foods. The panel included: Lino Stanchich, a licensed nutritionist, Kushi Institute certified macrobiotic educator and counselor, and licensed massage and bodywork therapist; Jane Quincannon Stanchich (below, center), a licensed nutritionist, certified macrobiotic teacher, counselor, noted chef and international teacher of natural health principles; and Amy J. Lanou, Ph.D., (below, right) a



senior nutrition scientist for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization, and assistant professor of health and wellness for the University of North Carolina-Asheville (UNCA).



Upstate Christian Academy Week of Prayer

“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’” Ben Roy stated dramatically. The children’s eyes widened in delight and surprise as the young volunteer mixed two chemicals and they began to glow a bright neon orange.



“But God didn’t create things from other things like we did. He created this world from nothing!”

Upstate Christian Academy in Greenville, SC, was blessed to have Ben Roy as guest speaker and presenter for their Week of Prayer, November 16-19, 2010. Each of his experiments demonstrated Biblical principles. (For example, he wrote “sin” on a piece of special paper that disappeared when lit on fire, showing how God doesn’t remember our sins once we ask for forgiveness.) When asked why he liked science so much, he said, “Everything points to it.” And he demonstrated that everything in science points to God!

During the school Thanksgiving program that week, entitled, “We Believe,” Roy demonstrated God’s amazing power with more

riveting experiments. The Week of Prayer culminated in a church performance during which five students were baptized. Four others will follow them in committing their lives to God in the near future! The school has truly been blessed by Ben Roy’s ministry.

Upstate Christian Academy’s greatest desire is to follow their mission statement, “We exist to show children Jesus, nurture their love for Him, and others, and teach them to think and empower them to serve.”

By Michelle Bullard

Pictures by Dily Pasos

Jacksonville ACS

The Community Services of the Jacksonville Seventh-day Adventist Church donated over \$100.00 worth of food to WCTI Channel 12’s Eastern North Carolina Food Bank food drive on Friday, December 10, 2010, in Jacksonville. Community Services Leader, Patrick Trainor, along with Khristian and Keala Bierrum (Keala is pictured right), delivered the food.





Since the days I pastored the Haw River Church, I've known this story regarding one of our members, Don Parrish, who's become a celebrity of sorts in his community and beyond through the simple witness of a smile and a wave. Don has had some wonderful encounters with people in recent years about feeling God's influence through his friendly witness.

Don was a full-time teacher in the Southern Union before retiring, and his wife, Kitty, is currently the Medical Service Director at Elon University. They're both a joy to be around. Below is a testimony of one person who was touched by his ministry.

Pr. Andrés E. Sequera, D.Min.

Just a Smile and a Wave

The old Shaker song, "Simple Gifts," comes to mind when we think of the gentleman about whom we are writing. We live in a rural area of Guilford County near Friedens Church. We travel several times weekly through the town of Gibsonville. As we travel up Church Street, we are always looking for an elderly man walking his small dog, possibly a shih tzu. We



do not know his name, but we consider "ourselves in the place just right," when we see them. We always get a smile and a big wave—AL WAYS! Not only do we get this, but everyone who is fortunate enough to be traveling while these two are walking gets that same grand wave and smile. He greets the people he is facing, and then turns to greet those who are coming from behind them.

His mission is to spread joy to those of us hustling and bustling by as he and his beloved pet walk leisurely taking time to "smell the roses."

So, thank you, man with the dog, for the Simple Gifts of a smile and wave. The little dog seems to be wearing a smile, too. We're sure it's because it feels so lucky to have such a master, like the song says, "in the valley of love and delight."

James and Peggy Greeson, Gibsonville, North Carolina

A Chance Encounter?

continued from page 2

from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing. It is the first Seventh-day Adventist owned and operated CCRC to be licensed in the eastern United States. With this consolidation the Winslow campus in Elizabeth City was also integrated into the healthcare holdings of the Carolina Conference and a new corporation was created, Carolina Adventist Retirement Systems (CARS). This new corporation is blessed to have David Kidder serve as its president and CEO. The Carolina Conference

executive committee serves as its constituency.



Pisgah Valley Retirement Community

From that first encounter with Mr. Winslow, the Carolina Conference retirement health ministry now employs 450 staff members, has 456 residents and is valued

at 23 million dollars. It provides each year to the Carolina Conference over \$600,000 from leases and student employment at Mt. Pisgah Academy, and a few years ago was able to donate \$1,000,000 towards the completion of the new boys dormitory on the campus of MPA. In addition, it has the ability to serve as a witness for the compassionate ministry of Jesus to the communities it serves.

Chance encounter? I suppose some might say it was. I prefer to believe it was nothing short of a Divine appointment.

Albemarle 100th Anniversary

members and guests. When Earnhardt came forward, he made a point to recognize the pastors, their wives, and teachers who had contributed so much to the stability of the church. His trip down memory lane included his own conviction when he and his wife Crystal attended an evangelistic meeting years ago in the area, and when Buddy Brass encouraged him to become an evangelist.

After a well-attended potluck with all the trimmings, 180-something people stood by to hear the afternoon program. Each pastor shared his experience leading the church.

Ted Burris, local elder, recounted the history of the church, from a house in Norwood during the horse and buggy days, to the Steeds home in Albemarle. At that time there were 16 charter members under the care of Elder R. T. Nash. Two years later a new building was erected on Long Street and took the name of Rocky Ridge Seventh-day Adventist church.

In 1921, Oswald C. Bowers donated land on West Oakwood Avenue, where a new church and school were built. The congregation flourished at this location until

March of 1979 when Mrs. Kate Morton donated the parcel of land on Hobe Road, the present church site. Prior to this, the church had raised over \$17,000 to purchase land in east Albemarle with the intent of building a new church. The church used the money from the sale of this land to build their new church. The church was dedicated debt-free in March of 1979. In 2006, the Family Life Center was completed and was dedicated debt-free two years later. It has served the church and community well for various activities. What a tribute to the work and dedication of God's people and God's protection and care. No doubt, He has sustained His Church through the ups and downs of the past 100

A chilly winter day didn't keep the crowd of nearly 200 people from filling the sanctuary to overflowing at the 100th Year of Celebration for the Albemarle Church on February 12. The members of the church had put in numerous hours in preparation for this time of reflection.

A committee of eight members, pictured right, bottom, met for a whole year making plans for this event. They invited former members, Conference leaders and former pastors, pictured below, top. The church underwent a cosmetic transformation with upgrades throughout the sanctuary and the recently-added Family Life Center.

The day commenced with Sabbath School by former interim pastor Harry Robinson. Elders Davidson and Moyer, president and secretary of the conference, along with Rick Russell, treasurer, each had their special welcome. Elder Davidson's greetings included a flashback to 1911 when William H. Taft was president, the Chevrolet Motor company appeared on the scene and the first transcontinental flight occurred. In fact, there were only 104,000 Adventists worldwide in 1911, compared to 16 million today.

It was time for Elder John Earnhardt to deliver a resounding message to the gathered Albemarle

years, and the Albemarle church is a testimony to His faithfulness.

by Debbie Rapp





Rockingham Acquires Beautiful New Home

On December 21, 2010, representatives of Cornerstone Church in Rockingham, NC, signed on the dotted line to purchase a new building for their congregation. The stately, white-columned Victorian, previously the Russell Marks Funeral Home, houses a 200-person chapel, offers ample room for classrooms and offices, plenty of parking and an additional storage building in the back.

Blessed to have no shortage of skilled talent among its members, the church began the remodeling process in force. In less than two weeks a new platform and audio/visual arena were built; the kitchen, serving area and fellowship hall were given new tiled floors and paint; and the youth and children's Sabbath school classrooms were stocked, furnished and prepared for use.

Built in 1890 by Walter and Mary Parsons, the house was one of the most impressive of the beautiful Victorian houses in Rockingham. Harby H. Leavitt purchased and refitted it for a funeral home in 1941. A highly-decorative porch was removed and replaced with a

two story Classical Revival portico. The interior retains many original features such as mantels and beaded tongue-and-groove wainscots. For the remainder of the twentieth century

the house operated as Marks Funeral Home.

After renting for two years, it was truly a 'high day in Zion' when on January 1, 2011, the Cornerstone congregation held the first service of the year in their very own building. The church will be officially dedicated on May 14. A place once associated with death now represents the Lifegiver in the Rockingham community!

by Cynthia Mejia

Romance at the Ranch

If you and your spouse are searching for a romantic getaway, try Romance at the Ranch! On the weekend before Valentine's Day, 28 couples engaged in building stronger marriages as Tim and Kim Cove led out in sincere discussion and eye-opening exercises. This year's construction theme appropriately symbolized the need of a

"brick by brick" approach to effectively building a relationship with your spouse. Married for 22 years, Kim Cove is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and her husband is the Associate Pastor of

the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church. Other delightful activities

included a pontoon boat ride around the lake, horse carriage rides, volleyball in the gym with friends, and horseback riding.

As you start planning for next year's Romance at the Ranch, imagine singing songs around the fire, taking a nature walk in the cool of the morning, or participating in communion with your lifetime partner... all for the sake of having the partner of a life-time.

by Jacquie Pinder



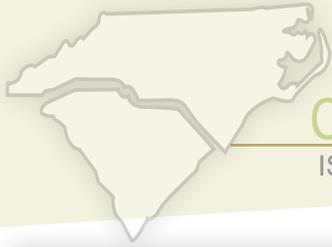
Pictured above from L-R: Dixie Painter, a survivor who shared her story; Dana Bradford, Elissa Peters, another survivor; Chris Bradford, END IT NOW spokesperson; Debbie Rapp, Carolina Conference Women's Ministries Leader; and Vicki Hillmon,

The Tryon Church Presents "End It Now"

END IT NOW, the global campaign to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence against women and girls around the world was presented at the Tryon Church on Sabbath afternoon, January, 15th. The END IT NOW campaign aims to mobilize individuals around the world to join in to resolve this worldwide issue. On the local level, Ruth Ramsey, Executive Director of Steps To Hope came to support the END IT NOW awareness to the community. Steps to Hope deals with these issues on a daily basis.

by Stella Young





Mt. Carmel Fourth Anniversary

On Sabbath, February 5, 2011, Mt. Carmel Mission marked the occasion of their fourth anniversary. The theme was Total Praise, giving God Total Praise for what He has done for Mt. Carmel Mission over the past four years.

The service began with a powerful Sabbath School followed by a special Mission Spotlight by Elders Bill and Mishael Williams with a report from the recent Lay Advisory Retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch. A mini-concert featured 10-year-old Patricia Williams (right) singing "Mercy Said No," Elder Mishael C. Williams singing "That Name," and a piano selection by Johnifer Q. Fashion.



The worship service included Elder Williams giving a reading of the history of Mt. Carmel Mission from January 2007 to the present, highlighting how God blessed Elders Jerome & Beverly Washington (along with their daughter Destiny) to plant a new church.

As Elder Rose Blevins stood to give the sermon, the hearts of the congregation were lifted in prayer. Her title was "Totally Committed." Divine Worship came to a close with all of Mt. Carmel Mission's

elders and board members recommitting their hearts to the mission of the church. The congregation also stood in recommitment.

Over 70 people came to share in this special occasion, and they left knowing the Mt. Carmel Church is a loving, spiritual group of believers, dedicated to bringing every soul to the feet of Christ.

by Beverly Washington

Evangelist Bullon Returns to Carolinas

Evangelist Alejandro Bullon recently came from Brazil to present campaigns at the Greenville and Mt. Olive Spanish churches.

He spoke to an audience of around of 850 people, 102 of which did not know Jesus. Every night Bullon gave an invitation call, and a total of 50 new people were touched by the power of God.

Due to this effort, 12 people gave their lives to God and were baptized, closing 2010 with a total of 66 baptisms in this district. Also, several oth-

ers are presently clearing the way for baptism in their lives.

A musical concert by Hugo Yin from Los Angeles, California, collected a total of \$10,500 in offerings from the audience and through "Pacts of Love" between the brothers of the Mt. Olive Church. With this amount the church fulfilled two projects: (1) To pay the last debt to the Carolina



Alejandro Bullon

Conference for the church loan, and (2) To finish the mezzanine of the sanctuary. By faith, First Elder David Escobar, at the beginning of December, started this \$8,000 project using money that members loaned in advance. They were now able to return the borrowed money. The mezzanine now has steps and benches with a capacity of 120, and the frontal half wall was replaced with wooden railings for better visibility of the pulpit.

Mt. Olive Spanish is joyful and thankful to God for its blessings, and to Carolina Breakthrough offerings that make these events possible. Pastor Bullon's sermons are available at www.pastorsandoval.com

by Pastor Elias Sandoval, Sr.

A Love for Literature

Shirley Hamer, a member of the Thomasville, NC, church, is a big fan of Adventist literature. She has made it her personal mission to scatter the Good News like the "leaves of Autumn." Through this ministry, God has enabled her to bring several souls to Christ. One young lady found some tracts Shirley had left and approached her, "Are you the lady who leaves this literature?" She began attending on Sabbath and became a member of the church. Another man keeps the Sabbath in his home and has visited church several times.

But there's one problem. She needs more literature to hand out! Anyone who has literature, CD's, videos or other materials that can be distributed, please contact Shirley. She will be happy to share them for you! 336-431-0249, PO Box 623, Trinity, NC, 27370

Visual Technology

and the Local Church

Technology is rapidly shaping society. From iPhones and iPads to complicated lighting boards and powerful projectors, society is influenced by the best gadgets and electronics this age has to offer. But how are cellphones, computers, projectors—you name it—influencing your local church?

At my church the use of projectors, visual art, lighting boards and computers play an important part of our worship experience every Sabbath. Every weekend, technology finds its place in bringing the Gospel Message to people's hearts. As Matt Brown, one of our technical ministers, puts it, "The role of media is to provide an atmosphere that allows people to connect with God in a more powerful way."

So how are you using technologies in your church? Is it telling the message of Jesus, or are you worried about getting the "cool effect" and missing the point?

Here are three things to keep in mind when working with technology:

Keep your audience in mind.

Jesus spoke in parables, stories and visual illustrations. His message was always the same, but He knew his audience, so He would use the best way to tell the message. The same thing can be said about the use of technology in the church. Some congregations are not equipped or ready to get into the technological age. That's hard to believe, but it's true. So before you invest in new equipment, ask yourself the following question: Will this best serve my congregation in understanding the story of Jesus?

Have a plan "B." For the ones that use computers, projectors and all those gadgets, you understand the unwritten love/hate relationship between humans and technology . . . sometimes things don't go according to plan. A light bulb might burn out, a cable could be missing

or the battery would run out. If your service is dependent on technology, always have a plan "B." Understanding your limitations and going over all the things that could go wrong is a good thing to do.

Remember the purpose. First Corinthians 10:31 says that whatever we do, we should do it all for the glory of God. When using technology in the church, don't forget its purpose, which is to bring glory to God.

Don't be afraid of letting technology into the church. Keep the purpose in mind and the Lord will bless. May God continue to guide you as you use the talents He's given you for the advancement of His Kingdom.



Eddie Cornejo is the Associate Pastor at Foster Church in Asheville, NC





Milestones at Midtown

A lot has been happening at the Columbia Midtown Church. Pastor Hal Mayer of: "Keep The Faith Ministry" was a special speaker in November of last year. His "End Time" message brought eye-opening and compelling words concerning living in these Last Days. Pastor Mayer's ministry is based in Locust Dale, VA., and he travels extensively to share his message. www.ktfministry.org

The Midtown Church and ACTS, the Adventist Community Thrift Shop, organized a "Christmas



Pictured are (L-R) Pastor Walter Fry, Mayer and church elders Bob Garner and Barry Nicks.

Food Gift Box Project" with help from church members on December 18, 2010. Over a dozen families were served and 15 church members donated time and energy to make it successful. ACTS is a Community Services Project of Columbia Midtown and other area Adventist churches. During

the volunteers' appreciation dinner held on November 4, 2010, ACTS celebrated its first anniversary. The thrift shop is located in the Quail Valley Shopping Center Complex in Irmo, SC,

Columbia Midtown hosted its Healthy Cooking School on Sep-

tember 13-November 1, 2010. The weekly sessions consisted of lectures on the importance of proper eating habits and the health message, and delicious food samples.

A photo layout presentation was featured on November 13 during potluck lunch at Columbia Midtown Church. This photo record titled, "Midtown Milestones," is one of several featured throughout the year which serves to chronicle various events of church ministry. The purpose is to keep church

members and visitors apprised of church ministries and activities.

The church is located in Columbia, SC, and is under the leadership of Pastor Walter Fry.



By Charlie Jones, Midtown Church Communication Secretary

Standing for the Sabbath

"We are made a spectacle unto the world...and to angels, and to men." (1 Corinthians 4:9) It is of the highest importance that Sabbath keepers live out their faith in every particular." *E. G. White, Our High Calling, page 230*

These words recently took deeper meaning in the life of 16-year-old Andrea Meneses, a member of the Rutherfordton, NC, Cornerstone church. In January, due to uncharacteristic snow falls, Andrea, a junior at Richmond Senior High, found herself missing four days of school. Three of the make-up days were scheduled during the week, but the fourth was scheduled on a Saturday. Not attending would cause her to exceed her allowable absences and consequently warrant the need to take two additional tests in subject



areas she had not previously studied. A poor score in these tests would potentially lower her GPA.

The Cornerstone church was praying for Andrea as she took the issue first to the vice principal, then the principal, of her school. Finding no sympathetic ear at the school she mentioned her dilemma to church Elder Samuel Garcia, who then contacted Jim Davidson, president of the Carolina Conference. Davidson contacted Andrea's school that same day but, declaring the issue to be out of his jurisdiction, the principal referred him to the superintendent of the Board of Education. He suggested Andrea bring proof of church attendance to class. Andrea presented the "proof" (a church bulletin), and the absence was "coded," meaning there would be no negative results for not attending the make-up day on Sabbath.

"Let us remember that by keeping the Sabbath holy, we are honoring God. And those that honor Him, He will honor." *Letter 66, 1900, pp. 3, 4.*

Andrea's story is proof of how true that is.
by Cynthia Mejia

Featured Story

ANGELS

Walk Among Us

After numerous trips to Duke Hospital, once again 16-year old Sarah-Ruth Painter, a member of the Tryon, NC, church, found herself and her mom, Dixie Painter, en-route to the hospital. It had only been two weeks since she was last there. This time discouragement had set in, and she wondered why she was not feeling the comfort from God that she usually felt. Sensing the need to pray, they pulled into a rest stop. Dixie asked for a sign so Sarah would know that God was there for her. When they opened their eyes, a gentleman they had seen playing Frisbee several yards away was now standing right beside them. He wore hearing aids and spoke in the telltale monotone of someone who is hearing impaired. He pointed to her arm that was laced with IV's and bandages and said five simple words, "God will be with you." They felt sure he was the answer to their prayers.

Although many wonderful things came as a result of this visit to Duke, Sarah continued her battle with Crohn's Disease. In spite of her best efforts, her health continued to deteriorate. Even the medicine designed to help her was destroying her kidneys. Surgery was eminent.

Duke Hospital-bound once again, Sarah and her mother stopped at a Chic-Fil-A on the way. Sarah noticed a man standing trying to convey his order through sign language. He had the kindest face she had ever

seen. Then, while sitting at the table with her mom, she expressed how it felt as though God had given up on her and was no longer hearing her prayers. Sarah looked over to the man, who was now sitting at a table across from them. Their eyes met. He pointed to her arm, and gave a thumbs up. Then he looked to heaven, gave another thumbs up, and signed, "God loves you" This was the second man with a hearing disorder who had given Sarah confidence and comfort. The first man could clearly see the IV's in Sarah's arm, but the second man couldn't have seen them due to her long-sleeved coat—she appeared quite normal. Once again God was sending her a sign that He had the situation well under control, and would never leave her side.

Arriving at the hospital, Sarah settled in with new peace in her heart. The surgery was expected to last 8-10 hours, and there was a good possibility that she could receive a permanent ileostomy and feeding tube, and at least a six-week stay in the hospital. A short three and a half hours later the doctor approached Sarah's parents in the waiting room. Fearing the worst, they clung to each other. But the doctor greeted them with a smile on his face as he exclaimed, "She's okay, she's okay. She is in recovery."

The doctor explained that he couldn't believe what he had seen. An abscess, which had enveloped her



entire abdominal cavity a mere four days before, was now the size of a fifty cent piece! And the Crohn's Disease that had been very active four days before was now in remission. Sarah did not need a feeding tube nor an ileostomy—she didn't even have any surgical drains. It was truly amazing!

As Sarah lay in ICU the doctor was still exclaiming that he "just couldn't believe it." He was sending the abscess to be tested because this had never happened before. Sarah tore her oxygen mask from her face, looked at the doctor with a smile and told him, "You can test anything you want to, but I know how this happened. Jesus did this for me."

The doctor gave her a warm smile and said, "If there's such a thing as a Christmas Miracle, you are it."

Sarah's six-week hospital stay turned out to be only four days. Her faith has been made stronger by two encouraging messengers and a miracle delivery from a serious surgery.

What lies ahead for Sarah? The answer is her greatest desire in life – "God give me a testimony to share with the world." Sarah, God gave you your heart's desire.

By Bethany Painter

Revised for publication by Stella Young

Elephants in the Corn Patch

Have you ever chased an elephant out of your corn patch? Probably not. But at the Kibidula mission where the Ross family lives, it has been known to happen. But that's not all that happens there!

Bill and Nannette Ross, formerly from the Boone, NC, church, along with their four young children—Joiya, Kiel, Matthias and Ezra, serve as missionaries in Tanzania. Just a few years ago Bill was a rock musician and doing drugs, but God changed his life. Now Bill is installing One-Day Churches all across Tanzania—over 100 of them so far! The churches are a project of ASI, Maranatha and the Kibidula Mission.

The Ross family really enjoys mission life. They've been at Kibidula almost two years. Joiya, 12, teaches knitting and sewing. She carries water on her head just like the local women, and sings beautifully in the Swahili language!

Because of the AIDS epidemic there are lots of widows and orphans in Africa. The Ross family often purchase used clothing to distribute to these in need. Nannette sews garments for the children. Bill helps the widows by providing simple necessities like outhouses. "These women are exploited by the local men, who expect a favor for any work they do," says Bill. "It is a privilege to do even humble work like this to help the situation."

Recently Bill and Joiya were back in the states and dropped by the Boone Church to give an update on their latest mission experiences. Bill was



a former residential construction worker in the Boone area. He now builds for the Lord. "Working on the One-Day Church projects are hard work, but very rewarding," he shared. Nine churches can fit on the mission's flatbed truck. But sometimes they have to be hauled in by

hand to remote areas. Bill says, "We can actually put up about three in a day, really hustling." He and his crew put up the walls and roof, and the local congregation finish the rest as they can. Even with open walls, it is quite a change from twig huts or worshipping in the open air!

A recent excursion took the mission team deep into Masai country. Those colorful African warriors seek to protect their heritage and still wear ethnic dress. "We really went to work for them," Bill commented, "and 15 churches were erected in just eight days!" Sometimes the buildings are joined together to former larger structures, such as a school. There are many more churches to put up, and it is a lot of work. But very satisfying.

Any groups wishing to make short-term mission trips, visit the Kibidula website at www.kibidula.org or email Bill at pleasantcreekfarm@gmail.com.

You may have to endure an elephant or two in the garden, but with God providing, there will surely be enough to share!

By JoAnn Brown





Obituaries

Ahlgren, Mildred Digh, 93, born Dec. 21, 1916, in Rutherford County, NC, died Sept. 28, 2010. She was a member of the Gastonia, NC, church.

Campbell, Blanche (Edge) Smith, 82, born Nov. 15, 1927, in Moore, SC, died Nov. 9, 2010, in Spartanburg, SC. She was the loving wife of Marvin "MC" Campbell and was first married to the late Eugene Smith. She was a faithful and active member of the Spartanburg Church and worked many years as a nursing assistant. Surviving in addition to her husband is one son, Leo Smith and his wife, Kathleen; a daughter, Brenda Fulbright; two sisters, Arbutus Trail and Grace Elvira Chesney; two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Also surviving are three step-children, Donna Schafer, Rosanne Thompson and Glen Campbell; nine step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a sister, Naomi Anderson.

Howell, Vincent Merlin, 71, born July 21, 1939, in Hamilton, OH, died Dec. 5, 2010. He served his country in the Navy from 1958 to 1960 aboard the USS Randolph, CVA15. He attended the University of Dayton studying electrical engineering and quality control. He received his Quality Control Engineer Certification in 1979. He worked for AVCO Manufacturing Corp. from 1961-1974. He retired from ASCO Valve, Co. as Quality Control Manager in 1999. He was a member of the Aiken, SC, church where he served as head elder among other offices. He was the founder and station manager of their FM radio station, WASD. He held a commercial pilot's license and was an accomplished aerobatics pilot. He is survived by his wife, Alice Peckinpugh Howell; one son, Brian Howell; one daughter, Angela Howell; a brother, Laurence Howell; one sister, Karen Bradford; and a sister-in-law, Patricia Callahan.

Smith, Shirley R., 76, born May, 1934, in Providence, RI, died Nov. 7, 2010. She received her RN degree from the New England Sanitorium and a BS from Glendale

in nursing education. Shirley was a head nurse at Fletcher Hospital and the assistant director of nursing at Memorial Hospital in Manchester, KY. She and her husband retired to Mills River, NC. In her retirement years, she tutored at the Blue Ridge Literacy Council, worked with the Carolina Retirees Association Northwest and annually headed the Red Cross blood drive at the Mills River Church, their home church.



She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Richard; one son, Richard B. Smith; and one granddaughter, Christina Smith.

Walker, Thelma W., 83, born July 9, 1927, died Aug. 28, 2010, in Hillsborough, NC. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Marvin. She spent more than 50 years of her life in Florida working in the medical field before moving back to North Carolina in 2004. She was a lifelong member of the Adventist church.

Wellman, Wallace, 96, born Jan. 14, 1914, died Oct. 9, 2010. Wallace graduated from Greysville Academy, attended Southern Missionary College, and later received a theology degree from Washington Missionary College in 1941. Soon afterward he married Mildred Hust. The Wellmans pastored in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Iowa and Wisconsin. He was forced to retire following a heart attack in 1974. Pastor and Mrs. Wellman settled in Bostic, NC, where they continued to serve in the Rutherfordton Church they both loved. Mildred preceded him in death in 2004. He is survived by two sons; Neal Wellman and Dennis Wellman; and one grandson, Matthew Wellman.

Wheeler, Pastor Ben D., 88, died Feb. 24, 2011, in Salem, SC. A native of Palatka, FL, Pastor Wheeler was the son of the late Anson and Josephine Oliva Hansen Wheeler. He was a pastor for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (he served in the Carolina Conference for many years) and a missionary in Africa. Pastor Wheeler was a US Army veteran of World War II, having served with the 39th Field Hospital in England and Belgium. In addition to his wife, Ann, Pastor Wheeler is survived by two

sons, David Wheeler and Carroll Wheeler; and three grandchildren.

Wolfe, Beulah H., 94, born Mar. 10, 1916, died Aug. 26, 2010, in Dayton, MD. She was married to Robert Wilson Wolfe, the love of her life, for 73 years before he preceded her in death. Beulah was a homemaker and raised her children in a Christian home. The couple moved to Horse Shoe, NC, and spent 34 years there. She was a member of the Mills River, NC, church, which she and her husband helped build. Surviving are two sons, Roger A. Wolfe and Larry E. Wolfe; a daughter, Kathleen D. Pinnick; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Carolina Conference Calendar

April

- Hispanic Camp Meeting 1-3. NPR
- MPA Academy Days 3-4.
- Town Hall Meeting 6. Spartanburg.
- Adventurer Fun Day 10.
- Town Hall Meeting 13. Arden.
- Hispanic Young Adult Ret. 15-17. NPR.
- Town Hall Meeting 20. Raleigh.
- Women's Ministries Mini-retreat 29-31.
- Bonclarken Retreat Center.
- Shepherdess Mission Trip 20-May 9.

May

- ACBC Closed 22-28
- Junaluska Camp Meeting 29-June 4

June

- SIT Camp 12-16. NPR
- Adventure/Horsemanship I/Water Sports/
Basketball Camps 19-26. NPR
- Jr. Camp I/Horsemanship II/Wheels/
Sports Camps 26-July 3. NPR

July

- Tween/Horsemanship III/Golf 3-10. NPR
- Horseback Camping Trip 17-24. NPR

For an online version of this calendar, log onto the Carolina Conference web site at www.carolinasda.org.

The Carolina Action
Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
PO Box 44270
Charlotte, NC 28215-0043



Peace through the STORM

Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting
May 29-June 4, 2011

Accommodations: www.lakejunaluska.com

SPEAKERS:

Dwight Nelson
Pastor, Pioneer Memorial
Church

Lonnie Melashenko
Vice-President of Spiritual
Services and Missions,
Kettering Health Network

Greg King
Southern Adventist University

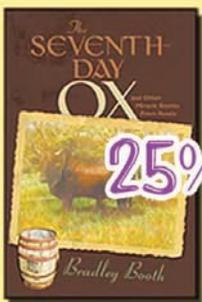
Richard Davidson
Andrews Theological Seminary

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uplifting seminars!

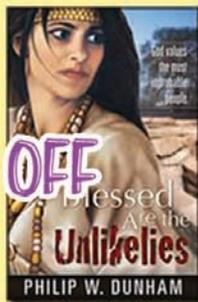
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Book of the Month!



MARCH



APRIL

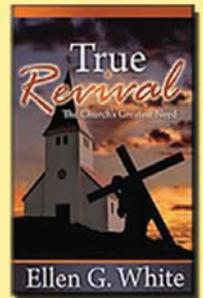
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