



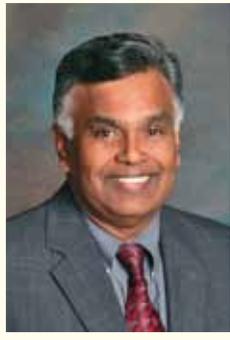
Carolina

ACTION

ISSUE 2, 2012 EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

page 5 **Just
Claim It**

Youth from around the
North American Division
converge in the Carolinas



From the President's Pen

A Call to Faithfulness

by Leslie D. Louis, Carolina Conference President

We live in a time of tolerance. Gradually our culture has evolved in such a manner that it has become fashionable to be tolerant of diversity in virtually every area of life. Sadly, that mindset has impacted the society of professed Christians and has gradually seeped its way into God's remnant church. It happened as far back as in the antediluvian world when the record of Genesis tells us that the sons of God and the daughters of men formed unholy unions that blended both the darkness of evil and the light of righteousness. We see the same tragic history throughout the Old Testament as Israel became tolerant of other gods and adopted the customs of the Canaanite nations. We see it again in the New Testament as Paul urges the followers of Christ in Romans 12:2 to not be conformed to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds that we may prove or demonstrate "what is that good and acceptable will of God."

I love to sing. One song that I have especially enjoyed singing together with young people is one that was written by Scott Underwood. One verse of that song reflects the following sentiment:

Faithfulness, Faithfulness is what I long for;

Faithfulness is what I need.

Faithfulness, Faithfulness is what You want from me.

*So take my heart and form it
Take my mind and transform it
To Yours, To Yours, O Lord.*

God is not looking for tolerance in His people. God is not wanting to see His people simply carry out the act of putting up with somebody or something that is out of harmony with His will. Rather, God longs to see faithfulness in His professed followers. How precious are these words from God's special messenger to His remnant people living on the banks of the Jordan River – preparing to cross over into our promised home:

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men –

Men who will not be bought or sold;

Men who in their inmost souls are true and honest;

Men who do not fear to call sin by its right name;

Men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole;

Men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."

—Ellen White

Our call to faithfulness is clearly demonstrated by the choices we make in developing lifestyle patterns of habit. One keynote indicator of our faithfulness is how we choose to exemplify our complete trust and gratitude to God through returning His tithes and our offerings. One of the blessings of membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the privilege of

tithing. This privilege is a double blessing. By returning a faithful tithe, we as Church members show our gratitude to God for our blessings and our resolve to trust in the Lord rather than in material things. We also help further the work of the Lord in this part of God's vineyard in the Carolinas, and we bless God's family across North America and our global church family with the opportunity to learn of Him and grow in the gospel.

Although our membership has grown to over 20,000 in the Carolinas, one sad note is that our tithe per capita has decreased by about 16% over the past few years. Where are you in your faithfulness to render to God and His church what is His and His alone? When Seventh-day Adventist believers fail to understand the principle of tithing, it's not surprising when an unbeliever doesn't get it either. Somewhere along the line man has changed tithing from a means of maintaining financial security into a financial burden.

When Carole and I were just a young married couple in Florida, we prayed earnestly that God would bless us with a child. After three miscarriages, we had been through much heartache. In 1976 when Carole became pregnant for the fourth time, our hopes were renewed once more. However, complications developed again

Continued on page 4 . . .

Evangelism in the Mountains

The year 2012 is a time of carefully planned and executed outreach to the residents of the French Broad River Valley in North Carolina and Spartanburg County in Upstate South Carolina. At the invitation of the area ministerial association, Dr. Ron Clouzet and the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) team will conduct a series of evangelistic meetings throughout the mountains this Fall.

But far from being just a week-long series of meetings, the whole year is dedicated to prayer, preparation, relationship building, outreach and presentation of the truths for our times.

The Decoding Prophecies meetings will be presented by Dr. Clouzet in both the Hendersonville Church and in Foster Church (Asheville) beginning September 14. Additionally, graduate students from Andrews Theological Seminary will hold lecture series simultaneously in churches across

the region. Churches signed on to participate include: Asheville North, Asheville Spanish, Erwin Hills, Fairview, Forest City, Foster, Hendersonville, Marion, Mills River, Mt Pisgah Academy and church, Rutherfordton, Spartanburg, Sylva, Tryon and Upward.

In preparation, a Countdown Rally was held on March 16 & 17 followed by a week-long revival, "Living in the Spirit," in both Asheville and Hendersonville that brought members together to prepare for this important process.

To focus the wide-spread attention toward spiritual matters during the Passion Week, Dr. Clouzet presented a weekend series, "Uncommon Insights on Jesus the Savior—An Easter Invitation," in both churches. Friends of members, neighbors, co-workers and family were invited to look in a fresh way at Christ's incredible sacrifice.

The next steps include:

Missional Small Group Train-



Photo by Ron Quick

ing, May 25-27, with Dr. Don James, associate director at NADEI and assistant professor of small group evangelism at the Seminary, Andrews University.

Bible Studies and Courier Program, June 8-10, with Dr. Ed Schmidt, associate director at NADEI and assistant professor of personal evangelism at the Seminary, Andrews University..

Later this Fall, more outreach will precede the evangelistic proclamation, including:

- Astonishing Discoveries Lectures—August 8-11
- Decoding Revelation Lectures—August 29-September 1

We encourage all church members throughout the Upstate and Western North Carolina to attend these vital meetings for evangelism.

by Haskell Williams

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A Call to Faithfulness *continued from page 2*

with that pregnancy and Carole had to stop her work as a nurse at the hospital and had to be on full bed rest. Due to the uncertainty of when she would return to work, the hospital suspended her employment but provided us with the option of continuing her medical insurance providing that we paid the full monthly premiums. We didn't have much money, and I was behind with that bill. To avoid cancellation of her medical coverage, I needed to make a payment to the hospital for that insurance.

As I worked late one evening on the bills, a temptation enveloped me that I could catch up with my insurance premiums if I just withheld my tithe for that month. As Carole and I contemplated the thought, the Holy Spirit convicted us that God would provide if we were faithful to Him. I paid the tithe, but didn't have enough

to make up the three months in which I was behind for her medical insurance premiums. We decided that I would go over to the hospital the next day to attempt to make arrangements for the \$500 that I owed, but did not have.

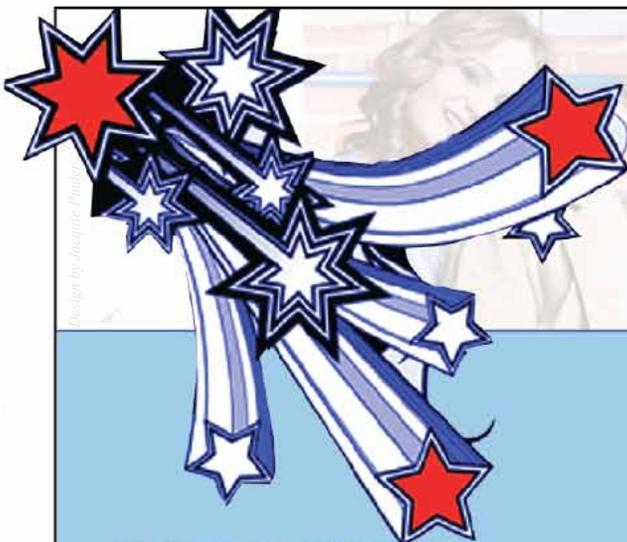
As I walked up to the counter, I nervously asked to speak to the person in the business office that handled medical insurance for their employees. She reached for Carole's file, smiled and said, "Mr. Louis, the hospital has decided to cover this expense. You don't owe us anything!" I was so relieved and overwhelmed with joy that I did walk on cloud nine that day! God poured out not only the blessing of financial resources, but also gave us our precious baby boy that Thanksgiving.

Tithing is the only area of our relationship with God in which He encourages us to test Him. "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw

open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10). When we tithe, we are actually preparing the pathway to uncontainable blessings! We have misunderstood the real purpose of tithing – it is a purpose of obedience and faithfulness to God. When we tithe, two things happen: 1) Provision (meat) goes into the House of God; and 2) The windows of heaven are opened over our life.

"Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful, May the fire of our devotion light their way, May the footprints that we leave, Lead them to believe. And the lives we live inspire them to obey. Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful."—Steve Green

Your servant in Christ,



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July 7-8, 2012
Charlotte Sharon
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sponsored by the Carolina Conference
Men's and Women's Ministries Departments



A prayer conference in North America earlier this month highlights the Seventh-day Adventist Church's commitment to the spiritual development of its youth and young adults.

More than 2,500 met for the Just Claim It 3 conference at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, for prayer, group Bible study and community service March 7 to 11.



Youth director Stanley Knight portrayed Pharaoh for the JCI event.



The Mt. Pisgah Academy Welcoming Team. These MPA students were the official greeters for the Just Claim It event.

Church leaders said that while youth should grow spiritually with weekly church services, a special event can offer additional times of reflection and a more intimate examination of their faith.

"I believe in events. The Bible is full of events," said Manny Cruz, associate youth director for the Adventist Church's North America Division. "When you come together with fellow believers, we believe God does something. The Holy Spirit touches people."

Youth rallies are typically sponsored by a local church or conference, but Cruz said a division-wide event offers more of a mix in styles of preaching, music and ministry. A large event, Cruz said, also gives youth an understanding that the denomination is larger than their own church or city.

"We are a very diverse territory and you're going to get a little bit of everything with events like this," Cruz said. "I think Adventist young people discover that their church is greater and more diverse than they thought. It gives them a larger view of the church."

Workshops offered participants the opportunity to learn about conducting ministry and outreach at their home churches, including community services.

Eighteen-year old Nathaniel Melville said he enjoyed the "Play-



Photos by Ron Quick

Kenyatta Shaw and her daughter, Jayanna, pick up their badges at the Just Claim It registration desk. Shaw and her daughter are from the Southwest Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist church in Philadelphia, PA.

ground Ministry" workshop, which taught participants to organize games in public parks for fun and witnessing opportunities.

"This took outdoor ministry to another level," said Melville, who is from Worcester, Massachusetts, and a Freshman at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. "It's not about pressuring people to come to church, but just hanging out with them to have fun. But if they see a difference in your character, they might want to come your church and see what you do," Melville said.

Workshops also helped participants examine issues in their own lives, including practical Christianity, relationships and sexuality, and emotional health.

Many participants also offered service to the community, with some helping repair homes of low-income residents, while others visited a center supporting people with disabilities.

The Just Claim It conference is held roughly every two years.

by ANN staff



Spotlight on *share*Him

Campaigns in Congo

If you were at the 2011 Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting, you may remember the Global Vistas feature was Barry Mosier from Congo Frontline Missions. On that Friday night, there was special prayer for four Carolinians from Greensboro who were going to preach in Lubumbashi, DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) with ShareHim. We can now report that God did exciting things through the team there.

Along with preaching each evening, volunteers formed a medical team and held clinics each day at the different sites, treating a total of 1600 patients. One mother brought her four-year-old who had accidentally spilled boiling water on herself. The local hospital had given her aspirin, scolding her for her actions. The ShareHim team treated her and left her in our local doctor's care. The good news is two-fold: she is completely recovered, and her mother was baptized!

Dr. MaryAnn Roberts, Ph.D, of the Greensboro, NC, church preached at a site in Lubumbashi and saw a result of 188 baptisms! What does the future hold for her? In the Carolinas this Fall she is helping to organize a number of simultaneous crusades across Greensboro and will be preaching

at one site herself.

But before then, MaryAnn is going back to the Congo! She'll be traveling to Kisangani with ShareHim in July. (Kisangani is where Congo Frontline Mission and Barry Mosier are located.)

This past year Adventist World Radio started a station in Kisangani, and according to the government it is the most listened-to station in the city. The plan is for AWR to record the ShareHim meetings and replay them on the station later in the evening.

Want to be part of this exciting project? Please contact MaryAnn (336-430-4303) or go to www.ShareHim.org. ShareHim is planning sites in three Congo cities in July. The needs, challenges, and opportunities are great.

Millions there need to hear the Good News. Congo has not been the safest place, nor has the Gospel been

shared in a productive way. Will you join ShareHim in reaching the unreached?

by Dave Dobias, ShareHim Manager

It's Not Over Yet

A car accident left Annette Carlson unable to work, but it didn't stop her from letting God work through her. She became what she calls "a volunteer Bible worker," looking for people with whom she

can share her faith. Enrolling in the Lay Ministers' Program conducted by James Fox, she learned of the responsibility of sharing Christ once we become Christians.

One of the course assignments was to conduct a ShareHim campaign using the "Making Kingdom Friends" series. Annette went to Ashland, a port city of 8,695 by Lake Superior. The city has an Adventist church and was once the site of the Wisconsin Conference headquarters, but there are now no Adventists living there.

With an unemployment rate of 10% and many below the poverty line, people cannot afford to drive 20 miles into town for a meeting. So Annette is taking the ShareHim program to them. At their kitchen table she studies with a young farming couple who have been Adventists only a few years. They wanted their hired man to learn about Jesus, but he left before the studies began. Undeterred, Annette is sharing with the couple, who appreciate what they are learning and having their questions answered.

Sue, another Adventist, invited co-workers for soup and studies with Annette. Two came. After the 4th session one woman said she was sorry that the studies would soon end. When Sue told her there were 26 in all, she was thrilled. One lady had not attended church for two years. "I believe ShareHim is reviving her first love," Annette says. Feigning indifference, the woman's 18-year-old son listens from another room.





Weekly prayer meetings in the Ashland church have been revived, using the ShareHim sermons. Annette is the only Adventist there, but of the four others attending, two have asked for baptism in the summer.

Besides giving four ShareHim studies per week, Annette is encouraging and training church members to give studies. They are searching out people to introduce to Christ, and come to church excited to share their experiences. One woman had been praying for years that God would open her home to someone with whom she could study.

Doing one study per week, it will take six months to finish the series, but Annette thinks it is worth it. She says, "I believe this program will help retain a young couple who is struggling" but whose commitment to God is now growing stronger. Then there are the two who have requested baptism and the member who may come back, together with her son.

"There will be great results from the ShareHim campaign," she says.

"But it's all in God's hands. He is doing the impressing. I'm just showing the program."

With Love, From: Heaven

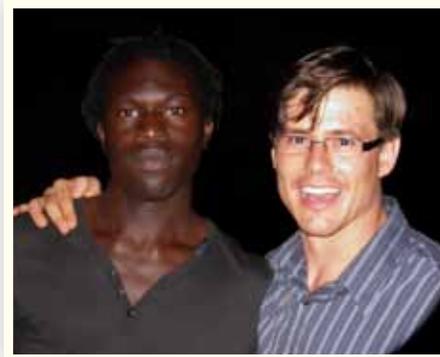
Pedro Ribeiro was doing a ShareHim series at the Santa Lucia church in Guinea Bissau. One night as the receptionists were at the door, a stranger handed them a piece of paper with a name and address on it.

"Tell the evangelist to visit this man," he said. "He is my brother."

The next day Pedro and an elder paid a visit to the address and found the man. He was unaware of the meetings.

"My brother?" he asked, totally puzzled. "But I don't have a brother."

"Well, then," Pedro replied, "I think your angel gave us your name and address. We are here to study the Bible with you."



They had a good study, and that evening the man was at the meeting. He attended each meeting after that and was among the 150 people who planned to be baptized at the end of the series. According to Pastor Gomez Herculano, president

of the mission, there is an even larger group preparing for baptism in the next six months.

Guinea Bissau is the sixth poorest country in the world and the second poorest in Africa. The seven students

and their professor who did the ShareHim series were from the Adventist College in Sao Paulo, Brazil. They lodged in a school that had no electricity and lacked other basic amenities, yet they came back enriched by their miraculous experiences.



ShareHim Festival OF EVANGELISTIC LIVING

"MAKING KINGDOM FRIENDS"

SEPT. 14-15, 2012
North Miami Church: Miami, FL
Ron Smith *Southern Union President*

SEPT. 28-29, 2012
Blue Mountain Academy: Hamburg, PA
Dave Weigley *Columbia Union President*

MARCH 1-2, 2013
White Memorial Church: Los Angeles, CA
Ricardo Graham *Pacific Union President*

MARCH 8-9, 2013
Spokane Valley Church: Spokane, WA

More dates and locations to come!

info: www.ShareHim.org



Nurses Provide for Homeless

The Charlotte Sharon church recently had a group of nurses from the emergency department of Carolinas Medical Center (CMC) make food and come to their church to serve it to the homeless during the Room at the Inn. Gayle Baskin (above, second from left), a nurse at CMC and member of the Sharon

Church, rallied her fellow workers and got them interested in the ministry, even though they do not attend the church. The Room in the Inn is held every Friday evening to give a place to stay and food to eat to those who have none.

by Ellie Green

Baptisms in Sumter

On Sabbath, January 14, 2012, the members and friends of the Sumter church witnessed Karen Player, Merriellen Edge, Joetta Brown and Jody Brown as they were baptized



Joetta Brown, Merriellen Edge, Karen Player and Jody Brown

into the family of Adventist believers. These ladies faithfully attended Bible studies with the pastor on Friday evenings for the past six months.

Jody and Joetta's mother, Denice Brunson, and their grandmother, Carol Brunson, are long-time members of the Sumter congregation.

Each was provided gifts of a

Bible and a *Conflict of the Ages* set along with their baptismal certificate. They are enjoying the chance to learn more as they experience Sabbath worship services in a new way as members of the church.

by Alice Johnson

And so find favor and high esteem in the eyes of the Lord and man. I will stand in your ways and acknowledge Him. He shall direct you in your own undoing. Through thy prayer I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will be a father to the fatherless, and I will be a father to the fatherless. You in Your mercy have led forth The

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Junior Camp	June 24-July 1	10-13	\$385.00	\$220.00
Teen Camp	July 8-15	13-16	\$385.00	\$220.00

Camps are officially reserved when application is received with \$50 non-refundable deposit.

Specialty Camps	Dates	Ages	Fees	Carolina Conf. Constituent
Lifeguard Class	June 3-8	15 and up	\$430.00	\$250.00
SIT Camp	June 10-22	16-17	\$430.00	\$250.00
Horsemanship I	June 17-24	12-16	\$430.00	\$250.00
Water Sports	June 17-24	12-16	\$430.00	\$250.00
Horsemanship II	June 24-July 1	13-16	\$430.00	\$250.00
Teen Extreme Specialty Power Pack 5*	July 15-19	12-16	\$275.00	\$155.00

* When you sign up for this camp you must pick one of the specialties listed on our website.

Horseback Mountain Trip	July 22-29	14-17	\$470.00	\$310.00
FAMILY CAMP	July 1-6	8-Adult	4-7 \$150.00 \$80.00	RV Site \$40.00 and \$65.00 per person, ages 4-Adult

All camps are officially reserved when application is received with \$50 non-refundable deposit.
DISCOUNT: Receive a 10% discount for every new camper that you bring to camp. They must be someone who has not attended NOSOCA summer camp in the last two years. And your friend will get 10% off too! Bring 10 new friends and come for FREE!!



Fire Drill at Arden Seventh-Day Adventist Church

The General Conference fire insurance requires a church to have an annual fire drill. This has never been done at the Arden church (and most likely not at your church, either.)

For many members, the idea of having a fire drill during the divine worship service was unheard of; however, they agreed that it was wise to have a system in place to account for everyone in the event of a fire.

A few weeks prior to the eventful

day, Pastor Jim Hakes, safety officer Tore Ingulfsen, head deacon Bruce Herbert and Jonathan Harkness met with the safety representative for the Skyland Fire Department to discuss specific details of conducting a fire drill during church service. They planned the surprise drill for Sabbath, September 3, 2011.

Special guests for the worship hour included eight firemen with two fire trucks.

The children's story was flanked by firemen as the story was told of a fireman's obedience to his training, which saved his life.

For the sermon, Pastor Jim Hakes compared being a Christian with being a fireman, both needing to be prepared and trained for their purpose. As Pastor Jim concluded his sermon, Bruce Herbert, head deacon, walked to the front and announced the church had to be evacuated immediately,

starting with the front row.

Deacons came forward to assist, having been given assignments ranging from room checks to assisting those that were elderly or disabled. A few were assigned to block areas that could not be used as exits.

The evacuation was orderly and without incident. So now it was time for fun and fellowship! The kids got to pretend they were firemen and were allowed to explore the fire trucks. Potluck followed with the firemen seated as guests of honor.

by Owen Spencer and Jonathan Harkness



Mt. Pisgah Pastor Caught in Bank During Robbery

"I was in a bank robbery on February 9. I had stopped by to talk

to our local Wells Fargo branch about obtaining a new debit card when a man about 6'3" stormed in waiving

a huge silver handgun and in a booming voice demanded money, otherwise 'I'm going to start shoot-



As Pastor Michael Brackett drove himself to the bank, he had no idea he would be caught in the middle of a robbery.

ing people.'

He looked over at me where I was sitting in the waiting area by the front door—the same door I knew he would exit through. I didn't want him to think I was staring at him for a better description for the police later. I also didn't want to be so exposed as he exited the bank near me. I immediately fell to my knees near the chair beside me and

began to pray.

I felt that at any moment he would start shooting us all. I felt at

peace, however, lifting everyone in the bank up to the Lord in prayer. I prayed for myself and my family. I was completely in His hands. Praise God the robber left without hurting any of us.

Later the employees, knowing I'm a minister, were very appreciative for the prayers right in the middle of the crisis. I had invited one of the bankers to our evangelistic series and had been witnessing to her about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I pray that God somehow uses this awful situation to further draw these folks closer to Him."

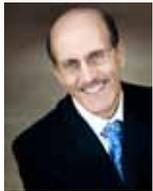
—Michael Brackett, Pastor of the Mount Pisgah Academy Church

C.O.U.N.T.D.O.W.N

LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING

MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2012

SPEAKERS:



DOUG BATCHELOR
Speaker | Director
Amazing Facts



HERB MONTGOMERY
Director | Author | Speaker
Renewed Heart Ministries



MARK FINLEY
Assistant to the President
for Revival and Reformation
General Conference



RICHARD O'FFILL
International Speaker and
Revivalist

SEMINARS:

ALLAN HANDYSIDES
Health

KATHY GODDARD
Adventist Edge

MIKE & GAYLE TUCKER
Mad About Marriage

WALTER ALLRED
Church Planting

RICHARD OF'FILL
Prayer

WANDA DAVIS
Women's Ministries

MARC SWEARINGEN
Studies in Daniel 11

MARK & TEENIE FINLEY
How to get decisions for Christ

DAN VIS
Memorization of Scripture

RANKO STEFONAVIC
Revelation

RON BROWN
Piano Workshop

MUSICAL GUEST:



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Photo by Rick Sorrells



A New Life in Christ

A baby is a blessing of new life and growth! On March 3, the Pickens Church members were blessed to have Shanna Kassie Lea bring her son, Lucas Cayden Lee Rogers, to be dedicated to the Lord. They were happily surrounded by grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. Pastor Kevin invited the congregation to be a part of raising Lucas in the way of the Lord. He challenged Shanna to teach her son about Jesus, to read to him and to pray with him,

guiding his steps toward heaven.

Following church there was a time of fellowship during a haystack lunch. The church family looks forward to watching Lucas grow into a young man who has God in his heart and is not afraid to share his faith with others!

So what does a baby mean to the Pickens church? It means new life, sharing Jesus with others, and becoming acquainted with more of God's children!

By Karen Pires

Physician Earns Award for Excellence

Dean Lorenz, M.D., medical director at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Florence and member of the Florence, SC, church, received the 2011 Clinical Excellence Award during HealthSouth's Medical Director's Conference held in Orlando,

FL. The award recognizes outstanding clinical knowledge technical and clinical skills, clinical judgment, communication skills and exemplary performance in the development of clinical programs. Lorenz is one of only five physicians serving in HealthSouth's network of 97 rehabilitation hospitals to earn this prestigious designation.

"Under Dr. Lorenz's leadership, our clinical staff works together as a team to provide high-quality cost-effective health care services," said Thom King, chief executive officer of HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Florence.

"He is recognized as an expert in our hospital and community and consistently demonstrates a genuine concern for our patient's care. All of our staff, including myself, takes a great pride in working with him."

Article contributed

It Is Written Returns to Charlotte for Evangelism Planning Meeting

The Carolina Conference is gearing up for possibly the greatest evangelistic event in its history. Plans have been made with leaders from It Is Written to hold a field school for evangelism involving students from the SALT (Soul-Winning and Leadership Training) program at Southern Adventist University, sowing events around Charlotte and a large-scale evangelism campaign in the Fall of 2013 presented by John Bradshaw.

On March 26, John Bradshaw, Yves Monier (IIW Evangelism Coordinator), and Victor Pires (IIW Treasurer) returned to Charlotte to meet with pastors and church leaders from the Greater Charlotte



Photo by Ron Quirk

Haskell Williams takes questions at the recent meeting between It Is Written and the leaders of Charlotte-area churches.

Area. Specific goals and assignments were discussed.

The Carolina Conference and It Is Written is eager to involve the many churches and members

to reach the entire population of Metro Charlotte and beyond. The next meeting has been scheduled for July.

— by Haskell Williams



40 Days of Communion

On Sabbath, February 25, the Greenville, NC, Mt. Olive, Dudley, Wilson and Manteo Spanish churches were full of those who gathered for the 40 days of communion with the Lord and 40 early mornings with Jesus as part of the “Intimacy with God” revival series.

Ben Maxson (former Director of Stewardship for the General Conference and current pastor of the Paradise Church in California) and a pastor in Brazil, Miguel Pinheiro Costa, developed the series, which has had amazing success in Central and South America. Separated into three segments that focus on stewardship, health and the Holy Spirit, the revival leads members to consecrate their lives every morning to the Lord and develop a special and permanent relationship with Him.

Friends and loved ones had tears of joy in their eyes as they heard those they had been praying for give testimony of God’s transforming Grace in their lives. It is wonderful to see how the Lord is working and turning his children to

close relationships with our Savior.

Certificates were awarded to those who completed the 40 mornings of communion with the Lord.

by Pastor Elias Sandoval

Family Evangelistic Campaign: “Homes Shining for Christ”

In the Greenville, NC, Spanish church from February 26-March 3, Pastor Elias Sandoval conducted an evangelistic campaign for the family, entitled, “Homes Shining for Christ.” Every night there were current topics relating to family, home, marriage, children, fidelity and mutual relations.

This was a very blessed and spiritual week, where the power of God



manifested through the wise and timely messages to each member and to the Adventist families whose desire it is to shine for Christ.

by Pastor Elias Sandoval

Youth, Remember Your Creator

On Sabbath, November 12, 2011, the Hispanic churches of Mt. Olive, Greenville, NC, Dudley and Wilson held a youth congress entitled “Youth, Remember your Creator.” The theme was on develop-

ing youth in their relationship with Christ, and using that as a foundation to set themselves away from the world’s addictions.

Pastor Elias Sandoval was the main speaker for the weekend.

He emphasized two critical points: 1) The special love of God for our youth; and 2) His desire for them to stay away from the temptations all around them.

The young people were in charge of the entire day, from the Sabbath School until the closing hours of Holy Sabbath.

The Mt. Olive church hosted the event and welcomed the youth of the surrounding churches.

The youth leaders of this district recently worked together on their second youth congress held on Sabbath, April 7 called “Youth, Serving the Lord.” The main speaker was Elder Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary and former Carolina Conference president. Dudley Spanish hosted this event.

by Pastor Elias Sandoval





Pictured left to right is Pastor Danny Pope, Pam Parrish (Women's Ministry Ldr), Officer Anthony Seprum and Niki Schwarts (whose heart would not rest until the church had done all they could to create a Christmas blessing for this family.)

Routine Incident Sparks Outpouring of Love for Needy Family

Late last year, North Carolina Wildlife Officer Anthony Seprum was investigating a report of a hunter being in an area where no hunting was allowed. When he went to investigate, he located a young man who in the process of taking wild game. When Officer Seprum approached him and begin to ask his routine questions, he uncovered a startling and heart-touching life reality.

The young man was hunting for food for himself and his 9-year-old daughter. As Officer Seprum listened to the story, he decided to investigate further. When he arrived at the residence he knew immediately that it was all true. The man did have a 9-year-old daughter and together they were living in a rented trailer with no utilities and very little furniture. They were even sleeping on the floor. There was no money due to a job layoff.

Officer Seprum stopped at a Starbucks and shared the heart-rending

story with his waitress, Niki Schwarts, who had just begun to attend the Lexington, NC, church. When she heard the story, she immediately called the pastor and asked if the church could help in some way. Pastor Danny Pope carried the need to the church and everyone got involved in trying to provide a Christmas for this family.

They collected food items along with clothing and a love offering. One member donated a living room couch.

When Officer Seprum was contacted about our love offering for this family, he personally came, driving his North Carolina State Wildlife vehicle to collect all of the things that we had put together for the family.

As others in the community found out about this great need, many, many gifts were donated to this father and his young daughter. A trust fund was set up at one of the local banks, and by the end of the first week of community action, enough money to keep their electricity and utilities in service for six months had been collected.

"What amazed me," said Pastor Pope, "is that just as soon as Niki heard this story, she said the Lord just spoke to her and said, 'They really need your help.' When she contacted me, she was so broken hearted over this family that she could not let it go. She had to help not only personally, but she had to get others involved."

God has sent many blessings to the Lexington church, and they

know that many of them have come as a result of the blessing that they are to others in their community.

Article contributed from the Lexington Church administration.

Three Reasons to Save:

1) Save so you do not become a burden to your children or family. Set aside adequate funds for your future needs. "If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever," 1 Timothy 5:8. TCW

2) Save so the local church will never have to use its limited resources to assist members who could have saved for themselves, but to use them for the greater good of the surrounding community. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers," Galatians 6:10.

3) Save so you can be a generous contributor rather than one who is always in debt. "The wicked borrow money with no intention of paying it back, but the righteous give with generosity," Psalm 37:21 TCW.

Saving is a verb of being and doing. Hence, prayerfully scrutinize your saving-intentions and you will be saving with God's purposes.

Submitted by Ken Ford, Carolina Conference Stewardship Director. Taken from the March issue of Stewpot, by Gordon Botting





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Cornerstone Youth Attend GYC

Since the beginning of last year the youth of Cornerstone Church in Rockingham, NC, had planned to attend GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ) held in Houston, TX, from Dec. 27, 2011–Jan. 2, 2012. Youth leader Melissa Kast and assistant Louis DesChamps rented a van and drove the two days to Houston with James DesChamps, Alycia Paul, Tonya Albert and Andrea and Laura Meneses. Here are some of their comments upon their return:

James: "I learned a lot about people through these seminars on sexual, physical and mental abuse, and reasons for doing what they do when they are abused."

Andrea: "Despite how cliché it may sound, GYC was a life changing experience for me, and I don't mean that lightly. I thought I was going to learn about new things we could bring back to church to 'revitalize' it but instead something better happened, I began a relationship with God."

Laura: "It's nice to go to a place where young people are united for one purpose—to have God fill them with His Holy Spirit and to spread the gospel! Although I wasn't very eager to participate in outreach because of my introverted personality, God helped me pull through and

talk to people door-to-door. My plea isn't just to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but to first be emptied of self and the hunger for worldly things."

Tonya: "It was an eye opener and definitely a blessing. Looking back at the beginning, this trip was not a priority.

But once we arrived at GYC and started learning and hearing God's word, my attitude started to change. I am thankful for being given the opportunity to receive such a tremendous blessing."

Alycia: "I have to admit, I wasn't very interested in going because I was worrying about MY plans instead of God's, but God puts us where we need to be. I believe he made it possible because he saw our need, or at least my need, for Him in my life."

Based on the testimonies of these returning youth, it seems clear that the mission of this year's GYC, "Fill Me: Our Earnest Plea" has been realized in them.

"We at Cornerstone are committed



to putting forth our best efforts for the youth," says First Elder Milton Aguilar. "And supporting their attendance to future GYC meetings."

by Cynthia Mejia



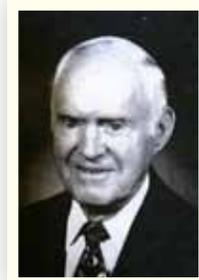
Obituaries

Carlson, E. Lucile James, 80, born May 15, 1931, in Alvarado, TX, died March 19, 2012, in Chattanooga, TN. She was a nurse, then a masseuse for 30 years and a piano teacher for 14 years. Lucile was a member of the Fletcher church in North Carolina. She is survived by her husband, Arthur Carlson; one son, Philip Henning Carlson; a daughter, Angie Camille Shultz; one brother, Dr. William B. (Irma) James; a sister, Pauline (Tom) Mostert; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Harrison, George (Jack), 80, Mar. 7, 1931, in Danville, IL, died Feb. 3, 2012, in Fletcher, NC, following a tragic fall. He was a member of the Inverness, FL, church and attendee of the Hendersonville, NC, church. After college, Jack first taught church school in a one-room country school in Minnisota, which started his teaching career. He met his wife, Neda Kingman, at Hylandale Academy in Wisconsin. As they were called by the Lord, they moved to Florida, then Ohio, Michigan and back to Wisconsin, where he taught school then served as Personnel Manager for the Mid-America Nursing Homes. Later, George served as personnel manager for the Branson Hospital in Toronto, Canada, and Neda served as the nurses resident dean. He was called back to teaching as principal of the Joliet church school in Illinois. George then served in Corpus Christi, TX, before going to Bethel Jr. High in Wisconsin, then teaching fifth grade at Captian Gilmer School in Fletcher, NC. He also served as principal of Pine Forest Academy in Mississippi, principal of Laurelbrook elementary

school and vice-principal of Laurelbrook Academy in Tennessee, and then was administrator of Smithville Academy in Georgia. Later he was Principal of the Upward church school and taught art at Fletcher Academy in North Carolina. Before retiring he was supervisor of the adolescent department of Park Ridge Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Neda; three children, Sharon (John) Metcalf, Sandy (Ed) Sanders, Shawn (Beatriz) Harrison; four granddaughters, Erin Sarcona, Robin Sanders, Megan and Morgan Metcalf, and one great-grandson, Filippo Sarcona; one brother, Ben Harrison, many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Susan; four brothers and 10 sisters.

Strickland, Frank Edwin, M.D., 86, born May 30, 1925, in San Bernardino, CA, died Mar. 2, 2012, in Spartanburg, SC. He served in the US Navy from '43-'46. Frank graduated from Pacific Union College in 1950 and from Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery in 1956. Frank married Faye Mixon in 1958



and to this union was born Peggy Sue--his pride & joy! When Frank finished his 10 yrs. of general practice he answered the call to the mission field (his passion) and spent a term in Rwanda, Central Africa. He taught medical subjects to the nurses in the French language and helped to graduate the first four-year nursing class at Mugonero Mission Hospital. When they returned from the mission field, Frank took a residency in anesthesia and worked in Grandview Hospital in Dayton, OH, for 12 years as an anesthesiologist. In 1984, Frank retired and they moved to Spartanburg County, SC. Frank and Faye joined the Tryon, NC, church, where he was active for over 25 years in church leadership. Survivors include his beloved wife, Faye Mixon-Strickland; a daughter, Peggy Sue (Jim) Norton; a granddaughter, Bethany; one grandson, Brian Norton; two brothers, John Strickland and David Strickland; two sisters, Ruth Sipkens and Mary Pieratt; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

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Guest Speaker, Dr. James W. Zackrisson, served as director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference. He is the editor of the new resource for Sabbath School Toolbox.

Carolina Conference Calendar

May

- Western Area Campout 4-6
- Hispanic Camp Meeting 11-13. NPR
- MPA Graduation Weekend 18-20
- ACBC Closed for C. Meeting.....20-June 3
- Junaluska Camp Meeting27-June 2

June

- Summer Camp at NPR...See schedule, p8

July

- Family Camp 1-5. NPR
- Tried and True Conf.....7-8. Charlotte
- Bike for Life "Riding by Faith" 22-28

August

- Sabbath Sch. Workshop3-5. NPR
- Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership.... 24-26
- Hispanic Men's Retreat 31-Sept. 3

September

- Hispanic Young Adult Retreat.....7-9. NPR
- Retiree Retreat 16-20. NPR
- ECCM North 29. Greenville, NC

October

- ECCM South.....6. Summerville, SC

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

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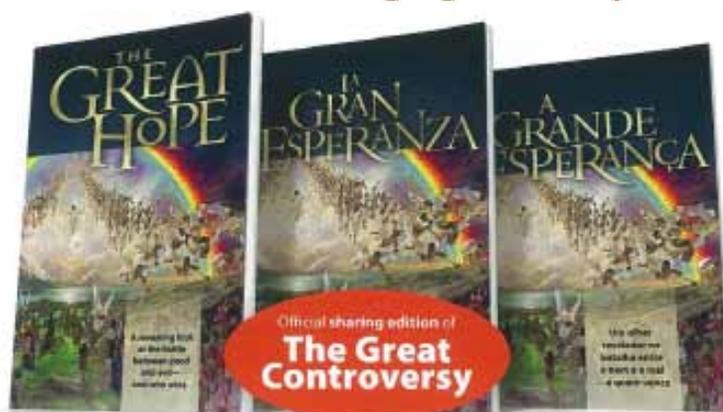
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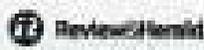


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