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(Printing Industry of the Carolinas)



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Carolina Action

April 2003

A Publication of the Carolina Conference

From the President

Kenneth R. Coonley

I have been told people must hear of a need at least fifteen times before it registers in their mind. While out visiting in our churches the conference officers are finding this is true.



In the past year I have sent two letters, shared three videos, provided bulletin inserts and written articles for the *Carolina Action* about the boy's dorm. Surprisingly, as I travel around the conference I find that very few people know about this need. So please be patient with me as I mention it once again.

Would you be surprised to learn that over the past 13 years I have never asked you for money for a building project in our Conference? It's true.

I am grateful for your generous gifts throughout the years. You have demonstrated a faithfulness that is inspirational. But, are you aware that all those monies went for Evangelism?

In the past, the Carolina Conference has been tremendously blessed with a variety of enterprises which enabled us to build what we needed, debt free, including the conference office.

However, conditions have changed. We are faced with a great financial need. We must build a new boy's dormitory. It's been put off too long. Now . . . I need your help.

I ask because I'm concerned. At this rate, students won't have their dorm soon enough. Building costs are steadily rising. Now the cost to complete the project is up to \$2.3 million. It would have cost less than \$2 million last year. Who knows what it will cost if we don't complete it soon.

\$100 is all we are asking from each member. To date, we've received approximately \$500,000. If you or someone you know is willing to give a generous portion, please let me

. . . continued on page 5.

Why YOU Should Help Us GROW

When we took this picture back in 1988, this young man was a student at Mt. Pisgah Academy. What has become of him, you might ask? Who is he and where is he today? Well, his name is Jo Ottinger, and today he's one of our pastors in the Carolina Conference.

Christian education doesn't cost . . . it pays!

BY BECKY CARPENTER

If you're honest with yourself, you're probably wondering why you should give your money to Mount Pisgah Academy. And it seems like every week you see another reminder to do so. Why should you contribute to the new facilities at the school? You don't attend there, you don't have any children who attend there. What's the incentive? With so many other pressing needs, why should you give your extra money to MPA?

Well, the fact is, this project is not just about the Academy. It's really about supporting God's ongoing work. Did you know that there have been thousands upon thousands of graduates of Mount Pisgah Academy since it was founded in 1914? And out of those illustrious alumni have come your teachers and lawyers and

Christian Education doesn't cost . . . it pays!

pastors and doctors — perhaps a friend or relative. Your life has undoubtedly crossed paths with someone who attended MPA. The Christian foundation they received there made a difference in their lives. And through that, they have touched yours.

It was at Mount Pisgah Academy, his junior and senior year, that Jo Ottinger first felt God's calling to the ministry. Ottinger had told God that if He wanted him to be in ministry he was willing, but God would have to open doors. He wanted to continue his Christian education at Southern Col-

lege (now Southern Adventist University, SAU), but how could he afford it? He began to save for the entrance fee.

In his senior year at Pisgah, he injured his knee. "The medical bills wiped out my savings and I figured being in the ministry wasn't in the plan," says Ottinger. "But God kept prodding me and I started saving

money again." By the end of that summer he was not even close to his goal, but still felt God calling. Stepping out in faith, he packed his bags. The week he was to leave, a check arrived in the mail. It was reimbursement for a duplicate

. . . continued on page 3.



Wendy Guptill



When we took this picture back in 1988, this young man was a student at Mt. Pisgah Academy. What has become of him, you might ask? Who is he and where is he today? Well, his name is Jo Ottinger, and today he's one of our pastors in the Carolina Conference.

Christian education doesn't cost . . . it pays!



Jimmy Carter



The Carolina Conference has a New Website

The Carolina Conference is pleased to announce that its website has recently been updated.

The new site features photos, downloadable forms and applications, Camp Meeting and other event updates, as well as links to other Seventh-day Adventist web resources. There is also a church and school directory, so anyone looking for a church to attend in

their area can easily find it.

While still a work in progress, the Conference hopes that this new website will become an effective tool for its members, as well as an opportunity to present a positive image to those looking to learn more about Seventh-day Adventists.

Please take time to visit our new site at www.carolinasda.org.

Schedule of Events

April

- Adventurer Fun Day – 11-13
- Com. Serv. Federation – 12-15
- MPA Alumni Weekend – 18-19
- Outdoor Education – 22-25. Nosoca
- MPA Conquer-A-Cove – Apr. 27
- Net 2003 - Apr. 27 - May 24

May

- Hispanic Young Adult Retreat – 2-4.
- MPA Graduation Wknd. – 16-18
- Hispanic Pre-teen Retreat – 16-18
- ACBC Closed (Camp Meeting Setup) – 19-23
- Camp Meeting – 25-31. Junaluska.

June

- Junior Camp I – 8-14.
- Camp Mtg. Committee – 12
- Junior Camp II – 15-21.
- Adventurer Camp – 22-28
- Teen Camp I – June 29-July 5

July

- Teen Camp II – 6-12
- Ministerial Worker's Meeting – 27-30.

August

- Teacher Convention – 1-5. Nosoca.
- Hispanic Camp Meeting – Aug. 1-3.



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Obituaries

Armstrong, Harold E., 83, born in Pueblo, Colorado of Frank and Ida A. Armstrong died November 26, 2002, at Sandpiper Nursing Center of Mt. Pleasant, SC. He served four years in the US Navy as Chief Machinist Mate in World War II. He received his education from Oregon State, Florida State, Southern Adventist and Andrews universities, completing a Masters of Divinity with a minor in Education. Mr. Armstrong served 13 years in pastoral and educational services. In 1965 he retired from teaching and formed Mt. Pleasant Appliance & Electrical Service. His life of service was one of highest integrity and kindness, one of trust and efficiency. He lived his religion with a smile. He is survived by his wife, Mary E. Bradley-Armstrong; two sons, Frank David and Frederick Desmond; one daughter Faye Dianne Kosarin; nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Cox-Merritt, Clara, born May 2, 1908, died December 4, 2002 in Bowie, Maryland. She was the widow of Elder J.M. Cox who served for 33

years in the Southern Union as an evangelist and pastor in the Florida Conference, Home Missionary & Sabbath School Secretary in Carolina Conference and Press Secretary for the Southern Union. She was also the widow of Oscar Merritt of Charlotte, NC. Survivors include her daughter, Marilyn Suzuki-Day; two granddaughters, Debra Suzuki-Walker and Linda Suzuki.

Duda, John Joseph, 79, born September 9, 1923, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, died November 1, 2002, in Asheville, North Carolina. Duda was a retired painter and a member of the Mt. Pisgah Academy church, an active leader of the Pathfinder club for many years. He is survived by his wife Rosemarie; two sons, J. Gary Duda and Paul D. Duda; three brothers, Louis, William, and Richard Duda; and one sister, Jean Stoecker.

Stump, Emily Braun, 47, of Morganton, NC, died Dec. 30, 2002, at her residence following an illness of six months. Born Sept. 14, 1955, in Burke County, she was a daughter of Evert and Rosemary Anthony Braun. She was a very active member of the Morganton Church, serving as the church treasurer and Sabbath School teacher. She was an administrative assistant at Valdese Stump

General Hospital and Grace Hospital. In addition to her parents, she is survived by her husband, Spencer; a son, Jason; a daughter, Rita; brothers, William Braun, Tony Braun, Aubrey Braun and Paul Braun; sisters, Cathleen Braun, Suzanne Farzanegan and Laurie Braun; her mother-in-law and step-father-in-law, Vivian and Philip Garrou; a number of nieces and nephews; and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Sutherland, Margaret Mae Coles, 84, of Charlotte, NC, died Wednesday, October, 23, 2002, in Spartanburg, North Carolina. She was born November 12, 1917, in Albemarle Co. Mazie was a graduate of Scottsville High School and attended University of Virginia School of Nursing. She was married in 1940 to the late Ben Clarke Sutherland. She was assistant nurse secretary to Dr. Charles Hensley in Asheville, NC. In Charlotte, she worked until retirement for Presbyterian Hospital as an O.R. Technician. She was a volunteer upon retirement for an elderly home and during the last few years began work again at Willow Ridge Assisted Living Facility. She is survived by her brother, Henry C. Coles; a sister, Ruby Coles Martin; her twin daughters, Marleen Sutherland Howard and Sharleen Sutherland Reese; and three grandchildren.

Waller, Dr. Louis Clinton, 84, born

August 16, 1918, in Candler, North Carolina, died December 2, 2002, at the Pisgah Manor Nursing Home in Candler. He was the son of Eugene Clinton Waller and his wife Anna Anderson Waller. Eugene Waller was the principal of the Pisgah Institute from its beginning in 1914 until it was conveyed to the Carolina Conference in 1952, becoming Mt. Pisgah Academy. Dr. Waller graduated from Southern Junior College in 1939, and from the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University) in 1943, pending an internship to complete requirements. In Aug. 1941, he married Minnie Sue Brice of Camden, SC. Dr. Waller was drafted as a medical officer during WWII, serving in General Patton's army in Europe, and later sent to Japan after Hitler was defeated. Upon returning to Candler, his dream of being in charge of the hospital at Pisgah, part of the Pisgah Institute his father operated, came true. From 1952 to 1986, Dr. Waller maintained a family practice in West Asheville. He was an elder of the Mt. Pisgah Church, a member of the "Committee of 100" for Southern Adventist University, and served on the board of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, among many other achievements. He is survived by his wife, Sue. They have seven children, and eight grandchildren.

News Notes

Anderson, SC - Near the beginning of this school year, Daystar Christian School had six fully operational computers, shared by twelve students. A student's father, Joel Brown, donated some used computers that he had received from the city of Greenville. They had a computer for each student, networking the computers together. Their technology-based curriculum has far exceeded that of their wildest dreams only a short time ago. *By Austin Krohn and Jonathan Brown*

Hillsborough, NC - Hundreds of people lined the mile-long Christmas parade route in Hillsborough, NC, on December 15. When the Hillsborough



church float proclaiming "Happy Birthday Jesus" passed by, the crowd cheered. The "float" was a green truck and a red trailer containing a giant white birthday cake. Riding on the float were church members singing Christmas hymns. Two other members walked in front of the float carrying a sign that proclaimed, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." This is the ninth year the Hillsborough Church has entered their local Christmas parade. *By Naydene Walker*

Anniversary Event - You are invited to join Elder Paulsen, president of the General Conference, world leaders, pastors and members of the Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland for their 100th Anniversary Celebration, October 9, 2004. For more information, please send your name, address, and phone number to the: 100th Anniversary Committee, Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church Office, 6810 Eastern Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20012. Email: ttakoma parksdachurch@msn.com

Attention All Health Care Professionals!! The 23rd annual Health Promotion and Preventive Medical Seminar will be held July 9-12, at the Hilton Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC. The sessions are open to all physicians, dentists, nurses and allied health care professionals. (Physicians Category I CME applied for.) The theme for the scientific session is "Surviving in the 21st Century." Topics will include medical survival issues eg. cancer, fragile bones, exposure to the environment and living in the wild. Spiritual activities will feature Elder Lonnie Melashenko, Speaker/Director of the Voice of Prophecy, and a special musical program. For more information or to register, contact: Dan Tullack, 804-998-5001 ext. 203 or fax 336-999-5470; or Harold Schutte, MD, 828-645-7554 or pager 828-257-1519.



(Left to right) *Ciro Borje, Jr., Luis Lopez, Isida Santana, and Francisco Sterling* are pictured here being interviewed by ATN, Adventist Television Network, about their ordeal.

Sanford Church Held Up ... Three Members Hurt

Members of the small Sanford Hispanic church listened to their pastor preach about using their faith as a shield Wednesday, Jan. 22. But they didn't expect to have to do so right then and there. Before the sermon was over, two masked men armed with rifles barged through the door of the Sanford Hispanic church, starting a violent and confusing ordeal for the families there for the evening service.

The two men shot Francisco

Sterling in the leg, smashed Luis Lopez in the mouth with the barrel of a rifle and fired several shots inside the church before running away. Five year-old *Ciro Borje, Jr.* was shoved face first into a folding chair. One of the men shot into the concrete floor, and pieces of concrete and bullet casing ricocheted into the ankle of *Francisco Sterling*, a member standing close to the door. After he fell, "They wanted to shoot him in the head," said his wife, *Isida Santana*. "He took out

his wallet and gave it to them."

Sanford police and a Highway Patrol K-9 unit followed a trail of purses and captured the two men at a public housing apartment about a mile away from the church. Both men have lengthy criminal records.

When asked if they will still feel safe in their church, *Santana* said, "If God is going to guard us, he is going to guard us there. The proof is that we are living."

Why YOU should help us Grow

... continued from page 1.

payment of a medical bill. It was enough to get into Southern! After receiving a degree in Theology from Southern, *Ottinger* went on to get his Masters of Divinity from Andrews University. He is now back in the Carolinas working as associate pastor at the Fletcher Church.

And then there's *Jimmy Carter*. No, not the president. We are talking about *Jimmy Carter* the teacher, class of 1995. He decided he wanted to attend MPA for several reasons -- an Adventist education, the spiritual atmosphere of the school, and the opportunities for outreach and participation in school organizations.

"I was so impressed with the Christian example of the teachers and their willingness to take their own time to help struggling students," says *Carter*. "Attending MPA instilled within me a love for serving others."

That desire for service led him to return to MPA in 1996 as a Task Force worker, then to get his degree in Religion from Southern. Today he's one of our Carolina teachers, working with the 7th-10th grades at Tri-City Jr. Academy in High Point, NC.

Coming from a mission-minded in-

stitution, many of Mount Pisgah's alumni have gone on to work in overseas projects of their own. Some through the student mission programs at Adventist colleges -- some through their local church. Yet others have made it a career, making a decision to spend their lives serving in the mission field.

One of these is *Wendy Guptill*, also class of 1995. *Wendy* spent a year on the island of Paata in the Pacific islands as a student and currently works in the mountains of Nepal. To get to her house from the nearest city, Pokhara, it's three hours on an overcrowded bus and then 12 miles over rough terrain in a jeep. The last half hour is a hike across a river and up a steep hill. During their yearly torrential rainfall, the road is impassable by bus, and has to be navigated totally by foot -- 12 miles in the knee-deep mud.

A registered nurse, *Wendy* helps to operate a clinic for the Nepali people, treating ailments that range from delivering babies to Typhoid fever. Combined with a civil war in Nepal, it makes for an overwhelming situation at times.. But she loves it there in her

little house on top of the mountain, working with the Nepali people and learning their way of life -- because she has dedicated her life to God, and knows this is His plan for her.

Jo Ottinger, *Jimmy Carter*, and *Wendy Guptill* have a lot in common. They are examples of how a Christian upbringing can influence a young person and instill in them the value of a relationship with God. Fortunately we have the opportunity to nurture countless more young people at Mount Pisgah Academy. It is essential to provide them with an environment where their faith can grow and thrive, not shrivel away with the influences of a secular institution.

This is why you should help support MPA. Young people who walk those halls now and in the future WILL make a difference -- if not for you, for someone else who would otherwise be unaware of God's power. Your contribution to this institution no matter how small or how great is one step further toward making Mount Pisgah Academy the place where ambassadors for Christ are trained. Can you think of any better reason to support Mount Pisgah Academy?



Name Proves Prophetic For Chaplain

Years ago, in Communist-controlled Russia, a girl was born only days after her father was jailed for practicing Christianity. Hoping his daughter would one day continue spreading the gospel, he named his little girl Evangelina, Greek for "good news." Today, Evangelina Romanov is carrying out her father's wishes by studying to become a certified chaplain. She's a student in a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Residency Program in Anderson, SC. Before arriving in America four years ago, Mrs. Romanov and her husband, Alex, built a church in their hometown of St. Petersburg, Russia. With government interference and financial constraints, they labored for six years to complete the building. During that time Mrs. Romanov discovered her own passion for ministry.

When Elder Romanov was invited to pastor the Greenwood, SC, church earlier this year, Mrs. Romanov began searching for a chaplain training program.

"I just love to work with people," Mrs. Romanov said. "I started to pray, and asked God for direction."

Mrs. Romanov attends rounds, facilitates support groups, leads worship programs, and provides crisis-intervention services. They have an extensive curriculum of requirements that must be fulfilled before they can be certified as chaplains.

She added, "For me, this hospital is God's place. He will provide for me and lead me to do what I need to do. I believe everyone needs spiritual food every day, and that is what I intend to provide."



Pastor and Mrs. Romanov with their daughter Anna, pose for a picture with Mrs. Romanov's parents, Elder and Mrs. Mikhail Kulakov. Sr. Elder Kulakov himself spent years in prison as a result of the religious persecution in the former USSR. Alex Romanov was featured in his local Greenwood, SC, newspaper.

Greenwood Pastor Featured in Local Newspaper

Imagine being 13 years old and being arrested because you believe in God and profess your Christian faith. That happened to Alexander "Alex" Romanov, born in the former Soviet Union. Since August, Romanov, who lives in Anderson, SC, with his wife Lena and daughter Anna, has served as pastor of the Greenwood and Clinton churches.

"My country proclaimed communism and atheism," Romanov said. "But my parents taught me to love God and people. Communism sought to destroy everything that reminds people of God and the church," Romanov said. "Children were encouraged to report anticommunist remarks and activities."

The arrest at age 13 was a pivotal moment in Romanov's spiritual growth. "My family appeared before a Supreme Court judge in Tajikistan, a republic that borders Afghanistan," Romanov said. "The court wanted to put me and my siblings in an orphan-

age and put my father in prison. At that moment, I began to pray to Jesus and prayed for his help. The court decided to let us go home."

When communism prevailed in the Soviet Union, religion went into hiding. "We had to meet in secret," Romanov said. "Sometimes people met in their own homes and sometimes individuals could buy a house that would be used for a church, until the police found out about it."

Families notified each other when worship services would be conducted.

"Someone would place something in a window if it was not safe to come in, if police were there," he said.

The Romanovs had just one Bible between them, dating back to 1927. "It was very difficult to get Bibles and

other Christian materials," Romanov said. "Sister churches in the United States would bring materials with them to Russia where they were translated from English and copied."

"It was a risk for people to bring these things to Russia. Pastors would have to hide materials from police. Some hid them between walls and door frames, others in toilets and even under dog houses outside."

Romanov didn't have many friends in school because he didn't fit in. "People came into schools to teach communist propaganda to students each day," he said.

Even as a child, Romanov had a great passion to comfort people. "Being a pastor wasn't recognized as a profession, so I also worked in construction," Romanov said.

In the mid 70's Romanov attended an underground theological seminary in Tula, a city near Moscow. Then in the early '80s, several protestant churches received permission from the government to send seven young pastors to other countries to study theology.

Romanov was among those chosen to go to East Germany where he received a bachelor's degree in religion. He returned to Russia where he pastored the Tula church. After this



position, Romanov pastored the St. Petersburg church in Northern Russia and later became the conference president.

Four years ago the family came to the United States to attend Andrews University where he earned his Masters degree.

Prior to serving in Carolina, Romanov had a two-church district in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Romanov's brother, Mikhail Kulakov, is also a pastor in Carolina. Kulakov pastors the Rock Hill and York churches in South Carolina.

Journey of the Heart

BY FLORIE ROGERS

The Asheville Pathfinder Club and staff took part December 14 in presenting "A Journey of the Heart," an Advent celebration presented

by the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry. This celebration brought to life the story of the birth of Christ. Guests strolled



through the city of Bethlehem filled with families, shopkeepers, artisans, prisoners, beggars, prophets, and teachers. The Asheville Pathfinder Club was happy to be a part of this Christmas program and help others to ponder the gift of the Christ child, and the gift of life He brings.



Glenda Ashlock

How would you like to get away for a weekend with your spouse and do nothing but relax, have fun, and learn valuable ways to improve your marriage?

On February 14-16, the Family Life department of the Carolina Confer-

Romance at the Ranch

ence hosted "Romance at the Ranch" at Nosoca Pines Ranch. Eighty couples attended the annual event, enjoying the opportunity to enrich their relationship in a Christian setting.

The weekend included a marriage enrichment seminar, evening pontoon rides on the lake, scrumptious food, and a candlelight communion service. Every detail was designed to invite fun and romance into the lives of those who attended. Each day, couples were presented with small packages and gifts designed for sharing with each other.

Carl Ashlock and his wife, Glenda Ashlock, a therapist, presented the seminar, entitled "Ex-

periencing God's Love at Home," throughout the weekend. Pastor Ken Bryant and his wife Helen presented a personality assessment seminar. Special music provided by the Grissoms, the Touchards, and the Youngs, three couples from the Charlotte area, enhanced this spiritual time at the Ranch.



From the President

... continued from page 1.

know. I am determined to complete the dorm debt free, but I cannot do it without your help. You've been there for us as funds have come forth for evangelism and thousands of baptisms have taken place as a result.

Now I'm asking in behalf of our young people. Help us build a boys dorm that provides a safe, comfortable place for our young men. It is sad to hear some are not attending due to the present condition. It's not like we want to trade in a good car for a newer one. We are faced with a necessity. We have an old building from the early seventies, not up to today's codes, with inefficient and very expensive baseboard electric heating. In fact, we were advised that it is not feasible to put in a new HVAC and electrical system. The concrete block building makes it impossible to update the dorm for modern technology, specifically wiring the dorm for internet access, a service that attracts our students to other academies.

Furthermore, two architects and an engineering firm examined the building. They advised that renovating is as costly as rebuilding. Therefore, renovations are not an option. And we want to bring the quality of the boy's dorm up to the standards of the other facilities on campus. Help us create an environment that will encourage young men to attend, increase registration and enable us to keep our doors open for future generations.

As I interview MPA students, I am encouraged by their enthusiasm. They eagerly await the day they will have a more hospitable, desirable living facility. In the meantime, these dedicated young people express appreciation to MPA for the Christian atmosphere and education they are receiving. They love being involved in the Touring Ministries, which the academy organizes. This gives the students the opportunity to actively share their faith and talents with churches and schools in Carolina.

Shouldn't we want the quality of the environment of our academy to match the quality of our young people -- first-class, topnotch. If you want to see our exemplary young people in action, why not invite one of the Touring Ministries (Band/Ensemble, Choir, Creative Ministries, AcroSports-gymnastic team) to your church or school. Louis Parra at #828-667-2535 x220 or e-mail at lparra@pisgah.us.

Now I am asking. . . Can I count on your support?

Kenneth Cooney

PS: Many thanks to all of you who have already made your contribution to the boy's dorm.

Legal Service Provided at Camp Meeting

Have you planned for your future? Why wait any longer? Attorneys Deni DiVine and Robert Forquer, as well as your Carolina Trust Representatives, will be available at camp meeting to help get your affairs in order. Wills are a FREE service to members of the Carolina Conference. Free Notary Service will be available from 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:30-4:00pm daily. There will also be a financial

planning seminar daily from 4:00-5:30 with Tom Kapusta.

Things to think about:

- Have you notarized your Will, Power of Attorney, or Living Will?
- Has your elderly parent's Power of Attorney been recorded at the courthouse?
- Have you sent your Warranty Deed to the Trust Department from last camp meeting for your Revocable Living Trust? Have you filed them at

the courthouse?

- Do you need a Cash Trust ?
- Have you decided who will be your children's guardians?

The Trust Department will be more than happy to help you with these issues and more. Go visit them at Camp Meeting!

Call 704-596-3200 Ext. 131 if you have questions on what legal documents to bring with you to Camp Meeting, or e-mail: jsawtell@carolinasda.com

2003
Camp Meeting

In His Presence

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina May 25-31

Speakers



Don Schneider
Weekend Speaker



David Osborne
Evening Speaker



Michael Kulakov
11 AM Speaker



Jerry Page
*8 AM Speaker
Seminar Presenter*

Seminar Presenters



Dr. Len McMillan
Men's Ministries



Janet Page
*Women's Ministries
Family Ministries*



Larry Yeagley
*Grief Recovery
and Loss*



Freddy Russell
*"Living in
His Presence"*

Musical Guest

Other presenters include:

Oliver McKinney *Stewardship Seminar*
Cari Hammonds and Sylvia Rosburg *Nutrition/Health*
Ron Clouzet *Keeping the Sabbath*
Thomas Kapusta *Estate Planning*

For accommodation information:

1-800-222-4930

Manuel Escorcio



Highly acclaimed
International
Recording Artist

You Gave, and They Were Blessed



Dr. Roger Van Arsdell (right) and his wife, Marcia, were able to spend a few days with Cat at BongTi, facilitating in a clinic there. They promised her they would send us pictures of the work being done there on the Thai/Burmese border.

Remember Catherine Riley-Bryan, a.k.a. "Momo Cat," who won our hearts as the mission speaker at last year's camp meeting at Lake Junaluska? Touched by her stories of life on the Thailand/Burma border caring for over 80 children, you opened your purses and sent her home with nearly \$20,000 in contributions for her little mission. To update you on what is happening at



Catherine and one of her students.

BongTi at her mission school here's an excerpt from a recent letter to one of our editors. *Let me share my last week to ten days with you. On Monday morning I was woken early by two students saying that while I was away, there had been an accident, and Naree's father*

had been shot in his legs, could I go to collect him from the hospital? So after teaching my morning class, I set out for Kanchanaburi to pick up Naree's father. I took one boy, Yo, with me for company and translation. When we got to

the hospital, we both realized that we didn't actually know his name! So we went by description... black hair, black eyes, doesn't speak Thai language, and gunshot wound in his leg. We were directed to a sleeping form on a bed. After negotiating the hospital fees, we loaded him into the car and set out.

She goes for a ten step walk each morning, and spends her time with the other kids taking care. At night she lays in my arms during worship, in a semi-conscious state. However last night she suddenly sat up, and broke into song, singing "How I love you with the love of the Lord" in her scratchy voice. All

the kids were in tears at her effort, and at the choice of her song. I think it may be her farewell, as her blood pressure is very low and her pulse fast. This morning she remains in a deep sleep.



With a portion of the money she was given at camp meeting, Cat has purchased this Toyota truck. Other than for school, she uses it to transport patients to the hospital and has had as many as nine in the back. She has used just half of the money for the truck and a new school building. The rest is in the bank.

the hospital, we both realized that we didn't actually know his name! So we went by description... black hair, black eyes, doesn't speak Thai language, and gunshot wound in his leg. We were directed to a sleeping form on a bed. After negotiating the hospital fees, we loaded him into the car and set out.

When we got home we were told "This is not my father!!" The guy woke up... He told us in Burmese that he did not belong to BongTi. His village was about 250 kms away. Oh dear, I have a Burmese man, with gun shot wounds to his leg, no ID papers in my car, with about five police immigration check points to go through!! And it is late at night. Fortunately my Karen family trust me, (silly fools) and they make my guest comfortable for the night, while I go to scramble for help. The Gumlung (Head district man) is my friend. He arranges us safe travel for the next morning, and so I take the unknown, Not Naree's father, back to his home. Such an adventure.

Since then I have been sitting my days at the hospital where my 15 year old student, Guip, is in her last days of liver cirrhosis. Actually the doctors gave her three hours to live when she went into toxic shock. But she responded to prayer, and now has lived a further week. However on Sunday last week, she requested to come home to die. We stepped out against doctors orders, in faith, and carted her home. Now she has difficulty in remembering English, but her thinking is clear most of the time.

She goes for a ten step walk each morning, and spends her time with the other kids taking care. At night she lays in my arms during worship, in a semi-conscious state. However last night she suddenly sat up, and broke into song, singing "How I love you with the love of the Lord" in her scratchy voice. All



Catherine's house was built by the students for about \$125 US. Even though it is small, Catherine sleeps on the bouncy bamboo floor on a mat and says it's "quite comfortable."

Pray for our strength and our work. God has given us a privilege to be His ambassadors in this place. God go with you all. Love, Cat in the mountains of Thailand.



The bamboo school - three classrooms with a concrete floor and block room dividers and end walls. In the middle of the project, the contractor demanded four times the pay he was receiving. Cat couldn't pay him, and he left. When four Australians wrote they were coming to visit, Cat didn't want to be bothered because of her deep concern over the school. She went to pick them up anyway in Bangkok. One of the men said he didn't know why he had come. He wasn't an Adventist or even a Christian. He wondered what a retired contractor could do for a mission. Cat was ecstatic. She said, "You can build the school." And he did! He trained the students to lay blocks and together they built the new facility, with funds donated by members of the Carolina Conference.

What's Happening in Spartanburg?

BY KENNETH WYNN



Sabbath morning, February 1, saw the Spartanburg Church gather for a special breakfast to encourage Sabbath School attendance. They ate a full meal and were still

Bible Study Course invitations to the community. This is in preparation for the "Voice of Prophecy Speaks" Crusade to be held April 17 through May 24, 2003 in the Spartanburg Seventh-

done in time for Sabbath School! In all, about 150 people attended.

The Spartanburg Pathfinders gathered after church Sabbath, March 1, to distribute "Focus on Prophecy"

day Adventist Church. The Crusade is a live downlink from Columbia, S.C. by the Voice of Prophecy Speaker/Director, Lonnie Melashenko.

After distributing enrollment cards, the Pathfinders returned to the church to sponsor the vesper program. It was a musical concert by many of the church musicians, plus the hand bell choir from the Tryon Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The activities for the day were concluded with a supper and game social in the gymnasium. The event was organized by Pathfinder Director Tim Blake.





A Totem Pole at Asheville North

BY FLORIE ROGERS

In February, the Primary Department at the Asheville North Church created their own totem pole. Carol Wootton explained the history of the totem pole, on which Indians carved symbols representing their family clan histories. She then drew four pictures depicting their own church family.

The first drawing represented the congregation. The second picture credited former pastor Dennis Uffindel with the vision of building a new church, realized in the Fall of 2001. Current pastor Will Oosthuizen was then represented as continuing the strong church leadership. The final drawing depicts the warm unity of the growing congregation. Atop the pole was an eagle, a bird of strength, chosen for the church crest.

The brightly colored pictures were mounted on a tall pole that stood proudly before the congregation for a special presentation the following Sabbath.



Robert Crux, superintendent of education, standing center, and Pam Forbes, associate superintendent, lead out in an ongoing professional training program for Carolina Teachers.

Teachers on the Cutting Edge with Adventist EDGE

Carolina Teachers met recently for professional development held at the conference office in Charlotte, where an invitation was extended to all Carolina teachers to join in the Adventist EDGE initiative.

Central to the Adventist EDGE initiative is the renewed vision for curriculum, instruction, and assessment in Seventh-day Adventist Schools in the 21st century.

The FACT-21 document outlined the philosophy, goals, and essential core elements Adventist education which now has been revised, expanded and integrated into a superior

model for school enhancement. Entitled Journey to Excellence, this model encapsulates the uniqueness of Adventist education and provides the backbone for all instructive learning.

The Adventist EDGE is the Southern Union's response to implementing the Journey to Excellence and provides a framework of teaching designed for growth and excellence in all areas of education.

To provide a strong support and framework for proper implementation, the Carolina teachers will continue to be involved in study groups which meet on a regular basis

throughout the school year. It is imperative to develop a strong three-way partnership of the home, school, and church to provide a learning community which supports Christian education.

Seminars and awareness programs at the local level will be provided, where all will be invited to join in the conversation of how to implement an effective, continuous school improvement. The result is the Adventist EDGE, E-veryone D-oing G-reat E-ducation.



Pastor Jerry Mobley, Senator-elect Dole and Joan Mobley

Senator Dole Visits Disaster Team

BY PASTOR JERRY MOBLEY

Thunderous cracking and popping broke the stillness of that early Thursday morning the first week of December 2002, as the small "ice advisory" changed into a tree-breaking, car-wrecking ice storm. Tens of thousands lost power over the Triad area of High Point, Greensboro, Winston-Salem.

The High Point church, an official Disaster Relief shelter for the American Red Cross, was put into service by Thursday afternoon.

Max Moffitt, local elder and liaison, coordinated the setting up of cots, blankets, tables, and phone banks. For the next four days and nights, the High Point fellowship hall was home to fifty or more men, women, and children.

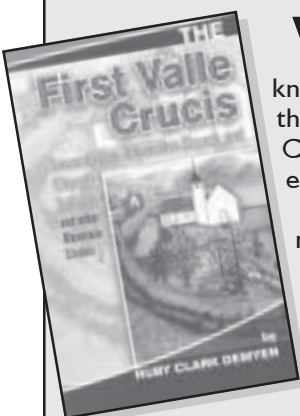
Some were liter-

ally carried in from police and emergency vehicles in various stages of cold and/or confusion. One older lady had been found walking through a parking lot thinking her family had not paid the electric bill and she needed to leave her apartment. The Red Cross nurses and volunteers did a terrific job in assessing and meeting needs.

The following week, as things were returning to normal, a call was received announcing that Senator-elect Elizabeth Dole would be visiting the shelter. She was there to commend the Red Cross team for its work and thank the church for sharing its facility and resources. Local television, newspaper, and radio coverage all lauded the Adventist church for its kind and willing spirit.



The Red Cross Disaster Team from the High Point, NC, church facility exemplify a "team" effort.



Would you like to know more about the history of the Carolina Conference?

Check out this new book by Ruby Clark Demyen, granddaughter of church pioneer Harrison Clark, for firsthand

facts and stories about the original Seventh-day Adventist church in North Carolina, Valle Crucis.

Although not a professional writer, Demyen, born near Valle Crucis in 1913, grew up there and attended the very first Seventh-day Adventist church school. You'll want to read her version of "how it was then."

Available at the Adventist Christian Book Center
\$9.95 or \$7.00 (ea. 6 or more)

Fall In Love With Jesus

On the day that sin and suffering entered this world, a promise was given. Someone was coming to make it right. Someone was coming to pay the price. Someone was coming to save us -- Jesus, the Savior, the Promised One, the MESSIAH.

This contemporary adaptation of Ellen Whit's classic *Desire of Ages* amplifies the beautiful message and makes the themes of the original easier to grasp.

Messiah Paper

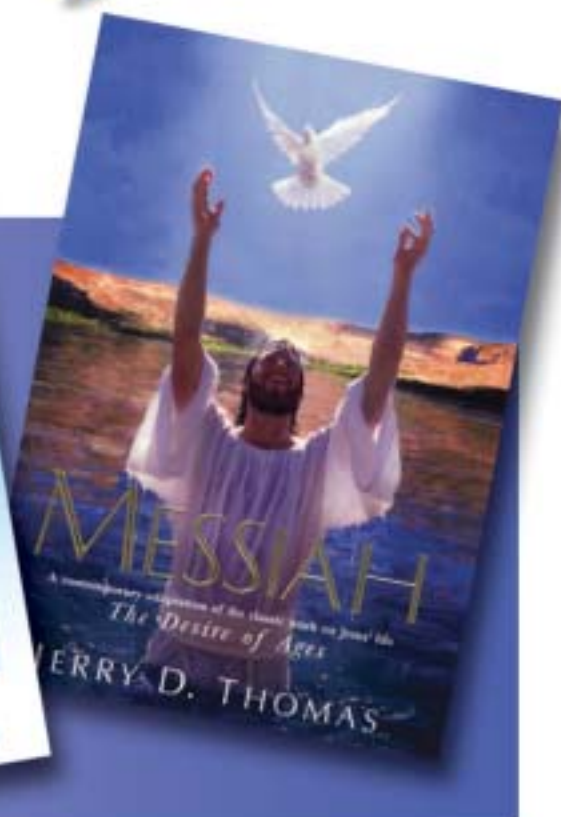
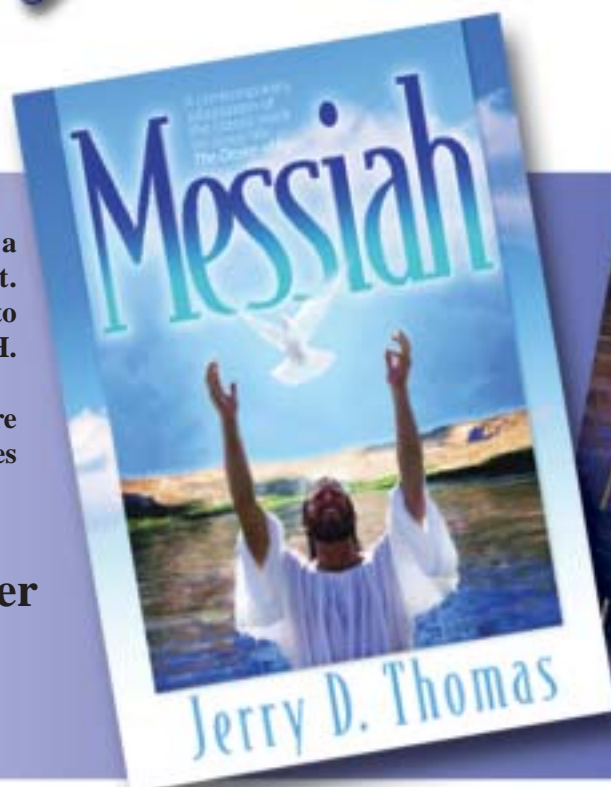
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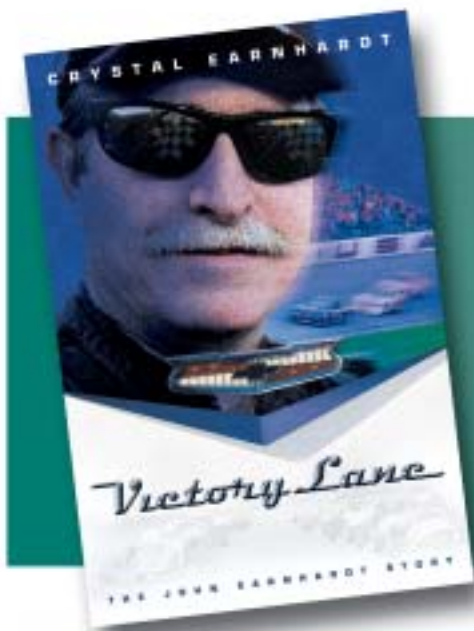
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Regular: \$19.99

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All Over Again!



Born in a tavern, John Earnhardt spent much of his childhood playing around a racetrack with his cousin, a boy named Dale Earnhardt. Little Dale would become known as the Intimidator and be immortalized as a legend in NASCAR racing, savoring 76 wins in Victory Lane.

Carolina evangelist, John, would take a different road to glory. Not one paved with asphalt or filled with cheering fans, but it would lead to the ultimate Victory Lane.

Victory Lane

Regular: \$12.99

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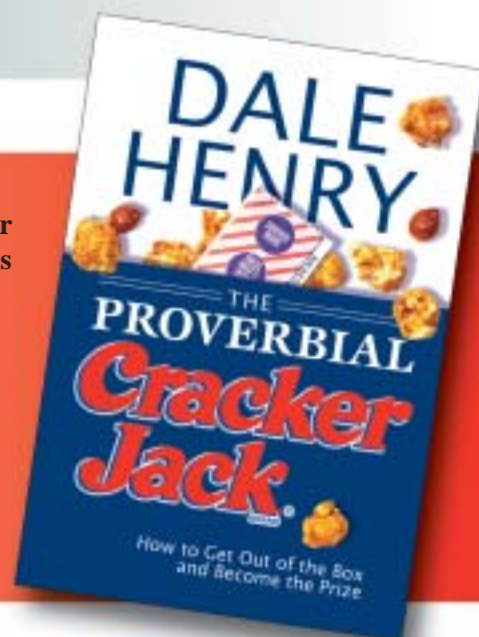
Finding the prize in you is what this book is all about. Remember how you used to open a box of Cracker Jack popcorn to get the prize? This book will tell you how to be the prize. How serving others guarantees that you are in demand. How opening doors for others opens new doors for you.

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