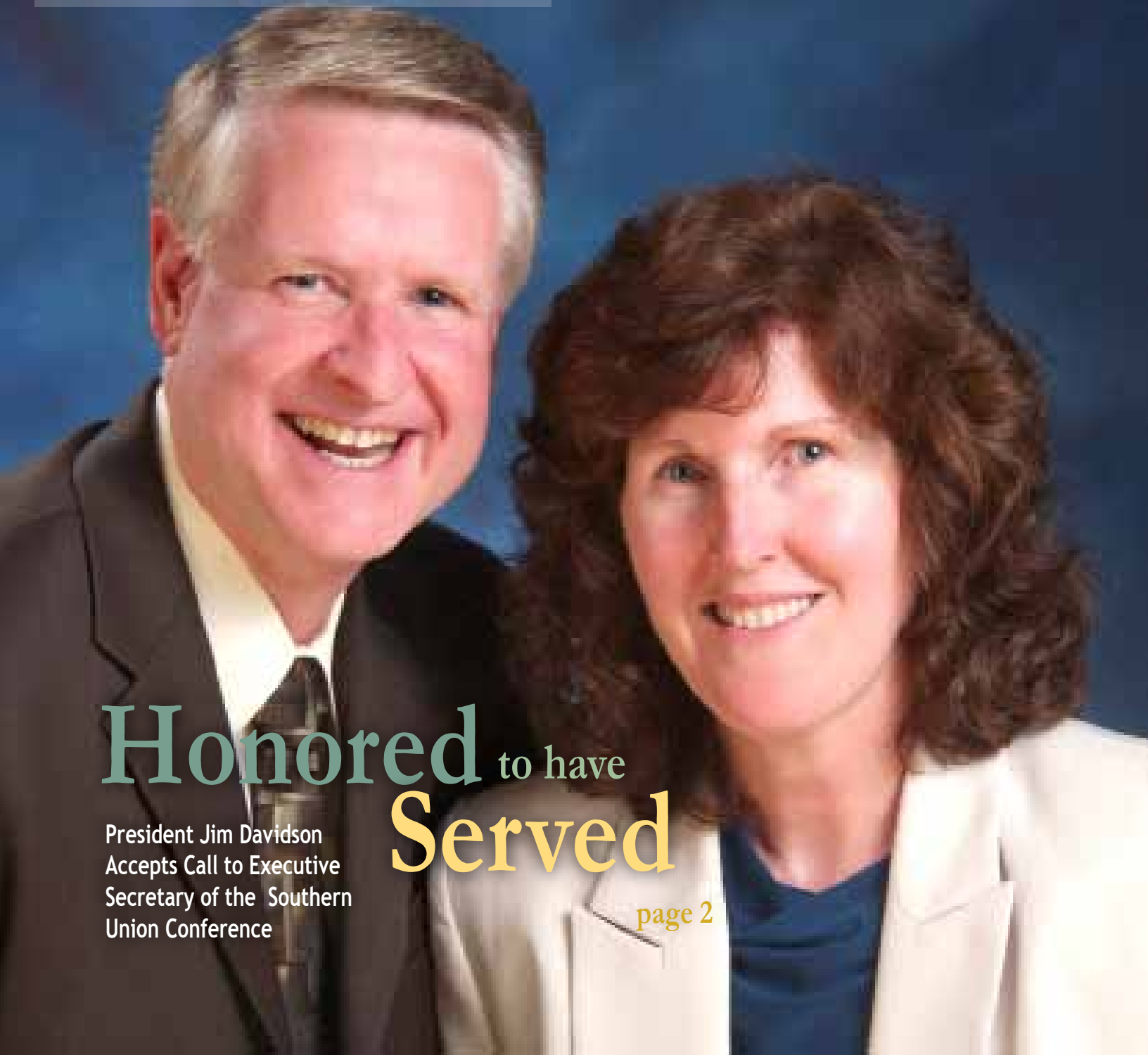




Carolina

ACTION

Issue 3, 2011 • CONNECTING CAROLINA CONFERENCE MEMBERS



Honored to have Served

President Jim Davidson
Accepts Call to Executive
Secretary of the Southern
Union Conference

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Honored to have Served

by Jim Davidson, Carolina Conference President

Many years ago I was privileged to take a heritage tour guided by Elder Jim Nix of the White Estate. What an inspiration it was to visit the many places where the Advent movement got its start. From the William Miller farm and ascension rock where the early pioneers expectantly waited for the return of Jesus in October 1844 to the very first Adventist church in Washington, New Hampshire. It was here, during a worship service, that I heard for the first time the well known hymn, "Never Part Again." As I reflected on those early believers I couldn't help but think how meaningful this hymn would have been to them. For how earnestly they desired to be reunited with Jesus Whom they thought they would see on that October day.

Being separated from those we love is always difficult. As I write this it was just last month

that my wife's mother passed away. As we attended the funeral service, it was difficult to say good-bye. Partings are never easy.

And now, Bonnie and I are preparing for another parting. As many of you are aware, at the recently held Southern Union Constituency session I was elected as the Executive Secretary of the union. After much prayer and conversation we have accepted this invitation.

For over sixteen years the Carolina Conference has been part of our family. It was in the Summer of 1995 that a call was extended to me by Elder Ken Coonley, then Conference president, to join the Carolina Conference as Ministerial Secretary. At the time we were serving at the Madison Campus church in Madison, Tennessee. For seven years it was the privilege of both Bonnie and I to work as the pastor's pastor. We have grown to love and tremendously respect the pastoral team in this conference. We have found them to be a wonderfully dedicated, talented and spiritual group of pastoral couples. The Carolina Conference is truly blessed to have these ministers and their spouses serving in their local congregations.

Following the tragic death in 2002 of Elder Ron Schmidt, Conference Executive Secretary, I was asked to assume those responsibilities. For just over two years I served in this capacity. Following that assignment I was elected to serve as president, and have been honored to serve in this position for nearly seven years.

It has been my great privilege to serve alongside two deeply spiritual officers: Conference Secretary Gary Moyer; and Conference Treasurer Rick Russell. These men have been a constant source of inspiration and guidance for me. I just want to thank them for their dedicated service to God's cause.

Continued on page 4 . . .



Above: In 2004, Jim Davidson was the Conference executive secretary, Ken Coonley was president and Rick Russell was treasurer.

Right: As president, Jim has been an integral part of important Conference events.



Photos by Ron Quirk



Courtesy Herod

41st Quinquennial Constituency Session

The 41st Quinquennial Constituency Session of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened at on Thursday, August 18, 2011, at Nosoca Pines Ranch outside of Liberty Hill, South Carolina.

Dr. Ron Smith, the Southern Union Executive Secretary, presented the devotional messages. Smith reminded those in attendance of the fact we serve a “personal” God.

The officers re-elected were: Jim Davidson, president; Gary Moyer, executive secretary; and Rick Russell, treasurer.

Individuals serving in other departments in the Carolina Conference, with the exception of Family Life Ministries, were all re-elected. Due to the fact that the Family Life director, Jo Ottinger, recently became the campus chaplain of Mt. Pisgah Academy, he has stepped down. Eli Rojas will serve as both Family Life

director and pastor of the Burnsville and Erwin Hills Adventist churches.

The delegates completed all items on the agenda, including electing members to serve on the Carolina Conference Executive Committee and voting minor changes to the constitution and bylaws.

Jim Davidson challenged the delegates to be more actively involved in evangelism in the next quinquennium, with the goal of planting another



Ron Quick



Courtesy Herod

50 churches during that time period. He officially adjourned the 41st Carolina Conference Constituency Session on Sabbath afternoon.

At the Southern Union constituency session in September, Elder Jim Davidson was elected as their Executive Secretary. He will be missed very much by this Conference, but we wish him every blessing as he begins his new ministry.

by Courtney Herod



Ron Quick

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Honored to Have Served . .

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We are also blessed in Carolina to have a terrific team of departmental directors, teachers and camp staff who so efficiently keep the cause of God ever moving forward. In all of this, God has blessed tremendously.

But perhaps the greatest strength of the Carolinas is found in the 20,000 dedicated laypeople who are involved in countless ministries and give of themselves tirelessly to advance God's work. Through the consis-



Gordon Retzer, President of the Southern Union, congratulates Jim on his election to president in 2005.

tent efforts and sacrifice of this conference family God has poured out His blessing. The work of God has flourished and the Conference has grown. One of our long-term pastors shared an interesting insight with me just the other day. He said that during the past five years there were more baptisms in Carolina than there were total members when he began his ministry 30+ years ago. We simply say, "To God be the glory!"

One of the joys which Bonnie and I take with us is the knowledge that we will still be connected to Carolina through the Southern Union. We

look forward to those times when we will still have opportunity to be part of the life of this great conference.

But even more than that we both look forward to that day when Jesus will return in the clouds of glory. When with ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands and thousands of His angels, He will descend with the trumpet call of God. For then, and only then, will we truly be able to sing the wonderful words, "Never Part Again."

Please know that you will all ever remain in our prayers even as we ask that we remain in yours. May God richly bless you each one as we all look forward to that blessed day when Jesus returns.

Sincerely,

Jim & Bonnie Davidson

Health Expo Helps Community Keep on Track

Fifty-eight years ago, Harold Case decided it was time to turn his life around.

"When I was 30 years old, I decided that I needed the Lord in my life," said the Mills River church member. "My father was a smoker, and it was smoking that killed him, so that impressed me very much."

Nearly six decades later, Case, 88, is going strong—though he's still learning and altering the way he approaches his health. That's why he was one of many to take advantage of a recent Health Expo at the Mills River church.

Co-sponsored by the church and Park Ridge Health, the third annual event included cholesterol and prostate screenings, a bone-

density test, blood analysis, gait analysis and massage therapy. After checking in at several stations, attendees had the opportunity to bring their results to the final station where a computer printout revealed the person's "health age."

Shanti McKinnie discovered that while she's actually 59, the age of her body and health is more like 54.6, a figure based on factors such as getting the right amount of sleep, exercising regularly, not smoking or drinking, eating breakfast daily and maintaining proper weight.

The goal of the expo was to raise awareness of the importance of good health and preventive measures to attain it. "God is interested in the whole person," said

Joseph Ludwig, elder and health ministry coordinator. "He wants us to be fit and well, physically and emotionally, so we just want to let people know God is good." He continues, "Health is not just all in the genes; it's not just all fate; it's not all in the family. There's a lot we can do to help ourselves, and that's what we want to encourage."

By Gary Glancy

Adapted with permission from the Spartanburg Times-News



Women's Retreat Radiates Abundant Blessings

God always rejoices when we dare to dream beyond what we think or imagine. He delights in making the impossible possible. When we come and “dine with Him” as we are invited to do in Rev. 3:20, he will fulfill and supply all our needs. “Taking Time to Dine” was the theme of the Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 Carolina Conference Women’s Retreat that over 300 women attended at Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Kelly Mower and Marla Sammaan Nedelcu were used by God to bring His message of hope, love, encouragement and enlightenment to the ladies. Many, many women came away hearing the voice of God directing them. Marla shared that it is never too late to change unwanted habits and behaviors, with ourselves and others, so that we can extend God’s grace. We can stop the negative emotions which keep us from moving forward with Christ. And as we dine with our Savior, we see ourselves through His eyes.

Kelly Mowrer presented an insightful morning devotional for Morning Manna, followed later by a mini-concert of hymns and their stories of inspiration and origin. As one person commented, “Her God-given talent is unmatched.” The

Tary sisters from Tryon, NC, also delivered excellent musical selections and kept the momentum of the spiritual feast upbeat and uplifting.

In the afternoon, Sarah Painter and her mother,



Dixie, shared their testimony of God’s amazing healing power. A young teenager, Sarah has battled Crohn’s disease for a number of years, at times at death’s door. She praises God for His deliverance.

At the rose ceremony, attendees had a chance to recognize that special something in the death of Christ which opened the door for all of us to be saved. As the ladies sang “Who am I that a King would bleed and die for,” they crushed their roses in acknowledgement of His sacrifice.

While women gathered in the gym, Kim Cove from Arden, NC, and Elissa Peters from Salem, SC, ministered to the teens who came from various churches, exploring



Photos by Ron Quick

the theme of Freedom in Christ.

The evening banquet allowed the ladies to “take time to dine” in a more literal sense. The retreat committee, pictured left, donned their damask aprons and served a delicious French meal prepared by the camp kitchen led by Allen Greaves.

The weekend also gave the ladies an opportunity to do one of their favorite things—shop! Vicki Hillmon of the Tryon church, who had transformed the gym into a French boutique, invited them to the “marketplace” to partake of the special bargains she had found.

Laura Smith from the Southern Union was a guest speaker on Sunday morning, giving her practical advice on “Dining with Jesus.”

One attendee said, “No stone was left unturned. The spiritual power of the weekend was beautiful. Every detail was perfection.”

Faith and worship joined hands in praising God for his marvelous works! This weekend compelled us to ask Him to take up permanent residence in our hearts.

by Debbie Rapp



Celebrating Diversity at Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone's 12 cultures were well represented at their first Multicultural Day, a fundraiser event benefitting the youth who wish to attend GYC (Generation for Youth), that takes place in December, 2011, in Washington, D.C. It was a hot and sunny day, but members wore their smiles as well as their country's fashions while offering national-favorite culinary treats at each table.



Photos Contributed

The benefit raised over \$350. The youth department is still accepting donations for this worthy investment in the future leaders of the Adventist church.

by Cynthia Mejia

Social Services in Hickory

The Social Service staff of Catawba County met with concerned citizens on June 28, 2011, at the Hickory Seventh-day Adventist Church. Those who attended were

interested in obtaining information on various issues and services that the department provides for residents of the county.

There was a question and answer session during the meeting. Staff representatives who attended were: Karen Mace, Mgr. of Family Medicaid; Beth Rogerson, Adult Medicaid Eligibility Specialist; and Jim-

miann Huffman, Income Mainte-



nance Supervisor. Pamphlets were distributed concerning issues of nursing facilities, Medicare, Medicaid, child support, food stamps, etc. Refreshments were provided by the church following the meeting.

Article Contributed

A Special Baptism in Sumter

On Sabbath, April 16, 2011, the members and friends of the Sumter Church experienced a "high day in Zion." Sylvia Glasscho and her children, James, Jamal

and Shaina, were baptized into the family of the Carolina Conference and world body of Seventh-day Adventists. This Sabbath was also special because the Ordinance of Communion was celebrated.

Having met on Friday evenings for the past year, this beautiful family faithfully studied God's word, instructed by the pastor using the Amazing Facts "Storacles" Bible study series.

Each member of the family was provided gifts including a Bible, a *Conflict of the Ages* set, and a baptismal certificate.

The Glasscho family has faithfully attended the Sumter church for several months, experiencing Sabbath worship services and fellowship luncheons, as well as Sabbath afternoon vesper services. The mother and her children also attended the Conference youth rally in Spartanburg, SC, on the weekend of March 12-13, 2011.

Sumter members and their pastor are excited to include Sylvia Glasscho and her children (pictured below) as new members of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

by Alice R. Johnson



More Miracles for Beaufort

Remember the miraculous story in the *Carolina Action* of God providing \$10,000 to the Beaufort Church's building fund due to their pastor winning the grand prize in a Dave Ramsey Show contest in May 2010?

Since then, the Beaufort pastor, Jason Belyeu (pictured above), and church elders discovered a 33,000 square-foot shopping center for sale. They knew this shopping center could be renovated for a worship space, church school, food pantry, thrift store, etc. The church

potential buyer for two months. Church members prayed during that time for God to stop the sale. God answered those prayers and in January, Beaufort Adventist Church closed on the shopping center for \$600,000!

As part of their capital stewardship campaign, members held a 24-hour prayer vigil where they asked God for the faith to give generously so renovations of the

received a call from a friend whom he had not spoken with in over a year. The friend had read the story about the \$10,000 prize in the *Carolina Action* and felt impressed to match Dave Ramsey's grand prize dollar-for-dollar!

"Instantly my mind went to Jesus words," said Pastor Belyeu. "For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." He added, "All these blessings happened on the heels of God's people praying."

God continues to bless the Beaufort church's efforts. This past June, one member, a recent Financial Peace University graduate, won one of twenty \$1,000 prizes from Dave Ramsey's

Rainy Day Give-away. They gave half of the prize to the church's building fund!

Contributed by the Beaufort Church administration.



could get much more by purchasing this property and renovating it than pursuing their original plan of new construction.

The owners would not take less than \$700,000—just out of the church's budget. The property went under contract by another

shopping center could be made with no additional debt.

Forty-eight hours after the prayer vigil, Pastor Belyeu



Photos by Ron Quick



Trust Services Spotlight: “I Have More Work for You”

Isaac was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, SC. He had two brothers; his dad was a fisherman by trade. In fact, all of his clan were fishermen! As a teenager, he joined the US Navy during World War II. He was later assigned to the heavy cruiser USS Astoria as chief steward. On one particular day, she was under a Japanese kamikaze attack during the Guadalcanal campaign. During the intense battle, a lady suddenly appeared to Isaac in civilian clothes and said: “God sent me to tell you that you are not to be afraid, that you are not going to die, I have more work for you to do.” Then she vanished.



He knew that he had just seen an angel!

His grandfather was a Methodist minister, his parents

were Methodists. When he got out of the service, he decided to start studying his Bible in earnest. He went to an Adventist camp meeting and was later baptized by Harold Cleveland in Charleston, SC.

by Ken Ford



Trust Services Spotlight: Tony Causey

(Taken from Tony’s recent sermon in the Pittsboro Adventist Church.)

I was the youngest of four children, born into a loving Baptist family. We went to church every Sunday as I grew up. I don’t know how old I was when I was “saved.”

Our family was musical, and we sang often at various churches. But we never heard about denominations or doctrine. In 1988 the book *88 Reasons That Jesus Has to Come in 1988* came out. It caught my attention. I wasn’t ready; I wasn’t living right. I had a “form of godliness.”

During that time, our family was asked to sing at a revival. The preacher had a call for all wanting to be saved to come forward. The Holy Spirit started saying to me, “Tony, you need to go forward and really be saved.” But the devil kept saying to me, “What will people say? You just sang about your being saved. Just be saved in the pew.”

Jesus said to me, “Tony, I died for you publically, not hidden in some room somewhere. Why don’t you go down, publically, and give your life to Me?”

I went forward. That night I knew that in exchange for my life, Jesus gave me His life. His life of perfection for my life of sin.

Later that year we started attending the Pittsboro Adventist Church. We weren’t content where we were attending previously. One subject that had really bothered me over the years was the eternal torment of the wicked. My church always talked about the wrath of God, not His love. I started studying with a group from



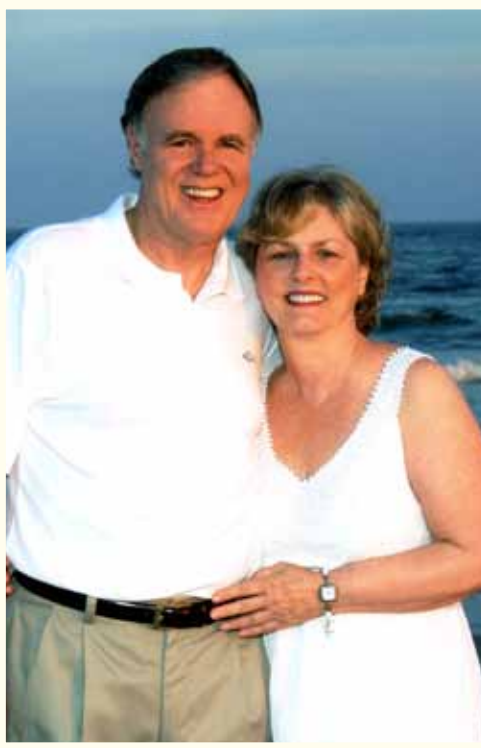
the Pittsboro church and found that scripture interprets itself. Some of the members there gave me the Ken Cox videos to watch. Then I heard Dwight Nelson preach on 3ABN. He just used the Bible; he didn’t give his opinion. “The wages of sin is death, not burning.” (Rom 6:23) “The wicked are burned up. They will be ashes.” (Mal. 4:3)

One of the most incredible, enjoyable things about the Adventist church are the writings of Ellen G. White. The book *Steps to Christ* has changed my life. It will rock your world! God’s grace gives me the power to keep His commandments, not the permission to break them. And it’s a joy to keep them!

My wife Denise and I became members of the Carolina Conference in May of 2010 by profession of faith. We are so happy that Jesus has led us to this remnant church! Nothing in my arms I bring; nothing but the love of Jesus!

Photos and story by Ken Ford

Operation Whitecoat



Photos Contributed

When Ernie Boughman Jr. tells people he served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968, they assume he went to Vietnam. But Boughman did not serve on a battlefield but in a program called Operation Whitecoat, one of about 2,300 Seventh-day Adventists who volunteered to be tested for medical research in the areas of vaccines and biological weapons.

Operation Whitecoat was carried out at Fort Detrick in Maryland from 1954 to 1973. In the early days of Operation Whitecoat, the country was in the midst of the Cold War and there was concern about biological threats.

“For much of the Whitecoat era, the United States was still engaged in offensive biological warfare research. That program was ended in 1969 by President (Richard) Nixon, but the Army continued to study diseases of military interest and to develop medical defenses against biological weapons,” according to a written statement from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Conscientious Objector

As a Seventh-day Adventist, Boughman registered as a consci-

entious objector. He trained as a medic at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. While stationed there, representatives from Fort Detrick interviewed servicemen for Operation Whitecoat.

Boughman and his newlywed bride, Sandy, (they wed a couple months before he went into the Army) returned early from their two-week leave for Boughman’s interview.

Boughman recalls that about 200 men interviewed for the program and 19 were recruited. Those selected had their names posted on a bulletin board near the mess hall.

“My heart was just beating as I was looking down all those names, and there it was. I said, ‘Alright.’ I knew I wasn’t going to Vietnam.”

The couple arrived at Ft. Detrick on Dec. 31, 1966. Boughman participated in three “projects,” including two yellow fever studies. Those studies and additional research ultimately resulted in the licensure by the FDA of a yellow fever vaccine. Boughman also participated in a study for the antibiotic chloromycetin.

Test subjects were quarantined for each operation.

“I couldn’t even touch him,” Sandy said. If he wasn’t participating in a project, Boughman went to his job from the couple’s home.

Operation Whitecoat resulted in development of several vaccines. Researchers gained knowledge of how to prevent, diagnose and treat patients through about 150 studies. Additionally, research advanced development of equipment and safety precautions in laboratories and techniques to help patients with compromised immunity.

Assessments

The Department of Defense and the Seventh-day Adventist Church surveyed more than 500 participants in Operation Whitecoat between 1998 and 2002 to assess their health. It indicated there was “no adverse impact on the overall health of Operation Whitecoat volunteers that could be conclusively attributed to participation in research studies at Fort Detrick.”

Boughman said he has had no long-term effects. Asked if he ever worried about participating in

medical research, Boughman replied no. He was 21 years old and considered himself invincible.

Boughman would participate again if he were drafted to serve his country. “I have never regretted serving in the Army. Would I have volunteered? No,” he said.

By Kim Kimsey

Adapted with permission from the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*



Meet Your Carolina Conference Teachers



Carl Acker
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Raleigh, NC)



Becky Anderson
Summerville (SC)
Comm. Christian



Ann Arquitt
Camden Adventist
(Camden, SC)



Kathy Bailey
Eddlemon Adventist
(Spartanburg, SC)



Gerard Ban
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Charlotte, NC)



Wanda Beck
Silver Creek
(Morganton, NC)



James Beldin
Wilmington (NC)



Beth Belensky
Asheville-Pisgah
(Candler, NC)



Fred Brannon
Asheville-Pisgah
(Candler, NC)



Michelle Bullard
Upstate Christian Acad.
(Greenville, SC)



Lori Busch
Eddlemon Adventist
(Spartanburg, SC)



Rebecca Cain
Myrtle Beach (SC)



Cathy Carlton
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Charlotte, NC)



Wendell Carlton
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Charlotte, NC)



Chester Caswell
Charleston (SC)



Donna Caswell
Charleston (SC)



Norma Collson
Tryon (NC)



Peter Cousins
Tri-City Christian Acad.
(High Point, NC)



Sharon Crux
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Charlotte, NC)



Sherry Daily
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Raleigh, NC)



Sue Dasher
Tri-City Christian Acad.
(High Point, NC)



Robin Davis
Tri-City Christian Acad.
(High Point, NC)



Anna Marie Doying
Columbia (SC)
Adventist Acad.



Bradley Durby
Eddlemon Adventist
(Spartanburg, SC)



Sonja Eberhart
Fayetteville Adventist



Teresa Ernst
Adventist Christian
Acad. (Charlotte, NC)



Debra Eszler
Tryon (NC)



Carol Ferguson
Five Oaks Christian
(Durham, NC)



Jamie Francisco
Elizabeth City (NC)



Eileen Fuller
Asheville-Pisgah
(Candler, NC)

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Five Oaks Christian
(Durham, NC)



Jeanette Gillard
Charleston (SC)



Jackie Green
Tryon (NC)



Judy Harward
Poplar Springs
(Westminster, SC)



Jan Hefner
Wm. H. Johnston
(Hickory, NC)



Beth Hoosier
Columbia (SC)
Adventist Acad.



Harry Janetzko
Asheville-Pisgah
(Candler, NC)



Richard Knapp, Jr.
Columbia (SC)
Adventist Acad.



Heidi Kneller
Silver Creek
(Morganton, NC)



Phyllis Knight
Wm. H. Johnston
(Hickory, NC)



Coralie Lallemand
Tri-City Christian Acad.
(High Point, NC)



Mindy Meadows
Brookhaven
(Winterville, NC)



Susan Newsome
Asheville-Pisgah
(Candler, NC)



Kim Nicholson
Silver Creek
(Morganton, NC)



Pixie Paradis
Eddlemon Adventist
(Spartanburg, SC)



David Pasos
Upstate Christian Acad.
(Greenville, SC)



Julie Primero
Tri-City Christian Acad.
(High Point, NC)



Elaine Pugh
Brookhaven
(Winterville, NC)



Cheryl Simonds
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(High Point, NC)



Bradley Smith
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Adventist Christian
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Bobbi Zeismer
Five Oaks Christian
(Durham, NC)



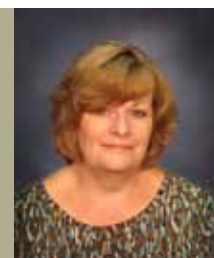
Jamie Zollinger
Silver Creek
(Morganton, NC)



Gary Rouse
Education
Superintendent



Pamela Forbes
Assoc. Education
Superintendent



Renee Earle
Education Admin.
Assistant



Mt. Pisgah Academy Welcomes New Staff

MPA's new science teacher, Adam Littell, was born in Kansas City, MO, but was raised in Portland, TN. Adam went to Highland Elementary Adventist school for grades 1-8 and then graduated from Highland Academy in 2002. He continued his education at Southern Adventist University with a degree in chemistry in 2008 and then moved to Union Springs, NY to teach at Union Springs Academy. Adam spent three years there. He taught math and science for two years then science only for his third year. While at Union Springs Academy he fell in love and married Nina. They were married August 1, 2010, at the Ooltewah Adventist church in Tennessee. We are happy to have them at Mt. Pisgah Academy!



The new chaplain, Jo Ottinger (MPA '91), is husband to Paula and father to Abby, Emily and Sam. He has been a pastor in the Carolina Conference since graduating from Southern College in 1995. He comes to MPA from his most recent post as the youth pastor for the Fletcher Church for the past nine years. He was also previously the Family Life director at the Carolina Conference. Jo and Paula are excited about the coming year at MPA as they are convinced God will reach and lead our students in marvelous ways. They anticipate real spiritual growth for each student as they participate in mission trips, religious services and community outreach opportunities.

by Tammy Vaughn



Pickens Vacation Bible School

For the first time, the Pickens church held a Vacation Bible School. Fourteen children came



to enjoy the activities, each night meeting with Paul, visiting Rome and learning about the Underground Church.

Pickens members helped out with registration and the jail. "Missionaries" from the Anderson church came to help with decorating the Underground Church, supplying architecture and carpentry. "Missionaries" from other places also came to help with games and food. Missionaries

are a blessing!

You should become a missionary! There are opportunities locally and abroad. If you would like to be a local missionary, Pickens would be happy to have your help! Contact karensjoy@gmail.com.

By Karen Pires



Photo Contributed

Dresses for Africa

The women's ministry of Wilmington, NC, church recently got together to create dresses made from pillowcases for impoverished girls. The dresses are embellished with lace, buttons, rickrack, pockets, ribbons, etc. to create something unique and special for Sabbath attendance. Over a dozen ladies attended and, although some did not sew, all pitched in to make it a special morning. Supplies were donated by church members. Another sewing session has been scheduled to create additional dresses!

Some of these dresses will be sent to African missions; others to Nicaragua where Pastor George Wennerberg's wife Brenda recently traveled on a mission trip. Brenda was excited about the dresses and felt they would be a great blessing to young ladies there.

These simple dresses are modest and will enable the young ladies to have a special dress for Sabbath.

by Laraine Prive Reed

Photo Contributed

Photo Contributed



The Westminster Baptism

There was a momentous event in upstate South Carolina on Sabbath, September 3: a baptism. All baptisms are momentous, but this one occurred following a rare chain of events.

Cody Haynie, 27, of Royston, GA, had been born again and was extremely active in his large evangelical church. He was mentored by the pastor and had actually become the youth pastor. Cody had even preached on Sunday mornings. Then, following the leading of the Holy Spirit in his personal Bible studies, he began to see things that conflicted with his basic beliefs.

Going to his pastor with ques-



tions, he received no satisfactory answers, and in some cases, no answers at all. Finally, in frustration, his long-time mentor said, "You're sounding like a Seventh-day Adventist!"

Cody had no clue what a Seventh-day Adventist was, so he googled it and to his delight, found that he was not alone in his new beliefs. In fact, there were millions who believed the truths he'd been led to.

He remembered that a friend's parents went to church on Saturday and after contacting them, they invited him to their church—the Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church. The rest is history.

After months of intensive study,

Cody made the decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist. Though he experienced sadness in leaving his old church, Cody is excited about being where God wants him to be. Welcome to the family, Cody!

by Dave Patton



Photos Contributed

Cody with his fiancée, Ashley, and daughter, Chastyn.

Showers of Blessings

Though dark clouds, thunder, lightning and sheets of rain filled the morning skies on Sabbath morning, August 13, 2011, the members of the Cornerstone church in Rockingham, NC, felt they were showers of blessings! Noth-

ing could dampen the joy of this special day as members and visitors gathered for the much-anticipated dedication of their beloved church.

Since January 1 when they first took possession of the Victorian building that had once served as a funeral home, members had worked long and hard in preparation for this blessed occasion.

Now, a place once associated with death has come to symbolize new life, in more ways than one. This congregation is the second Adventist church in Rockingham—the first that is English-speaking. Prepped, cleaned, painted, partially remodeled and with flags from the 12 countries of all current members, the church radiated joy and

gratitude to the Lord. As the clouds parted, the congregation made its way outside for the long-awaited ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The sanctuary, adorned with flowers and more flags, was the backdrop for the thoughtful and spiritual service. The Cornerstone Choir sang "Jesus is the Cornerstone" and a "His Name" medley. Elder Davidson spoke on "Slaves of Christ," challenging God's remnant church to a total and willing service for Christ.

The culinary skills of the women of Cornerstone church were in grand display at the potluck that followed. It was the perfect end to a day full of rejoicing and fellowship.

by Cynthia Mejia



Photo Contributed

Pictured left to right, center: Milton Aguilar, head elder, Jim Davidson, president of the Carolina Conference, Dorothy Thomas, building committee leader and Julio Flores, church pastor.

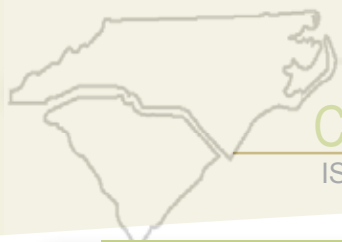


Photo Contributed

Small Mountain Congregation Experiences Big Revival

The Warrensville, NC, Seventh-day Adventist congregation of about 35 active members hosted a four-day, seven-session “Practical Faith Revival” with Pastor Richard O’Ffill. They experienced an unexpected, huge response. A total of 480 attended the June 9-12 event. A large number were friends and associates of church members from the community.

“Never in the 25-year history of the church have we had such a turnout to any event,” said member Ronald Haupt. The church has conducted Revelation seminars, evangelistic series and sponsored most of the “Net” series over the years, with little response.

“Everyone agreed a different approach was needed,” said Charles Knapp, Revival Coordinator and head elder. David Carpenter, head deacon and a former Baptist, suggested a community-wide revival done with a distinctive Adventist touch. “The membership embraced the idea,” said Knapp, “and poured their hearts and souls into making the revival something special.”

Nearly 450 personal invitations were mailed to friends, neighbors, work associates and individuals

in our interest-file,” stated Carol Conken, Discover Bible School coordinator. “The one-on-one invitations proved highly effective.” Professionally-designed flyers were placed in stores and on church bulletin boards.

A full-time revivalist, Pastor Richard O’Ffill is well known as a best selling author, 3ABN television and radio personality and Amazing Facts evangelism coordinator. He presented seven sermons on Practical Christian Living for the End Times. “With dry humor, infectious charisma, a down to earth presentation style and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, we were led on a journey of revival like none I have ever experienced,” said Baxter Harrison, a lay Baptist missionary and weekly Sabbath attendee.

“Every deacon, deaconess, elder and member had a key role in the revival’s success,” observed Knapp. Prayer sessions were sprinkled throughout the revival and small prayer groups passionately called for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

“There is no doubt this revival will make a difference in our lives,” observed Knapp. “The Holy Spirit was present among us.”

by Charles Knapp

Obituaries

Archer, Sandra Burleson, 64, born Nov. 22, 1946, died Sept. 1, 2011. She was a member of the Albemarle, NC, church. She was a 1965 graduate of West Stanly High School in Oakboro, NC, and attended Greenville Technical College in South Carolina. She was survived by two sons, Michael David Burleson and Jeremy Slade Archer; one sister, Iris Burleson Hill; and one brother, Roger Garth Burleson. Parents Hazel Griffin Burleson and Liston Hoyle Burleson preceded her in death, along with Sister Patricia “Pat” Burleson Harward. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends; two “best friends,” Sally Norton and Sue Fort; and close cousins, Linda Burleson Smith and Marilyn Morton.

Garza, Dr. Donna Mae Hall, 82, born Feb. 14, 1929, in Enid, OK, died July 30, 2011, in West Union, SC. Donna was, the daughter of the late Alfred Burhman and Lillian Pierce Hall. Her father came to Oklahoma as a boy in the Run of 1889 and her mother was a granddaughter of missionaries serving the Indian tribes in Kansas and the Oklahoma Territories. She was an avid learner, a creative



educator, writer and artist, a gifted musician, and so much more. Donna married Humberto S. Garza Jr. in 1949. They were both baptized and became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1952. Their relationship had many difficulties and eventually resulted in divorce. Donna selflessly raised six children.

In 1947, she received her high school diploma from John Brown University and the following year she completed her first year of college. Nearly 20 years passed before she was able to return to higher learning but when she did, it was with a vengeance. In 1968 she received an AA in Art from Ventura College; in 1971 she received a BA in Art with a minor in Physics and Education certification from Loma Linda University; in 1982 she received a Masters in Arts and Teaching from Andrews University. She then went on to receive two more degrees from Southern Adventist University: a Masters in Family Psychology and Counseling and a BS in Graphic Arts. In 2004, at the age of 75, Donna received her Ph.D. in Philosophy with an emphasis in Psychology from Cambridge International University.



Donna taught grade school in the Adventist education system in Oklahoma, Florida, and California, and was principal of Whispering Pines Academy in Tennessee. She also taught high school at Tamassee-Salem High in Salem, SC. She counseled boys at the Advent Boys Home in Cleveland, TN.

Donna's abilities and interests extended far beyond the field of education. Over the course of her life she raised goats and sold the milk, painted signs, did leatherwork, sold coin-operated vibrating mattresses, performed secretarial work, did in-house commercial training and more.

After having two strokes in her 60's, Donna wrote and published *Surviving Two Brain Stem Strokes*, and was working on a second edition, *Surviving Three Brain Stem Strokes*. She also wrote at length on her personal memories as a child. She wrote a first grade math book and had planned to write math textbooks for the other eight primary grades. Donna believed that her greatest gift was the energy and focus she exerted in leaving a positive legacy through her six children and their families. She is loved and missed by many.

Donna is survived by five sons, Humberto "Samuel" Garza, III, Daniel L. Garza, David M. Garza, Stephen G. Garza, and John A. Hall; a daughter, Susan R. Rowe; 28 grandchildren, Krysta, Orion, Jared, Benjamin, Tiffany, Kyle, Sarah, Andrew, Anthony, David Jr, Timothy, Jonathan, Matthew, Michaela, Angelica, Brian, Allen, Benjamin, Paul, James, Joel, Mat, Joshua, Jacob, Faith, Oren, Clinton, and Jasmine; 22 great-grandchildren; her older sister, Wanda Lee Warner; her ex-husband Humberto S. Garza, Jr.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A brother, Alfred Leon; sisters, Mary Etta Maguffee and 10-day old Beverly Jean Hall; a half-brother, Wade Hall; and a half-sister, Burhmaline Hall Therrell, preceded her in death.

Haak, Harriett J., 83, passed away Thursday, April 21, 2011, at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. A native of Hinsdale, Ill., she was a previous resident of Brunswick, Maine, for 18 years and has been a resident of Henderson County for the past 21 years. She graduated as a licensed nurse before taking care of her family and home. She was most currently a member of the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church. Haak is survived by two daughters, Robin Grube and Lori Landa; one son, James

Haak; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and one sister, Virginia Lyle. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rudy Haak, in 2003; and one sister, Beulah Woodin.

Kantzer, Richard Arnold, 90, born in 1921, died July 13, 2011. He was the youngest of five children and the son of the late John and Sophia Kantzer. Kantzer served from 1942 to 1946 in World War II. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant with the 1110th Army Postal Unit after the war. Kantzer graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College (now known as Andrews University) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Business and German in 1950. After graduation, he worked in literature evangelism in Berrien Springs, MI., for 55 years selling Bible story books. He married Betty in 1963 and together they traveled many times across the USA and Europe and had two children. Survived by his wife Betty, of 48 years; his children, Philip and Melody; and his grandchildren, Logan, Stephanie, Elizabeth, Hania and Iona.

Lopaniak, John, 86, died July 16, 2011, in Hendersonville, NC. Originally from Newark, NJ, Lopaniak served as a Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II in Japan. After the war, he worked as a machinist, turning metal into working parts for machinery. Lopaniak's favorite past time was restoring cars. He was the head elder for several years at the Morristown, NJ, Adventist church and head deacon for the Fletcher Adventist church for many years. Lopaniak is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mable; four sons, Robert, Bruce, Jon Scott and Mark; a daughter, Robyn; six grandchildren, Nicole Talafert, Lindsey Literati, Christopher Lopaniak, Andrew Lopaniak, Bethany and Timothy Luliano; and two great-grandchildren, Chase and Zachary Literati.

Zinke, Rosalie Haffner-Lee, 80, born May 12, 1931, in Hooker, OK, died May 14, 2011, in Fletcher, NC. Rosalie graduated from academy at Southwestern Junior College, and from Union College with a BA in Religion.



Rosalie was a member of the Mills River, NC, church. She had been a Bible instructor for more than 50 years. She was also the Dean of Women at two Seventh-day Adventist academies in California and Ne-

braska. She worked with Pastor Mark Finley in Chicago as well as with Dale Pollett in the Carolina Conference. Rosalie authored three adult Sabbath School quarterlies, including the one beginning in July of 2011. She also wrote several books and articles. Among her most prominent works were *Let Me Tell You about My God*, *Never Far from Grace*, and *Worship*, the companion book for the third quarter. Upon moving to Hendersonville in 1992, she served as a chaplain at Park Ridge Hospital, in Fletcher, North Carolina. Rosalie was an executive committee member of the Adventist Theological Society. Rosalie was married to Pastor Kenneth Lee for many years. He passed away in 1996. Survivors include Dr. David Zinke, whom she married in 1999, siblings Erma Webb, Edward L. Haffner, Harold L. Haffner, and Carol Ann Hayes; 14 nieces and nephews; three stepchildren, Ed Zinke; David Zinke; and Dan Zinke; seven step-grandchildren, and 15 step-great-grandchildren.

Carolina Conference Calendar

November

Low Country Campout4-6. Camp Kinard

Fall Youth Rally4-6. MPA.

High Country Campout .11-13. Table Rock, SC

December

Witnessing Training Class Dec. 3. Asheville. 1:30-3:30pm. Join John Earnhardt for two hours of in-depth training on how to witness to fans at Nascar races. Asheville Foster Church. For more information, call 864-985-2908.

Community Services Retreat..... 11-13. NPR.

December

Walk Through Bethlehem2-4, 10-11 FREE. 6:00-8:30 p.m. Kernersville Church, 896 Old Winston Road. A cast of over 50 costumed characters and a variety of live animals help to tell the story of the original meaning of Christmas. For more information visit: www.kernersvilleadventist.org

SU Evangelism Council ...5-8. Daytona Beach.

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

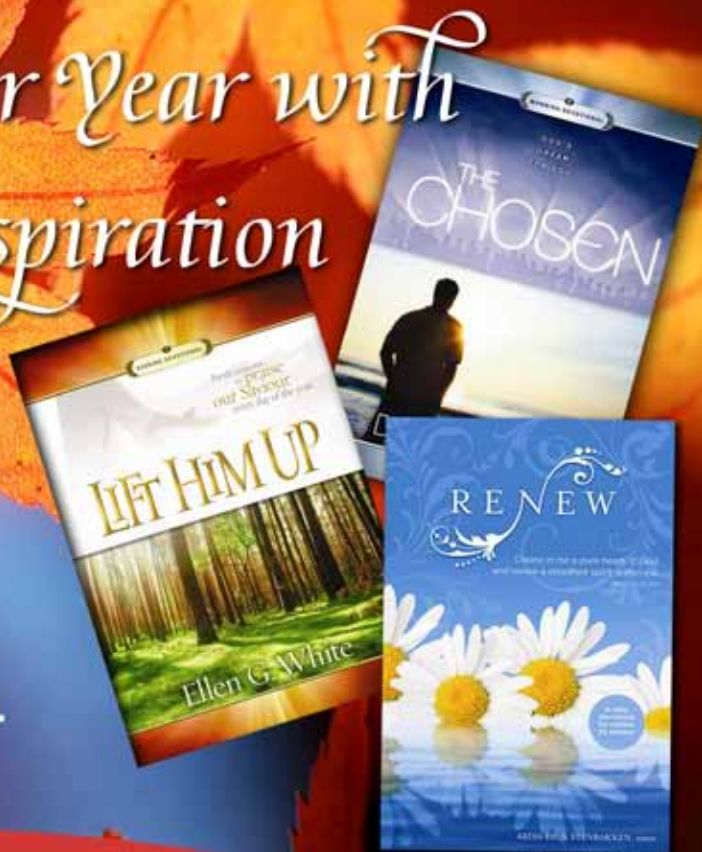
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Remaining dates for the fall season will be at the churches listed below



October 29
October 30
November 5
November 6
November 12
November 13
November 19
November 20

Kernersville
Greenville South
Jacksonville
Wilmington
Upward
Hickory
Columbia 1st
Greenwood