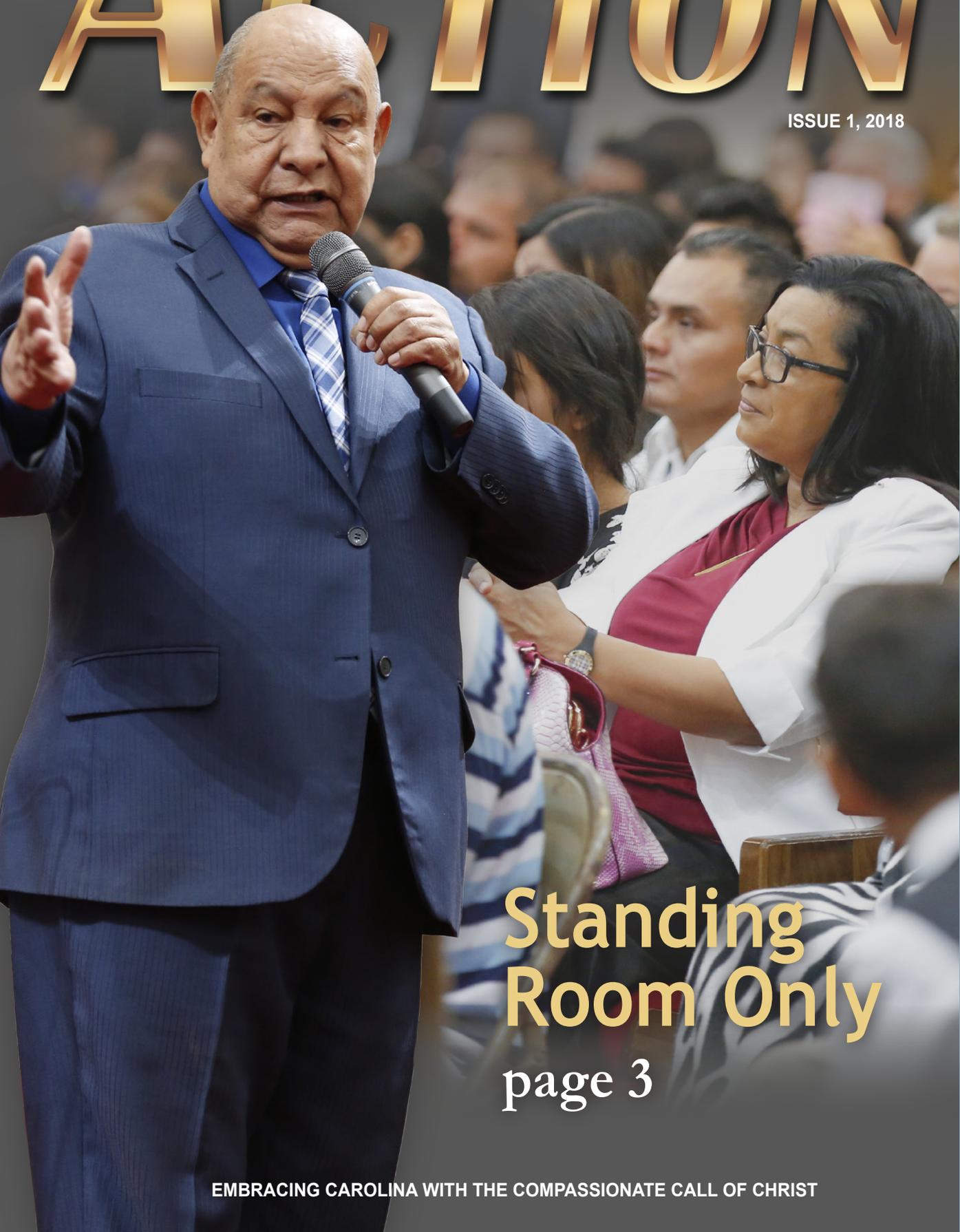


CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 1, 2018



Standing
Room Only

page 3

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Faithfulness Is What He Longs For

In 2013, Ted N.C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, published a video sharing his passionate love for the unique message and mission of a movement God has guided since 1844.

In this video he also cautioned the church—in the context of a society surrounded by secularism and consumerism—regarding four specific emerging concerns:

- A loss of Seventh-day Adventist identity among some of our pastors and churches
- The growing tide of worldliness in many of our churches
- The danger of disunity
- A spiritual complacency and apathy that leads to a lack of involvement in the mission of the church

These four concerns are closely interrelated. However, as your servant leader for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Carolinas, I want to focus on the first of these concerns—the loss of Seventh-day Adventist identity.

God's end-time church was founded on the urgency of proclaiming the special messages of the three angels of Revelation 14. This prophetic movement came about because of God's desire to foster a remnant people throughout the world who are faithful to Christ's mission. Their mission must always be centered in

Jesus. Their message must always herald the everlasting gospel of Jesus. Their movement was to be uniquely faithful to the principle of *sola scriptura*, which is the Protestant Christian doctrine that the Bible is the supreme authority in all matters of doctrine and practice. *Sola scriptura* does not deny that other authorities, such as the writings of Ellen White as God's prophetic gift to His Remnant church, govern our life and devotion as Christians. Nevertheless, we must see them all as subordinate to the written Word of God.

For the past few years, we have encouraged our churches to place

ventist Church must always retain a unique identity separate from baptism in any other Protestant church.

Ephesians 4:5 underscores this with very definitive language: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Any other practice by a pastor or church is antithetical to our baptismal vows as Seventh-day Adventists. This caution comes down to us through the ages from the prophet Hosea: "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children" (Hosea 4:6, NIV).



Photo by Courtney Herod

kingdom growth through soul winning as their primary focus. Goals for Souls is an initiative to pray for the outpouring of God's latter rain, so we can witness at least 1,000 precious hearts being won to the Savior each year. However, my urgent plea is to focus less on numbers and more on sharing a message of compassion and certainty, creating faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Baptism by immersion as a member of the Seventh-day Ad-

We've heard a lot of warnings about the "emerging church movement." Often we've dismissed these concerns as inconsequential, prompted by ignorance, and aligned with a conspiracy theory within the church. On the contrary, this dangerous movement, which seemed to become more prominent in 2004 among Evangelicals, seems to espouse a doctrine of Christian post-modernism. This

...continued on page 14



Photos by Rebecca Carpenter

“Jesus is Our Hope” was the theme of the Carolina Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting, which was to be held September 8-10, 2017, at the South Atlantic Convention Center in Orangeburg, SC. The plan was for this Camp Meeting to be evangelistic in nature, with Alejandro Bullón holding a reaping crusade. Since the beginning of the year, pastors and members had been encouraged to plan and work toward having a bountiful baptism. That was the plan, but God had something else in mind.

As the date for Camp Meeting drew near, so did Hurricane Irma. People began evacuating Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina, and authorities were urging people along the coast to evacuate too. All roads in these states were congested, it was nearly impossible to obtain fuel, and people were getting stranded. Naturally, Conference pastors and leaders were very concerned about the safety of

all the members who would have to travel to South Carolina for Camp Meeting. Immediately, an emergency phone conference was held to decide what to do. All agreed that Camp Meeting needed to be cancelled; however, Bullón was already on his way. What should be done since he was willing to preach that weekend?

There is a saying that goes, “If the mountain won’t come to Muhammad, Muhammad must go to the mountain.” So, that’s what happened. Bullón would go to three districts to hold his reaping crusade. Unfortunately, because of the heavy traffic, he could not make it to the district slated for Friday night. Local pastors took over and continued with the program, and they performed the baptisms that evening. On Sabbath, Bullón preached at the Charlotte Spanish Church in the morning, and in the afternoon he travelled to the Morganton

Church to meet with another district. Both churches were filled to capacity, and baptisms took place in both districts. Between the three districts, nearly 80 people were baptized.

In the end, God’s plans far exceeded our own. More people were baptized during the Evangelist Caravan in those three districts than would have been baptized at Camp Meeting, and more than 100 people accepted Jesus in response to the altar calls and are now planning to be baptized in the near future. “In everything give thanks” (see 1 Thessalonians 5:18). Praise God that He didn’t allow the enemy to defeat us. HE won!

—by Mary Romero

STANDING ROOM ONLY at Hispanic Camp Meeting

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The Lord blessed the Carolina Conference's first Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference exceedingly and abundantly! More than 500 attendees gathered at the Arden Seventh-day

Henry Johnson, associate pastor at the Spartanburg, SC, church, delved deep into "The Great Co-Mission," the Gospel Commission of Matthew 28:18-20.

Friday night and Sabbath were filled with Christ-focused messages, practi-

ment. Evan Bujeker, associate pastor at the Arden Church, is coordinating the follow up, and several people have already started Bible studies.

After outreach was a testimony sharing time. The young people were so



Adventist Church on September 21-24, 2017. The theme was SENT, based on Romans 10:15: "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Keynote speakers Hannah and Caleb Rayne spoke about how to be "Best Friends with Omnipotence." On Sabbath, they addressed the issue of young people leaving the church in a message entitled "Who Left the Backdoor Open?" Special musical guests 4HisGlory ministered in song throughout the weekend and shared a beautiful Sabbath afternoon concert. They also presented a series of breakout sessions on how to "Grow and Go," sharing personal testimonies about how God can help us resist and overcome temptations in areas such as relationships and entertainment. One 14-year-old girl remarked that she had never heard a presentation on relationships before, but that it really made sense! Cindy Mercer, prayer coordinator for the Conference, presented a series on being "SENT with a Prayer, Purpose, and Promise," and how to have victory in Jesus through a revived prayer life.

cal evangelistic training, heavenly music and fellowship. Students from three academies — Mount Pisgah, Fletcher, and Tri-City Adventist — came to join the worship, and the church was so packed that an overflow room set up for the weekend was nearly filled.

After a fellowship meal, attendees were given an opportunity to be SENT into the surrounding community for outreach. Following a brief training, they boarded the three buses and two shuttle vans. Outreach leaders provided maps, surveys, GLOW tracts, and copies of *The Great Controversy* to each team. The youth returned with powerful testimonies of how God used them to reach out to people who were hurting and searching for God.

While the outreach time was brief (only about 45 minutes), the results were incredible: 1,278 doors were knocked on, 126 people were prayed with, 621 GLOW tracts and 23 copies of *The Great Controversy* were distributed, 12 divine appointments occurred, and 25 Bible study requests were received. More than 80 contacts were interested in various outreach efforts such as cooking classes, Bible prophecy seminars, and diabetes manage-

excited about what God had done that they continued to share outreach testimonies during supper. One young girl exclaimed, "This was the best spiritual thing I've ever been to!"

The conference concluded Sunday morning with a consecration message. It was evident that the Holy Spirit was working on hearts. One teenage girl from Tennessee shared that she knew God wanted her to come despite the long drive, and that her walk with God had grown during the weekend. Other attendees excitedly asked, "When is the next GYC Carolina conference?"

The GYC Carolina team is grateful to the Arden Adventist Church, Fletcher Academy, Mount Pisgah Academy, and Tri-City Adventist Academy, the Carolina Conference Youth Department, and most of all, Jesus Christ, for making this conference a reality. God is faithful! We are praying about plans for another conference in 2018. In the meantime, if you would like to have us come to your church for a youth revival Sabbath, please let us know at gyccarolina.org.

—Brittany Brown, President of GYC Carolina

GYCC

•Generation of Youth for Christ Carolina•



Photos contributed

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN
CHRIST AND SATAN THAT BEGAN
IN HEAVEN AND HAS CONTINUED
DOWN TO OUR
OWN DAY—AND
BEYOND



LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING 2018

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VISION VI: PRAY AND COMMIT

to enrich the Sabbath School programs of our Conference, with a focused intent to include all four dimensions of the Adult Sabbath School Ministry:

- Mission (regularly highlighting mission stories and utilizing media such as Mission Spotlight or Mission Sonlight DVDs)
- Fellowship (including time for testimonies, prayer requests and praises)
- Outreach (emphasizing witnessing opportunities and stories)
- Bible Study (using teacher resources and including young adults in an in-depth study of the Sabbath School lesson study)

Another desire of mine is that we follow the guidance of the General Conference world church and the North American Division initiatives to re-establish the term “Sabbath School” in place of “The Church at Study” in at least 50 Carolina churches. These churches will serve as models for the four-fold function of Sabbath School ministry.

FOCUS ON MISSION: In 1885 the first Sabbath School mission offering was taken in Oakland, CA, for the Australasian Mission. Two years later the first general Sabbath School mission offering, \$10,615, was raised for the African mission station. Purposefully planning and placing importance on our world mission during Sabbath School is an opportunity for our Sabbath Schools in Carolina to connect with other parts of the world and learn about the diverse peoples and cultures. We then develop an appreciation for something that is not focused on self, but on the needs of our global church family. My heart was closely knit to Jesus in my homeland of India, and then on the campus of a mission school on the island of Sri Lanka. It is because of a focus on Sabbath School mission that I have the blessing of being your servant leader in the Carolina Conference.

FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP:

Our Sabbath School ministry should create a climate of fellowship through a time for testimonies, prayer requests and praises. Healthy Sabbath Schools constantly explore innovative ideas

KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR



for creating a warm and inviting environment of nurture and support for Sabbath School members, such as: developing a hospitality plan that includes warm, smiling, helpful greeters; providing cards in the pews for members to write notes such as “I appreciate you” or “I missed you!” and then collecting and mailing them to members; planning a weekend retreat, picnic, or Thirteenth Sabbath potluck with foods from that quarter’s featured division. The ideas are limitless of what God can do through the bonds of fellowship in our Sabbath Schools.

FOCUS ON OUTREACH:

Sabbath School ministry must involve outreach and emphasize witnessing opportunities and stories of changed lives. There are many types of outreach activities a Sabbath School class can initiate, such as: creating a prayer list of non-attendees, friends, relatives, work associates, etc., and having the class pray over the list on a regular basis; giving Bible studies, which will produce results if even one class member is willing; setting up a visitation schedule to visit non-attendees, members who are sick, etc., and involving as many class members as possible.

FOCUS ON BIBLE STUDY:

The fourth focus of our Sabbath School ministry is the one we are most familiar with: studying the Bible. Instructors should utilize the teacher resources and involve young adults in an in-depth study of the lesson. Following the weekly theme of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide with an intentional emphasis on the study of God’s Word, our Sabbath Schools should look for opportunities to open the Bible in search of God’s plan and purpose for their lives. With all of us studying from the same lesson guide, church members around the world are connected with a united focus in God’s

20/20 VISION

FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Word.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! The President’s \$1,000 Adult Sabbath School Challenge!

I would like to honor FIVE Carolina Conference churches in 2018 with a check for \$1,000 toward their Adult Sabbath School Program. The churches must complete all of the following five requirements:

1. Elect a Sabbath School Superintendent to oversee the Adult Sabbath School program.
2. Give the superintendent’s contact information to Jayme Rouse, secretary for Adult Sabbath School Ministries: jrouse@carolinasda.org.
3. In 2018, the superintendent must attend a Carolina Conference Sabbath School workshop, hosted by David Wright, director of the Adult Sabbath School Department.
4. Church communications must use the terminology “Sabbath School,” and avoid such expressions as “The Church at Study.”
5. The church must adopt and implement all four focuses: Mission, Fellowship, Outreach and Bible Study.

The first five churches who accomplish these objectives and contact my office at llouis@carolinasda.org will be awarded a recognition plaque and a gift check from the Carolina Conference President for their adult Sabbath School department in the amount of \$1,000!

My hope is that a renewed excitement for the ministry of Sabbath School will be awakened in this Conference and that each class will be a haven of learning for their members and guests.

—Leslie Louis

Carolina Conference President

Carolina Pastor Receives Award

On October 17, 2017, Carolina Conference volunteer pastor Charlie Young was awarded the William H. Price Distinguished Service Award by Lexington Medical Center (LMC) where Young is a volunteer associate chaplain. The clinical staff at the hospital voted to give Young this award because of his exemplary service to the LMC patients, families, and staff. The instances described below are representative of his willingness to go the extra mile to serve the individuals under his watch care.

It was nearly midnight, and Young was packing his things to leave at the end of his shift when the phone rang. It was a North Tower nurse hoping Young was still in the building. She explained that one of her patients was very upset. The patient was insisting that demons were in her room kicking her in the back and that there was a dog growling at the window. The nurse needed him to come right away.

As Young made his way to the North Tower, he prayed. When he got to the floor, he spoke to the nurse and then to the patient. The patient shared her fears and her need to pray for forgiveness for being unfaithful to her husband. She also told Young there was a dog at the window. While the nurse readied another room for the patient, Young prayed with the frightened patient, offered reassurance, and then, at her request, stood guard as she was moved so the demons would not follow her to the new room.

For Memorial Day, Young wore flag-embazoned pants and a bright red shirt to the hospital, which attract-

ed a lot of attention as he gave away flag stickers. On the Fourth of July, he came to work dressed as Uncle Sam and gave away at least 300 stickers in addition to having his picture taken with patients and staff.

During an unplanned downtime of the hospital's electronic records system, there was no way to generate a patient list for Young to use. It was certainly an opportunity for him to take it easy and wait to be called. Instead he went floor to floor, asking the unit secretaries for names of new

admissions and of those who needed a visit.

—Article contributed



Photos contributed



Wayne County Convocation

On October 28, 2017, Seventh-day Adventist families from Wayne County, NC, gathered for the Second Annual Convocation of Wayne County. This special celebration took place at the Mount Olive Hispanic Adventist Church from Sabbath School until sundown. More than 600 Wayne County church members from the Carolina Conference and the South Atlantic Conference attended this special convocation and rejoiced

together as the family of God with inspiring worship, wonderful music and friendly fellowship. Our main speakers for the day were three of our local pastors: Kircio Mota, Jose LaPorte and Fredy Villamil.

The Seventh-day Adventist church in Wayne County, NC, is composed of nine congregations from two conferences (Carolina and South Atlantic). Services are provided in three languages, and more than 800 members represent over 15 countries.

We praise God for this wonderful convocation and thank the Adventist leadership of Wayne County under the direction of Phil Kantzer. We are also grateful for the support of the church members from the following churches: Mount Olive Hispanic, Mount Zion, Goldsboro, Maranatha, Goldsboro Hispanic, Dudley Hispanic, Haitian-Mt Olive, Seven Springs Hispanic and Albertson Hispanic.

—Fredy A. Villamil



Photo contributed

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Daniel R. Jackson
*President of the
North American Division*



Bill McClendon
*Pastor of the Ellicott City
Seventh-day Adventist Church,
Baltimore, MD*

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Melvin Santos
Stewart Lozensky
Bill McClendon *and more!*

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Friday, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sabbath, 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Lunch and supper on Sabbath are provided.

Register by January 31, 2018.

Do any of these sound like your church?

- Attendance plateaued or declining
- Vibrancy missing
- Young people not attending
- Excellence in ministry lacking

If so, join us for inspiring testimonies and encouragement in renewing your church.



Hosting Camp Meeting IN THE LOWCOUNTRY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Summerville, SC, was the setting for Lowcountry Camp Meeting, held on October 28, 2017. There were no tents or campers or some of the other things often see at Camp Meeting, but the spirit of revival and fellowship was there in

abundance.

In a sermon entitled, “A New Generation and the Church,” speaker Jonathan Paulien (pictured far left) shared his concerns about the declining attendance of the millennial generation and the reasons behind it.

He stated that the number one reason they have given for their disinterest in the church is that its leaders act like they have no faults and put on a facade of perfection. Their generation wants to be able to relate but doesn’t feel they can in the current church climate. Whether true or not, the perception is real, and Paulien encouraged his listeners to be approachable and vulnerable to these young people and to

lead by example.

Josie Burgoyne and her husband, Kelvin, (pictured below right) shared their talents as the musical guests. Members from other churches also lent their talents as song leaders, ushers, greeters and platform participants. It was truly a group effort.

The afternoon program featured a special seminar by Jeremiah Weeks (pictured top right), director of the conference-sponsored evangelistic ministry ShareHim. Gathering participants into small groups, he led them in exercises to strengthen their friendship evangelism skills.

Our next Camp Meeting in Lake Junaluska, NC, will be here before you know it. Visit www.carolinasda.org to learn more.

—by Rebecca Carpenter



Photos by Rebecca Carpenter

Servant Leadership in PATHFINDER AND ADVENTURER MINISTRY

Every year on the fourth weekend of August, leaders from North and South Carolina start the club year off with the Pathfinder and Adventurer Leadership Convention. On the weekend of August 25-27, 2017, nearly 265 people gathered for hands-on learning, informative seminars, and encouraging devotional messages. This six-track program, which includes a track for Teen Leaders in Training (TLTs),

brought in a record attendance of 63 teens preparing to lead their clubs. Other tracks are offered for Adventurer leaders, Master Guides, new club directors, advanced leadership (in English and Spanish), and advanced training for Pathfinder instructors. Every track was well attended and included 10 to 12 hours of training.

Ron Herr, chief financial officer for Center of Youth Evangelism, joined us for this exciting weekend as our devotional guest speaker. His challenge to each leader was inspired by Romans 12: offer your spiritual gifts as living sacrifices to God and be transformed by the renewing of your minds rather than conforming to the worldly pattern. He also announced that his intent was to join the Carolina Conference membership upon the sale of his home. The house has now been sold, and Carolina’s newest members are packing up and heading

to Carolina!

We are so grateful for all the speakers who helped the Carolina Youth have another successful year. Representing Advent Source, Loewen Recalde shared some of the newest resources and teaching aids for Pathfinder and Adventurer ministries. Skip and Karen Lillard, owners of Pathfinder Shirts, traveled from Florida to show their latest items for new clubs. Stephen and Lisa Kuhlman of Collegedale, TN, presented the most recent changes in the NAD curriculum for the Pathfinder and Adventurer ministries called Adventist Youth Ministries Training.

Lastly, the Carolina Adventurer and Pathfinder councils came together to plan the events and activities for 2018. We are looking forward to seeing how God will continue to bless our Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders, young and old, in this new year.

—Nicole Stallings



Photo by Rebecca Carpenter



Photos by Ron Quick

There's a New Church IN THE CAROLINAS

Huntersville area, did the ground work and took responsibility of establishing the church. The congregation currently meets in the Journey Church at 15711 Brookway Drive in Huntersville.

The Huntersville Lighthouse Church is just one of several church plants the University City Church has established. Other church plants include the Fort Mill Company, Myanmar International Company, Unity Company, Safari Mission Group, and Mint Hill Community Mission Group.

—Ron Quick

It's official; there's a new church in the Carolinas. Gary Moyer, executive secretary of the Carolina Conference, presented the official document to the Huntersville Lighthouse Seventh-day Adventist Church that establishes them as part of the sisterhood of churches within the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The official document, along with a check for \$1,000, was presented to Zigi Metz, first elder, and Mark Patterson, church organizer, on Sabbath, November 18, 2017.

In 2008 members of the University City Church determined they needed to plant a church north of Charlotte in the Huntersville area. Mark Patterson, who lives in the



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WEEKEND SPEAKERS
 (English Event):
 Jorge and Evelyn Torres



WEEKEND SPEAKERS
 (Spanish Event):
 Nilton and Sara Garcia

MIEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The 2017 Carolina Conference Men's Ministries Retreat theme was "Men Under Construction," which made females across the Conference laugh and say, "Finally!" The men took it in stride, though, and came out to Nosoca Pines Ranch on September 29 – October 1, 2017, ready to be remade into dedicated fathers, husbands and workers for the Lord. Truth be told, we all are under construction — the Holy Spirit is continually making improvements on each of us.

After several years of combining the English and Hispanic retreat meetings by



Photos by Courtney Herod

providing translation devices to the Hispanic men, this was the first year separate English and Spanish tracks were provided simultaneously. The two groups came together when it was time to enjoy meals and outdoor activities. Tony LaPorte, director of men's ministries for the Conference, and his team worked tirelessly to make this happen. LaPorte gave credit for the success of the retreat

to his secretary, Jayme Rouse, and his team members.

The men who attended were blessed by Manny LaPorte, who spoke to the English-speaking men, and Roberto



Ortiz, who shared the messages for those who speak Spanish. These outstanding speakers drew the largest turnout for a Conference men's retreat in recent years. Tony LaPorte and his team are already gearing up for the 2018 retreat and look forward to sharing their plans. Be watching the conference media outlets for updates.

—by Courtney Herod

Coming 2018

Don't miss the new podcast show for young men—by young men—brought to you by the Carolina Conference Men's Ministry Department.

WALKING FREE
FAITHFUL LIVING FOR YOUNG MEN



But where
is your heart?

Step out of the chaos
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awakening of mission-
minded, effective and
purposeful living.



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Naomi Striemer
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1:30 PM: AFTERNOON PROGRAM

RSVP FOR LUNCH AT 704-596-3200 OR
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GENEROUSLIVING
ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM



Reflecting God's Beauty

Many of you will recognize at least one of the ladies pictured above. They are your friends, mentors, confidants and fellow workers for the church. And, of course, they are also the other half of your church's pastoral team. In appreciation for their tireless efforts in ministry, these minister's spouses were invited by Carole Louis, Carolina Conference ministerial spouses association director, to a special weekend at Nosoca Pines Ranch on November

3-5, 2017. There were no events to plan, potlucks to cook for, or classes to teach. There was just time to relax, get to know each other, share common cares and concerns, and allow the Christ-centered messages to refuel their spiritual tanks.

Adriana Serban and Crystal Earnhardt were the speakers during the weekend, and Joni Henderson talked about the community outreach service her church offers. Eve Mora presented special music.

The ladies gathered in small groups to talk and pray with each other. There was time to walk, rest or socialize on Sabbath afternoon before a fun-filled Saturday night program of crafts, flexing exercises and back massages.

The ladies who attended felt the weekend was just what they needed. Are you a Carolina pastor's spouse? Join us next year!

—by Rebecca Carpenter

From the President's Pen *(continued from page 2)*

shift in emphasis within Christianity seems to be a major contradiction to biblical truth. I'm especially concerned about the effect of this philosophy on the Adventist Church, since many people today are embracing such a movement. At the core of this movement is the belief that we aren't even supposed to understand precisely what the Bible means. To me, that's the big issue. It is an attack on the clarity and certainty of Scripture, and it has been infiltrating the unique calling and mission of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church.

As we enter this new year, let's remember that we have an enemy who is seeking to devour Christ's Remnant church. Let's remember that the Great Controversy is a very real struggle between the forces of good and evil. Let's remember that Seventh-day Adventists know the end of the story of redemption. Let's never forget our identity as God's specially called people "for such a time as this."

In every one of our 154 churches and companies in the Carolinas, may the prayer of our hearts be reflected in this version of a song written a few

years ago by Scott Underwood:

*Take my life and form it.
Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it.
To yours, to yours, oh Lord.*

*Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I long for.
Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I need.
Faithfulness is what You want from me.*

Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President

Carolina Obituaries

BRANNAKA, GERALDINE (GERRY) MAE, 92, born March 30, 1925, in Fort Atkinson, WI, died Oct. 16, 2017, in Hendersonville, NC. Gerry was a member of the Fletcher Church and was involved in colporteur work for many years. She attended Emmanuel Missionary College and Hinsdale Nursing School before working at Hinsdale Sanitarium in Illinois and New England Memorial in Stoneham, MA. She retired to Florida and then Hendersonville, NC. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Claude Shook, and her second husband, Charles Brannaka. She is survived by her son, Richard (Nancy) Shook, Fletcher, NC; grandniece and grandnephew, Robin & Randy Riggs, of CA.

CALLOWAY, BETTY CRANE, died May 6, 2107, near Hendersonville, NC. She was a member of the Hendersonville Church. She was an RN who was also very active in her church. She loved music and people, was involved with women's ministry, and worked for many years with young people. She is survived by her husband, Oral; sons, Randall Calloway of Hendersonville, NC, Kenneth Calloway of Rogers City, MI, and Richard (Mary) Calloway of Hendersonville, NC; and brother, Donald (Dianna) Crane of MD.

CHEN, GIDEON HSIASNG, 82, died Oct. 24, 2017, in Flat Rock, NC. Dr. Hsiasng attended Union College and then graduated from Andrews University in 1966. He worked as a medical technologist at Hinsdale Hospital and Berrien Center. He met Viola McPherson at Hinsdale and married her in 1963. Dr. Hsiasng received his medical training in Cebu City, Philippines, specialized in acupuncture, and practiced in Waco, TX, until he retired to Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher Church. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Viola, of Hendersonville, NC; children, Brett (Diane) White, of Beaverton, MI; Dori Trivette, Ooltewah, TN; Lori (Charlie) Hammer, Columbia, SC; Kelly (Todd) Werner, Scottsdale, AZ; Steven (Darcy) Chen, Bakersfield, CA; brother, Zeno (Chris) Chen, Arcadia, CA; and 14 grandchildren.

ONUSKA, WILLIAM HENRY, 90, born March 13, 1927, in Midland, PA, died Oct. 11, 2017, in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Arden Church. Bill was a Navy Seabee during WWII. He retired from Montgomery Ward after 31 years. His interests included piloting, astronomy and watching NASA flights. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Carol; children, William (Jaya) Onuska Jr., James (Joyce) Onuska, Pam (Gary) Hicks, Kevin Hirsch, Carol Michelle (George) Personius; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

RUBA, WALTER, 92, of Cary, NC, died July 20, 2017, in Cary, NC. Walter was born in Czechoslovakia and spent his entire career with the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a colporteur, missionary to Africa, and publishing director in Canada. He and his wife, Ursula, retired to Cary, NC, in 1992, where they joined the Pittsboro Church. Walter served as treasurer, head elder and Sabbath School teacher for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ursula; and his brother, Richard Ruba. He is survived by his children, Karin (Eddie) von Maltitz of South Africa; Norbert "Bert" (Libby) Ruba of Apex, NC; Gary (Janelle) Ruba of Martinsville, IN; sister, Mary Anne Civric of Germany; and eight grandchildren.

STEVENS, RUTH ELIZABETH, 91, born April 18, 1926, in Ripley Township, OH, died May 13, 2017, in Anderson, SC. She moved to Charlotte, NC, in 1963 to work for the Carolina Conference. Ruth was a member of the Greenville, SC, Church. It was here that she met her husband, Clarence. After moving around the country, she came back to the Carolinas, where she helped Clarence run the Anderson Learning Center and then worked as a secretary for AnMed Hospital until she retired. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gilbert and Irene McCullough; sister, Louise Russell; brother, Dan McCullough; and her beloved husband, Clarence. She is survived by her children, Joel R. Brown and Deanna L. Brown; grandson Jonathan E. Brown; and 3 nephews, Larry (Ruth) McCullough of Nashville, TN; Lee (Bonnie) McCullough of Wheaton, IL; and Ronald (Norma) Russell of Mansfield, OH.

TATE, MARY MARGARET HODGES, 83, born May 4, 1934, died Oct. 7, 2017, in Flat Rock, NC. She was a member of the Fletcher Church. She attended Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University, before attending Madison College, Madison, TN, where she graduated with a nursing degree, and then attended the school of anesthesia. Margaret retired from Park Ridge Hospital in 2007 following twelve years of service as a nurse anesthetist. She volunteered with various organizations in Henderson County. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Rosa Horney Hodges; her husband, Herbert F. Tate; and her son, Clifton W. Tate. Margaret is survived by her daughter, Cynthia (Don) Allen of Hendersonville, NC; two grandchildren, Mary Victoria Allen and Clifton Brandon Tate of Hendersonville, NC; a brother, Lester S. (Becky) Hodges of Hendersonville, NC; and a number of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Carolina Conference Calendar

January

Carolina Evangelism Impact—Jan. 25-28. Crown Reef Beach Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach. SC. Register at www.carolinasda.org. Guest Speakers : Ty Gibson, Ritchie Halvorsen, Roger Hernandez, Jose Cortez Jr. & Sung Kwon.

February

Pathfinder Bible Experience Testing—Feb. 3. Charlotte University City Church.

Romance at the Ranch—9-11. NPR.

Pathfinder Bible Experience Testing—Feb. 11. Charlotte University Church.

Hispanic Romance at the Ranch—16-18. NPR.

REGENERATE! Church Revitalization Conference—23 & 24. Spartanburg Church.

Generous Living Summit—24. Columbia First Church.

VBX Workshop—25. Carolina Conference Office.

MPA Mission Trips—25-Mar. 11.

March

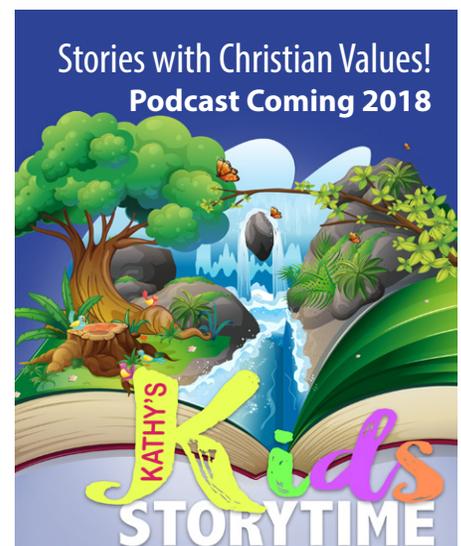
Pathfinder Bible Experience Testing—3. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Pathfinder Camporee—15-17. Darlington Raceway, Darlington, NC.

Mt. Pisgah Academy Music Festival—29-30. MPA.

Alive Youth Rally—30-Apr. 1. Spartanburg Church.

For an online version of this calendar, visit the Carolina Conference website at www.carolinasda.org.



The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

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