

# CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 2, 2019

**135+**  
**MIRACLES**

PAGES 4-5

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

*Photo by Adam L. Rice*



## To Be a Seventh-day Adventist, Part II

Just a few days ago, I, along with a large number of our Carolina pastors and their spouses, returned from an amazing trip to what is commonly regarded as the Holy Land.

Carole and I agree that no other journey has impacted our hearts so emotionally and spiritually as when we actually walked, viewed, and reflected where Jesus was when He traversed the land of Palestine.

It had been a busy season among the hills and valleys of northern Palestine. Jesus had reproved a group of Pharisees for their hypocrisy; rid a Syrophenician girl of unclean spirits, restored a deaf man's hearing, fed a multitude of thousands with seven loaves and a few small fish, confronted another group of Pharisees, then, after more travel by foot and by boat across the Sea of Galilee, he healed a blind man. May God forgive me for ever complaining of a hard week in ministry!

According to the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus walked north toward Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" I believe this is one of the most crucial questions in all of the New Testament. Do you remember the response of the disciples?

Somewhat reluctant in their response, they replied, "John the Baptist." Others said "Elijah," or "One of the prophets." What the disciples carefully avoided were the more derogatory opinions of Jesus being a blasphemer, false prophet or madman.

However, Jesus persisted by

pressing them with this question: "But who do you say that I am?" It was only Simon Peter who confidently stated: "Thou art the Christ." The Gospel of Matthew has Peter adding the line that he was "the Son of the living God."

One of the earliest heresies that Satan utilized to impact the early Christian church was a movement known as Gnosticism which is derived from the Greek word *gnosis* meaning "knowledge." Gnostics saw Jesus as a messenger from heaven who didn't have a real body. They denied the incarnation that Jesus was fully God and fully human. They denied the bodily resurrection of Jesus—an event that Paul argued must have taken place or our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 16-17, and 42-44).

What does this have to do with being a Seventh-day Adventist today? Sadly, the enemy of mankind is attacking various segments of



the church with new anti-Trinitarian heresies that diminish the personhood of the Holy Spirit and the eternal existence of God the Son.

I just finished reading an amazing book by Ty Gibson entitled *The Sonship of Christ*. No other book that I have ever read comes so close to the beautiful view I have of Jesus. I now see a panoramic narrative of the Bible as a grand story of who Jesus really is as the Son of God. However, Jesus especially loved referring to himself as the Son of Man. That expression is used more than 90 times in the New Testament alone.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament affirm Jesus as the Son of Man. The underscored message is that the God of the universe chose to condescend to become one of us just as the prophet Isaiah foretold:

*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9: 6, 7).*

In that masterpiece of literature from the inspired pen of God's messenger to His Remnant church come these words written from her home, Sunnyside, in Australia:

"In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 530).

Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis  
Carolina Conference President



FROM THE  
PRESIDENT'S PEN

# Fourth Annual Evangelism IMPACT

The record attendance of the fourth annual Evangelism IMPACT (training weekend) forced the Carolina Conference Evangelism Department to change location to a bigger venue this year in Myrtle Beach, S.C. In addition, the department leaders had to upgrade their translation technology to accommodate the increased number of Hispanic attendees. While some may look at these modifications as an annoyance, or “unnecessary,” the Conference saw it as an answer to prayer. They knew these changes came from a hunger for training lay members to reach the world for Christ in these last days.

The three general session speakers—Ivan Williams from the North American Division, Roger Hernandez from the Southern Union and Richie Halvorsen from the Bowman Hills church in Cleveland, T.N.—were powerful presenters who motivated even the most introverted to get out of their comfort zone. In between each of these general sessions, the breakout seminars continued to fuel the passion and excitement that was growing throughout the weekend.

Sabbath morning, Jennifer Maggio, founder of Single Mom’s Ministries, shared her incredible testimony of navigating life as a

sexual abuse victim, being a single mom, and ministering to those who are currently in those situations.

Roger Hernandez, who spoke Sabbath evening, received a strong feeling he should make a call at the end of the night for anyone who was accepting Jesus for the first time. He fought this feeling all day because this was not an event for the unconverted, but rather for Adventist Christians who wanted to spread the Gospel. But he decided to make the call, not knowing that one of the attendees had seen a man in the lobby and invited him to come up for the meeting. When Hernandez made the call, that man jumped up and came forward. This event could have ended the weekend and everyone would have left Myrtle Beach on a spiritual high, however the attendees left with an even fuller heart after Richie Halvorsen closed the event with Sunday morning’s general session.

If you have never attended one Carolina Conference’s Evangelism IMPACT, be watching the calendar and plan to attend the 2020 Evangelism IMPACT in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Be inspired, be reinvigorated, and make an IMPACT!

—Courtney Herod



photos by Becky Carpenter

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CONTACT: 2701 East W.T. Harris Blvd. • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, N.C., 28215 • P (704) 596-3200, F (704) 596-5775 • [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org)

ADMINISTRATION: President, Leslie Louis: [llouis@carolinasda.org](mailto:llouis@carolinasda.org) • VP for Administration/Executive Secretary, Gary Moyer: [gmoeyer@carolinasda.org](mailto:gmoeyer@carolinasda.org);

Assoc., Deborah Hutchinson • VP for Finance, Rick Russell: [rrussell@carolinasda.org](mailto:rrussell@carolinasda.org); Undertreasurer, Chad Grundy: [cgrundy@carolinasda.org](mailto:cgrundy@carolinasda.org); Assoc., Marlene Morgan

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ACTION STAFF: Editor/Layout design: Rebecca Carpenter • Asst. Editor: Courtney Herod • Copy Editor: Becky St. Clair • Secretary: Mary Romero • [communication@carolinasda.org](mailto:communication@carolinasda.org)

# 135+ Miracles

**M**iracles. Do you believe in miracles? Have you ever experienced one? Can you imagine being a witness to 135+ miracles in just a little over a week? Twenty-four students and three staff members from Mount Pisgah Academy had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience just that!

Instead of spending their spring break sitting on a beach or lounging at home, these students chose to travel all the way to Cabaio, Philippines, to preach or work construction in the Central Luzon Conference. Just getting there was quite an experience that included delayed flights and then missed flights, making the already

long trip into a grueling 54 hours.

Once they arrived at their destination, there was no time to rest. The students and staff were up early working long and hard days. The twelve students who worked construction had breakfast and worship before getting on the road to their site by 7:00 a.m. Their days

didn't end until after group worship at around 11:00 p.m.

There were 13 different evangelistic series being preached by ten girls, two boys, and one staff member. Those who were there to preach had a slightly different schedule from those doing construction. They spent many hours a day practicing their sermons, as they were required to practice





photos by Adam Littell

their sermon out loud at least three times each day.

“You could hear your classmates practicing their sermons out loud around the hotel. It was inspiring to hear,” said Abby Dizon, a junior. They would get cleaned up and eat their supper around 4:00 p.m., then head out to their churches around 5:00 p.m. Their travel time ranged from just three minutes to an hour and a half each way! Each student preached a sermon every night—and twice on both Sabbaths—for a total of 11 sermons.

Upon returning to their hotel for the evening, the students would gather together for their group worship. The theme for the trip and these student-led worships was John 3:30: “He must increase, I must decrease.” The students and staff also shared the miracles they had experienced that day. Not just blessings, but miracles! Adam Littell shared,

“This year we struggled with students being sick—very sick—some with high fever or a stomach virus. They would be sick all day and yet each night they would get up to speak. When they started preaching, they were fine. They had energy and power. When they finished, instantly the sickness was back, at times with the vomiting or fever returning as soon as they came off the platform. It was obviously a miracle.”

The most remarkable of all the miracles is what happened on the last Sabbath of the trip. 135 individuals gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized! Of the seven years that Littell has been the sponsor of the Share Him mission trips at MPA, this year easily had the highest number of baptisms. “Our students were invested in the lives of those attending their meetings and earnestly wanted to see them in heaven again. They were all in,” he said.

After their baptism, the group from student Gracie Leonor’s church gathered together and she led them in a prayer, praising God for all the miracles. Oh, what a day that will be in heaven when this group can once again gather together and praise God!

Ellen White says it best, “The conversion of the human soul is of no little consequence. It is the greatest miracle performed by divine power.”

This small group of students—not even college students, but high school students—witnessed the greatest miracle that can be performed by Divine Power, and they had a small part in it!

God has called us all to be evangelists. If you are a Christian, then you are called to be an evangelist! Are you willing to let God use you in the greatest of miracles?

—Beth Grissom, director of women’s and prayer ministries at the Carolina Conference

# GOING GOD'S • DIRECTION •



SEPTEMBER 27-29

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English and Spanish tracks run concurrently.



## Deaf Ministries Comes to Camp Meeting

Camp meeting time has been my favorite time of year since I was old enough to tap the tick-tock sticks together in the Cradle Roll class. But this year as the yearly event in Lake Junaluska, NC rolls around again, I am especially excited. The Disability Ministries department of the Carolina Conference plans to spotlight deaf ministry in a variety of ways during the last few days of camp meeting.

On Thursday night, we will offer a two-minute, bilingual (American Sign Language [ASL] and English) presentation in Stuart Auditorium on current deaf ministry progress. All day on Friday, Esther Doss (the NAD deaf ministries coordinator) will be

presenting a workshop in Lambuth Inn, room 100, on deaf ministry and religious interpreting. This workshop is open to both deaf and hearing people and will be shared in both English and ASL. Finally, on Sabbath, June 1, two professional interpreters will be translating all the Stuart Auditorium meetings into ASL.

The seminar is geared toward those with a basic knowledge of ASL who want to learn more and get involved in deaf ministry, but we welcome anyone with an interest in sign language or deaf ministry, even if they cannot sign yet.

Why is this important? Deaf ministry is an area that has fallen through the cracks in the Adventist church

for a long time. Now it is growing like never before as more hearing people are taking ASL classes and have begun interacting with the deaf community.

Language difference makes communication hard. There are deaf people all around us, but often we don't know how to take the first steps to build relationships with them. Today fewer and fewer deaf people attend church because of these differences. We have an opportunity to share the gospel with a unique and wonderful group of people, and we want our churches to become places of culture and language inclusion.

See you at camp meeting 2019!

—Eran Bates

# A Gift of Appreciation on Valentine's Day

The Carolina Conference administration came up with a unique plan to show their appreciation for the excellent faculty and staff of Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA). Starting on Valentine's Day and continuing through the weekend, a number of Conference officers, directors, pastors and staff took over the duties of operating the academy so the MPA staff could have a weekend of rest and relaxation.

When the MPA students learned of this arrangement, their only concern centered on who was going to feed them. Ramona Grant, a pastor's wife and mother of MPA students, graciously assumed responsibility for the cafeteria. The students were thrilled that they wouldn't starve, but were also satisfied with her good cooking. Conference President Leslie Louis acted as principal; Rick Anderson, associate superintendent of education, was vice principal; and JoAlyce Waugh, secretary for human resources, served in the MPA Admin. Office and kept everyone on track. Louis and Anderson were both academy principals previously, so the MPA students were in experienced hands.

Filling in for experienced academy faculty was definitely a giant step outside the comfort zone for the Conference volunteers, but the substitutes had a blast teaching classes, leading out in sports and activities, and even managing the dorms. Gary Rouse, superintendent of education, and several assistants served as deans for the boys' dorm. Beth Grissom, director of women's and prayer ministries, and Nicole Stallings, secretary for the youth department, did a great job as the girls' deans.

The weekend was a learning experience for more than just the students. The Conference staff were forced to dust off memories of their own high school courses as they prepared to teach their assigned classes. Louis and his wife, Carole, were assigned to teach the anatomy and physiology class. "I've never studied so hard for anything before," said Louis. Conference VP for Finance Rick Russell taught economics, math, and English composition; Kathy Russell, director of children's ministries, conducted the choir, band, and some of the English classes; and Deborah Hutchinson, director of human resources, also taught some of the math and English classes. Chad Grundy,

undertreasurer, assumed the role of history teacher, while Haskell Williams, ministerial director, taught physics. Elias Sandoval, IT director, shared his wisdom with the computer classes; and Rick Hutchinson, trust services director, was assigned to teach government classes. Gary Moyer, executive VP for administration, and Rick Anderson assumed responsibility for the Bible classes. Pastor David Wright taught chemistry; and Pastor Josias Flores and Zuri Scroggins, secretary for church planting and women's ministries, took over the Spanish and ESL classes. Pastor David Graham, Mark Waugh, and Anderson took the freshmen to their community service activities on Friday morning. Pastor Phil Rosburg and Lisa Moyer, secretary for publishing and community services, supervised and/or transported students for work and other activities; and several Conference volunteers took on the Acro team, creative ministries, and drama. There may have been some trepidation on both sides as the substitutes entered the classrooms, but by the end of the weekend, everyone was more at ease.

On Sabbath morning, a choir of Conference volunteers, along with MPA staff member Bonnie Garland, sang special music at the academy church service under the direction of Kathy Russell. In the afternoon, Youth Director Stanley Knight sent the students on a scavenger hunt around their campus to learn things about the history of the school. The reward for participation in the scavenger hunt came in the form of Krispy Kreme doughnuts. On Saturday night, the students were treated to pizza and ice cream sundaes followed by volleyball games in the gym. Thanks to Mark Waugh and Paul Scroggins, fun time in the gym was a success.

Sunday was a school day for freshman and juniors, so the Conference staff hit the books again in the afternoon before a final meal with the students in the cafeteria at supper.

The result of this four-day experiment was a well-rested and grateful academy staff. The conference leaders value our MPA faculty and staff more than ever, and the students now have a new appreciation for and friendship with the leaders of their Conference. Valentine's Day weekend was the perfect opportunity to express appreciation for the MPA staff and to let the MPA students know that their Conference cares about them.

—Rebecca Carpenter and Deborah Hutchinson



photos by Chevron Peigrave

# KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR 20/20 VISION

## ADVANCING ADVENTIST EDUCATION

**PRAY AND COMMIT to increasing the number of our church schools to at least 25, with a 5% increase in our overall K-12 enrollment.**

We embrace the Advent message that we are living in the closing moments of earth's history. Therefore, it is our desire to advocate and validate the counsel of God's messenger that "in the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one" (*Education*, p. 20).

Here is the latest update of where we are in the overall enrollment trends for schools operated by the Carolina Conference:

This school year's overall K-12 enrollment across the Carolina Conference reflected an increase of 164 students since the end of our last quinquennium in 2015.

Although that represents a significant increase well beyond our expectations, our desire to advance Adventist education with an increase in schools has been greatly challenged. Currently, we have 22 church schools, including one in Fayetteville, NC, that is co-operated by the Carolina and the South Atlantic Conferences. It is a radiant beacon of what God can do when people work together to touch the lives of

children with an education for eternity!

Sadly, our church school in Columbia, SC, in operation for exactly 100 years, is on the verge of closing its doors due to declining enrollment. This is a matter for earnest prayers and ardent efforts—not simply to save our school but to recreate the vibrancy and commitment it once generated within our Adventist community in Columbia.

We are so grateful that the Westminster Church chose to keep our Poplar Springs Church School in Westminster open

## FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

and vibrant program generating enthusiastic support from the church membership. That's what church school is all about.

In the fourth volume of *Testimonies for the Church*, Ellen White penned these words of caution:

"It is a terrible thing to neglect the education of children. Not only will they be lost in consequence, but the parents

### Carolina K-12 Church School Enrollment 2018 Fall Opening Day Enrollment

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
550	550	514	521	624	660	685



with pledges of financial commitment.

Our school at Upward was once a struggling school. Today it is thriving with a strong enrollment and educational program that reaches out to the community and has a church that is fully supportive of its valued ministry.

As I look around the conference, I see others—even in our small church schools such as Mills River—that have a strong

themselves who have so far departed from God as to lose all sense of their sacred responsibility, stand in a very perilous position as regards eternal life" (p 204).

Furthermore, she states, "the subject of education is one that should interest every Seventh-day Adventist. The Lord says to us, Seventh-day Adventists are not to place themselves under the counsel and instruction of teachers who know not the truth for this time" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 402).

The Bible tells us in Psalm 127:3 that "Children are a heritage from the Lord," and in Isaiah 54:13 that "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord."

No matter how enlightened  
...continued on page 15.



Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

There is a small group of students and adults making a difference in each other's lives in Candler, NC. Students from Mount Pisgah Academy regularly visit adults at their homes in the community, helping with light housework and yard work. Others offer companionship during visits to residents of a long-term care facility. These students are part of Assist, a mentoring program facilitated by Seventh-day Adventist academies and Southern Adventist University.

Typically, the mentors are senior citizens who enjoy the companionship of young people. They might need help around the house or yard, or simply want to make a difference in a student's life. As role models, they provide a safe environment and encourage the students with their concerns about school and home, and just life in general. They share hobbies or teach a new skill while working alongside the student.

Unique friendships are formed that often last years after a student graduates and moves away. More than one mentor has exclaimed to me, "The student you gave me is the best one!"

Southern Adventist University has

Doing Small Things  
With  
**BIG**  
Results

created the Assist program to benefit both the student and their senior mentor. Assist donates money to student accounts to help with the cost of tuition at the academy. A scholarship is awarded to each student who later chooses to attend Southern Adventist University. The scholarship is based on the number of semesters the student participated in Assist. The senior mentors benefit from having a free helper thanks to the provided grant, and from the generosity of individuals donating directly to Mount Pisgah Academy for the Assist program.

Through this important program, intergenerational relationships are formed that are mutually beneficial. It does and is making a difference!

—by Karen Knowles, Assist coordinator/supervisor, Mount Pisgah Academy. To donate to Assist at MPA, go to [www.pisgah.us](http://www.pisgah.us), call Kevin Worth 828-418-2405 or Lucy Hall at 828-418-2408, or mail a check to Mount Pisgah Academy, 75 Academy Dr., Candler, NC, 28715 (write "Assist" in the memo).



photos contributed

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**W**e serve a God of excellence. Psalm 8:1 says: “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth” (NKJV).

I remember a hotel I stayed at recently where the service went beyond the norm; excellence is the word that comes to mind. Everyone seemed truly happy to serve me. They asked, “Is there anything I can do to make your stay better?” When any employee saw me in the hotel, they would greet me with a smile and say something nice. If I needed something, it never appeared to be a bother, but a pleasure for them to help me. I had experienced excellence.

I’m reminded of when Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, was striving for attention, and the rest of the crowd was either telling him to shut up or ignored him. But that day, one person stood out from the crowd, stopped and took time for this needy man: Jesus. He asked Bartimaeus: “What would you like me to do for you?” (Mark 10:51). That sounds like what I hear in a lot of service-oriented businesses: “How may I help you?”

Col. 3:23-24 (NIV) tells us, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” I believe that as Christians we represent Jesus in all we do, which means we should seek to exude excellence in all we do, for we have a high calling.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NCV) exhorts us, “Whatever work you do, do your best.” I remember being in a meeting with the saints where I suggested we institute a simple process that could help us serve God and his people with greater excellence and accountability. My suggestion was first met with a resounding silence, followed by measured resistance. What I was suggesting was in line with biblical principles, but was not met with enthusiasm among God’s people. I have wondered if God’s people sometimes fear a commitment to excellence. Someone in the meeting mentioned something about us being an organization of grace, with which I wholeheartedly agree. But I am also convinced that God’s grace does not exempt us from excellence; it calls us to exemplify excellence! When you get stopped by the police for exceeding the speed limit, or running a red light, and you’re given grace, you drive away as a more CAREFUL driver. Grace leads us to excellence, not away from it.

# EXCELLENCE

## Exempt or Exe

Some may say that God does not call us to excellence as much as to faithfulness. But the truth is, if we are truly faithful to Him, we'll reach out to the lost and make disciples with excellence.

And excellence doesn't mean perfection, or that I, or my office, or my church or school will be able to do as well as somebody else. It means faithfulness and striving to do the very best with the gifts, abilities, and resources God has given me.

A friend recently shared something they noticed here in Charlotte at lunchtime. The Chick-fil-A drive-thru line winds all the way out of the parking lot, around the corner and down to the traffic light at the entrance to the strip mall, backing up the right turn lane. In contrast, the Taco Bell across the street is in no danger of backing up traffic. Why? The service and atmosphere at Chick-fil-A exudes excellence.

Here at the Carolina Conference office, we serve our constituents in leadership and resource roles. We strive to represent Jesus in our service in a way that exceeds the excellence of the world. Although we don't always succeed, being the humans that we are, excellence is our goal, because we want to rightly represent our Redeemer.

It's encouraging when I see this effort toward excellence at our churches. I recently arrived at one of our churches on a rainy day. When I stepped out of my car, someone immediately came out to me with an umbrella to escort me to the building. It was obvious they had been watching. The greeter didn't just hand me a bulletin, they met me with a smile and enthusiasm, and spent a moment talking with me.

Imagine if more of our churches greeted folks like that; as if every person who walks through the door is their long-lost friend, rather than simply an interruption to the conversation they were having with another greeter.

Imagine entering the bathroom of one of our older churches and having the option of washing your hands in either cold or hot water – especially in the winter, when the cold water is ice cold! And imagine noticing that all the toilets are in working order without handwritten signs above them asking you to “hold down the handle after you flush.”

Imagine churches with well-working sound systems and trained platform participants who keep the microphone near their mouths so that you can hear well and are not distracted with \*thump, thump, thump\* “Is this thing on?”

Imagine a church where, when you mention that you're struggling with something, rather than being told “I'll pray for you,” they actually pray with you right then and there. A church where it's a common sight to see people praying together in the lobby and beyond.

Imagine a church full of people who love Jesus, one another, and our mission so much that they don't allow divisive, critical people to continue in their ways, but rather seek to help them, even when it means implementing tough love.

Imagine a church that has a website that is kept updated.

Imagine a church, conference office, or school where your calls are returned within 24-48 hours, even if just to acknowledge that the call was received and they're working on your request.

Imagine a church where people strive to live out Philippians 4:8 and focus on the good, affirming and encouraging each other. A place where they “major on the majors” instead of the minors (eye specks), and strive to catch people doing what is right!

Imagine a church that upholds all 28 fundamental beliefs in a loving and patient way, valuing the spirituality and decisions of the larger body of our brothers and sisters. A church full of people who are strict with themselves individually, and merciful on others. People who stay

mission-focused and don't get sidetracked in theological hair-splitting, or adding rules, or trying to control how others apply our basic beliefs.

Imagine working so diligently and faithfully at our secular jobs that our effort of excellence prompts those around us to start asking what makes the difference, giving us an open door to share with them WHO makes the difference!

Perhaps the excellence embodied by this body of believers we're imagining could best be described as love. “And now abide faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Many businesses, especially hotels, always send a follow-up survey to find out how well they served. They want to know. They want to improve. They're not afraid of the truth. Truth. Hmmm. Aren't we Seventh-day Adventists proponents of the truth? I wonder: Should we send surveys to our visitors?

Interestingly, while writing this very article, I received the following email from a hotel at which I recently stayed:

*Dear Gary,*

*Thank you for taking the time to complete our online survey regarding your recent stay at our hotel.*

*Your feedback is very important to us and we can assure you that we will use this information to do everything possible to create an enjoyable experience for each of our guests. We hope to see you again soon!*

*Sincerely,*

*Heather Y*

Jesus calls us to share his message, “I hope to see you soon!” I've decided to make a personal commitment to share him and his love and truth in a way that exemplifies his excellence. Will you join me?

*—Gary Moyer, VP for Administration*

*Note: Many of the principles I am listing apply also to our schools, the conference office, and members individually. I use the term “churches” because this is the reference to which the majority of our readers can relate.*

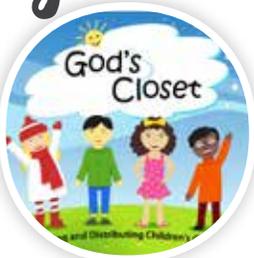
# EXCELLENCE

emplify?



# Beyond GOD'S CLOSET

HOW ONE CHURCH IS  
TAKING COMMUNITY  
SERVICE TO THE NEXT LEVEL



**G**od's Closet is more than just distributing clothing. The Mills River, NC, church is proving that this ministry can be a gateway to attracting people to church, and ultimately to a saving relationship with Jesus.

As with other chapters of this unique ministry, at the Mills River, NC, church, children's clothing is collected throughout the year for God's Closet, and then each quarter the church doors are opened to the community to distribute this clothing. The God's Closet shoppers pay \$1 to register and then

shop for free. It is exciting to arrive at the church two hours before an event and see people already lined up at the door. On average 300 shoppers enter the church for Shop Day.

We don't want our ministry to these families to end with just one day, however. At the end of Shop Day we hold in our hands a true treasure: the registration cards. On them we are the names, addresses, phone number and email address of each shopper. Shoppers can request prayer, on these cards, for various concerns, have an option to volunteer, or can indicate an interest

in children's programming. They can even check a box if they are interested in having their child dedicated to the Lord. On every Shop Day we receive requests for Bible studies.

We have so many of these cards, it has been a challenge to get them processed and follow up with them. As we are told in Luke 10:2, "Therefore said He unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the Laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

It became apparent we needed to

find a person who could organize and create an outreach program. The Lord sent us the perfect person: Joni Henderson, our high energy, totally committed pastor's wife. Joni has been instrumental in spearheading dynamic follow-up programs that have touched many hearts and helped to build valuable relationships between shoppers and church members.

The first thing she did was organize a journaling class. Out of that group came our sweet and precious Irma. Irma is a mother of two with a wonderful husband. She liked our church, and started coming to all the activities we had, not only as a participant but as a helper.

Irma and her husband, Adam, chose to have their children dedicated to the Lord. Two other families also made this decision, and so Pastor Ralph Henderson had the honor of dedicating seven beautiful children to the Lord. Our congregation was thrilled to attend this special service in support of these devoted families.

Irma also attends church on a regular basis, has put her son in the Adventurers Club, and has signed him up for guitar lessons with Pastor Ralph. She has also started taking Bible Studies, wholeheartedly accepting the Sabbath message. She shared that even as a child she wondered why people worshipped on Sunday when the Bible clearly stated the seventh day is the Sabbath.

Pastor Ralph and Joni also started a young couples group, a time for married couples ages 20-40 to get together while we provide child care. When the couples went to dinner a few weeks ago, Irma and Adam joined them. They had a great time, and the following Sabbath Adam joined Irma at church.

A successful single mom's ministry has also been launched. At our Single Mom's Dinner we had a mom, her daughter, and a friend from the local Catholic church (who had volunteered many times for Sort Day) call to see if they could volunteer. Their excellent help is such a blessing, but the true blessing is seeing them get even more involved with our church.

Another outreach, Parents Night Out, has also been very popular. Parents bring their children to us for the evening, giving them an opportunity to escape for some much-needed time with each other. Through this program we have been able to build some very special relationships. We will be inviting some of these parents to the next young couples group.

Each Shop Day we have a drawing for our pregnant moms to win a baby shower. So far, we have hosted two showers for two deserving families. The last one was for the parents of twin boys. Due to scheduling conflicts, the date for the shower was changed several times, and it ended up taking place only one day before the babies were born! God's timing is perfect!

Over the past three years of operating God's Closet, the biggest challenge has been determining a method of handling all the Bible Study requests. Joni has a team of individuals who are ready and willing to facilitate, and has come up with a plan to address the requests effectively. After Shop Day she meets with her team and distributes the requests based on the instructor's proximity to the student. The first time they visit, the instructors show up unannounced wearing their God's

Closet shirt and lanyard and carrying a tote bag filled with a loaf of bread, an apple pie or something else to break the ice. When the student answers the door, they are shown the card they filled out as the instructor says, "At the last God's Closet Shop Day you indicated you were interested in Bible Studies. We are here to give you the first study along with this gift. We will be back next week about this same time to pick up the study and leave another one with you." The results have been very encouraging.

The Mills River church has developed a heart of love, overflowing with blessings. It has come from an attitude of service, and from showing God's love to His children in need. What is God calling you to do? Are you ready to start panning for Gold? God tells us the harvest is plentiful. Are you willing to join the laborers who are finishing God's work with a truly amazing ministry called God's Closet? As director of Mills River God's Closet and the God's Closet coordinator for the Carolina Conference, I'm here to help you get started!

—Marlene Nunnaley,  
God's Closet Coordinator  
for the Carolina Conference



photos contributed

# JESUS LIVES



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## Carolina Obituaries

**EASLER, NORMAN WALDO, 91**, born October 9, 1927, in Skowhegan, ME, died Dec. 7, 2018, in Hendersonville, NC. Norman graduated from Lawrence High School in Fairfield, ME, where he was a member of the ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps.), and briefly attended Atlantic Union College. He later became an Inhalation Therapy-Assistant, working for a time at the New England Sanitarium. For several years Norman worked in the Maintenance Department and Nature Museum at the Hinckley School for Boys in Hinckley, MN. For over 20 years he served as a caretaker in Wisconsin and Florida, providing transportation, home repair, and painting, landscaping, and companionship. In 2010 he moved to Hendersonville, NC, to live with his widowed sister at Fletcher Park Inn. He then joined the Fletcher Church. He's survived by two nieces; three nephews; and several grand and great grand nephews and nieces.

**GREENE, GEORGE "WALDO," 85**, born April 30, 1933, to the late George Carl and Lela Annie Greene, died November 21, 2018, in Asheboro, NC. He was preceded in death by his wife, Onetta; eldest daughter, Denise; a brother, Don; and son-in-law, James Morris. Waldo served in the National Guard for nine and a half years. He attended Gardner-Webb University and Fruitland Baptist College for two years each. In 1966, he began his ministry as a Baptist pastor. As he studied his Bible, he was convicted of the Sabbath truth and became a member of the Adventist Church. Soon after, he was invited to become a pastor in the Carolina Conference where he served until his retirement in 1995. He's survived by his children,

Karen Greene (Bob), of Harris, NC; Steve Greene (Susan) of Tallahassee, FL; Kay Hayes (Marty) of Randleman, NC; and Ray (Linda), also of Randleman; son-in-law, Danny Greer; and adopted daughter, Lori Morris; 17 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

**GRIFFIN JR., CLARENCE E, 83**, born April 23, 1935, in Burke County, NC, died Dec. 5, 2018, in Morganton, NC. He was the son of the late Clarence E. Griffin, Sr., and Mary Hardy Griffin. Clarence was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and worked at Grace Hospital for over 44 years. He was a member of the Morganton Church and served as an elder. Griffin is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kay Frances Carter Griffin; a sister, Doris McKesson of Morganton; and numerous nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law. In addition to his parents, Clarence was preceded in death by two sisters, Clara Mae Griffin, and Betty Sue Browder

**LLEWELLYN, CLARA ELIZABETH (SHARAM), 82**, born July 23, 1936, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, to the late Lilian and David Percy Sharam, married to the late John Llewellyn, died November 18, 2018, in Hendersonville, NC. She graduated from high school and nursing school in Charlottetown, Canada, met John Llewellyn while in nursing school, became a Seventh-day Adventist, and married John on September 3, 1959. They were married for 58 years. Clara and John worked with The Key Encounter, FL, with Juanita Kretschmar. Clara worked as an ER nurse at Mountain Sanitarium in Fletcher, NC. She retired from Park Ridge Health (Advent Health, Hendersonville, NC). She's survived by two daughters, Linda Llewellyn of Ashe-

## Carolina Conference Calendar

### APRIL

**Adventurer Fun Day** — 28. NPR.  
**MPA Alumni Weekend** — 19-21.

### MAY

**Spanish Camp Meeting 1** — 3-5. NPR.  
**ACBC Closed for CM** — May 17-June 5.  
**Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting** — 26-June 1. *Children's registration now open on [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).*  
**Summer Camp 2019** — 26-July 7. NPR.

### JUNE

**Summer Camp 2019** — May 26-July 7. NPR.

### JULY

**Carolina ShareHim Young Adult Mission Trip** — 17-30. Mexico.  
**REVIVE Youth Rally** — 19-20. Charlotte.  
**LE Retreat** — 25-28. NPR.

### AUGUST

**Carolina Teachers' Convention** — 1-4.  
**Welcome to the Family** — 9-11. NPR.

*For an online version of this calendar, visit the Carolina Conference website at [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).*

ville, NC, and Kim Llewellyn, of Fletcher, NC; two granddaughters, Heather Brittain (Billy), of Fletcher, NC, and Holli Lemons (Ryan), of Hendersonville; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Emma Shaw of Nova Scotia, Canada, and Joan MacKay, of Murry River, PEI, Canada; and one brother, Henry Sharam, of Nova Scotia, Canada.

## OUR 20/20 VISION

we may think we are, no matter how educated we may be, no matter how much we want the best for our children, to not teach our children of God and His truth is absolutely foolish. Educating our children for the world to come is far more important than educating them to achieve worldly success or worldly recognition.

Seventh-day Adventist Christians genuinely believe Jesus is coming soon, and believe that we are at this very moment in the midst of warfare far greater than the war on terrorism—a great conflict between the forces of good and evil. Now is the time. We must choose absolute loyalty and allegiance to Him as the Lord of our lives.

*...continued from page 8.*

Now more than ever we must come to grips with the counsel of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy on Adventist education. They lead us to view it not as some expensive or inconvenient option but as an obligation. An obligation not just of Christian parenthood but the entire membership of a church family, carrying eternal results.

Adventist education doesn't come with a money-back guarantee that our children will choose to love Jesus or remain faithful to the Lord; it doesn't assure us that our children will remain in the church or be active disciples of Jesus in the church. Rather, it is a fulfillment of our faithfulness as a sacred responsibility in the covenant rela-

tionship of Godly parents and church family members who've been called to heed the counsel of Deuteronomy 6; to surround our children every moment of every day with teaching and guidance that nurtures them to love the Lord.

My heartfelt prayer for Carolina is that Adventist education in every one of our schools, K-12, will shine as a bright beacon of radiance in each of their communities to touch a life for Christ and his coming kingdom.

—Leslie Louis, *President, Servant Leader for the Lord*

## The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists

PO Box 44270

Charlotte, N.C. 28215-0043

# HOMESICK

# FOR *Heaven*



Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting • May 26 - June 1, 2019

### SPEAKERS:

8 AM—Dick Duerksen

11 AM—Gordon Bietz

Sun.-Thurs. Evening—Dan Jackson

Fri.-Sab.—Bob Folkenberg, Jr.

### MUSICAL GUEST:

Calvin Taylor

FOR RESERVATIONS AT LAKE JUNALUSKA,  
CALL: **1-800-222-4930**

### SEMINARS:

**Health:** David Meinz

**Dollars and Sense:** Dennis Millburn

**Sexuality and the Church:** Mike Carducci

**Family:** Roger and Cathy Hernandez

**Prayer Ministries:** Eric and Melissa Weisner

**Men's Ministry:** Tony LaPorte

**Outreach/Evangelism Training:** Richie Halvorsen

**Reclaiming:** Jim and Bonnie Davidson

**R E S T: Christian Relations Development:** Ewart Brown

**Conflict:** Maury Gilmore and Susan Smith

**Scripture Memorization:** Robert H. Banks

**DEAF Ministries/Religious Interpreting (Fri. ):**  Esther Doss

**Carolina Prison Ministry:** Jim Wetmore