

CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 4, 2019



WE ARE CHOSEN

PAGE 4

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

Photo by Courtney England



To Be A Seventh-day Adventist - Part IV

Our Need for Holiness

Whether sitting by the warm glow of a fire at one of our camps or at a sunset



vespers welcoming the Sabbath at our academy campus, my heart has been touched by the melodi-

ous sounds of young voices when they sing that song composed by Scott Underwood and sung by Micah Stampley:

Holiness, holiness is what I long for.

Holiness is what I need.

Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.

Do I believe I need to be holy? Do I believe that God can come into me and make me holy? Hearing the gospel of truth often sparks a deep resentment within because it reveals a person's unholiness, yet it simultaneously awakens an intense longing and desire. God has only one intended destiny for mankind — holiness.

To be holy means to be separated from sin, darkness, and the evil one through faith in the Lord Jesus (see Acts 26:18); it has everything to do with being "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved," Colossians 3:12, RSV; and it comes with the beautiful promise of inheriting the riches of His glory (see Ephesians 1:18). Seventh-day Adventist Christians, as God's

remnant church for these closing moments of earth's history, are called and destined to be a holy people (see 1 Peter 1:16).

Often I have been moved and inspired by the words of Oswald Chambers in his book *My Utmost for His Highest*: "We must continually remind ourselves of the purpose of life. We are not destined to happiness, nor to health, but to holiness. Today we have far too many desires and interests, and our lives are being consumed and wasted by them. Many of these wishful desires or wants may be right, noble, and good, and may later be fulfilled, but in the meantime God must cause their importance to us to decrease," p. 12.

God is not some eternal blessings vending machine for people to use, and Jesus didn't come to this world to save us because He pitied us. Rather, He came to save us because of His amazing love for each individual human being. He came to this earth with a passionate desire to recreate us as holy men and women, holy boys

and girls. The only thing in life that truly matters is whether each of us will die daily to sin by receiving the One who will make each of us holy.

You and I as Seventh-day Adventists must have a saving relationship with God no matter the cost. Ellen White, Heaven's messenger to God's end-time church, reminds us: "The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous one. ... Our Saviour is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to His faithful ones," *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 532.

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President



FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S PEN

REVIVE: Do it Again

Youth Rally in Charlotte

Setup was complete, and the stage and background were ready. We had prayed hard for the event, everything had fallen into place, and we were excited to see the great things God was going to do. As we started our sound check, something went seriously wrong, and much of our sound system equipment did not work. The devil was attacking on the day of the event, but God prevailed. The event began; the sound was not perfect, but God was moving.

So began the second annual Revive Youth Rally at the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Charlotte, N.C., on July 19, 2019. The purpose of this two-day event is to create revival, devotion, and transformation in the youth who attend. We believe this yearly event will prepare and equip youth to change the world because we believe God wants to use this generation of youth to finish His work so He can come again. This belief calls us to action and gives us the desire to see revival.

More than 300 youth attended Revive this year, and several commented on the power of their experience. One young girl said,

“It was the best weekend of my life.” Another said, “It felt like for the first time I could truly worship God.”

We believe God is going to use this event to do even greater things in the future. Next year our goal is to have at least 2,500 youth at the event, and our hope is that most of them will not be from our churches. Join us in praying that this youth-focused evangelistic event will draw many to Christ and inspire them to follow in His footsteps.

—by Ryan Hodgins



Photos by Courtney Herod



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When you imagine a large crowd, you probably aren't even close to picturing the number of people who attended this year's International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Attendance at this camporee set a new record with more than 58,000 Pathfinders, staff, and family members traveling from all over the world. By comparison, attendance at the last General Conference Session in San Antonio, TX, was right around

60,000. The camporee host city, Oshkosh, has a population of nearly 67,000, which means the Pathfinders almost doubled the population for a week! The Walmart in Oshkosh made world records in sales that week and received recognition from their corporate office for a job well done.

This year's theme was "Chosen," which was based on the life and story of David and how he was chosen by God at a young age many years before he became king. Each night Pastor Damian Chandler drew practical lessons from David's life and applied them to life for young people now. In addition to Chandler's nightly message, there was a Broadway musical production-

quality performance of a specific vignette from the story of David. (Archived footage of each of these performances is available on the Hope Channel website.)

During the day, Pathfinders could work on honors as well as sign up for onsite and offsite activities, including community outreach. On one of these outings early in the week, one group found themselves talking with the mayor of Oshkosh and discovered that she had been a Pathfinder. When the union and division Pathfinder leaders found out, they invited her

to address the attendees at an evening meeting.

The Southern Union was well represented at the camporee and had



Photos by Courtney Herold





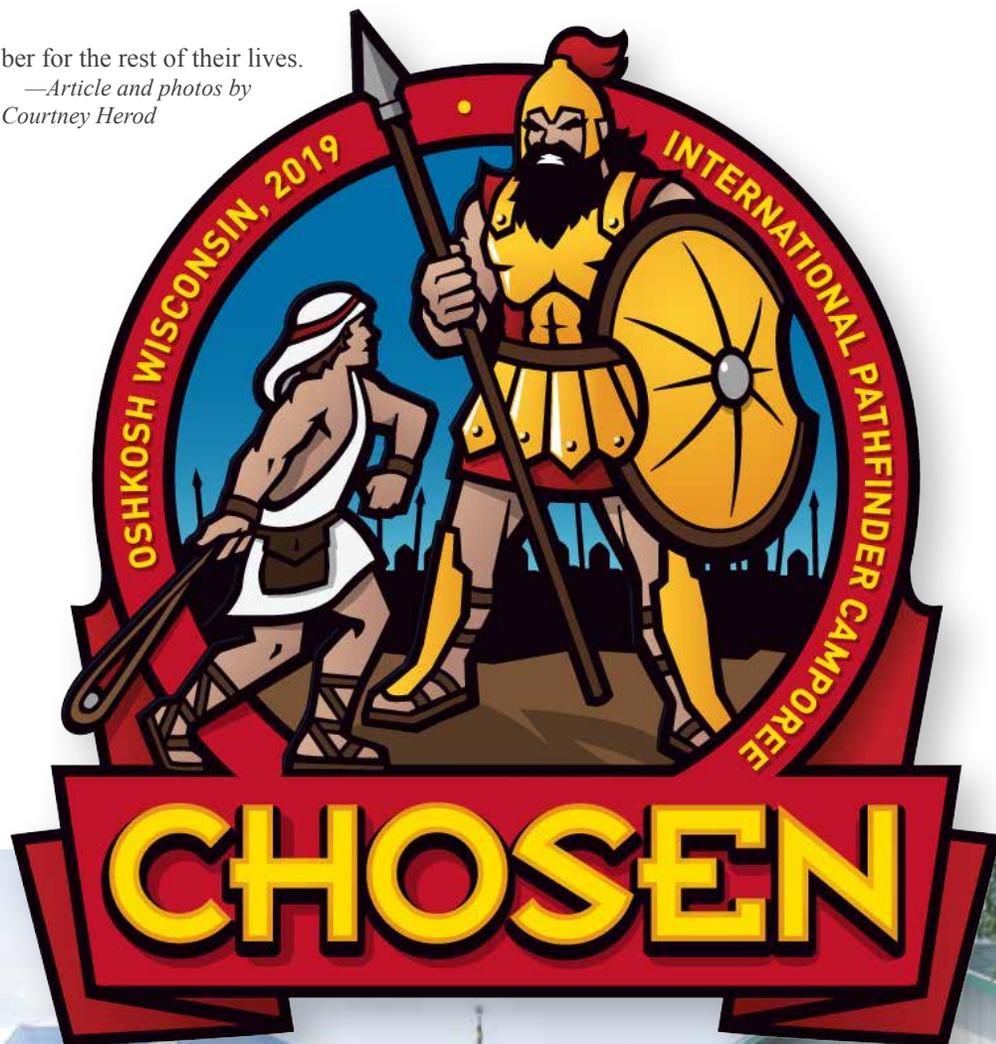
the largest number of attendees from one Union. Our Carolina Pathfinders boosted the numbers tremendously with more than 1,250 Carolinians in attendance.

Carolina received recognition and cheers as our Bike for Life cyclists rode through the west gate of the airfield, wrapping up a 903-mile trip that took them over two weeks to complete. This “Tour de Oshkosh” earned the cyclists almost instant celebrity status. Whenever a Pathfinder from another conference found out that another Pathfinder was from the Carolina Conference, they would ask, “You had the Pathfinders who biked here, right?”

The plans for the next Oshkosh Camporee are underway for 2024, and if it’s anything like this year’s camporee, it will definitely be an experience our Pathfinders will remem-

ber for the rest of their lives.

—Article and photos by
Courtney Herod



Project Re FRESH

What is Project: ReFresh?

Project: ReFresh is a multi-media venture of the Carolina Conference Communication Department which intends to be a bridge between the Adventist Church and young people ages 16-35.

Why do we need Project: ReFresh?

The Millennial Generation is distancing itself from the church at an alarming rate, and Gen Z is not far behind. Because these young people spend a significant amount of time online, we realized we needed to meet them there.

Help us!

We have so much ground to cover, and so many people to reach. You can assist by spreading the word, as well as helping to fund this project. Give online at www.theprojectrefresh.org.

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HONEST.
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As I AM: This video/podcast series simply highlights individuals whose gripping testimonies prove that no matter who we are, we all have struggles, but through Christ we overcome. Series one focuses on our Carolina Conference leadership.



TINY CHAIR TALKS: This video series with hosts Ray Gray and Courtney Jiminez takes a head-on approach to "elephant in the room" subjects, but with a twist.



FORWARD: A blog—written in a relatable, fresh style by Ryan Hodgins—that will be a weekly must on the to-do list. Use it for a morning devotional, or as motivation when you feel you need to move Forward.



THE LOOP: A vlog about "adulting," with "how-tos" that take the mystery out of tasks such as buying a car, dealing with insurance and creating a budget.



ECHO: A simultaneous podcast/video series, Echo brings together different viewpoints, but finds common ground on difficult topics. This series features Ryan Becker as host.



"WHAT IF?" VLOG: Using university students and other volunteers, this video series will chronicle what happens when one experiments with positive life choices. "What if I extend my prayer time?" or "What if I put off procrastinating?," etc.



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA: All of the Project: ReFresh shows, podcasts, blog, etc. can be accessed online through our website and social media. Go to www.theprojectrefresh.org or search "Project Refresh" on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

Rather than kicking back at home this summer, six of my friends and I spent several weeks ministering to people throughout the Carolina Conference while providing awareness about Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) and recruiting potential students. Our leader, Abby King ('16), chose seven students for this year's recruiting team: Hannah Guenin ('21), Hannah



in Spartanburg, prayed for the youth, and took pictures. It was amazing how the young people instantly wanted to become our friends. Even now, several months later, friends I made during the summer remember me from the recruiting team say that they missed us when we left. It is a constant reminder to me of how the MPA recruiting team im-

leys, and plains. We stopped to see the sights in Chicago and stay the night, and then we drove the rest of the way to Oshkosh and set up our red and white booth. The whole week we stayed busy talking to youth, parents, friends, and family members who were interested in MPA. We met people from Tennessee, California, Canada, and even Kenya! Pathfinders from all over the world had come to praise God, and we were there to encourage them. I even had the opportunity to meet a few new students who joined us for this school year!

MPA RECRUITING TEAM'S SUMMER ADVENTURES

Worth ('21), Austin Gonzalez ('22), Reid Palmer ('22), Sharon Duque ('22), Jonathan Lopez ('22), and me. This diverse group of teenagers and our leader was exactly the team God wanted for this mission – His mission.

Far and wide we traveled, helping with Vacation Bible Schools, serving the community, and developing friendships with potential students — and not wanting to say goodbye when it was time to leave. We sang with the motions to praise songs, helped with crafts and experiments, folded baby clothes with a God's Closet ministry, priced items at a yard sale



pacted me when I was younger. MPA was always my top choice for high school because I could see that Jesus lives at MPA through the students and staff.

When most of the recruiters headed home at the end of the summer, Hannah Guenin and I came back to MPA to then travel to the International



Photos contributed

Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Ms. Abby and her mom drove us 14 hours through hills, val-

Oshkosh was definitely a life-changing experience. People from all over the globe came together to worship God through a nightly stage play, praise songs, and an awesome message of being "Chosen" by God.

Serving on MPA's recruiting team this year changed my life in a positive way. I had so much fun getting to know many new people, bonding with my fellow recruiters, and getting to know God better. I've been asked time and again if I would want to be on the recruiting team next year, and my answer has always been the same: "Yes!" This is my answer because of leadership opportunities and bonding experiences, because of all the people we got to meet and got to know, and because God made it all possible.

—by Emma Boughman '21



LOVE



ne another

Are Christians truly love-filled people? Do they (we) show respect for others' opinions? Do we apologize when we offend someone? Does the pain and suffering displayed on the news affect us, or do we simply go on with the day as usual?

It isn't usually difficult to love family and good friends, but what about everyone else? What about church members, neighbors, strangers walking down the street, or rude drivers who act like the road belongs to them? Jesus commanded His followers to love all people, but this is hard.

About 40 years ago, a pastor by the name of Richard Wirtz was diagnosed with cancer and his doctors recommended surgery. Wirtz was concerned about the surgery and prayed about it a great deal. In the hospital the night before his operation, he woke up and prayed once again for a successful surgery. Suddenly, a bright light filled the room, and he saw a glorious angel standing at the foot of his bed. Filled with fear, he closed his eyes and hid his face. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid.

I've come with good news. You're going to recover from your surgery and get well."

The angel went on to say something even more important. "Jesus is coming very soon — much sooner than most people believe. In fact, He would have come before now except for one thing. The church doesn't have enough compassion — enough love — for other people."

One would think Jesus might delay His coming because His followers are not obedient enough, prophecy and doctrine are not being taught enough, or the Word has not been spread far enough. Not because His followers don't have enough love. However, Jesus told His disciples at the end of His ministry that He was giving them a new command: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another," John 13:34-35, NIV.

"You must love," He said.

Must?

This directive from Jesus came right after an argument among the

disciples regarding who would have first place in Jesus' kingdom. There was no love lost between them right then; they were upset with each other. Not long afterward, Jesus told them again, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you. ... This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you," John 15:9, 12, NKJV.

We are told to love each other the same way the Father loves Jesus and that Jesus loves us. No reservations. No strings attached. This kind of love shows the world that Jesus loves all people. This kind of love makes people say, "See how those Christians love?" The forgiveness, patience, and self-sacrifice in Jesus' relationship with His disciples is what He wants to see in us.

Ellen White wrote in *The Desire of Ages*: "Many who profess His name have lost sight of the fact that Christians are to represent Christ. Unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, in the family circle, in the neighborhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, we are not Chris-



er

tians,” p. 504.

When we represent Christ, we’ll speak kindly to our families and church friends as well as to those whom we do not know. We will refuse to speak, hear, or even think evil about others. However, this is possible only through Jesus. He gave the command to love while telling His disciples about the vine and the branches and about being connected to Him, the source of all power. To love like He does, we have to abide in Him. The ability to love the most unlovable comes only through the power given by the Holy Spirit. Without accepting Christ’s love and converting power, we cannot — and will not — care that the people around us are hurting and need Him.

There is no sermon, no Bible study series, no tract, and no evangelis-

tic event that can take the place of compassion and love. Nothing else can demonstrate the possibility of a relationship with God better than a relationship with someone who truly, passionately loves God.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ... And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love,” 1 Corinthians 13: 1, 2, 13, NKJV.

The apostle Paul assures us in Romans 8:38-39 that we can never lose God’s love: “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels

nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” NKJV.

This is the very heart of the gospel! Jesus loves us, we in turn love Him, and He gives us the desire and power to love others. The gospel hasn’t changed in the last 2,000 years. In fact, there is an increased urgency to this message in these last days of earth’s history. Christians are tasked with sharing this message with the world. Not just with sermons, tracts, or prophecy seminars, but by loving other frail humans like the Father loves Jesus.

—by Tom Mills

GENEROUS
LIVING



All of Me in
Response to All
of Him

KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR 20/20 VISION

FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

VISION VI: ENRICH ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL MINISTRY PRAY AND COMMIT to enrich the Sabbath School programs of our Conference to include an intentional and inclusive focus on all four dimensions of the adult Sabbath School ministry.

Mission – through a regular focus on mission stories and utilization of media such as Mission Spotlight or Mission Sonlight DVD's. In 1885 the first Sabbath School mission offering was taken in Oakland, Calif., for the Australasian Mission. Two years later the first general Sabbath School mission offering raised a total of \$10,615 for the African mission station. Purposefully planning for and including a focus on our world mission during Sabbath School is an opportunity for our Carolina Sabbath Schools to focus on and connect with other parts of the world as well as learn about the diverse people and cultures in faraway places. In so doing, we develop an appreciation for something that is not focused on self but rather on the needs of our global church family. Because of a focus on Sabbath School mission, I have the blessing of being your servant leader. My heart was closely knit to Jesus and His love while I was away from my homeland of India as a student at a mission school on the island

of Sri Lanka.

Fellowship – through a time for testimonials, prayer requests and praises. The second focus of our Sabbath School ministry is creating a climate of fellowship. I believe healthy Sabbath Schools will constantly explore innovative ways to create a warm and inviting environment in which Sabbath School members are nurtured and supported, such as developing a hospitality plan that includes warm, smiling and helpful greeters; providing cards in the pews for members to write such notes as “I appreciate you” or “I missed you!” and then collecting and mailing them to members; or planning a weekend retreat, picnic, or Thirteenth Sabbath potluck featuring foods from the division emphasized that quarter. The ideas of how God can work through the bonds of fellowship in our Sabbath Schools are limitless.

Outreach – through an emphasis on witnessing opportunities and stories of changed lives. The third focus of our Sabbath School ministry must involve outreach. There are many types of outreach activities a Sabbath School class can put into practice, such as putting together a prayer list of non-attendees, friends, relatives, work associates, etc., and asking the class to pray over the list on a regular basis; giving Bible studies (if even one class member is willing to do this, it will produce results); or setting up a visitation schedule to visit non-attendees as well as members who are sick, and getting as many class members involved as possible.

Bible Study – through the

utilization of teacher resources and young adults in an in-depth study of the Sabbath School lesson. The fourth focus of our Sabbath School ministry is the one we are most familiar with. 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 an attempt to find God's plan and purpose for life. It also connects us nationally and globally as a church with a united topical focus in God's Word.

Along with implementing these areas of focus, my hope is that we follow the guidance of the world church and the North American Division this quinquennium by re-establishing the term “Sabbath School” in place of “The Church at Study” in at least 50 Carolina churches, which will serve as models for the four-fold function of Sabbath School ministry.

Last year we honored five of our churches with a \$1,000 check and a plaque honoring them for the vital role each of them played in the mission and function of adult Sabbath School ministry. This year we are hopeful that at least 50 of our 163 churches and companies will hold up the genuine banner of adult Sabbath School by the end of 2020!

—Leslie D. Louis
President, A servant leader
for the Lord



Big Investment Even Bigger Return

Sara Cain, a senior at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA), recently shared with her local church family in Myrtle Beach, S.C., her experiences during a Carolina Conference-sponsored ShareHim mission trip to the Philippines. She planned and presented the entire service around John 3:30, which instructs us to have less of us and more of Jesus. Through song, scripture, and a PowerPoint presentation, Cain expressed what a difference it made in her life to share the love of Jesus in the Philippines. Her experience brought home the true meaning of the words in John 3:30.

Before Cain went on this trip, she and many people throughout the United States, including her local church family, prayed that the people she encountered would choose Jesus as their Savior and friend. Their prayers were answered when 135 people went into the water for baptism. Cain went to the Philip-

pinos to share Jesus and came back with friendships formed not only with the people but also with Jesus.



Photo contributed

With tears streaming down her face, Cain detailed how opportunities like this have made a huge impact on her life. She thanked her church

family for their support in helping her to attend MPA and to participate in mission trips, this being her third trip while at MPA. She believes these opportunities would not have been possible without the love, sacrifice and commitment of her friends, family and church.

Some question whether it's important to choose Adventist education over public school education. The eternal impact made on a child is vital, though. Is every possible opportunity being provided for them to choose Jesus as their personal Savior? Do they have the ability to pray before tests, attend events that do not conflict with the Sabbath, participate in outreach and mission projects, and daily be taught biblical principles? Adventist education is an investment for eternity. Make a big investment, for an even bigger return.

—by Rebecca Cain

Encounter, Encourage, Empower Youth Weekend

“Send Me, I Will Go” was the theme song for the youth weekend on June 21-22, 2019, at the Myrtle Beach Adventist Church. Recognizing that we live in a society in which people demand that their voices be heard no matter what their platform is, Myrtle Beach church leaders wanted to equip their youth with tools that will allow their voices to be heard proclaiming Jesus' love.

Kelly Taitano, an Adventist educator, mom of three, and instrumental leader in a church plant in Hobbs, Ind., was the guest speaker. On Friday night she challenged the youth to encounter Jesus because, just like Mary Magdalene, their lives would be changed forever. On Sabbath morning she encouraged them to make a commitment to Jesus, which cements a true relationship with Him. Then on Sabbath evening she empowered them to share the love of Jesus with

others through witnessing, serving and reflecting His love to others.

The youth put the messages they had heard into action Sabbath afternoon when they painted rocks with reminders that “God loves you” and then went to the beach to place the rocks along the boardwalk for people to find. They also gave away bottles of ice cold water, which were enthusiastically welcomed on a muggy 90-degree day. While the youth were out serving others, they encountered a man who was clearly having a difficult time and immediately went into prayer warrior mode. They asked God to place a hedge of protection around this man and free him of whatever burdens he might be carrying.

“Send Me, I Will Go,” a song of commitment that wherever God sends us, we will go, was an anthem taken to heart by more than 20 young people who encountered Jesus, were encouraged to make a commitment

to Him and empowered to share His love with others.

—by Rebecca Cain



Photo contributed

175 Churches ... and Counting!

Wayne and Rachel Dull of Travelers Rest, S.C., have overseen the building of approximately 125 churches in Ecuador and 50 churches in Chile. Wayne says he doesn't keep track of the number of churches they've built, so these figures are an estimate. The Dulls give all the credit to God for the work they have been able to do.

Originally from Pennsylvania, the Dulls first became involved in missions by starting lifestyle centers in Asia. Then Wayne began building inflatable rafts in S.C. in 1993. The rafts were designed by Wayne here in the U.S., built in China, and shipped to Wayne's raft company, Star Company, which then distributed the rafts to outfitters and wholesalers. For many years they gave a large part of their income from the raft company to build these churches.

In 1995 the Dulls started building churches in Chile, completing about 50 churches there. Then they saw a pressing need in Ecuador and have worked there since 2001. Now retired, they are still building about four churches a year in Ecuador. The cost per church is about \$15,000, and Wayne firmly believes that they have been able to fund so many churches because of the Lord's blessing. It seemed that the more they gave to build churches, the better their business did.

"Ventures in Faith" is the name of their church-building project. Sometimes Wayne and a builder from the U.S. would go down to build the churches, and sometimes they would bring in a church group from the U.S. for the last couple weeks. Most often it was just Wayne, Rachel, a builder in Ecuador, and all the local church volunteers. Tao, a native of Ecuador, is currently Wayne's builder in Ecuador. Tao oversees construction so Wayne so doesn't have to be there as much. Tao and two other Seventh-day Adventists are paid to oversee construction, but the rest of the labor is done by volunteers from each church. The Dulls send a Bible worker about three months before building starts, and the worker stays for a couple months

after completion.

Construction money is sent to the Ecuador Union through a non-profit organization in Roanoke, Ala., called Living Springs Overseas Missions, which Wayne and his brother run. The Dulls work closely with the Ecuador Union regarding the selection of church sites and the direct purchasing of building materials. The Union and the local churches also handle purchasing the property on which to build.

The present size of the church buildings is about 23 feet by 50 feet. Wayne uses a heavy welded-metal frame with

cement footings and flooring. The walls are cement block and rebar, and the roof is finished with corrugated metal. Behind the front of the sanctuary are two small classrooms. Rachel says children's classrooms are extremely important since she estimates

that one-third of the church members are children. Colored dye is used in the top layer of cement for the flooring, and when possible they put sidewalks around the outside of the building. The Dulls require the church members to put restrooms behind the church building. Sometimes there is electricity and water available, and sometimes there is not.

Wayne is now 81 and has slowed down. He sold his raft company in 2018, which was then renamed Woosung. The company and buildings are still next to the Dulls' home in Travelers Rest. Wayne and Rachel travel to Ecuador two to three times a year to oversee the building of more churches. Truly, they have taken to heart Christ's admonition in Matthew 6:19-20: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven," NIV.

—by Virginia Mattson, retired RN and member of the Salem, S.C., Adventist Church



Photos contributed

Student Strives to Be the Salt of the Earth

When Evana Vivas first moved from Venezuela to North Carolina in 2016, she didn't know what to expect. She was a boarding student all alone and far from home. Fortunately, the students at Fletcher Academy (FA) welcomed her with open arms. She made many friends and grew in her faith, particularly through the mission trips she took with the school. On the first trip, Vivas helped at an orphanage in Honduras; during the second, she taught English to children in Norway. She also found an uplifting community at her new church in Charlotte, where her family had made their new home.



When it was time to go to college, Vivas wanted to go somewhere that would help her continue growing in her faith. One of her teachers at FA recommended Southern Adventist University (SAU) and told her about the SALT program there. SALT stands for Soul-winning And Leadership Training and is a partnership between SAU and It Is Written. The theory behind it is that God has called all of us to be the salt of the earth (see Matthew 5:13). The program offers fully accredited college classes, a Bible worker certification, and hands-on training in evangelism.

Vivas enrolled in SAU as a nursing major in 2018 and quickly found a core group of Christ-centered friends. She was also impressed by how uplifting and supportive her professors were. It was her experience with SALT, however, that made the biggest impression. "Joining the SALT program was a life-changing experience," she shares. "At first, I had no idea what I had signed up for. All I knew was that I had a need to serve others and share Christ's gospel."

The SALT program is a one-semester, 16-credit intensive that focuses on evangelism. The courses helped Vivas develop people skills and the courage to talk to strangers about Jesus. She learned about Seventh-day Adventist church doctrines in depth, and helped run health seminars and a month-long evangelism series. She was also assigned a partner and went door to door sharing the Good News. These encounters were often challenging but could be very rewarding as well.

"One lady I met was at first very skeptical, but when we mentioned that we offered lessons about depression and stress, she started crying," remembers Vivas. "She said she had been praying about her depression. After that, we studied the Bible together for four months. She told us we had changed her life completely now that she knew there was a purpose for her on earth."

Now a sophomore nursing major, Vivas takes full advantage of the many outreach opportunities at SAU, which range from feeding the homeless to singing for the elderly at local nursing homes. As for other people who

might want to get involved with SALT, Vivas has one warning: "Be prepared," she says. "These experiences are going to make you want to be more involved in the ministries all around you! Once you start, you won't be able to stop!"

—by Angela Baerg



Photos contributed



Welcome to the Family

New Member Retreat at NPR

New Carolina Conference members and their families received a hearty “Welcome to the Family” at Nosoca Pines Ranch August 9-11, 2019. Aptly named, this new member retreat happens every two years and gives each fledgling Adventist a chance to learn about the Carolina Conference and the summer camp facility, and get acquainted with the way their new denomination functions.

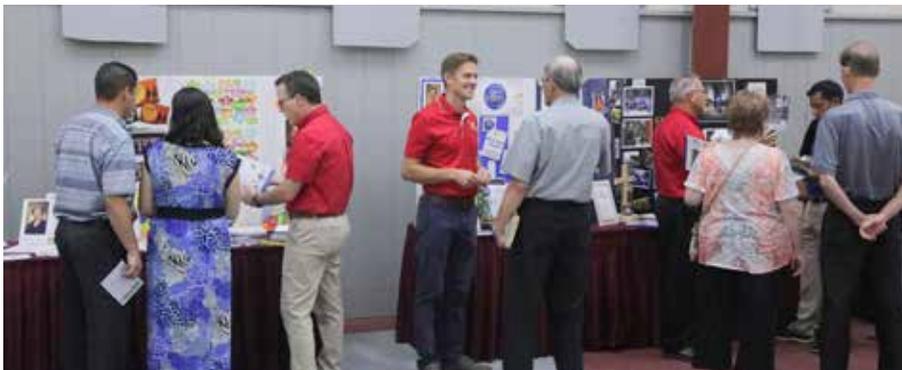
Throughout the weekend there were presentations on church structure, tithing and giving, our education and healthcare systems, and what each part of the Adventist church can do for its members. To give further

information, the directors and associate directors of each Conference ministry and department were stationed at booths around the gymnasium to answer questions and talk about upcoming events and programs. The guests were given breaks throughout the day on Sabbath to walk around and get acquainted with the ministries of the Conference.

S. Joseph Kidder, D.Min., the speaker for the weekend, is a professor of Christian ministry and the coordinator for D.Min. evangelism & church growth at Andrews University. Drawing from his years of research and experience in outreach, he shared that the primary method of effective

evangelism is the simplest one of all: friendship. By asking for a show of hands, he proved that the majority of new members present were introduced to the church by a friend or relative. While public evangelism is still effective, the best thing we can do individually to spread the Gospel is to simply make friends.

—by Becky Carpenter



Photos by Courtney Herod



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Carolina Obituaries

ACUFF, CALVIN CLIFFORD SR., 91, born Sept. 8, 1927, in CA, died Aug. 14, 2019, in Morganton, NC. He attended Loma Linda University, where he earned his M.D., and in 1958 he opened a medical office in Glen Alpine, NC. In 1978 he joined the U.S. Air Force and earned the rank of lieutenant colonel. He worked with Habitat for Humanity for many years. Calvin was a lifelong member of the Table Rock Adventist Church. In the early 1950s he helped build the church and has served it in many capacities. He's survived by his wife of nearly 69 years, Jo Ann Frye Acuff; his children, Susanne (Ed) Maggart of Asheville, NC, Calvin (Lisa) Acuff, Jr. of Glen Alpine, NC, David (Maxine) Acuff of Glen Alpine, NC, Lori (Roger) Jarrett of Sumter, SC, April (Hans) Enderle of Asheville, NC, and Gene (Patty) Acuff of Atlanta, GA; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Fred T. and Marie Acuff, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Fred E. Acuff, Ernest Morgan, Foster Morgan, and Jim Acuff; and a sister, Virginia Breen.

BUTCHER, CARLA, 78, born February 16, 1941, died July 1, 2019, in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of the Hendersonville Adventist Church. She is survived by her husband, Dewayne Butcher.

HARRISON, BEN, 84, born February 26, 1935, in Mifflin, AL, died June 19, 2019, in Hendersonville, NC. When Ben was two years old, his family moved to Danville, IL. At the age of 16, while living with a sister in Joliet, IL, he met his

future wife, Noreen Bolton. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1958 and stationed in Germany. Upon returning home, he began working at Folger Adams Lock and Key, where he stayed until 1972 when he moved his family to Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher Adventist Church for more than 46 years. Ben worked as an electrician with Circle F Electric until 1984 when he took a position as electrical inspector with Henderson County, where he worked until his retirement. Ben was preceded in death by his parents, John Clarence Harrison and Minnie Brockman Harrison, and 15 brothers and sisters. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Noreen Bolton Harrison, of Hendersonville, NC; son, Michael "Mickey" (Jennifer) Harrison of Pisgah Forest, NC; daughter, Lori (Richard) Smith of Penrose, NC; and three granddaughters.

SMITH DUNN, AUDIE ALMEDA, 103, born March 23, 1916, to the late Wesley Cody Smith and Fanny Mae White Smith, in Jack County, TX, died June 18, 2019, in Columbus, NC. She and her sisters attended Madison College near Nashville, TN. While there, she met Robert Dunn. On February 27, 1937, they were married in a double wedding with Robert's brother, Raymond, and Raymond's bride, Virginia. Audie served as office secretary for the Pennsylvania Conference, Quiet Hour Ministries, and Review and Herald Publishing Association, and as a teacher at a church school in Charlotte, NC. Audie and Robert retired to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. She was preceded in

death by her husband, Robert Dunn; her sisters, Sibyl Smith Gallagher and Lenna Smith Justus; and one brother, Weldon Smith. She is survived by her sons: James (Mary) Dunn of CA, Michael (Judy) Dunn of CA; Stephen Dunn and spouse, Charles Larson, of CA; daughter, Polly (Robert) Baker of Columbus, NC; one brother, Herman "Jack" Smith of CA; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Carolina Conference Calendar

OCTOBER

Carolina Women's Retreat—11-13.

NPR

Low Country Camp Meeting—19.

Summerville, SC.

NOVEMBER

MPA Youth Rally—1-2. Mount Pisgah Academy.

Lay Pastor Training—1-2. NPR.

Carolina Pastors' Spouses' Retreat—8-10. NPR.

DECEMBER

Reserved for local church holiday events

JANUARY

Pathfinder Council—3-4. NPR.

Prayer Line Mini-Retreat—17-19. NPR.

FEBRUARY

Evangelism IMPACT—6-9. Myrtle Beach, SC.

Romance at the Ranch—14-16. NPR.

Hispanic Romance at the Ranch—21-23. NPR.

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

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