

CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 1, 2019

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

PAGES 4-5

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

Photo by Austin Bates



To Be a Seventh-day Adventist Part I

In his poetic play, Hamlet, William Shakespeare follows the young prince Hamlet home to Denmark to



attend his father's funeral. Many of us are quite familiar with the lines of the character in his most

famous soliloquy: "To be or not to be: that is the question."

I recently read a thought-provoking book that was just published this year by Dr. William G. Johnsson, *Authentic Adventism*. For those of us who are seasoned Adventists, we will best remember him as the editor of the *Adventist Review* for 24 years. During quiet moments of restful reflection during Thanksgiving weekend, I was inspired by his thoughts and developed a few of my own, which I will share with you as a series in the next few editions of the President's Pen, beginning with this issue of the *Carolina Action*.

What does it mean to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in times like these? Not just a name on the membership list of the church, but a loving Christian who truly longs for Jesus' soon return. It's all about keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. It's all about making Jesus the heartbeat of each day of our life. My articles are by no means intended to be an exhaustive (or

exhausting!) list; in fact, you may choose to add to the list, as long as it is centered in Jesus and the "it is written" principles of his Word. However, every one of these identifying marks is non-negotiable, essential to being a genuine Seventh-day Adventist.

Part I: A true Seventh-day Adventist loves Jesus so much that he or she believes that generous living is "ALL of me, because He gave all for me."

As I watch the events unfolding in the world around me, my certainty in the nearness of the coming of a Savior is deeply embedded in my heart. There is a sadness being fostered and festered by the archenemy of mankind because he knows his days are numbered. Horrific gun violence, increased racial bigotry, an escalation in the climate of hatred in our society, an unprecedented atmosphere of



political unrest and mistrust, and natural disasters in wind, waves, and flames which have created unnatural calamities here at home and around the globe.

What is even sadder to see

is how that enemy of mankind is attacking the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ with a greater level of viciousness and intensity than ever before. The Church we have embraced may at times appear to be fractured and divided...but only if we have taken our eyes off Jesus. The true tragedy is that so many who claim to be Seventh-day Adventists have turned our focus inward to ourselves and outward to the things of this world.

Why do I say "so many of us?" It has been estimated that across North America only about 40 percent of the baptized membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church return a faithful tithe. What amazing miracles could God accomplish in and through his Church to hasten the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14 with the true conversion of the other 60 percent! It was

our Savior who said that where our treasure is, there our hearts will also be. (Matthew 6:21).

I thank God for every authentic disciple of Jesus who honors him by faithfully returning his tithe. Our tithe per capita (per Adventist member in the Carolina Conference*) has risen from \$1,014 in 2013 to \$1,069 in 2017. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will continue to persuade hearts to see this amount climb to new

heights of deeper spiritual allegiance to the message and mission of God's remnant church.

**NOTE: The year-end membership of the Carolina Confer-*

...continued on page 12.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S PEN

HURRICANE FLORENCE RESPONSE UPDATE



Adventist Community Services (ACS) organizes relief and recovery in Carolina, and in the aftermath we have helped over 500 families devastated by Hurricane Florence. Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA) provided \$100,000 in gift cards, which were distributed in the Carolina and South Atlantic Conferences through ACS directors and church pastors.



Photo by Becky Carpenter

Phil Rosburg and Steve Stillwell managed the warehouse distribution center in South Carolina.

ence Wilmington Church provided food for these teams.

The Florida and Texas Conferences collected and delivered necessary supplies to Wilmington. Assistance was provided by our ministerial/evangelism team, made up of Haskell Williams, Glen Altermatt, and Jose Cortes, Jr. (NAD ministerial associate).

At the warehouse managed by the conference in South Carolina, buckets and supplies have been coming in from area

churches and Pathfinder clubs.

Directors are working on getting things palletized for the next disaster that comes our way. Those who have received help have expressed appreciation to our church for how these efforts have given them hope and encouragement.

ACS continues to help people and train members to help people in their community. As more extreme weather events increase the number

of humanitarian crises, it is important that we work together to help people in need.

Jim Ingersol, director of 2Serve disaster assistance states, "It is not if but when the next disaster happens. We need to prepare."

We invite church members to partner with ACS as we plan to increase training and service opportunities. Thank you for your support of ACS in helping families in this time of crisis; it is a blessing to serve others and be a part of a church that works together helping people.

—by David Graham, Carolina Community Services Director



Photo contributed

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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

ADMINISTRATION: President, Leslie Louis: llouis@carolinasda.org • VP for Administration/Executive Secretary, Gary Moyer: gmoyer@carolinasda.org;

Assoc., Deborah Hutchinson • VP for Finance, Rick Russell: rrussell@carolinasda.org; Undertreasurer, Chad Grundy: 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



MIRACLES
DO HAPPEN

BY ERAN BATES, LIVING MIRACLE

Do miracles happen? Yes. Do we always see them? No. Maybe that's because we don't see the small ones that surround us every day. This is the story of my miracles.

Seven years ago, I did something many kids do at some point in their childhood: I fell on the trampoline and broke my arm. But the day that happened, my health started a downward spiral that is not normal for most kids.

Every day I woke up in excruciating pain in my jaw on both sides, pounding up into my head and searing into my ear and neck—a pain which continued all day. Soon my jaw started dislocating itself up to twelve times a day. I had been excelling at violin lessons, working at difficult classical pieces, but suddenly I couldn't stand the pain of holding the violin at my shoulder. School work became so difficult and painful that I had to stop completely. Every night I cried myself to sleep, asking God for healing.

We talked to my orthodontist, who sent me for an MRI, which showed I had extensive damage in my tempera mandibular joint. This landed me in a surgeon's office. I wasn't old enough for surgery, he said. My body was still growing and changing, and I would have to suffer through this until I was at least near twenty.

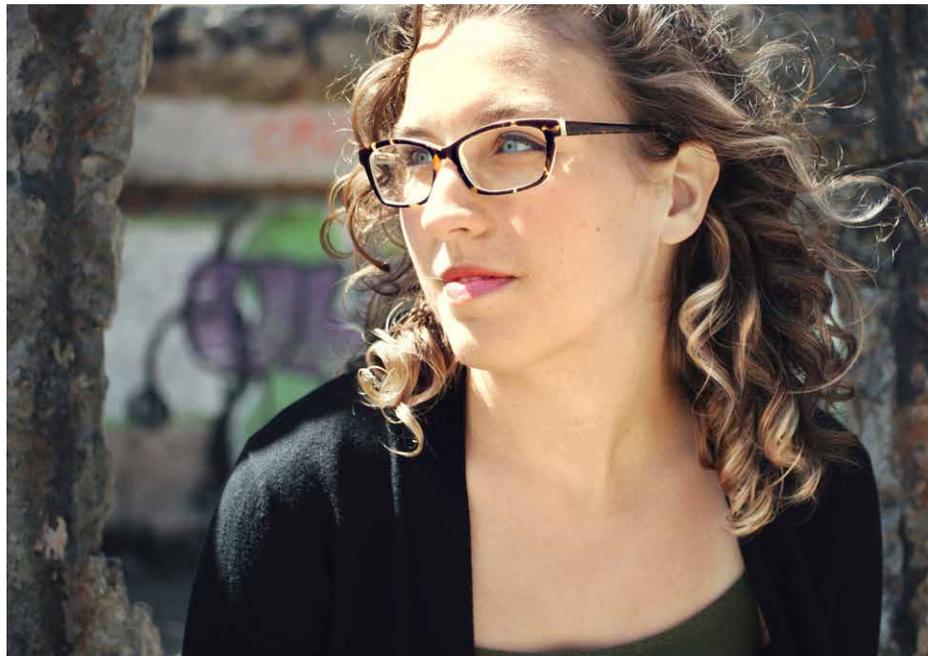
After about a year, my parents brought me for an anointing service, begging God to heal my jaw and help me wait until when I could have the surgery. At that service, we met a massage therapist who lived two and a half hours away and was willing to make the drive every two weeks if we made the drive the other two weeks. Slowly, surely, I started getting better. Until one day I picked up my violin and could hold it again. Until one day I could bend my head enough to study again. Until I no longer cried myself to sleep. It still hurt often. But nothing like the hell I had been experiencing.

Three years later, when I was fifteen, we discovered I was born with Ehlers Danlos Syn-

drome, a genetic syndrome that affects all my soft tissue with incredible laxity, hypermobility, and easy tearing. I knew why I was in pain now, which was comforting in a way.

At age 18, a steady wall of pain began descending on me again, which proved to be as bad as in my childhood and lasted a full year. This time we found a surgeon that specialized in TMJ repair and who was also knowledgeable about my syndrome. Everything was looking up!

In June 2018 I had my surgery. However, during the weeks when I should have been recovering, my pain got progressively worse. All this time I prayed for a miracle. I prayed for my surgeon to know why I was still in so much



Photos by Austin Bates

pain, for him to be able to fix it, or for the pain to just go away.

At the same time, I caught myself thinking negatively about anointing. I remembered the anointing six or seven years before. I couldn't deny I had gotten better, but why was God making me go through this again? Why would he temporarily heal me only to have me back here?

I couldn't fight anymore. God persistently spoke to my heart, asking me if I was desperate enough to finally release the weight I was hug-

...continued on following page.

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

...continued from page 5.

ging so tightly. So a few months ago I called my youth pastor and asked him to explain the process of anointing. He said that much of the power of healing in anointing is time, allowing the Holy Spirit to move our hearts to emotional healing. I wanted that healing. I wanted to be free of the animosity I held against God for allowing me to experience this pain for so long. I wanted to find out where my faith was.

During the next three weeks I journaled every day. I threw my soul into listening to God. I begged for physical healing, but I also longed for the contentment to find joy in the ongoing pain if that was my future. During this time, one of my loved ones who doesn't identify as Christian texted me to tell me she was praying for me and that she had perfect faith I would get better, because that's who God is. I asked God, what if my health is a bigger story than I've ever thought about



before? What if my health is a theatre for God's grace to be revealed?

Peace at last.

Sabbath came, and I sat in church and worshiped. I dislocated my jaw seven times during that service and the pain was intense, but my joy remained. Jesus is good. When it was time for the anointing service, God used His body, the church, to express to me His deep love, and it warmed me deep inside. To be prayed for by God's people and to mingle my prayers with theirs, knowing Jesus himself was praying for me, lifted me so high. The prayers ended and I felt nothing different. I hardly expected full physical healing. I don't know why. But I was fully at peace knowing that I had this love in the pain.

On the drive home, something told me to take out the splint I wore in my mouth. I did and tentatively opened my mouth, stretching as far as I could, fully expecting the pain to stop me mid-motion. But it opened. And

opened. No pain throbbed through. This couldn't be true! I had to know this was real. I clenched as hard as I could to try to force the pain back. Nothing. I pushed my finger hard as I could against the outside of my joint. Painless. Did He...?

It's been weeks since my miracle. No pain. Nights of deep sleep. Mornings of full energy that lasts all day into the evening. I don't know if this healing is forever. Do I have to know? Because He's given me today. And today I'll live to the fullest extent of His love in me.

Yes, miracles do happen. Hitting the edge of desperation and understanding my need was a miracle of the Holy Spirit. Losing the burden of blame against God was yet another. Finding medical professionals who were knowledgeable and willing to help me was a miracle. My loved one's faith is an incredible miracle. The miracle of love held my heart in its discouragement. And finally, the miracle of physical healing has crowned it all.

Yes, miracles do happen.

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How would you feel if you heard someone referring to you as “peculiar?” That’s what the Bible actually calls God’s people: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...” (1 Peter 2:9, KJV). The dictionary by Merriam-Webster defines “peculiar” as different from the usual or normal, distinctive, special. Other Bible versions translate the phrase as “His own special people,” “a people belonging to God,” and “God’s very own possession.” In other words, God’s people are to stand out as different in our world because of their connection to Him, but not to draw attention to themselves.

Notice the entire verse, here in the NKJV version: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Hhim who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (emphasis mine).

Christians, and especially Adventists, are “chosen” and a “holy” nation, as God’s peculiar, “special people” for the purpose of bringing praise and attention to the amazing God who brought us out of the darkness of this world and into the marvelous light of his love. He accomplished this through our Savior, Jesus, and people need to see this in us, because they need to know him!

Here’s my question: Do our posts, tweets, and social media conversations show us as peculiar, different, and distinctive from the world? Do they “proclaim the praises of Him who called” us “into His marvelous light?” Do they testify that we are “holy?”

Often, we think of “holiness” as staunchness, rigidity, or even sternness. Yet 1 Peter and other Bible books constantly group holiness and obedience with loving relationships. “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have

sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Peter 1:22, NIV; emphasis mine). “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things, put on love, which is the bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:12-14; emphasis mine).

God calls his peculiar, special, holy people to exhibit his mercy, kindness, and love in all that we do. Our world

people are peculiar because they are Christ-like. When God tells us to put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering, to forgive one another, to put on love, the bond of perfection, he’s asking us to put on Christ, so we’re reflecting him.

If social media would have been in existence in New Testament times, perhaps Peter or Paul would have advised us to use “positive posts” or “tender tweets.” The beloved Apostle John may have penned: “When you ‘go live,’ go loving.”

Social media’s very nature sometimes makes it difficult to follow James 1:19, which counsels us,

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” Emotional, reactive posts tend to elicit similar responses, and on and on it goes, like an echo. Sometimes our best response to a post that offends us is silence. We have no obligation to respond to offensive posts, and we’re usually wise not to. If we cannot forgive and forget, we’re best off talking to that person face to face, where voice inflection, facial expressions, and body language can help us reconcile in ways that mere words cannot.

And, whether it’s your family, your church family, your company, etc., it’s best not to share internal challenges with the world on social media. To do so could greatly magnify the challenges by causing a breach in trust with those involved. I believe that the Golden Rule is still valid, and is the best rule!

Please join me in praying that Jesus will so fill us with his holy spirit, as his chosen, holy, special people, that he will empower us to not only be sociable on social media, but peculiarly loving, kind, merciful, meek, patient, and forgiving, so that we might proclaim the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

—Gary Moyer, VP for Administration

SOCIABLE MEDIA

of reactive rhetoric and toxic tweets desperately needs to witness this peculiarity. Social media is a powerful tool—we can do great good or devastating damage, worldwide. The choice is ours.

Rather than reflecting our world, God calls us to reflect his love. Unfortunately, we Christians sometimes find ourselves being sucked into the current of criticism. Does spewing out caustic, critical posts really require any character and courage, or will cowardice suffice?

In reality, it takes character and courage, holiness and love, to calmly, rationally discuss our differences with someone face to face. It’s much too easy to be recklessly bold in print, in ways I would never attempt in person. That’s common, but we have a higher calling: Christ-likeness. God’s peculiar





KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR 20/20 VISION

VISION III: Houses of Prayer Everywhere

Our third 2020 Visionary Goal is to pray and commit to develop a plan in which every church building of the Carolina Conference will be a church of HOPE (Houses Of Prayer Everywhere).

It's our desire to pray and commit to creating a climate in which every church in the Carolina Conference becomes known in the community that they serve as a house of prayer. It's my heartfelt desire that we become more intentional in times of prayer.

Six years ago, Carole and I were visiting the sites of the seven early Christian churches described in Revelation 2 & 3. Today these sites are located in the predominantly Muslim country of Turkey. Although our belief systems are different, I believe we have a positive example from them in terms of established and regular times for prayer. We see that evidenced in the scriptures through the consecrated life and standard that Daniel set for us.

Our first focus must be how we can encourage members of our churches to be united both individually and collectively to be very intentional and passionate in our prayer life.

Our second focus must be to provide and promote a time and place where our youth and young adults can engage in earnest and heartfelt prayer bands. When they discover the amazing power of prayer in their personal lives, their hearts will be connected to Christ and

drawn to remain faithful to his church.

Our third focus is one in which we envision our churches reaching out to the communities we serve with specific times for individuals and groups with specific needs.

Several years ago, when I was a student at Newbold College in England, we didn't have a church or chapel where I could go and spend some time alone with God. I was so grateful for

FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

relationship I formed with my Heavenly father.

The primary function of this strategy is to realize that our greatest source of power is by seeking the Lord in personal prayer and by listening to his voice as we reflect on his word. In Jesus' final words to his

disciples before returning home to his father as recorded in Acts 1:8, prayer will be the power behind our being effective witnesses for Christ to the people whose lives we touch each day.

HOPE is an acronym for Houses of Prayer Everywhere. Here in the Carolinas, it's our desire to join in a partnership initiated two years ago by the North American Division to experience what we all long to see in our lifetime: the outpouring of the Latter Rain across the vast territory of North America, beginning right here in the Carolinas.

Let's cherish the appeal and the assurance of Psalm 100:4-5: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with

Praise; be thankful unto him and praise his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting. And his truth endureth to all generations."

—by Leslie Louis, President, Your Servant Leader



\$500 Prayer Ministries Award Challenge

I would like to recognize seven Carolina Conference churches in 2019 with a gift of \$500 for their demonstration of these Prayer Ministries initiatives:

- Submit a report to my office of how your church is fulfilling the three areas of focus in prayer initiatives mentioned in this article.
- Find and name ten new persons in your church who have registered as a President's Prayer Partner.
- All reports must be submitted by no later than the end of our 2019 Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska. Our new Prayer Ministries director, Beth Grissom, and I will select the seven best submissions based on the church's demonstration of efforts in fulfilling the requirements mentioned in this 2019 President's Prayer Ministries Award Challenge.

that Anglican chapel just across the street which had specific times in which the church was opened to individuals to come in, sit in silent reverence, and talk to God in prayer. Those times were very precious in the



Photos by Bob Laughlin

Looking out my dorm room window and seeing the big tent, so white against the reds and yellows of fall, always puts a smile on my face. It reminds me that it is finally that time of year again: time for Youth Rally.

The atmosphere around campus was one of eager excitement as we all prepared to welcome new faces and greet familiar ones. When Friday evening finally rolled around, students and faculty packed into the tent, waiting to be inspired by the Word of God. The weekend was full of time spent getting to know new friends and time spent getting to know God.

Making new friends is one of the best parts of Youth Rally. I was blessed to have someone from off campus stay in my room for the weekend. I loved getting to know her, sharing a few laughs, and telling her about how God led me to here to Mount Pisgah Academy.

When asked about her favorite part of the weekend, Lydia Mounce said, "My favorite part of Youth Rally was

the fellowship aspect and getting to know different people. For example, after the message on Friday night we had socialization time outside the tent with donuts and hot chocolate, where we argued about whether Dunkin' Donuts or Krispy Kreme was better."

This year's iMPAct theme was "Make Room." The students learned the importance of making room for God in the midst of their stresses, and some even heeded the call of the Holy Spirit and made the decision to give their lives to Christ through baptism. Students were truly moved by the speaker's messages.

"Youth Rally made an impact on me because the speaker was very relatable with his problems in life and the struggles he had," says Dana Gibson. "It felt like he knew exactly what we were going through."

When asked what iMPAct Youth Rally had on her life, Jadelyn Velasquez said, "The speaker taught us that even in the good and the bad we still

have to make room for God."

On behalf of the Mount Pisgah Academy student body, I want to thank our speaker this year, Rodney McFadden, for inspiring us with his messages, Engage Ministries from Southern Adventist University for their powerful praise music, and Beth Grissom and Jo Ottinger for organizing this event and making everything possible. From uplifting drama performances, inspiring worship services, and life-changing messages, to the weekend finale at fall festival, Youth Rally this year truly made an iMPAct, and we hope that you will join us next year.

— by Gracie Leonor, MPA senior

MAKE ROOM iMPAct CAROLINA CONFERENCE YOUTH RALLY





Photos by Becky Carpenter

CORNERSTONE ADVENTIST SCHOOL GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

The University City Seventh-day Adventist Church held a grand opening celebration for their new Family Life Center on the evening of Sept. 29, 2018. Church members and guests gathered first in the church sanctuary for a worship service before crossing the parking lot for the ribbon-cutting in front of the new building. The evening concluded with a festival inside the Family Life Center that included games and food.

The 9,000-square-foot metal frame building was constructed by Rutherfordton-based Maple Leaf Design & Build, which also built the family life center for the Arden, NC, church. Maple Leaf owner, Bernie Dilgert, was

presented with a plaque during the ribbon cutting. The Center contains a gymnasium, kitchen, and two finished classrooms. Storage space upstairs can eventually be converted into two or three additional classrooms during a future building phase.

The Family Life Center serves as home for Cornerstone Adventist Academy, a grades 1-8 church school now in its third year of operation. The school had previously been meeting in cramped quarters in the church fellowship hall. The church will also use

the new building for fellowship and outreach activities.

Speakers at the celebration included Brian King, building committee chairman, Sonja Eberhart, CAA head teacher, Randy Davis, former pastor, Beth Grissom, church elder, Rick Russell, Carolina Conference treasurer, Gary Tolbert, former pastor, and Ryan Ashlock, current pastor. Captain Allan Rutledge, commander of the CMPD University City Division, also attended the event.

—by Ryan Ashlock, UCSDA Pastor

Communication Technology THE SEQUEL

CAROLINA CONFERENCE OFFICE • MARCH 3, 2019 • 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

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WITH BRYANT TAYLOR, CHURCH TECH GURU

Back by popular demand, Bryant Taylor (B.T.) comes to us from the Azure Hills, CA, church, where he is currently the media and worship pastor. He is also the vice president of the Society of Adventist

Communicators. B.T. loves technology, and will be showing you some of the latest and greatest in the tools of the trade. (By the way, there will be another BIG giveaway this year!)

HOMESICK

FOR *Heaven*



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

SPEAKERS:

8 AM—Dick Duerksen

11 AM—Gordon Bietz

Evening—Dan Jackson

Weekend—Bob Folkenberg, Jr.

MUSICAL GUEST:

Calvin Taylor

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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

Carolina Prison Ministry: Jim Wetmore

Department of Family Ministries Centennial History

1919-2019 • General Conference and the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

Did you know that that the Department of Family Ministries has over a century of rich history in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Much has changed over the past 100 years, but through it all, the Department of Family Ministries has been there to support families.

disciple our children, we realize what a powerful mission field we have and what an amazing tool for evangelism our own families can be as others may also be drawn to Him by what they see in our homes.

Most of us can repeat the words of the gospel commission, “Go ye into all the world...” But that mission field territory begins in our homes with our own families. Many years ago, Ellen White wrote in the *Adventist Home*, “Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home.” In fact, she emphatically stated, “There is no missionary field more important than this” (White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 35).

Arthur and Maud Spalding, who developed a series of leaflets dealing with different phases of home life.

During the next three decades marriage and family life programs were promoted by Parent and Home Education Secretaries.

In 1975, a husband and wife team of Delmer and Betty Holbrook were elected as directors of the Home and Family Service. They organized and conducted training seminars for administrators, pastors, and laity in every world division.

Family Ministries continued as a strong emphasis in the world church and in 1988, Drs. Ron and Karen Flowers took over the helm and served for the next 22 years. It was during the tenure of the Flowers that an infrastructure of Family Ministries Directors was elected at the Division, Union, and Conference levels.

In 1995, Dr. Willie Oliver was elected as the first Director of Family Ministries of the North American Division, serving until the year 2010, when he and his wife, Elaine, were elected to serve in the General Conference.

In 2010, Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra were elected to serve as Directors of Family Ministries for the North American Division, becoming the first full-time employed husband and wife team.

As we embark on the Family Ministries centennial year, we want to invite you to join us as we celebrate what God has done through the years, and what He continues to do through Family Ministries in the North American Division.

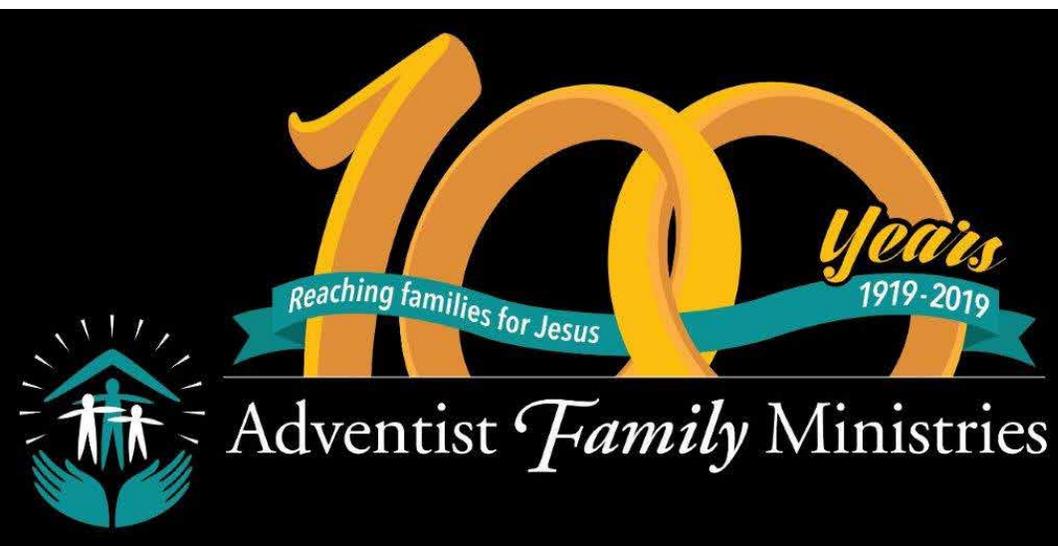
We invite you to join us as we celebrate this centennial year in 2019, and give God the glory for what He has already done and continues to do through all levels of the Family Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For additional history and ways to join the celebration, visit the following online sites and click on the Family Ministries centennial logo:

General Conference: <http://www.family.adventist.org/>

North American Division: <http://www.adventistfamilyministries.com/>

—contributed by NAD Family Ministries



100 years ago, families drove their Model T's on family outings, the word “teenager” did not exist, the size of the average family was five, and the rate of divorce was one out of every 1,000 couples. The first rotary dial telephones were installed, and the pop-up toaster and zipper were invented. About half of all families lived on a farm, and the most popular media products of the time were the player piano and the phonograph.

It's true that things are very different today; but it's also true that we still catch the best glimpse of God through the family. It is His design, His masterpiece, and it is in the family where we see God's character revealed by the ways in which we love, communicate, and forgive each other.

As we strengthen our marriages and

But then she took it a step further when she wrote: “Our time, our strength, and our energies belong to God; and if they are consecrated to His service, our light will shine. It will affect first and most strongly those in our own homes, who are most intimately associated with us; but it will extend beyond the home, even to “the world” (White, *Reflecting Christ*, p. 167).

In other words, God created families, your family, to be a vehicle to advance the gospel and fulfill the Great Commission! That's why the over-arching objective of the Family Ministries Department is to strengthen the family as a disciple-making and evangelistic center.

This ministry, centered on the family, started 100 years ago, in 1919, with the husband and wife team of

ASHEBORO COMPANY Gains Church Status



Photos by Cassandra Casabona

The dream of having a Spanish congregation in Asheboro started back in 2005, when a group of church members from the Biscoe Spanish Church that resided in the Asheboro area decided to open a new evangelistic field.

This group of about seven was led by Antonio Alvarez, a Biscoe Church elder. They started out with a small cassette player, which they used for playing music and singing together. This kept them motivated to continue carrying out the great commission in

their community.

The Asheboro Spanish group flourished and decided to move to a bigger space provided by the Asheboro Presbyterian Church, and on July 21, 2012, they were officially organized as a congregation.

The members were engaged and eager to share the good news with their community, and as a result they had to move again to an even bigger space. During the summer of 2014, the Asheboro Church welcomed the Spanish congregation to share their building, which is their current location of worship.

The Asheboro Spanish congregation experienced blessings and challenges, but by God's grace, on November 10, 2018, the church was

officially organized as such. It was a day of rejoicing and celebration, and the church was blessed with the presence of Elder Gary Moyer, executive secretary and VP for administration of the Carolina Conference, and visiting members from area churches. In addition, three people decided to give

their lives to Jesus through baptism that same day.

Asheboro Church elders Andres Alvarez, Armando Sanchez, and Ruth Cruz decided to name that special Sabbath "Eben-Ezer" as a sign that God's guidance and providence was with us



during the highs and lows in the past and present, and will also be there in the glorious eternal future.

—by Pastor Ruben Casabona

ROMANCE

★ AT THE RANCH ★

FEBRUARY 8-10, 2019

WITH DR. CLAUDIO AND PAMELA CONSUEGRA

PRICES STARTING AT \$215

HISPANIC ROMANCE AT THE RANCH FEB. 17, 2019

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REGENERATE

CHURCH REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

Join us for inspiring testimonies and encouragement in renewing your church.

UNIVERSITY CITY CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NC

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FEBRUARY
22-23 2019



Gary Blanchard



Joseph Kidder



Marc Lien

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Gary Blanchard
General Conference Youth Director

Joseph Kidder
Andrews University, Revitalization Expert

BREAKOUT SEMINAR WITH:

Marc Lien
Small Groups Expert



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.

SCHEDULE:

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

Lunch and supper on Sabbath are provided.

Register online by January 31, 2019.

REGISTER AT
WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

Carolina Obituaries

DARNELL, MARGARET A., 76, born Feb. 24, 1942, died March 3, 2018, in Arden, NC. Margaret is survived by her husband Nolan Darnell; two sons, David and Loren Darnell; and two granddaughters.

SERNS, RICHARD "DICK"

FRANK, 90, born Feb. 21, 1928, in Wichita, Kansas, died Sept. 16, 2018. His home was in Loomis, CA. He is survived by his wife, Wilma, and his three children (with mother Marianne Moran Serns Carty), Marilee Dalton of Newcastle; Diane Serns of San Diego, CA; and Dan Serns of Burseson, TX; as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Serns pastored churches throughout the U.S., including in southern California, Hawaii, North Carolina, and the Sacramento, CA, area. He served in the colporteur ministry in Texas and Florida, led music and played saxophone in many churches, enjoyed all sorts of games, water-skied until he was 84, and traveled to all 50 states and around the world.

SMITH, HAROLD FOSTER, 100, born March 25, 1918, in Glen Lyon, PA, died June 3, 2018, in Fletcher, NC. Harold was born to Harry D. Smith and Myrtle (Sherrin) Smith, and was married to the late Jane (Jean) Morrison Smith for 71 years. Known as "Foster" to his friends, Harold grew up in Summer Hill, PA, and spent most of his life in Berwick Heights, PA. While a member of Berwick Church in the 1960s, Foster served as a literature evangelist, then worked for the Wise Potato Chip company for 32 years before retiring to Hendersonville, NC. Foster served his country in World War II, landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day with the 29th Infantry Division. A sergeant, he was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery, and

a Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received in battle. Foster is survived by his children, Brian Smith (Bonnie) of Lake Wales, FL; Dianne Bremmer (David) of Decatur, TN; Craig Smith (Debbie) of Manchester, KY; and Fonda Lynes (Brian) of Hendersonville, NC. He is also survived by nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Heather Smith.

VOGEL, EDWARD "ED" T., 81, born April 25, 1937, in Milwaukee, WI, died Nov. 8, 2018, in Hendersonville, NC. Edward received his master's degree in public health and was a physical therapist. He was a nursing home administrator and then a hospital administrator. Following his retirement from the medical field, he owned a Buck Stove business and then was a general contractor. Ed is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Karen K. Vogel, of Hendersonville; daughters Vicki (Jeff) Owens of Palm Coast, FL; Cynthia (Jim) Wiley of Hendersonville; and Candace Warner of Orlando, FL; sons Steven (Cherry) Vogel of Ooltewah, TN; and Guy (Iris) Smith of Hilton Head Island, SC; seven grandchildren; a nephew, Bill Vogel; and a sister-in-law, Jean Vogel. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Betty Vogel, and a brother Nealon Vogel.

WESTBURY, ROOSEVELT, 93, born March 14, 1925, in Holly Hill, SC, died Sept. 25, 2018, in Murrells Inlet, SC.

WETHERELL, BEATRICE MARIE (BOSTIAN), 90, born Feb. 22, 1928, in Sunbury, PA, died Nov. 7, 2018, in Hendersonville, NC. Early in her career she worked in a child nursery, then taught at an Adventist school in Washington, D.C. The highlight of her life was the 25 years she

Carolina Conference Calendar

FEBRUARY

VBX Workshop --- 3 (in Charlotte) and 9 (in Myrtle Beach). Register at www.carolinasda.org.
Carolina Evangelism Impact --- 7-10. Myrtle Beach, SC.
Romance at the Ranch --- 8-10. NPR.
Hispanic Romance at the Ranch --- 15-17. NPR.

REGENERATE! Church

Revitalization Conference --- 22-23. Charlotte University City Church.
MPA Spring Break --- 28-March 10.
Adult SS Training --- 29-31.

MARCH

Communication Training Workshop --- 3. Carolina Conference Office.
Alive Youth Rally --- 8-9. Spartanburg, SC. www.alivesc.com.
Revelation Speaks Peace with Shawn Boonstra --- 8-April 13. Raleigh, NC.

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

worked at a Quaker care facility, where she served as activities director. Beatrice is survived by her husband, William Wetherell, of Hendersonville; sons William Wetherell of Windsor, CA; Russell Wetherell of Dayton, OH; and John Wetherell of Clarksville, MD; a sister, Elizabeth Harris of Chattanooga, TN; and a brother, Don (Dorothy) Bostian of Hendersonville.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN ...continued from page 2.

bership of the Carolina Conference in 2017 was 22,869.

This number reflects both active and inactive members that are listed on the membership registry of the churches and companies of the Carolina Conference. If we were able to determine the active membership of every church, obviously the per capita giving would be significantly higher.

I praise God for the His church family members who consistently support the ministries of their local church, allowing them to herald the call of Christ to their communities.

I am grateful to God for every generously living heart who prayerfully uplifts and graciously gives to the

variety of ministries that undergird the beauty of our service for Jesus.

To be a Seventh-day Adventist, you and I will be able to sing this song with all the sincerity of our hearts.

ALL to Jesus I surrender;

ALL to him I freely give.

I will ever love and trust him;

In His presence daily live.

I surrender ALL!

I surrender ALL!

ALL to thee, my blessed Savior,

I surrender ALL!

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President



Become a
CAROLINA 10,000
PRESIDENT'S PRAYER PARTNER

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The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

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EVANGELISM IMPACT 2019

FEBRUARY 7-10 • MYRTLE BEACH, SC

Be inspired. Be challenged. Be equipped.

Dynamic speakers,
soul-stirring music and
contagious energy...
that is what Evangelism
IMPACT is geared up
for this year. You will no
doubt be spiritually fed.

New venue this year!
Due to the explosion
in attendance, we're
upgrading to the larger
Landmark Resort just a
mile down the street.

REGISTRATION: WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

SPEAKERS:

Ivan Williams
Roger Hernandez
Ritchie Halvorsen
Esther Knott
Jennifer Maggio
& More!

SPANISH TRACK:

Jose Esposito

FEBRUARY 7-10, 2019

Myrtle Beach
Landmark Resort

"The work of God in this earth
can **NEVER BE FINISHED** until
the men and women comprising
our church membership rally
to the work and **UNITE THEIR
EFFORTS** with those ministers
and church officers,"

Testimonies, Vol. 9, pg. 117

JOINING
FORCES

The Southern Union
has chosen 2019 as,
"The Year of Pastoral
and Lay Evangelism."
That means that pastors
and lay people will be
"Joining Forces" in an
unprecedented way
in the work of winning
souls. This is why at
IMPACT 2019 we will
explore innovative ways
to team up in sharing
our faith, connecting with
our communities and
conducting evangelism
meetings. Join us!



ACCOMMODATIONS:

LANDMARK RESORT

843-448-9441 (Group discount code
can be found at www.carolinasda.org.)