

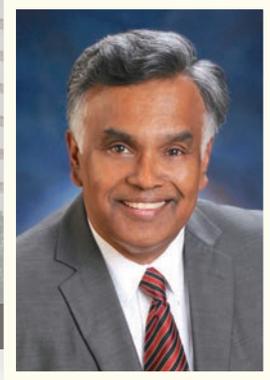
EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

WE'RE
GOING DIGITAL!
See p. 10 for details

ISSUE 4, 2017

Insert
Self
Here

Are You
COMPASSIONATE? p. 4



From the President's Pen

What's so special about October 31?

Definitely not Halloween! As disciples of Jesus who have chosen to honor and worship Him, that's one American holiday that has never been part of the tradition in our home. However, my family does celebrate my birthday on that day! This October 31 will be another opportunity for me to thank God for His precious gift of life, and especially for His sacred trust and honor as I continue to serve His Remnant Church in the Carolinas.

This October 31 will also mark the day 500 years ago, in 1517, the Catholic priest and scholar Martin Luther approached the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, and nailed to it a piece of paper on which was written his 95 theses (or revolutionary opinions) condemning the excesses and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church.

Those 95 theses disclosed how the church had elevated tradition over the authority of the sacred Scriptures. For his courageous stand Luther was excommunicated from the church and faced an assembly trial, then referred to as a "Diet," in the town of Worms, Germany.

Luther saw himself as a teacher of Scripture who was called to advocate

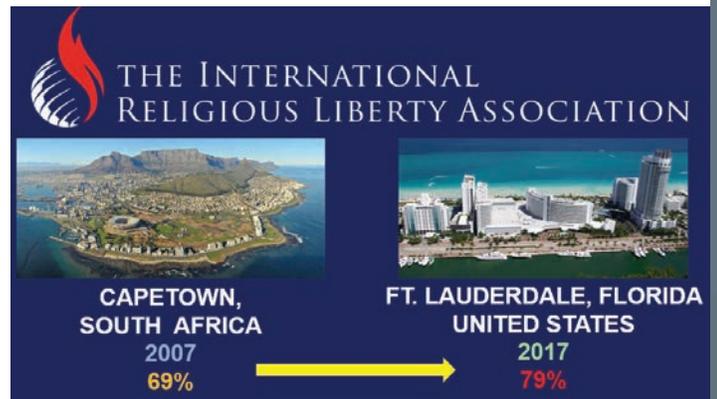
the right of all Christians to hear and live by the Gospel. Asserting that his conscience was captive to the Word of God, he could not go against his conviction. It was there at the end of his speech that he spoke these famous words: "Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me." For fear of retaliation by his large number of sympathizers, Luther was banished to the Castle of Wartburg rather than burned at the stake as a heretic.

It was Luther's act on that day, October 31, 1517, that sparked the Protestant Reformation and eventually led to the Advent movement in the United States. You and I have embraced the Advent message of the three angels, and accepted an urgent mission to herald the everlasting gospel of Jesus to every nation, kindred, tongue and people on earth.

Sadly, we in America—even Adventists—seem oblivious to the narrowing window of religious freedom. I was in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in August along with four of our Carolina pastors: Ed Couser, Ben Rueda, Jonathan Edwards and Henry Johnson. We were there as guests of the 8th International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) World Congress, which was hosted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States for the first time. At this gathering, more than 500 representatives from 65 countries drafted resolutions to preserve and protect the rights of all peoples and faiths to worship with freedom from persecution.

Why should we as Adventists care

to safeguard the freedom of other faiths? Perhaps we should consider this poignant statement by Martin



Niemöller, a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

At the congress in August, we learned that 79 percent of the world's population is experiencing religious persecution. That's 10 percent more than when Carole and I represented the Southern Union ten years ago at the IRLA World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

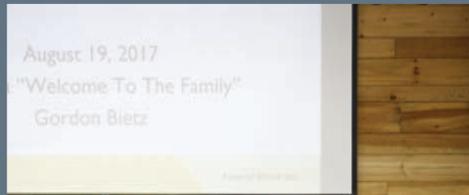
Recently, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma

(...continued on page 15)





Photos by Courtney Herod



Welcome to the FAMILY!

Conference hosts biennial retreat for new members.

Every two years Nosoca Pines Ranch is the site of a celebration to welcome the newest believers in the Carolina Conference. Between the new converts, having come into the faith either by baptism or profession of faith, and their family members, there were over 200 attendees at the camp on August 18-20, 2017, for Welcome to the Family. Conference officers and directors gave helpful presentations on what the Conference offers its members, and answered questions about the structure of the church. Gordon Bietz, former president of Southern Adventist University, inspired the new believers to have compassion and be there for each other. (Listen to his sermons on our conference podcast channel, available through Google Play, iTunes and Stitcher). Music was provided by Carolina Heartsong, a group from the Asheville, NC, area.



Carolina Action is a publication of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Are You COMPASSIONATE?

Two years ago the Carolina Evangelism Department felt the need to shake things up, and train churches in new and more effective methods of outreach. The old method—inviting an evangelist and mailing thousands of handbills (without laying any prior groundwork)—has proven to be less effective every year.

In January 2016 the first annual Evangelism Impact was held, with more than 400 in attendance. The following January, there were more than 700. The next Evangelism Impact will be January 25-28, 2018, at the Crown Reef Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC, with the theme “Compassionate Evangelism.” Come and learn how to link Matthew 25 and 28, and be more compassionate in reaching your community. We’ll also learn Jesus’ method of mingling, ministering, winning confidence, and then

bidding souls to follow. Ty Gibson is the keynote speaker, and Jose Cortes Jr., Roger Hernandez, Richie Halversen, and Sung Kwon round out the dynamic list of presenters. The main speaker for the Spanish track is Jose Cortes Sr., president of the New Jersey Conference.

Let’s begin praying for God’s Spirit to prepare us to transform lives in our territory. The dream is that each church will engage in community touch, compassionate ministries and small group Bible studies, then follow up with a reaping series during September and October.

Something new is coming to the Carolinas to assist with this evangelistic quest. It’s called the Caravan of Compassion! Since the Caravan of

Compassion launched in New Jersey, more than 300 souls have been baptized. The Caravan will move through the Carolinas, making at least eight stops. At each stop, the surrounding churches will bring those who have been baptized for a great celebration. During each convocation those who are still in the valley of decision will be invited to finalize their commitment to Christ.

Mark 6 tells us that as Jesus ministered to the multitudes, He was moved with compassion into action, and fed them all with only five loaves and two fish. Today the need is just as great and just as possible to meet through His power.

—by Glen Altermatt

EVANGELISM IMPACT '18

SPEAKERS:

Ty Gibson
Jose Cortes Jr.
Roger Hernandez
Richie Halversen
Sung Kwon

SPANISH TRACK:

Jose Cortes Sr.

JAN. 25-28, 2018

Myrtle Beach
Crown Reef Resort

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Crown Reef Resort
Call for reservation
843-626-8077

(Group discount code on the Conference web page.)

EVENT

REGISTRATION:

www.carolinasda.org

SUMMER CAMP

at Nosoca Pines Ranch

Hundreds of youth congregate at Nosoca Pines Ranch every summer to spend a week learning about God, enjoying camp activities, and making new friends. This year, summer camp attendance reached a record high with more than 700 campers attending over the three weeks of camp, 500 of whom made a commitment to live their lives for Jesus. Under the supervision of more than 70 camp staff who focus on showing Christ to kids, campers ranging in age from 7 to 16 enjoyed horseback riding, tubing, crafts, drama, cross training and much more. Following a revamped passion play, which depicted the life of

Jesus from the disciples' point of view, 169 campers requested Bible studies with their local church pastor.

One teen camper wrote a letter to the camp director, Rick Faber, that expressed the impact summer camp has had on her life. She shared that she always leaves Nosoca feeling like a new person spiritually. Over the past few years, this camper has moved four times and has watched her parents divorce and later remarry other people. One of the main reasons she was able to endure all these stressful events was the anticipation of a week during the summer when she could get away from all her troubles and learn about God.

“Without Nosoca Pines Ranch, I have no idea where I would be right now,” she wrote. “The second that I pass that green and white entrance sign, I know that the upcoming week is going to be like no other.”

Each summer, Nosoca hosts an incredible ministry that radically transforms the lives of everyone who travels to Liberty Hill, SC, for a week of fun. Registration for summer camp 2018 opens at the beginning of next year, so be sure to register your child early since slots fill up fast.

Visit www.nosoca.org for summer camp information.

—by Abby King



Photos by Tanya Musgrave



“In times like this, we are vividly reminded that this world is not our home.”

Built on a FIRM FOUNDATION

Even with all our engineering advancements, weather radar, and astronomical predictions, we are still at the mercy of our environment. We try to control every aspect of our surroundings with central heating and cooling, sprinklers on timers for our landscaped lawns, and security systems we can control remotely from our smartphones. We fabricate a sense of control around our lives, all the while knowing how tenuous our hold is in the face of real disaster, such as nuclear war or a raging forest fire.

As the nation watched the flood crisis unfold in Texas in late August, many stories surfaced about how well rescue agencies worked together to meet the needs of the 6.6 million people living in the Greater Houston area. According to New York Magazine, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shipped 2 million meals and 2 million liters of water. Convention centers were converted into shelters with rows of cots for the displaced, and the National

Guard, Coast Guard, and locals with boats all pitched in to get people to safety. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) teamed up with the Red Cross and the United States Postal Service to provide services as specific needs became clear. Hurricane Harvey was only the beginning, with Irma and Maria following fast and devastating Florida, Puerto Rico, and many other islands. With forest fires engulfing the northwest U.S. (1 million acres have burned in Montana alone) and a 7.1 magnitude earthquake rocking Central Mexico, 2017 has been a record-setting year for natural disasters.

In times like this, we are vividly reminded that this world is not our home. In the parable of the wise man and the foolish man found in Matthew 7, we are reminded of the importance of building a strong foundation on high ground, even though construction takes longer and is more difficult. Christ's parables have two kinds of truth: literal and figurative. In a very real sense, people in Houston whose structures were built on raised

concrete on higher ground were much better off. But even more important than putting all our efforts into making our physical selves secure is making sure our characters are built on Jesus. If a natural disaster leaves us with nothing but soggy family albums and waterlogged laptops, we will crumble if all we have is stuff to depend on. It would be foolish to lose our homes and believe that everything we have built and worked for has been destroyed. Hopefully, the things we have worked on the most are spiritual things, not things found on patios or in garages.

Let's not be like the man in Revelation 3:17 who believes himself wealthy and in need of nothing but is "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (NKJV). If we were made destitute today, we would still be rich tomorrow through Christ. "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it," Proverbs 10:22, NKJV.

—by Rebecka Noble Louis

Vision V: To foster a culture of soul winning across the Carolinas. Pray and commit to leading at least 1,000 new souls every year to embrace Christ and His truth as members of God's Remnant Church.

To accomplish this, every pastor will receive encouragement and support to:

- Develop, communicate and implement an annual plan for kingdom growth in their churches. This plan should intentionally involve the youth and young adults of the church.
- Host or present at least one evangelistic/reaping effort annually in their church district. Opportunities should be explored to involve students who have participated in a Share-Him series of meetings.
- Follow up with discipleship that encourages intentional involvement in the life and ministry of the church, and turns disciples into disciple makers.

We hold the conviction that, by the power of proclaiming the truths of God's Word, the Holy Spirit will bring people into the church. However, the only thing that will keep them connected to Christ and His church is the power of compassionate love.

Complacent churches are actually declining churches. They have become experts on only one doctrine: the state of the dead! Friends, let me be very clear about this: Jesus had one mission, which must also be the mission of His end-time church. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost," Luke 19:10 (NIV).

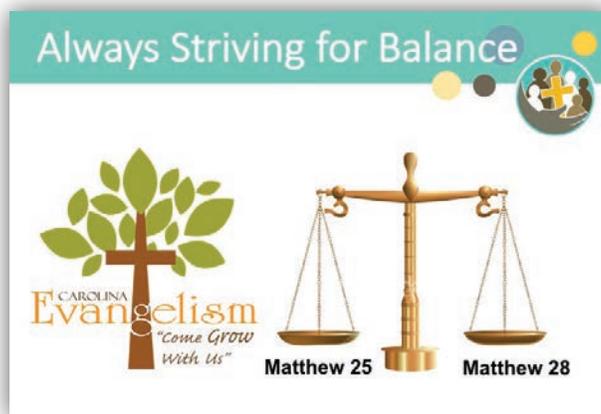
Some may say that our "Goals for Souls" initiative is just another focus on numbers. But any church that doesn't prayerfully commit to reach at least one soul for Jesus every year is likely going to remain stagnant. They are like the man in Jesus' par-

KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR 20/20 VISION

FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

able who simply buried his one talent. This initiative must never be for our glory, but only for God's glory. Every one of those numbers represents a life for whom Christ shed His blood on Calvary. Second Peter 3:9 underscores the value of every soul in these words: "The Lord ... is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The New Testament model of the church is highlighted in this description: "So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily," Acts 16:5, NKJV.

Evangelism and discipleship must



always reflect the beautiful balance of the *compassionate care* of Christ reflected in Matthew 25 and the *compassionate call* of Christ commissioned in Matthew 28. That compassionate care is demonstrated in these powerful words found in *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

Our task as Seventh-day Adventists living in these closing moments of earth's history is an urgent one, as emphasized in *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 19: "In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have

been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance."

This is why our \$1 million evangelism goal is so important to our Carolina churches. It's God's money, used to connect Him to His children. Join us in praying for at least 309 more Carolina Adventists who, by God's grace, will commit \$1,000 this year and every year until we see Jesus' face. We are close to our goal. We can reach it!

I believe with all my heart that we have at least 1,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the Carolinas who truly believe that Jesus is coming again soon. Make that 999 (count me in!) Adventists who are willing to dedicate at least \$1,000 each year for evangelism until Jesus returns. For those who have this passionate conviction, prayerfully consider investing in the mission Jesus has entrusted to each of us: "to seek and to save the lost." Our July giving totals (along with a very recent and generous donation from a soul with a heart for evangelism) show an increase in support for evangelism of over \$69,000 from this time last year. Praise the Lord! Can we reach our goal in five months?

If we make our decision to emulate His compassionate care and follow His compassionate call, yes we can!

—by Leslie Louis, Conference president



Photo by Becky Carpenter

In 2008, Beth

Grissom, marketing and recruitment director at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA), hand-picked several students to spend the summer demonstrating what an MPA student is really like, inspiring other young people to attend MPA, and connecting with church members who may know potential students.

“I hoped these churches would start to experience MPA as a result of our

MOUNT PISGAH ACADEMY RECRUITING TEAM PROVIDES A HELPING HAND

students’ service and feel more a part of our school,” says Grissom. Nine years later, Grissom continues traveling around the Carolina Conference each summer with a group of six to eight vibrant, hard-working students to promote their academy through community service and by assisting with Vacation Bible

Schools (VBS) and other youth programs. The eight recruiters on the team this year included seniors Tori King, Jake Miller, Michael Moyer, Arceo Primero, Brenna Taitano and Lensa Yohannes; and juniors Diego Durán and Gracie Leonor. These incredibly talented students dedicated six weeks of their summer vacation to this ministry.

Grissom has visited 17 Adventist churches in the Carolinas with her students over the years. They have also assisted with youth programs at Highland Academy and Nosoca Pines Ranch, ministerial meetings, weeks of prayer, evangelistic meetings, and even at the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe. This year the recruiting team spent time in Charlotte, Morganton, and Waynesville, NC, staying busy doing whatever was most needed in those districts. This ranged from leading out in VBS and assisting senior citizens in their homes to painting walls and doing yard work and door-to-door literature evangelism. They also played a major role in several of the departments at the Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting by helping as group leaders in Juniors, leading songs in Earliteens, and doing giveaways in Youth.

Instead of having a Fourth of July

party this summer, the recruiting team and several friends from the Charlotte University City Church headed out onto the streets of downtown Charlotte to provide meals to the homeless. The team provided more than 50 lunches, which consisted of hot dogs, hamburgers, and all of the toppings.

A homeless man, Ronnie, actually led them around town and introduced them to the people living on the streets. Grissom discovered that Ronnie is a musician, so a few weeks later, she invited him to her home. She has a music studio in her garage and thought it would be a great experience for Ronnie to collaborate with her students. He had written a song, which he shared with the young people and invited them to participate in musically. By the end of the afternoon, Ronnie was moved to tears by what his song had become with the help of the recruiting team. The experience was unforgettable for the students as well.

If you would like more information about MPA or would like to have the recruiting team come to your church next summer, please contact Beth Grissom by phone (704-408-9350) or by email (bgrissom@pisgah.us).

—by Abby King, former recruiter

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

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



LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING 2018

WITH SHAWN BOONSTRA, TY GIBSON, MARVIN MOORE AND MICHAEL HASEL

MAY 27-JUNE 2 • WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

York Church Celebrates Mortgage Burning

On June 17, 2017, the York church in South Carolina held a special service to celebrate paying off their mortgage.

This vibrant church of 80 members originally purchased their building under the direction of C.J. Ramsey, a member who played a huge role in the acquisition of the building. Ramsey and his wife, Amy, along with previous pastors and members, were happy to join the York congregation for this happy occasion.

The congregation felt blessed to have their new pastor, Ryan Becker, in attendance. Becker has been serving the York and Rock Hill churches since his graduation from Southern Adventist University in May 2016. Throughout this past year, the church members have enjoyed getting to know him as he serves them with his time and God-inspired sermons.

During the mortgage burning



Photo by Lisa Moyer

service, Daniel Bran, a previous pastor at York who currently pastors the Tryon, NC, church, gave some words of spiritual encouragement along with memories from his time there. Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference vice president for administration, was also in attendance. He reminded the congregation that the church building should be the headquarters for ministry rather than a place to simply warm the pews.

When it came time to burn the mortgage, Becker invited all previ-

ous and current pastors and elders to stand at the front while Moyer did the honors. The church is pleased to have paid off their mortgage 10 years early.

In the weeks following the mortgage burning, the church baptized a new member and hosted a family fun day to which they invited neighbors who live in the community surrounding the church. They plan to host an evangelistic series this winter and to continue ministering to their community.

—by Abby King



Attention Readers:

We're going digital!

Next year the *Carolina Action* will transition to an all-digital publication. If you prefer your copy in print, don't worry. You can add your name to a subscription list, and we will continue sending you a printed version. This allows us to print only what will be utilized, which will release funds for other methods of kingdom growth!

Begins January 2018.

Go online to www.carolinasda.org and indicate your subscription preference, or call 704-596-3200.

FELLOWSHIPING as Literature Evangelists

The literature evangelists (LEs) in the Carolina Conference were blessed to fellowship together at Nosoca Pines Ranch (NPR) for the LE Summer Retreat July 20-23. Gary Moyer,



vice president for administration for the Conference, gave his personal testimony and led the group in a Zig Ziglar workshop series covering goal setting, prioritizing and living to the extent of a person's potential. During this workshop, attendees had the opportunity to work through a number of self-reflection exercises. Keith Reid, associate publishing director for

the Southern Union, shared how he came to the Lord and some meaningful insights from his own LE experiences. Chad Grundy, undertreasurer for the Conference, talked about a ShareHim trip he and his younger



daughter went on to the Philippines. LE Tad Stauffer shared his musical talents by leading out in song service and special music, and a number of LEs shared their door-to-door testimonies.

The LEs also took advantage of the facilities at NPR. On Friday, a number of folks went horseback riding, boating, tubing and swimming. Then on Sabbath there were pontoon boat rides. After sundown worship, Saturday night ended with a boisterous, friendly game of volleyball. God is good, and it was good to come together to praise Him and be rejuvenated for His work!

nated for His work!

The weekend closed with training for our four newest LEs. We warmly welcome Angel Kouadio, Maynard LeBrun, Monica Hudgens, and Eric Smith, and their families! We appreciate your contribution to the overall group as well as the energy and enthusiasm you bring to this great calling.

If you are interested in learning more about the LE work or how to become an LE, please contact Lance Morrison, publishing director, at 704-596-3200.

—by Rebecka Noble Louis



Photo by Keith Reid



Photos contributed

interest in Bible studies, 30 indicated they would like to attend a healthy cooking class, and 35 were interested in a stop smoking seminar. The students raised \$128,880.71, which will help fund multiple efforts, including Christian education. The Conference is blessed to have young people willing to be involved in this great work of spreading the Gospel.

—by Rubi Pimentel

MAGABOOK MINISTRY

College, high school, and elementary school students who participate in the annual Carolina Conference magabook program learn to put aside their fears as they go door-to-door asking for donations and praying with people. This program instills in our young people a desire to know and serve Jesus and helps them earn scholarship money for education at Seventh-day

Adventist schools.

The magabook program was a blessing this summer in two locations: New Bern, NC, and Charleston, SC. Our students stayed busy: they reached 120,000 people by knocking on 65,000 doors, and they gave away 10,000 pieces of free literature, including 3,000 copies of *The Great Controversy*. Of the people the students encountered, 60 expressed



GOD'S CLOSET is in Morganton!



immediately that they wanted to bring this ministry to their home church, and thanks to their church family's support, this dream became a reality. For Mercer it was watching the church members

criteria for donated clothing and do not accept torn, soiled, or outdated clothing. They collect clothing in children's sizes only, from newborn to teenager, and they accept children's shoes, coats, and bedding as well.

As Mercer reflected on Morganton's first God's Closet, she could think of no other outreach she had personally witnessed that brought so many wonderful people through their church doors in one day, much less in only four hours! The church has since received 44 requests for Bible studies and multiple prayer requests, and more than 60 families have requested information about future children's



"Welcome to God's Closet!"

This cheerful phrase greeted approximately 300 families who gathered at the Morganton, NC, church on Friday, August 4, to shop for free children's clothing.

Volunteers spent more than 10 months planning and preparing for this four-hour event. Families paid a \$1 entrance fee for 30 minutes of shopping time.

The doors opened at 9:00 a.m., but families were already lining up on the sidewalk by 8:00 a.m. People continued to stream through the doors until the 1:00 p.m. closing time, and by the end of the event, 471 individuals (including children) had been served. An added bonus for parents was the availability of child care for children ages 18 months through six years old.

Janet Hardin, women's ministries leader for the Morganton church, and Cindy Mercer, Carolina Conference women's ministries director, spearheaded this event after attending the Mills River church's first God's Closet in November 2016. They knew



Photos by Cindy Mercer

get involved at multiple levels of preparing for God's Closet—sorting and washing clothes, and planning the logistics of the event—that really made an impact on her.

When Morganton launched its chapter of God's Closet, there were already 27 chapters in the North American Division and Australia. Two more churches, Thomasville, NC, and Silver Springs, NV, are getting ready to launch chapters as well. God's Closet began in Spokane, WA, under the leadership of Merryl Moore. She saw a need in her community and had a vision to provide quality clothing to those who could least afford it. This ministry has certainly grown and is a blessing to churches and families all over the world.

God's Closet chapters have specific

programming at the church. Two families have also inquired about the church school. The next free shopping day is scheduled for November 3, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Matthew 25:36-40 says: "I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when

did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me'" (NKJV).

It is the desire of the Morganton church family to serve Jesus by serving their community. You can see pictures of their first God's Closet on the God's Closet-Morganton Facebook page. For more information about God's Closet and to learn how your church can start this wonderful ministry, visit www.godsclot.com.

—by Cindy Mercer, Women's/Prayer Ministries director

IMAGINE

IMAGINE A TIME when young people no longer attend church, are bored with religion, and begin leaving behind the beliefs of their parents.

IMAGINE A TIME when entertainment comes in a box or electronic gadget, instead of from the awe-inspiring nature God created.

IMAGINE A TIME when Adventist education is suffering for lack of enrollment, leaving our children with no option but a public education, devoid of God.

Could that time be near? Sadly, in some cases, it is already here.

This is why the Carolina

Youth offering exists:

- To generate a renewed interest in God's love through church programs such as Pathfinders and Adventurers.
- To create an appreciation for nature and God's majesty through summer camp at Nosoca Pines Ranch.

- To teach godly principles through Christ-centered, high-quality Adventist Christian education.

We love our young people! Give generously to the Carolina Youth. Your gift will live for eternity.

GIVE AT WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG.



Carolina YOUTH



GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

Carolina Member Recognized for Assisting Hurricane Matthew Victims

When Hurricane Matthew displaced thousands of people in Eastern North Carolina in 2016, one young mother of five did not know where to turn for help. Although she could have received help from FEMA or the Red Cross, no one reached out to her until after the deadline had passed.



In desperation, this mother brought her children to Williamston, NC, hoping to stay with her grandmother, who lives in a nursing home. Unfortunately, she was able to stay there only two weeks before the nursing home told her she had to move on.

Around this time, Angela Duggins, a member of the Robersonville Mission of Hope Group, visited the nursing home with her church and met the grandmother, who relayed the sad story. The church offered to pay for a hotel for the young mother until she got back on her feet.

Two months later the funds donated for the hotel were depleted and an uneasiness began stirring in Duggins' heart. She felt that God wanted her to invite the young family to live in her home. She thought she had misunderstood God's message until her husband told her he had had the same impression. In February, the mother and two of the children moved into the Duggins' home.

Recently, the chairwoman of the Martin County Women's Council, Deborah Teal, heard about how Duggins took in a family of total strangers when disaster had turned their world upside down. The story so impressed Teal that she chose Duggins as Martin County's Distinguished Woman



Photos contributed

of the Year, which was announced at their annual awards banquet earlier this year.

"I try to always choose someone who has gone above and beyond," says Teal. "Angela did just that."

She has a passion for serving others."

Duggins credits God for helping her reach out to the family. "If it wasn't for Him, I wouldn't be receiving this honor," she says. "I see this as another opportunity to glorify His name."

After a similar article was published about this family in the Enterprise & Weekly Herald requesting assistance from other community members, this young woman and her children are no longer homeless. She has an apartment and many of the necessities they so desperately needed. The Robersonville Mission of Hope Group realizes that there are still many people who need this kind of help, so they are looking into starting a homeless shelter in their county.

—by Deborah Griffin and Abby King



Romance at the Ranch 2018

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WEEKEND SPEAKERS
(English Event):
Jorge and Evelyn Torres



WEEKEND SPEAKERS
(Spanish Event):
Nilton and Sara Garcia

Carolina Obituaries

PRITCHARD, HAZEL, 92, born Aug. 11, 1924, died June 6, 2017, in Morganton, NC. She was a member of the Morganton Church. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Rufus Rich (Clema), Fletch Rich (Alpha), Wood Rich (Durlene), Tilman Rich (Anne), and Floyd Rich; and her sisters, Florence Williams (Woodrow) and Curley Epley (Dock). She is survived by a daughter, Diane Benson (James); a son, Richard W. Pritchard; a granddaughter, Roxanna Dobson (David); and four great-grandchildren, Luke, Joshua, Seth, and Tesla.

WEIMER, GWENDOLYN LOUISE (CORBETT), 90, born Nov. 1, 1926, died June 24, 2017, in Flat Rock, NC. She was a member of the Fletcher Church. Gwendolyn graduated from Forest Lake Academy and studied pre-nursing at Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University. She took nurse training at Florida Sani-

tarium and Hospital, now Florida Hospital Orlando, earning her RN in 1949. She went on to study nursing education at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University, and received a BSNE degree in 1953. She worked at Florida Hospital and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and taught nursing at the School of Practical Nursing at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. In 2000, she moved to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. She enjoyed entertaining people with meals, encouraging individuals with cards, serving as a deaconess, and traveling. She was preceded in death by her sister, Esther Ellen Corbett Zervos Brown. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Edwin Weimer of Hendersonville, NC; a son, Robert Weimer, of Chantilly, VA; a daughter, Lori Weimer of Glendale, CA; a nephew, Kenneth Zervos; and a niece, Helen Adair.

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

and Maria have ravaged the lives, land and livelihood of so many across our nation, and I have to wonder if the angels of God are slowly releasing their hold on the winds of strife referenced in Revelation 7:1: "After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree," (NIV).

Since the oft referenced "rogue" countries of Iran and North Korea are developing or have access to a nuclear arsenal, our world is a more dangerous place than it has been in our lifetimes. It is time for us to pray fervently for the leaders of our nation and for our allies as diplomatic measures are carefully weighed in the balance. Pray that peace will prevail and that our world will be spared an incomprehensible holocaust. It is in times like this that we need to be aware that we are living in the very closing moments of time. I am reminded of this every time I read this inspired counsel from God's messenger to His Remnant Church, Ellen White: "The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening

for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones," *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 11.

As we witness these "final movements" happening, our Savior calls us to "keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" Matthew 26:41, NLT.

The prayer of my heart is that the hope of His return will always burn brightly in your heart.

*He's coming, coming, coming soon, I know,
Coming back to this earth again;
And the weary pilgrims will to glory go,
When the Saviour comes to reign.**

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President

* "How Sweet are the Tidings,"
Bonnie Eloise. Public domain.

Carolina Conference Calendar

October

27-29 Community Services Retreat. NPR.
28 Low Country Camp Meeting.
Summerville, SC.

November

3-5 Carolina Youth Rally. MPA.
3-5 Ministerial Spouses Retreat. NPR.
17-18 Elders Certification #4/
Evangelism. Fayetteville, NC.

December

1-2 Prayer Conference. Morganton, NC.

January

25-29 . Evangelism IMPACT. Myrtle Beach, SC.

February

9-11... Romance at the Ranch (English). NPR.
16-18 ..Romance at the Ranch (Spanish). NPR.
23-25 ReGenerate! Church Revitalization
Conference. Spartanburg, SC.
24.....Generous Living Summit. Columbia, SC.

March

3.....Pathfinder Bible Experience. NPR.
15-17Pathfinder Camporee. Darlington.

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



Speakers:

Dr. Ron Smith
President
Southern Union

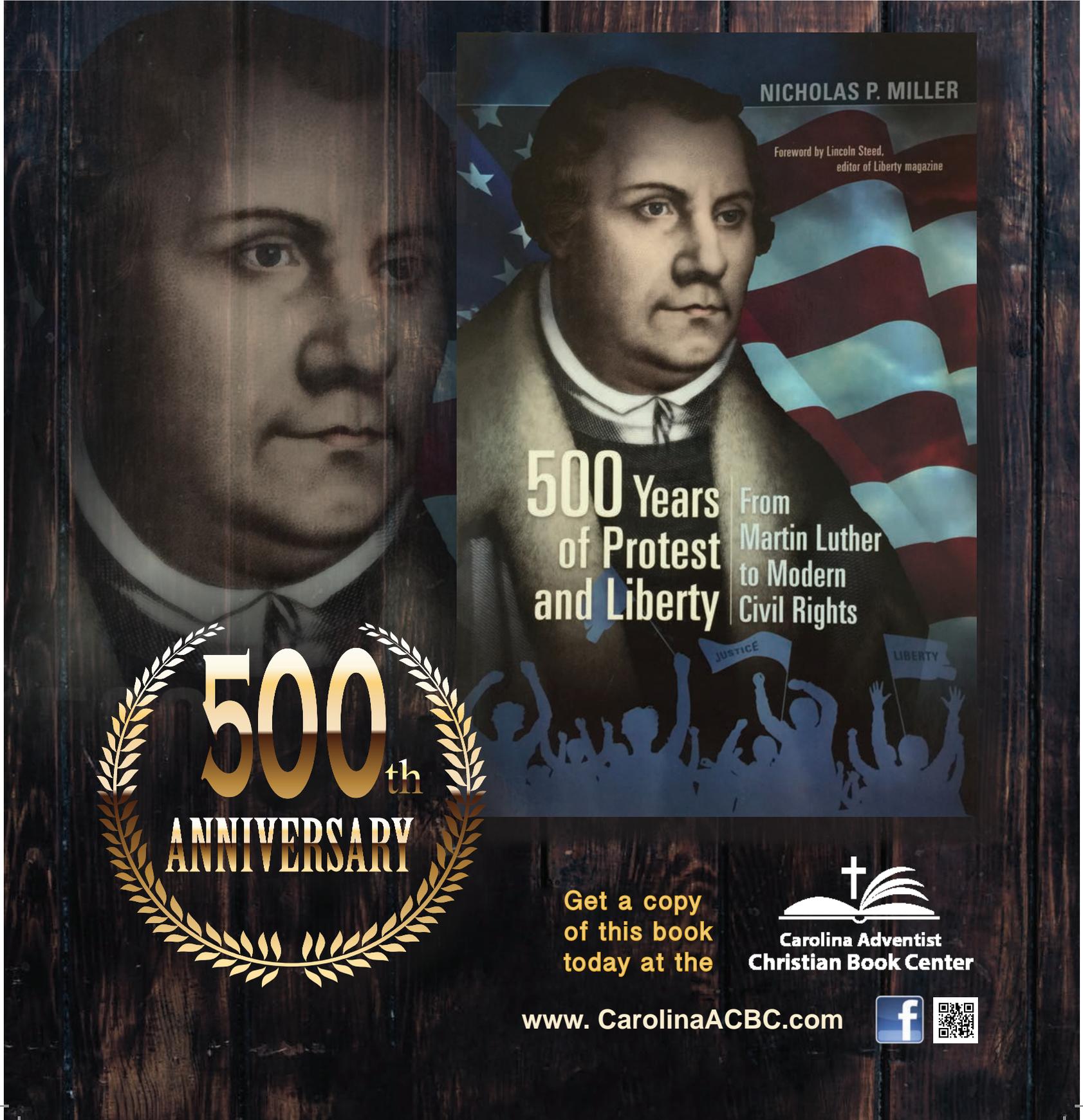
David Long
Director of Prayer
Ministries Southern Union

Musical Guests:
Antoinette & Chris Travers,
and Mark Patterson

Prayer Conference
December 1-2, 2017
Morganton Adventist Church
www.carolinasda.org

The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
PO Box 44270
Charlotte, N.C. 28215-0043



NICHOLAS P. MILLER

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editor of Liberty magazine

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