

CAROLINA ACTION

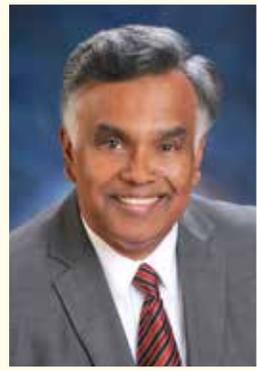
ISSUE 4, 2016

42ND CONSTITUENCY SESSION of the Carolina Conference

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EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST



From the President's Pen

The Challenge and Calling of Servant Leadership

The 42nd Constituency Session of the Carolina Conference is now another closed chapter in the pages of our Advent Movement.

For all of us who were a part of that weekend's experience, we sensed the beautiful presence of the Holy Spirit as we worshipped together and transacted the business of Christ's Remnant Church in the Carolinas.

Thank you for placing your mantle of sacred trust upon me once again as your servant leader for the Lord. Though I am truly humbled and honored with the title of president, an equally high calling has been given to every follower of Jesus. Together we stand at the foot of His cross, com-

missioned to be disciple makers for Him.

We often equate leadership with an organizational position rather than shared service. However, when I consider the counsel of Jesus in my role as your leader, I see a different picture painted in Matthew 20:27-28: "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The challenge for religious leaders is centering our lives around a relationship with God, including the way we utilize a position's power in a life of service. I am reminded of this very clear counsel from the pen of Ellen White, which is both a challenge and a call for reformation: "Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to men, He must commune with God, pleading for energy, perseverance, and steadfastness. Thus He showed His disciples where His strength lay.

Without this daily communion with God, no human being can gain power for service," *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 324.

My leadership as a Christian is not based simply on the vote of the constituent delegates as an act of acquired authority. Rather, I must always remember that I am only an instrument of Christ — what I do in His name is what really matters.

I solicit your earnest and heartfelt prayers every day through the coming years of this quinquennium. May your prayers implore the Holy Spirit to remind me that above all else, I am a servant of servants. I must listen, honor, trust, help, encourage and love others with dignity and respect. I desire to live a life modeled after the life of Jesus, who lived for the express purpose of serving others. That is my challenge, my calling and my commitment to my Carolina family.

Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President



Courtesy Herod

Elder Ron Smith and his wife, Yolanda, welcome President Leslie Louis and his wife, Carole, to five more years of ministry in the Carolina Conference.



42nd Constituency Session

A Spirit of Unity and Mission

This past August, the Carolina Conference held its 42nd Constituency Session at Nosoca Pines Ranch. The last session was held five years ago. More than 400 delegates from churches and companies across both North and South Carolina gathered for one weekend to help make decisions for the church. Representatives from almost every department from the Southern Union were also in attendance.

The Conference endeavors to

make this process a Christ-centered experience, and many in attendance commented that it was a mini-camp meeting. The Spirit-led meetings were called to order with devotionals delivered by Mike Tucker from Faith for Today and Mad About Marriage.

Each of the “slates” that the nominating committee brought to the floor passed by a majority vote. Because the work of the nominating committee and delegates was so streamlined, all business and reports, with the exception of two reports, were complet-

ed and voted on by Friday evening before sundown. This was the fastest business meeting in the history of the Carolina constituency sessions.

Mike Tucker’s devotional presentations are archived on the Conference podcast channel, which is accessible through iTunes and Google Play (search for Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists), and for a limited time through a link on the Conference website home page (www.carolinasda.org).

—by Courtney Herod

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From Car Washing to SOUL WASHING!

Patricia Grant was a regular attendee at a Seventh-day Adventist church in Columbia, South Carolina, before moving to Spartanburg. Although she had attended regularly, she never felt the need to be baptized. After moving to Spartanburg, she contemplated visiting the Seventh-day Adventist church there but was unsure ... until one Sunday afternoon as she drove down John B. White Sr. Boulevard and spotted the Spartanburg Adventist church.

She noticed there was a car wash and bake sale taking place, but decided to continue on her way. As she drove, she felt the Lord prompting her to turn around, and after a few moments, she obliged. As she pulled into the parking lot and the Pathfinder club began washing her

car, she immediately felt welcome. After her vehicle was clean, she drove to the bake sale being held in the gymnasium. Her favorite — chocolate cookies — were for sale and Patricia could not resist buying some. While paying for her treat, she began talking with the woman selling the goods. The kind lady left a great impression on Patricia.



“The woman was so welcoming and talkative. It was nice to have someone respect your feelings and what you had to say,” Patricia says of the woman.

Leaving the gymnasium, she noticed a brochure for the upcoming Revelation prophecy meetings which were soon to be held at the Spartanburg church. She took one and looked it over when she got home. She decided to attend.

Patricia made an effort to attend every Revelation prophecy meeting. She enjoyed each one. When the series was over, she made the decision to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church along with 13 other attendees.

Patricia is still serving the Lord diligently, although she has since moved back to Columbia. She misses the Spartanburg church and hopes to visit soon.

“I’ll never forget them,” she says. “After all, that is where I was baptized.”

Who would have thought that a simple Pathfinder car wash could lead to Patricia’s decision to commit her life to the Lord forever through baptism?

—by Abby King

CAROLINA EVANGELISM

HOW CAN I HELP?

WITH YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for evangelism in Carolina — pray for our churches, the pastors, our people who support evangelistic meetings, AND our friends, neighbors and community. Ask God to move in a mighty way.

WITH YOUR CONVERSATION, PLANS AND ACTION

Please talk about evangelism — in your Sabbath School classes, at your church board, at fellowship meals. Make it a point of planning and action. But don’t let it be all talk ... make sure your plans are carried out.

WITH YOUR FINANCES

God has laid a great burden on our hearts. And on yours also, we trust. In response to the tremendous challenge that has been placed before us, let’s move forward, knowing that what God asks us to do, He provides the strength and means to accomplish.



KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR 20/20 VISION

It is my special honor as your re-elected servant leader to present to you the visionary plan for this new quinquennium. I've had the privilege of prayerfully developing this plan in collaboration with our team of officers and our conference departmental staff and of obtaining the endorsement of the Executive Committee and the voted approval of our 2016 Carolina Session delegates.

Those of you who are members of the Carolina Conference or were delegates at our 42nd Constituency Session have had the opportunity to review these seven goals in the Session issue of the *Carolina Action*. Those of you who have joined our Carolina Prayer Partners have seen these goals in the recent monthly issues of the President's Prayer Partner Petitions and Praises.

Our vision is embodied in our mis-

sion — Embracing Carolina with the Compassionate Call of Christ. The purpose of casting a vision is not, and should never be, to draw attention to a person or an institution. This is God's church, and without His blessing, we would fail in the sacred trust that He has placed on us as His people. Proverbs 29:18 cautions us that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Our vision is intended to serve as a catalyst for God's work during the next five years as we longingly await the soon return of our Savior. Just as oxygen invigorates the physical body, our vision is being cast to revitalize and refocus the energies of the body of Christ. In the Bible the number seven has represented perfection since the beginning of time and the creation of the world. It's interesting that the world itself has captured the magnificence of

FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

the number seven in so many ways. People speak of the seven wonders of the world. There are seven referenced continents, and seven colors of the rainbow. Not to mention the beauty of the seventh-day Sabbath!

With the intention of fixing our thoughts, prayers and energies on reaching these goals for Christ with His blessing, I hope to highlight one of these goals in each issue of *Carolina Action* between now and the year 2020.

...continued on page 15



Evangelism IMPACT 2017

January 19-22
Myrtle Beach, SC

Be trained by God's present-day warriors to help win the battle for the Kingdom.

Visit carolinasda.org to register.
(Last year's event sold out, so don't delay!)

Arrangements for accommodations are made separately. Hotel info will be on your confirmation email after you register. Everyone must register, even commuters.

FEATURED PRESENTERS:



Shawn Boonstra
Speaker/Director
Voice of Prophecy



Roger Hernandez
Ministerial/Evangelism Director
Southern Union Conference

Encounter Encourage Engage

What About THEM BONES



The fifth and sixth grade students at Asheville-Pisgah school are studying the bones that make up the human body. Wilber, the friendly skeleton, hovers around offering perspective and proportions. Each student created a bone, and the following day they cut it open to reveal the layers inside.

This hands-on exploration of bones has brought to life the science they are studying. And it has helped all of them appreciate our Creator and how carefully we are made.

“You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together. You gave me life and showed me your unfailing love. My life was preserved by your care,” Job 10:11-12, NLT

—by Erin Miller



Never TOO YOUNG



Daniel Garcia is a 16-year-old member of the Erwin Hills church and a junior at Erwin Hills High School. Recently, he completed a summer evangelistic series at Erwin Hills. The attendees were taken

on an exciting multimedia adventure about the life and teachings of Jesus. For five weeks he preached two sermons on Friday evening and two on Saturday evening. Everyone could relate to his youthful in-

sights from the Word of God. His love for youth and those young at heart prompted him to share his love for Jesus with the community. Because he presented each sermon in both English and Spanish, the series was

a blessing to all. The Erwin Hills church was excited to have this summer series, and praises God for Daniel's witness to everyone who attended.

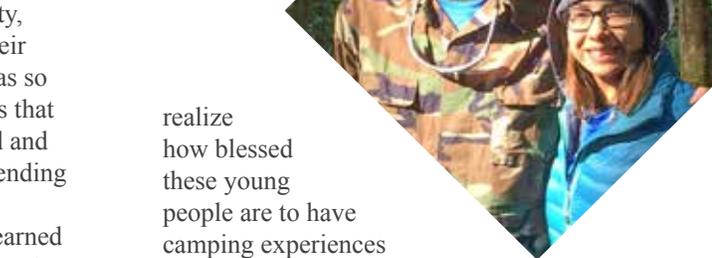
—by Edward Couser



Aiken Celebrates a GROUNDBREAKING

It was a warm day on August 13, 2016, as church members and conference officials gathered together in Aiken, SC, to thank the Lord for His provisions as they begin building a new church facility. The utmost desire of this body of believers is to be a “light on a hill” for their community.

This building project has been a long time in the making and is a lesson that everything happens in God's timing and not His people's timing. Just prior to this glorious day, God provided a buyer for their current church property, who offered cash, and at more than their asking price. What a shower of blessings! —by Courtney Herod



My APEX EXPERIENCE

I did not grow up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and had no experience with or knowledge about Pathfinders until now.

When God provided me with my current job as secretary for the youth and young adult departments at the Carolina Conference, I told myself that in order for this to be successful, I was going to have to soak up every experience and attend every event.

When I started my new job in January, the month of May — and APEX — was quickly approaching. APEX stands for A Pathfinder Extreme Experience and is a classified outing that physically, mentally and spiritually challenges all those brave enough to attend. I kept hearing about this event from my boss, Stanley Knight, Conference youth director. Each day he joked with me saying, “APEX might be too extreme for someone like you.” Needless to say, I was not going to miss APEX!

The theme for APEX 2016 was “Apex: Code Blue,” which meant the activities were going to deal with water. We began with an intense five-mile backpacking trek to a remote campground off the beautiful shore of Lake Jocassee, right where several tributaries came together. The view was breathtaking! On the hike, I felt truly blessed to be surrounded by young people who love the Lord and who shared with me their resources, friendship and lots of laughs. When we arrived at the camping location, at which there were no bathrooms or electricity, the Pathfinders had to prove their wilderness camping skills. I was so impressed by the survival skills that these Pathfinders demonstrated and was also very blessed to be attending as a staff member.

Throughout the weekend I learned the importance of water — not only physical water but also what it means to be connected to the source of Living Water, Jesus. During activities such as mastering canoe skills and water safety scenarios, I learned that successful teamwork means placing Jesus in the center. I also learned the importance of memorizing Scripture and was in awe at how quickly Pathfinders were able to memorize several verses at a time.

While at APEX I also witnessed the kindness and dedication of families and individuals who support Carolina Pathfinders by offering their time and talents to ensure the success of Pathfinder events. APEX made me

realize how blessed these young people are to have camping experiences that bring them closer to Jesus. I feel privileged to be a part of this wonderful ministry. Praise God for events like APEX and for the work He is doing through the Carolina Pathfinder ministry!

—by Nicole Stallings (pictured above in the blue coat and black hat), secretary for the youth and young adult ministries departments at the Carolina Conference.



How much would you sacrifice to put your children through church school?

Many would agree that providing their children with a Christian education is a worthwhile investment so the children can learn about Jesus along with their other studies. But how much should one sacrifice for it? For Joe Self, the answer to that question was, “Whatever it takes.”

Joe Self and his wife, May, lived in Tony, Alabama, in 1914. Joe had been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church before they married and had big dreams of going away to college to become a worker for the Lord. However, his parents were ailing so Joe and May

tuition. He forgot his weariness, however, when he arrived home each evening and his children rushed to greet him, gushing with all the wonders they had learned. Joe’s heart was full.

Time passed, and the children excelled in their studies. Then, the Argo school closed because of a lack of funds. The family, which had grown to include five children, moved to a town in eastern Kentucky. A couple of Adventist families already lived in the area and hoped to start a new church school. Life seemed wonderful as the weeks progressed. A good harvest stood in the fields, and the townspeople showed interest in the Adventist faith. However, the summer months were waning fast and

which Joe had traded the family cow. With only \$28 in hand and a yearning for Christian education in their hearts, they began their journey.

They eventually settled in Georgia, not far from Floral Crest School, a 10-grade church school on Sand Mountain in Alabama. This school would provide the perfect place for the children to learn. Even though money was tight, God provided for the Self children to attend the church school.

Joe risked everything he had on earth to put his children through church school, but the heavenly rewards were well worth the sacrifice. All of Joe and May’s six children were baptized. Some

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Joe Self’s Dedication to Christian Education

took care of them until their deaths.

By this time Joe and May had three children, and Joe determined they would have a Christian education. When the local church school closed due to financial issues, Joe resolved in his heart that his children would get the education they so richly deserved, even if he had to sacrifice everything he owned.

Armed with that determination, the Selfs moved to Argo, Alabama, Joe worked hard earning the funds for his children’s church school

the little Adventist group was running out of time to organize a church school in time for the fall.

Some argued that putting their children in the local county school for one year would give the families time to organize a church school for the next year. Joe would not compromise, however, and began planning another move. Time was running out quickly, so the Selfs left their house fully furnished and took only what could be lashed to a Model T for

of their children eventually settled in the Carolinas, and their grandson, Bob Self, works with the Carolina Conference as the Trust Services field representative, Community Services director, and a pastor at Asheville North Church.

—by Carin Bartlett

Based on the story “Joe’s Protracted Payday” by Joe and May Self’s daughter Sadie Lee Self Liles. Many thanks to the Selfs’ grandchildren Myrlene Murray and Bob Self for their help and contribution.

Bringing the Message to MOORE COUNTY, NC



Moore County is located in the geographic center of North Carolina, near Pittsboro. Although this county has a population of over 90,000 people, there was no Seventh-day Adventist presence in the form of a church or company. For many years four Adventist families have driven more than 45 minutes to attend church each Sabbath in Pittsboro because there are no other options. Eventually, the families decided to plant a church in their area that would help reach more people for Christ.

Over the last two years this core group of families has

been spending time studying each of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs. Each family has had the opportunity to practice leading out in Bible studies to help equip them as they begin their new church plant. Together they developed a list of core values that define the church plant's characteristics and created a mission statement. After their meticulous planning, the group was ready to plant their church.

On July 16, 2016, the Pittsboro members launched the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Sandhills. They were blessed with 84 people who attended in support of the new church group. In attendance were pastors from surrounding churches, a district court judge, a county commissioner and many other business leaders from the community. The launch was held at the Priest Hill Presbyterian Church, where the group plans to meet each week.

With five children ranging in age from three to 13, this is definitely a young and vibrant group. They are eager to spread the gospel message to those living in Moore County as they share with them the truth and hope of Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for them as they reach out into their community and spread His love.

—by Robert Nunnaley & Abby King

In 1968, Brent Yingling walked onto the Fletcher Academy campus. It is doubtful that anyone expected him to spend the next 43 years — his entire professional career — working for the institution. His name, Yingling, matched him. It means “young one,” but during his service to Fletcher, his name became associated with loyalty, honor, kindness, acceptance, humor, goodwill and dedication to God, family and young people.

Brent completed his masters in French, but he couldn't find a job as a French teacher in the Adventist school system. Divine intervention led Brent to bump into a friend who mentioned a job somewhere in North Carolina. After making a few phone calls, Brent discovered Fletcher Academy and contacted its principal, Professor Nestell. Brent soon became the

only Fletcher Academy employee Nestell ever hired, sight-unseen, over the phone.

He started as a French and English teacher, but Brent added many other roles during his service. He taught Spanish, played in the band and small orchestra groups, led educational trips to Quebec and Montreal, took students to Europe, served as a class sponsor, and more. In the 1980s, he served as principal and corporate president concurrently. But the aspect of education Brent loved the most was guiding his students to develop a God-centered worldview. He dedicated himself to this until his retirement in 2014. His life journey ended this summer in a bicycle accident near his beloved school.

Brent's path wasn't lined

with ease or wealth; instead, he accepted King Solomon's challenge from Proverbs 22:1: “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.” Brent lived his life this way. We long for the day when he will be reunited with his family and friends.

—by
Christy
Yingling
Gusse



The Personification of DEDICATION



Photos contributed

Mount Pisgah Academy is an institution that truly changes lives, but not without your help!

Students from across the Carolinas, the United States, and even the world, dream of attending Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA).

Unfortunately, many are unable to afford private education, which is why Touch a Life was started. MPA's Touch a Life scholarship fund relies on monthly pledges from donors to provide scholarship money for students at MPA.

Janet is one of the students who has been receiving scholarships through Touch a Life which have enabled her to attend MPA. Janet was part of a large magnet school in Charlotte. Attending such a large school meant that she did not feel like anyone knew her. After many hours of prayer, her parents decided to apply for scholarship money and to send Janet to MPA. When she arrived on campus, staff members acknowledged her by name! Janet said that they not only knew her name but they really

seemed to care about her. Her teachers were, of course, interested in her scholastic life but they were also very passionate about her spiritual life. Through the donations of people who faithfully support Touch a Life and a lot of hard work on her part, Janet will be graduating this coming May from MPA as part of the class of 2017.

Bruno is also part of the class of 2017 and has been aided by Touch a Life during his time at MPA. Bruno came to MPA from the country of Brazil. His previous experiences at other schools had been stressful. He had had issues with bullying and harassment from fellow classmates, which left deep scars. "I feel very blessed to attend Mount Pisgah Academy," says Bruno. He speaks very highly of Beth Anderson, MPA's certified student counselor. She has prayed with him and helped him understand that God has a purpose for his life. Bruno admits that he is still working on his relationship with God, but he really wants it to continue to grow. Bruno works at Pisgah Manor and is a Certified Nursing Assistant. This job has helped pay his tuition, but the scholarship money from Touch a Life is still necessary for him to continue his education at MPA.

Elder Leslie Louis and his wife, Carole, are very passionate about Seventh-day Adventist education and believe if we all give a little, we can make a major impact in the lives of our young people. They have committed to donating a monthly sum to touch a life such as Janet's or Bruno's.

Please prayerfully consider donating a monthly sum to Touch a Life. The program is simple. You can authorize an automatic draft from your checking account or credit card and even designate a specific date each month for your donation. Whether it is \$10, \$25, or \$50, it will make an amazing difference in an MPA student's life!

—by Lucy Hall & Abby King

**TOUCH
A LIFE AT
MPA** 

It Started With ONLY \$20

The Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) students are regularly blessed with visits from our Carolina Conference President, Leslie Louis. While there, he typically presents worship in the auditorium for the student body. In the fall of 2015, Elder Louis did something truly remarkable. After finishing his presentation, he challenged the senior class of 2016 to help others. He then handed each of the seniors a \$20 bill, simply asking them to spend it on something for someone else.

As a member of the class of 2016, I received a \$20 bill, but rather than quickly deciding what to spend it on, I hung on to it for a while. I came up with several ideas but none of them stuck ... until my National Honor Society (NHS) director, Mrs. Brannan, asked each of the NHS members to donate to ADRA. I knew was

this was where God wanted me to put my \$20.

But I felt God impressing me to give more — perhaps \$100. I felt, however, that I just could not give away that much money from my savings. So instead of listening to God, I made a deal with myself. I decided that, along with my \$20 from Elder Louis, I would give whatever money I had left over from my budget that month. Little did I know, God had a greater plan.

That evening, as I began to calculate how much money was left over from my different budget categories, I saw the number quickly increasing. I hadn't spent anything on clothing that month, and I hadn't bought a lot of food, so I watched the number grow larger. When I punched the final button on my calculator and added in the \$20, it read \$99.15, I knew that my original impression had

definitely been from God. The next day I took Mrs. Brannan \$100 in cash for our ADRA project.

Even when we are given very little, God can do great things. He can cause it to increase more than we ever thought possible. Without the money Elder Louis had given me, I may have decided to just give the \$5 minimum to ADRA. Because of that simple \$20 bill, I have developed a giving spirit that will last a lifetime. Now, I give monthly to a cause I am passionate about: Touch a Life at MPA.

Thank you, President Leslie Louis, for starting this incredible giving initiative in my life and in the lives of the students at Mount Pisgah Academy!

—by Abby King, alumnus '16

Give to **TAL@MPA** www.pisgah.us

Algebra II ... FUN?

Algebra II has always been notorious for being one of the hardest subjects at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA), but this past year, the class has finally become less daunting.

During the school year of 2014-15, Ed Pelto began using MathXL as part of his Geometry class. MathXL is a powerful online homework, assessment and

tutorial program that students can access on an iPad or a computer. After seeing its success, John Ratzlaff decided to give MathXL a try in his Algebra II class.

"It appears that they are learning [and understanding] because their scores in general are better [than those in past years]," explains Ratzlaff.

The program calculates students' grades immediately, giving them instant encouragement.

Many were more eager and willing to give Algebra II a try after hearing about the new system.

"With MathXL I was able to get all the help I needed without spending every hour of the day emailing Mr. Ratzlaff for help on my assignments," says Samantha Schmidt, a senior.

MPA is continually striving to find new ways to help students learn and grow!

—by Abby King, alumnus '16



Tithe FAQs

Taking Some of the Guessing Out of Giving

Since the church manual states that tithing isn't a test of fellowship, is it really that big of a deal?

Tithing is not membership dues. It is a matter of the heart, a relationship matter. If God asks you to do something, is that important?

What if I don't make enough to return tithe and pay my bills?

The Treasure Principle, p. 66, says, "If we pay our debt (returning tithe) to God first, then we will incur His blessings to help us pay our debts to men. But when we rob God to pay men we rob ourselves of God's blessing."

Is it OK if I give my tithe to my favorite Adventist TV ministry? I like to know where my money is going.

As tithe payers, we are not focusing only on the local church, we are focusing on the worldwide church. If we give selectively, we hurt the church

structure. Tithe is God's way of providing resources for the needs of the church: "Bring the tithes into the storehouse," Malachi 3:10. By this, the storehouse is established. The key is finding where the storehouse is located. The local conference has been designated as the storehouse for all our local churches. We must share with members how the storehouse manages the tithe.

When have I given enough?

This question could imply that a person is not a joyful giver. But we have every reason to be joyful in our giving. In *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 4, p. 119, Ellen White says, "I speak of the tithing system, yet how meager it looks to my mind! How small the estimate! How vain the endeavor to measure with mathematical rules, time, money, and love against a love and sacrifice that is measureless and incomputable! Tithes for Christ! Oh, meager pittance, shameful recompense for that which cost so much!" How can we not happily give when He has given so much? What if He asked, "When have I given enough?"

One way to look at giving is systematic benevolence. The Bible clearly states the percentage for tithe, so we don't have to guess. As for offering, make a prayerful commitment that is between you and the Lord and abide by it, giving more if you feel impressed.

Do I need to return tithe every time I am paid, or can I invest it and have even more to give?

There are risks in the investments we have available to us in this world. Investing in God is a sure thing! Stocks and bonds can lose value, but invest-

ments in heaven are blessed and multiplied. In Deuteronomy, we see an example of the Israelites bringing their "firstfruits" to the priests and Levites: "...and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me," Deuteronomy 26:10. This implies that regularity, consistency and timeliness are important when it comes to tithes and offerings. After all, God wants to be first in our hearts and minds!

What if someone in need asks me for money to help them with expenses? Can I give them my tithe money? God says, "If you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me," (see Matthew 25:40). So isn't it the same as returning my tithe to God?

The tithe belongs to God and must be used for His specific purposes. Choosing to help others with expenses is a matter of your conscience and God's leading.

If the total tithe of my church is high enough, shouldn't that earn us our own pastor, rather than sharing one with another church?

A pastor of a small church receives the same salary as a pastor of a big church. Salary is paid from the storehouse — the local conference. So once the tithe from your church goes into the storehouse, it joins other tithe monies to fund pastors and ministries in our conference and around the world. We all share the responsibility to make sure that God's work is provided for. A portion of tithe is used to fund educational ministry, camp programs, and so on. (See the Conference website for a breakdown of tithe percentages.) All churches and members benefit. This is true not only for the local church, but also for the world church.

—the Generous Living Team of the Carolina Conference



GENEROUSLIVING

ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

To learn more about
Generous Living, scan
this code or go to [www.
carolinasa.org](http://www.carolinasa.org).





En el **CAMPAMENTO HISPANO**

“Faithful to His command, let us go two by two, brother with brother, disciple and tutor ...” These are the words of the hymn that Pastor Homero Salazar wrote for his series, Discipleship, which prepares our members to work for Jesus. Attendees at the two Hispanic Camp Meetings — one in May and one in September — were inspired by his presentations. They felt encouraged put their hearts and souls into preparing more candidates for heaven.

There were more than 500 people

at each of the events. During the evening different churches presented dramas depicting our church pioneers. Many of our members don’t know anything about the history of our church and were delighted to learn. Some even asked for the scripts so they could present them at their local churches.

On September 10, the Sabbath ended with a baptism from the Hickory Spanish Church.

—by *Mary Romero*



Photos by Becky Carpenter and Mary Romero



IT'S OFFICIAL! for Karen Chapel Hill Church

The Karen Chapel Hill Church members have been eagerly waiting for and working towards official church status. On April 23, 2016, that dream was finally fulfilled. Currently, they are worshipping in the Durham Five Oaks church in the afternoon. This group of nearly 200 individuals actively involves everyone in their church services, no matter their age. Each week the service is led by both adults and young adults.

The members are also active in their community, which includes the county judicial system. When a refugee from Myanmar who is not part of the church

community has a run-in with the law, the judge sends that person to Pastor Jimmy Shwe. This has given the members a tremendous opportunity to be a light in their community.

Gary Moyer, VP for administration for the Carolina Conference, commended the members for serving their community. He challenged them to keep the pace and finish the race as they are already actively carrying out the "Great Commission." Can you imagine what it would be like if all of our churches across the Carolinas were growing at this same speed?

—by Courtney Herod



Photos by Courtney Herod

Join the MAGABOOK MINISTRY Today!

Magabook ministry is a literature evangelism program in which colorful, beautifully designed, magazine-style books (magabooks) are sold. This program, sponsored and managed by the Carolina Conference, provides opportunities for young people to be involved in ministry while working their way through school. Since the Magabook ministry was launched over 15 years ago in the Southern

Union, hundreds of young people from across the North American Division have distributed millions of pieces of truth-filled literature and earned needed funds for their Christian education. The Conference has year-round programs to involve as many young people as possible, and to reach many souls who are in need of a Savior. The program is open to committed young people 16 years of age and older.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Winter

Dec. 20, 2016 - Jan. 8, 2017
South Carolina (City TBD)

Spring

March 2-11, 2017
Asheville, North Carolina

Summer

May 21 - August 3, 2017
Charlotte, North Carolina



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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20/20 VISION

...continued from page 5

Our first visionary goal is to pray for and commit to raising at least 60 new church plants in the Carolina Conference, with 20 new plants in South Carolina and 40 new plants in North Carolina.

With all of the guidelines and supporting structure we have already developed with our church planting ministry, we also hope to make 90 progressional steps toward establishing new groups, transitioning groups to organized companies and eventually transitioning organized companies to established churches.

At our last constituency session in 2011, we voted to establish 30-50

new church plants by the next session. On December 17, 2015, we approved our 30th new church plant.

Never in the history of the Carolina Conference have we so quickly expanded the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to encompass more communities with the message and mission of God's end-time church. We had a goal of 50 progressional steps during the previous quinquennium, and we were able to reach 51.

Since our previous session we gained a total of five groups, six companies and 35 churches in South Carolina, and 34 groups, 19 companies and 90 churches were organized in North Carolina.

In 1909, Ellen White received a vision in the night with what she

referred to as an impressive scene. In that vision, one with authority pointed her to a map picturing God's vineyard which needed to be cultivated and nurtured. She references this vision in *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, pp. 28-29: "As light from heaven shone upon anyone, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were to be kindled in many places, and from these lights still other lights were to be kindled. ... I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world."

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

CAROLINA OBITUARIES

ERKSINE, Flora, 88, born in 1928 in Battle Creek, MI, died Jan. 7, 2016, in Hendersonville, NC. She was a member of the Arden church. She is survived by her son, James David Erksine, Jr. (Cathy), of Weaverville; daughter, Pamela Erksine Livingston (Raymond) of Hendersonville; three grandchildren, Kris Erksine, Tony Livingston and Holly Livingston Clark; four great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

LAPORTE, Taina, 23, born Dec. 18, 1992, in Greenwood, SC, died Feb. 12, 2016. She was a member of the Lexington Church. She was active in Pathfinders and in her church athletic program while attending the Columbia First Church. In high school she earned numerous awards in track and field: best offensive player, three-time state champion in high jump, MVP in field events, and many more. She was recruited by Ole Miss in 2011 and earned many honors in the sport of volleyball. Tania is survived by her mother, Maria LaPorte; her father, Jean LaPorte; a sister, Roberta; a brother, Richard, and a host of relatives and friends.

MACENTEE, Warren Theis, 93, born Sept. 27, 1921, died June 13, 2015, in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Arden Church. Surviving is his wife, Ruth.

MARQUIS, Joyce Howell, 92, born Oct. 15, 1923, in Greenwood, MI, died Jan. 17, 2016, in Fletcher, NC. She was a member of the Fletcher church for nearly 70 years. Joyce was a RN and graduated from Mountain Sanitarium School of Nursing in 1946. She worked at Washington State Sanitarium, taught at Mountain Sanitarium School of Nursing and acted as supervisor at Fletcher Hospital. She is survived by two daughters;

Judy Cobb (Mike) of Fletcher, NC, Sue (Brent) Yingling of Fletcher, NC; six grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

MURRAY, Carolyn Jane, 68, born in 1947 in Brooklyn, NY, died Feb. 28, 2015, in Arden, NC. She served as a ward clerk at the VA Medical Center and was a veteran of the US Army.

SHERMAN, Gary Lynn, 74, born Dec. 14, 1942, in Washington, DC, died Feb. 10, 2016. He was a member of the Columbia First church. He served as a police detective in Takoma Park, MD, and later was the general manager of the church's radio station, WBAJ 890-AM, in Columbia, SC. Gary leaves a brother, Neil Sherman, nieces and a nephew.

WETMORE, Jeanette Marie, 39, born June 27, 1976, in Hinsdale, IL, died Nov. 16, 2015, in Lincoln. She was a member of the Arden church. Jeanette was a public services librarian and assistant professor at Union College. She is survived by her parents, Calvin and Carol Ann Wetmore; a brother, Jeremy Wetmore (Marta); grandfather, Kenneth Wetmore; and two nieces.

YOUNG, Georgia Wingate, 88, born Sept. 17, 1927, died March 29, 2016, in Hopkins, SC. She was a member of the Lexington, SC, church. She was the widow of Col. John H. Young, Jr. For many years she belonged to a singing group called the Melodyaires. She was also a crusader for Christian education and healthy living. She is survived by a sister, Beverly Howard, of Lexington, SC; two sons, John H. Young (Mary), of Andrews, SC, and G. Charles Young (MyLinda) of Lexington, SC; a daughter, Jane Metts (John Michael) of Houston, TX; three grandchildren and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Carolina Conference Calendar

NOVEMBER

Carolina Pastoral Spouses' Retreat: 4-6. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

DECEMBER

LE Year-End Convention: 29-Jan. 1, 2017. Pigeon Forge, TN.

JANUARY

Pathfinder Council: 6-7. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Volunteer Lay Pastor Promotion Day: 14 & 28. TBD.

Evangelism Impact: 19-22. Myrtle Beach. Registration/information: www.carolinasda.org.

FEBRUARY

Volunteer Lay Pastor Promotion Day: 4. TBD.

Adult Sabbath School Workshop: 11. Monroe, NC.

English Romance at the Ranch: 10-12. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Hispanic Romance at the Ranch: 17-19. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

MARCH

Korean Elders' Retreat: 3-5. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

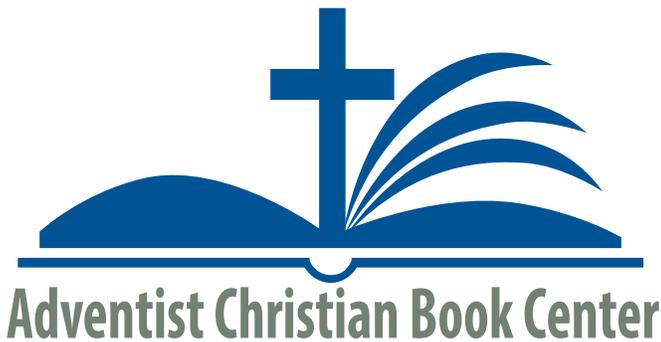
Alive Youth Rally: 10-12. Spartanburg, SC.

Elders' Retreat/Certification: 24-26. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

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

The Carolina Action

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