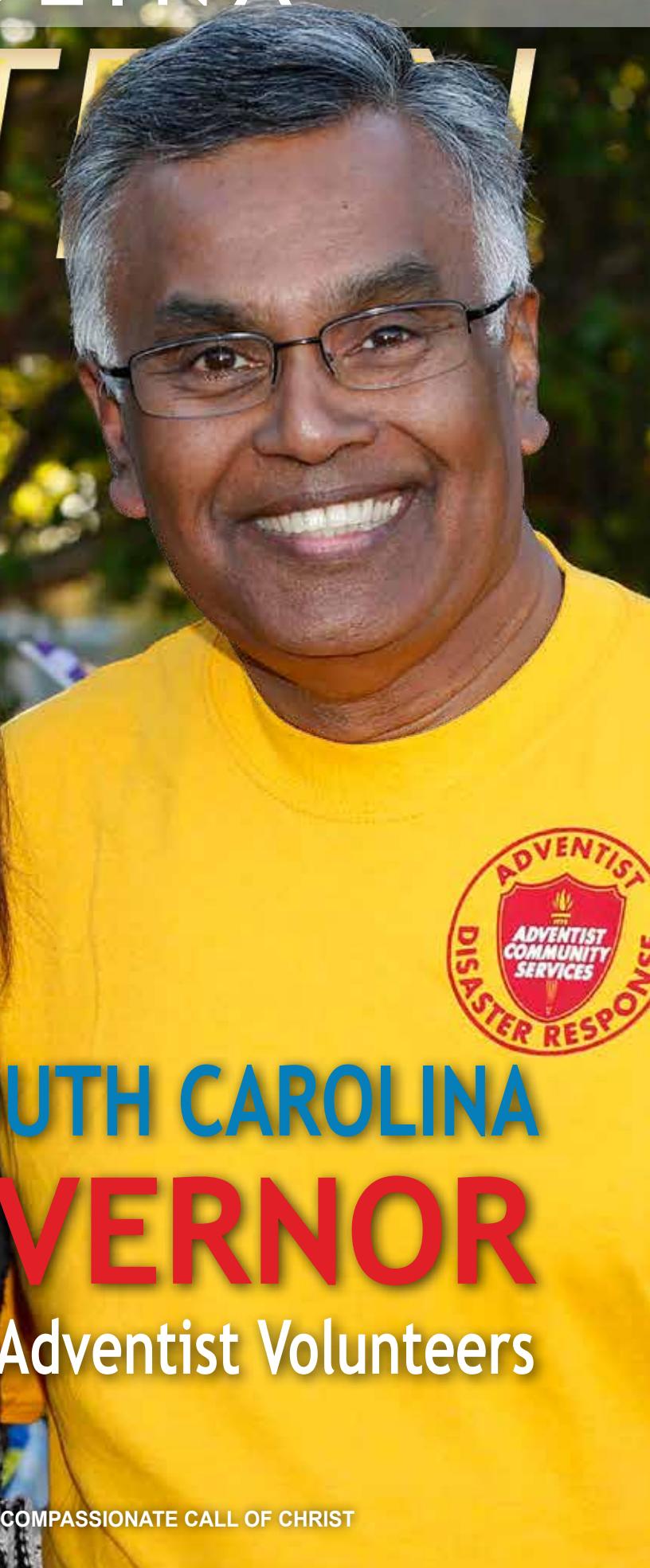


CAROLINA ACTION



SOUTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR
thanks Adventist Volunteers



EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST



From the President's Pen

Thankful Thoughts in the New Year

By God's grace we have entered another brand new year. The year 2016 is one more step closer to heaven and home! Hallelujah!

Happy New Year everyone! I wish each of you and your homes God's overflowing blessings of peace, joy, hope and love.

The past few years have swiftly flown past us. As Carole and I enter our fifth year in the Carolinas, we realize what a sacred honor and privilege has been extended to us to serve each of you in our Carolina church family.

In the same way that I have focused on seven Presidential Prayer Petitions each month, I would like to praise God for at least seven blessings we have realized through Christ alone during our ministry here.

The Carolina Team

I praise God for an amazing team here at the Carolina Conference office. Their tireless commitment and care for God's church in the Carolinas and for each other is truly a joy to my heart. As part of an officer team of four, Gary Moyer, Rick Russell, Chad Grundy and I truly enjoy working together not only as colleagues, but also as good friends. The talents and spiritual gifts which God has enabled these gentlemen, along with all of our departmental directors, associate directors, assistants and secretaries is a glowing testimony to God's presence at the headquarters of His work in the Carolinas.

Carolina Mission

I am grateful for our mission statement that clearly articulates the importance of our calling as Seventh-day Adventists.

Through the efforts of our administrative team and the executive committee, I am also grateful for the mission tag line that we developed during this quinquennium. "Embracing Carolina with the Compassionate Call of Christ." Having this posted on all our correspondence and simply being able to say it with ease reinforces the commission we have been entrusted with as a church by our Savior.

Carolina Church Planting & Growth

Efforts have been made to assist and encourage churches that are in decline and to affirm and support churches on a path of vibrant growth. With the dedicated efforts of Brad Cauley, our church planting director, and our church planting committee, we have been able to accomplish record growth, realizing 50 steps toward the establishment of new groups, companies and churches. At the end of 2010 we had 139 churches and companies; at the end of 2015, we had 150. When we announced this at our executive committee, we joined in singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Carolina ShareHim Ministry

I thank the Lord for blessing us with a zeal for soul-winning. Jesus underscored that in Luke 19:10 when he indicated that the "Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost." Ellen White's counsel remains a strong reminder to us as to the mission of the church: "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency." *Acts of the Apostles*, page 9. I thank God that we have fully embraced the ministry of ShareHim. Teams continue to go from Mt. Pisgah Academy and the

churches of the Carolina Conference every year in an overseas effort, but then come back with a renewed conviction for the Advent movement and a passion to reach their local communities for Christ.

Carolina Evangelism

Evangelism and discipleship must continue to remain our passion and the only reason we exist as a church. I thank God for the partnerships we have created with It is Written and Amazing Facts to produce major efforts to proclaim God's End-Time Message. Our baptisms continue to increase each year. Our prayer is that through the Holy Spirit's leading we will rejoice in seeing an unprecedented record of 1000 souls embrace the remnant church in Carolina every year till Jesus comes. My heart is grateful for the work of Haskell Williams with Glen Altermatt, who recently joined our conference team as the associate ministerial director and coordinator for evangelism. Their combined vision for blitzing Carolina with the power of the gospel truly thrills my heart.

Carolina Education

I praise God for the way He has blessed the ministry of Seventh-day Adventist education at both Mt. Pisgah Academy and Fletcher Academy. Both of these academies are touching hearts for Heaven, and I praise God that He has blessed both with strong enrollments. Because Mt. Pisgah Academy is owned and operated by the Carolina Conference, I have the opportunity of being there more frequently. I have loved every opportunity of mingling with students, attending their classes, conversing and sharing devotional messages with them. I am so grateful for the recent efforts to foster a collaborative climate between the administrations and the student bodies of both Fletcher and Pisgah. Thank God for those who foster a spirit of

...continued on page 7.

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR

Thanks Adventist Volunteers

In early October of 2015, many areas in central South Carolina suffered devastating historic flooding.

The Carolina Conference Adventist Disaster Response (ADR) department swung into action. They established a warehouse in Lugoff, S.C., to begin stockpiling donations from organizations across the Carolinas. The state governor's office coordinated supplies and equipment for the warehouse, and worked with FEMA and other organizations to acquire the goods needed. They then channel the donations to the ADR warehouse, where our volunteers sort and organize the items. From there, organizations who are vetted by the

state, such as the Red Cross and area churches, come to the warehouse for items to distribute. Several volunteers from the GA-Cumberland Conference were asked to join with the Carolina team to facilitate the swift set up of this operation.

"At first it's all about immediate needs—blankets, water, diapers, cleaning supplies and things like that," said Phil Rosburg, director of disaster response for the Carolina

Conference. "After a few weeks we'll start seeing construction materials come through for the rebuilding process. As the needs change, we'll be here to help."

A shipment of 630 flood buckets was received from the Allegheny East Conference, and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley asked the staff of the ADR warehouse to come with



Photo: Becky Carpenter

her as she visited the affected counties and to hand out the buckets to the victims. On October 20, she met with volunteers and organizers of the relief effort, including members of the ADR team and two members of the Carolina Conference administrative team, President Leslie Louis and Undertreasurer Chad Grundy. Haley expressed her appreciation for the hard work they had already

done, and what they were committed to doing in the future.

The warehouse was shut down for that afternoon, leaving Terry Haight behind to answer phones, unload any delivery trucks, etc. A regional director from the office of US Senator Tim Scott saw the ACS banner and stopped by to see what was happening. After a golf cart tour of the 85,000 sq/ft building, the two of them discussed ADR for over a half hour—what they do, how they do it and what Adventists believe. The director shared that he had visited many of the other volunteer operations in the state, but none were anywhere near as organized as the Adventists. He declared that he was going to recommend that the senator come and inspect this operation himself, to see how donated goods should be handled.

This was certainly a wonderful day for ACS Disaster Response and the Seventh-day Adventist Church! They represented our Savior in the best possible way.

"Whatever you do unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40

— By Courtney Herod and Adventist Disaster Response



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Photos by Adam Littell

iMPAct YOUTH RALLY

• MPAct 2015 was a weekend that inspired and challenged those in attendance on the Mount Pisgah Academy campus. Over 300 guests, students and faculty spent a beautiful weekend under the red and white tent listening to Jonathan Leonardo preach the gospel. Jonathan Leonardo is currently a doctoral student at Andrews University Theological Seminar in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

The weekend started with a Friday sundown vespers where Southern Adventist University Engage Ministries led everyone in worship. Their music opened the hearts of all and prepared the attendees for the message. After a thought-provoking presentation, the students enjoyed doughnuts and milk under the stars. They spent some time enjoying the fellowship of friends, and also making new friends.

On Sabbath morning Pastor Jo Ottlinger led out in Sabbath School and

MPA's Present Truth Drama presented a sketch that challenged the students to be willing to share their faith with whom they come in contact. After an afternoon of fellowship and music, Leonardo closed the Sabbath with another message.

The weekend ended with a fun fall festival in the MPA gymnasium where an assortment of food and games made for an entertaining night. Luke Kendall said, "The speaker, Pastor Jonathan, was really good. He told stories all could relate to and then those same stories challenged us. They weren't just stories without a point. It was awesome!"

In addition to students and sponsors from all over the Carolina Conference, Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth director, and Stanley Knight, youth director for the Carolina Conference, were in attendance.

—By Beth Grissom





MPA TESTIMONY: A LIFE CHANGED

If you meet Kaitlyn you will instantly know she is someone special. She has a smile that lights up a room, wit that keeps you on your toes and an infectious joy for life that will leave you envious. She is a dedicated worker who never shies away from difficult tasks. She has preached ShareHim on mission trips and helped build churches. Most of all she loves the Lord and is willing to share with those around her. The more you get to know her the more you like her. And the more you understand about her, the more you realize a life with Jesus is always a changed life!

Kaitlyn was taken out of her mother's care when she was just four years old. She went to live with her father. She loved living with him and was devastated when she was once again taken out of her home when her father was sent to prison. She then moved from Kansas to North Carolina where she began living with her grandparents.

Just days after moving in with her grandparents, they told her she was headed to Nosoca Pines Ranch for summer camp. She was not excited at all. She didn't know anyone there and she was still getting used to her new surroundings; however, off to Nosoca she went.

It was such an impactful week for

her that on the ride home she asked her grandmother to please let her go back again for another week. Kaitlyn said, "That is really the first time I met Jesus." The Friday night program was so powerful for her she wrote on a response card that she wanted to know more about Jesus. The card was sent to her pastor, Bob Cundiff, who started studying with Kaitlyn. She was later baptized.

The next two summers she returned to Nosoca where she continued to develop her relationship with Christ. It was there that she began hearing about Mount Pisgah Academy. She met a recruitment team member who encouraged her to consider attending MPA, but she didn't have much interest. The next summer, however, she was chosen to receive a \$1000 scholarship to MPA. After returning home and talking with her grandmother, she decided go.

If you tell Kaitlyn you are so sorry to hear about her difficult beginnings, Kaitlyn will reply that she is only thankful, because it all led her to this place. It led her to Nosoca, to her pastor, and then to Mount Pisgah Academy. Most of all, she is so thankful to now have a relationship with Jesus Christ.



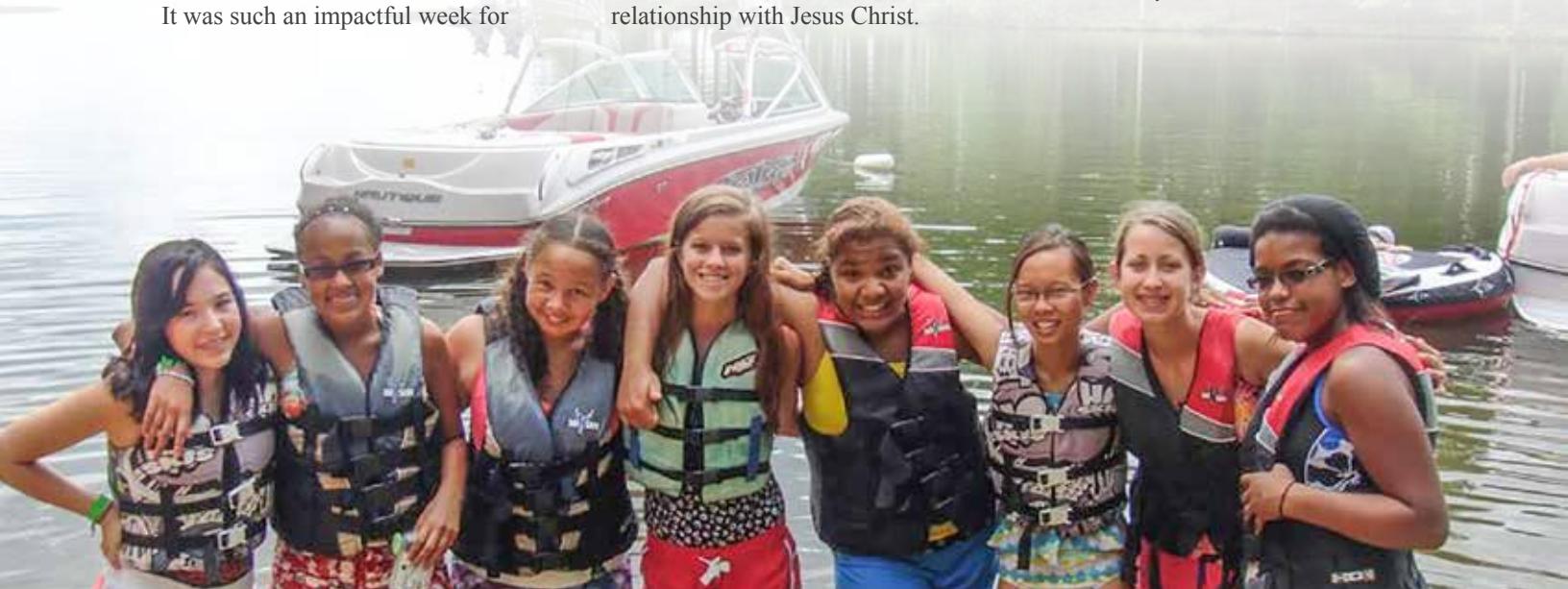
Photos contributed

Kaitlyn Savery
Social Vice
Junior

Hers is an amazing story because it shows the transformative power of Jesus Christ and how he uses our summer camp, our pastors, and our academy to reach His children.

Will you consider making it possible for many more Kaitlyns, or Joes, or Davids, to attend our summer camp and our academy? You can touch a life. You can make a difference. And pray for Kaitlyn and the many other students who still struggle with challenges many of us have never had to face.

—By Beth Grissom, Marketing and Recruitment director, Mount Pisgah Academy



From the President's Pen

...continued from page 2.

brotherhood and oneness in mission. We must never view ourselves as rival schools but as brothers and sisters who pray for Heaven's blessing on all our educational initiatives.

On the elementary and junior academy front, I thank God for the 50 teachers that represent Jesus and His church every day to the children of their communities. What a joy it has been to visit our church schools and share Christ's love in 5 Weeks of Prayer at these schools. Under the dedicated leadership of Gary Rouse and Tim Kripps, we have seen some wonderful moments to celebrate God's goodness. He surely inspired our five Triad churches in North Carolina to build a brand new state-of-the-art school at Tri City Christian Academy and their innovative online academic affiliation with Mount Pisgah Academy.

Carolina Membership

In 2010 our total membership was 20,315. As I write this, our membership has increased in the last five years to 22,284. This takes into consideration those who have transferred in or out, deaths and dropped memberships. That's an increase of almost 2,000 members. Praise the Lord! "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

These SEVEN GRATITUDES barely scratch the surface when I consider the amazing strides we have made with CARS (Carolina Adventist Retirement Systems) and NPPR (Nosoca Pines Ranch) and HHES (Home, Health, Education Services) in the expanded ministry of our publishing work. Praise God for Pathfinders, Adventurers and Children's' Ministries and the host of gifted volunteers that long for Christ's soon return. Every departmental ministry in Carolina is doing a remarkable work for God's kingdom.

A thousand thank yous to one and all as we march together toward Zion! Let's be united with the conviction and commitment of our Adventist Heritage:

"I have fixed my mind upon another time, and here I mean to stand until God gives me more light, -- and that is today. TODAY, and TODAY, until He comes, and I see Him for whom my soul yearns."—William Miller, *The Midnight Cry*, December 5, 1844.

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President



The poster features a black and white checkered background. In the top right corner is a yellow circle with the words "The 50's" in pink. Below it is a large pink arrow-shaped banner with the text "ROMANCE AT THE RANCH" in white. To the right of the arrow is a pink ribbon-like shape containing the text "A WEEKEND COUPLE'S RETREAT". Below that, it says "February 12-14—English · February 26-28—Spanish" and "Nosoca Pines Ranch". On the left side, there is a schedule for the weekend:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| FRIDAY | 1:30 Free time |
| 4:00-6:00 | 3:45 Meeting |
| Registration | 7:00 Banquet/ |
| 6:00 Supper | Pictures |
| 7:00 Meeting | 8:00 Social |
| SABBATH | SUNDAY |
| 8:30 Breakfast | 8:30 Breakfast |
| 9:30 Meeting | 9:30 Meeting |
| 11:00-12:15 Meeting | 11:00 Head Home! |
| 1:00 Lunch | |

On the right side, there are three price points: CABIN: \$211, COTTAGE: \$247, and LODGE: \$260. Below these is a photo of a man and a woman smiling, with the caption "Featuring: Ruber and Ketty Leal". A text box next to the photo states: "RUBER AND KETTY LEAL are the Family Ministries co-directors for the Texas Conference, and founders of ForeverOne® Ministries. Within the last five years, over 700 families in Texas and across the U.S. have been revitalized through their marriage and parenting curriculum. The Leals write articles for several magazines, books and videos on family matters."

REGISTER AT WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

Have a great story?

If you have a special program in your church that you would like to see highlighted in the Carolina Conference publications, please contact us!
704-596-3200 or miglesias@carolinanasda.org.



Church Planting: 2ND ANNUAL TRAINING SEMINAR

On Sunday, September 13, Brad Cauley, church planting and health ministries director, hosted the Second Annual Lay Leader and Pastor-Coach Training. The event was well-attended and supported by the Conference administration and constituent church members.

Part of the great commission in Matthew 28 is to go into all the nations making disciples and baptizing them. This incorporates the core elements in church planning. The only way that that can happen effectively is the support given to the church plant. This is where the "Pastor-Coach" is vital.

The role of a pastor-coach is not to necessarily run the show, but to come along side and assist/support the lay leaders who have felt the call of Christ to serve the Lord. Ellen White counsels, "They should be taught that unless they can stand alone, without a minister, they need to be converted anew, and baptized anew. They need to be born again.

"Instead of keeping the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, let the members of the churches say to these laborers: 'Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves will carry forward the services of the church. We will keep up the meetings, and, by abiding in Christ, will maintain spiritual life. We will work for souls that are about us, and we will send our prayers and our gifts to sustain the laborers in more needy and destitute fields.'" Evangelism, p. 381-382.

In addition to the training Elder Gary Moyer, vice-president for administration, delivered his motivational Zig Ziglar presentation "Building the Best You."

The responses from attendees of the training were very favorable. "What a wonderful time of fellowship and learning! It was truly a blessing for East Wake Fellowship. Our thanks to Elders Allred and Moyer for their inspiring

words of encouragement," said Barry St. Clair.

If you feel the call of Christ to serve the Lord through assisting in church planting, please contact Brad Cauley, the church planting director, at the conference office to see how you can get involved.



Photos: Becky Carpenter

This kind of thing just DOESN'T HAPPEN...



On Sabbath, November 7, 2015, The Three Angles Batesboro-Leesville group was officially organized into a company. Part of the celebration was an encouraging and admonishing message from Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference vice-president for administration.

As the service was closing Mark Bredholt, PhD., the minister of the Mt. Hebron Lutheran Church where the Adventists are renting, asked to be a part of the celebration. Bredholt told of a church member who had left a good deal of money to their congregation and how their church board voted that a certain percentage of the interest would go to help ministries outside their doors. With

that, Bredholt handed a check for \$2000 to this new company for their building fund. He reassured the company that they were by no means ready for them to leave. Bredholt also shared that when he had told their bishop about the Adventist group wanting to rent their church, that the bishop had cried, saying that in a society where churches seem to be closing doors, he was so happy to see a group planting a church.

Experiences like this rarely happen. How refreshing is it to have such wonderful support. Never underestimate the miracles of God.

—By Courtney Herod

Words to Think About . . .

"At large gatherings like St. Louis Fair, I was given instruction that as we approach the end, there will be large gatherings in our cities, as there has recently been in St. Louis [St. Louis World Fair], and that preparations must be made to present the truth at these gatherings. When Christ was upon this earth, He took advantage of such opportunities. Wherever a large number of people was gathered for any purpose, His voice was heard, clear and distinct, giving His message. And as a result, after His crucifixion and ascension, thousands were converted in a day. The seed sown by Christ sank deep into hearts, and germinated, and when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, the harvest was gathered in.

"At every large gathering some of our ministers [that's everyone] should be in attendance. They should work wisely to obtain a hearing and to get the light of the truth before as many as possible..."

"We should improve every such opportunity as that presented by the St. Louis Fair. At all such gatherings there should be present men whom God can use. Leaflets containing the light of present truth should be scattered among the people like the leaves of autumn. To many who attend these gatherings these leaflets would be as the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations.

"The time has come when, as never before, Seventh-day Adventists are to arise and shine, because their light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon them.

"We are now planting seeds. Some are germinating currently and some will start soon upon the Holy Spirit's prompting. Shortly, the harvest will be gathered in."

(*Evangelism*, pg. 36)

Share AT THE FAIR



Photos contributed

Adventists were well-represented for the second year in a row at the 2015 NC Mountain State Fair. Thousands came by the booth sponsored by several Western North Carolina Adventist churches and generous church members who shared time and funding.

On hand were King James Bibles, over 1000 *Great Controversies*, 500 *Great Hopes*, over 500 *Steps to Christ*, thousands of GLOW tracts, hundreds of *Hidden Truth* and *The Rest of Your Life* magazines, *Noah*,



Exodus, and *The Ten Commandments Twice Removed* books, ten commandments posters, Amazing Facts DVDs, bookmarks listing area churches, pens, pencils, and frisbees advertising Adventist.org, *Guide*, *Primary Treasure*, and *Little Friend* magazines, countless tracts about prophecy and health, about 1000 twisty balloon creations (to give to the kids). All of these items were part of the FREE materials given away during the 10 days of the fair.

Door-to-door evangelism is a great way to witness, but a fair booth brings people to us! (Consider the inspired counsel from Ellen White found in the sidebar, left.) They had folks almost non-stop visit their booth taking the free materials, asking questions and requesting prayer. In addition, many filled out response cards

requesting information about Bible studies, smoking cessation and health programs, prophecy seminars and children's programming. Last year they had 79 people fill out specific response cards. This year they received 219 response cards!

The booth backdrop is Nathan Green's Blessed Hope, an eye-catching witnessing tool. People often paused to admire it—some even wanted their picture taken with it. One visitor said, "That's just the way I always pictured it!" Another man shared that he had seen the very same scene in a dream. The picture provided the opportunity to talk about Jesus – what a beautiful thing!

A young Hispanic man did a double-take as a volunteer offered him a Spanish version of *The Great Controversy*. He was thrilled and said, "My father is in Mexico and told me to find this book ... I didn't know where to get it, and here it is!"

One couple approached the booth and said, "Do you know Doug Bachelor? We watch him on the internet and really like him." Volunteers were happy to share Amazing Facts materials with them.

Church members also made friends with other vendors. A gentleman working in the booth next to theirs was a Baptist preacher. He was glad to see the Adventist booth again so he could get more books. He had taken one of everything they had last year and used them for all of his sermons throughout the year. He was ready for more! At the end of one evening, he mentioned he already had three new sermons prepared from material he had received from us that day. Friends, he is preaching Seventh-day Adventist messages to his entire congregation! The Holy Spirit is working on hearts.

We do not know how much time we have to publically befriend our neighbors with the love of Jesus and the gospel truth. If you do not currently have a presence at the fair in your area, prayerfully consider starting this effective outreach.

—By Stella Bradley & Linda Duncan

WINTER SPECIALS

at your ACBC

January

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THE “What If” of WITNESSING

need of such a commodity. All of this talk about cemetery lots kept Jack’s head whirling with thoughts about religion and death and what happened when a person died. He had many unanswered questions. Most of those questions began in his early childhood with his mother threatening him with the everlasting lake of fire. Jack was certain that the entrance to the lake was just outside the window of his childhood home in the mine-scarred West Virginia mountains.

Jack talked with co-workers about his questions and even attended church with some of them. Jack’s boss talked him into attending his church. When Jack asked about doctrine, his boss told him his church did not question a man about what he believed—all Jack needed to do was ask to join and be baptized. Jack did join, but his questions remained unanswered. He did not feel changed. He wanted a religion strong enough to make him over.

He continued to attend church each Sunday, but as he knelt for prayer one week, he heard whispering. Two businessmen sitting next to him were discussing a property sale. Jack was angry that prayer time was being used to discuss business and never returned to that church.

One spring day Jack was going from house to house talking to everyone he could about cemetery lots. Jack looked through the window of a house and saw an invalid child propped up by pillows on the floor. Surely, this family needed cemetery lots. A woman answered the doorbell, and to Jack’s surprise, said she was not interested in purchasing cemetery lots because she belonged to a church

that believed and preached that Jesus was coming soon. She planned to go to heaven, not to a grave. Jack had never heard such a thing and asked what church she belonged to. The lady, Mrs. Taylor, replied that she and her husband were members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jack had heard of Seventh-day Adventists. In fact, his mother-in-law was a member of the Adventist Church before she died.

Jack asked Mrs. Taylor if he could return and talk with her husband. He was certain he could convince Mr. Taylor of the need for cemetery lots. Several days later, Jack met with Mr. Taylor; however, much of their time was spent discussing religion, not cemetery lots. Jack felt compelled to return to the Taylor home several more times. He could not understand how the Taylors could be so misled. On his last visit, Mrs. Taylor invited Jack to attend some special lectures at city hall in a few months.

Jack forgot about her invitation until he saw the morning paper several months later. There he saw the name “Robert L. Boothby” in bold type with the words, “Coming to city hall tonight.” As the wheels of his memory turned, Jack realized this was the speaker Mrs. Taylor invited him to hear. He decided to attend.

Mrs. Taylor was glad to see him, and introduced him to other church members. He was given a warm welcome. Jack convinced his wife, Jena, to attend the meeting as well.

Because Jack had been disappointed with church so many times, he didn’t intend for some preacher to trick him again. Boothby would need to have some pretty powerful

As I travel throughout the Carolina Conference, I am constantly in awe of the stories I hear from church members of people who God placed in their lives at just the right time; people who had such an impact on them that their lives were forever changed. I have often wondered what would happen if we failed to be faithful when God asks us to share Him with someone. What happens to the person God has assigned to us? Does God have a backup plan when we fail?

Mrs. Pearl Herbert of Fletcher Park Inn shared such a story with me. (The story was first written as a two-part series by Viola Nash in “The Youth’s Instructor,” November 21 and 28, 1967.) It is the story of how a husband and wife shared their faith and love of Jesus with Jack Herbert, who would later become Pearl’s husband.

Jack Herbert worked for a cemetery company. His job was to sell cemetery lots. Based on his sales record, he was successful at persuading people that they would one day be in

evidence to convince Jack; and he did—the indisputable Word of God.

Jack had wanted truth and he had found it. At the end of the meetings, Jack and Jena were baptized.

Soon Jack's sister, Margie, came for a weekend visit. Margie could not believe what had happened to her brother. She laughed at how her sensible brother had been fooled enough to actually join the Adventist Church. When Margie left on Sunday to return to the hospital where she was being trained as a nurse, Jack handed her an armload of books and magazines.

A month later Margie returned asking Jack for more literature. She wanted to know more. At the end of another month, Margie was ready to join the church. Jack wanted to laugh, but knew that one should not laugh at miracles. Elder Boothby baptized Margie.

Margie's nursing school roommate was disgusted by Margie's new religion. She asked Margie to move immediately. With nowhere to go, Margie then heard that Dena Garcia, a petite Spanish-speaking girl, was living in a room at a house down the street from the hospital. Dena's religion was not acceptable to the other nurses either and she needed a friend. She was glad to share her room and saw in Margie the qualities of a real friend.

The two girls worked together to make their room as pleasant as possible. Margie put her Spirit of Prophecy books on the shelves near her bed and left her Bible and "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly" on her dresser. Dena pinned her crucifix to the wall above her dresser and placed her votive candle and rosary beneath.

As graduation approached, Margie decided she would attend Washington Missionary College. Margie did not want to leave Dena alone as she knew that Dena would be treated unkindly

because she was different. Margie suggested she apply for a job at an Adventist hospital. She assured Dena that Adventists were different and would love her.

Both girls were accepted to the college and a year later Dena was baptized. Dena, too, had found truth and the courage to accept it. She needed the courage because her family disowned her when they learned she had joined the Adventist church. Dena had friends at college, but she no longer had a family. One special friend was a ministerial student—Spanish-speaking like herself. After gradu-

had sent Dena to her at just the right time.

"Dena?" Jack asked. The woman replied that Dena was the minister's wife who saved her life and her soul. She said, "I wish you and everybody could know Dena."

Jack felt his throat tighten. "We do know her," he said. Jack then told his story, beginning with the knock on the door of the Taylor home, and how Mrs. Taylor had told him the Lord was coming soon. The faithfulness and love of the Taylors had convinced Jack and Jena to join their church. Margie joined the church because of Jack, and Dena joined the church because of Margie. The woman at the doctor's office had joined because Dena had faithfully shared truth and love with her.

Four months later, Jack stood beside his young wife's grave. The religion shared with him by the Taylors had been put to the test. It had not failed. It gave Jack and Jena the courage to meet death and gave Jack the strength and hope to meet life without Jena.

I can only imagine what would have happened had the Taylors not shared their love of Jesus with Jack. It would have been so easy for Mrs. Taylor to tell Jack that she had to care for her child and did not have time to talk with him. Jack, Jena, Margie, Dena and the sick woman may never have learned about the love of Jesus.

Do we faithfully, willingly and lovingly respond each time God assigns us a task—each time He places someone in our path? Do we generously and joyfully share our love of Jesus with those around us? IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

—Rick Hutchinson, Director of Generous Living & Trust Services

Does God have a backup plan when we fail to share Him?

ation, they were married and Dena once again had a family. She faithfully, earnestly and quietly prayed for her family members who had cast her out. As time passed, one by one they, too, came into the church.

One day Jack and Jena were sitting in a lobby waiting to see a doctor. A pale, quiet woman sitting near them began to talk. The woman spoke to them about her life of terrible heartbreak and how a young minister and his wife had invited her to stay with them until she became well and strong. She said the couple had loved her back to emotional and physical health and studied the Bible with her. She had become a Seventh-day Adventist. The woman said that she probably would not get well this time but she knew that God was good. He



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Engaging IN MINISTRY

Adrian Odhiambo first encountered Destiny Drama at a youth rally at the Spartanburg Adventist Church. Destiny is an acting ministry from Southern Adventist University, and they were performing a skit with a flower that represented a girl. It was smashed and ruined, but then God came and gave the girl a different flower that was perfect and new.

"That skit really inspired me," Adrian shares. "It made me realize that we need to try to see each other through God's perspective and not through our own eyes."

Engage Ministries, a singing group from Southern, also performed that night. Their spirit-filled renditions left an impression on Adrian's heart.

"The songs they performed were so powerful," Adrian remembers. "They painted such a beautiful picture of God and worship that I knew right then that I wanted to be involved with something like that."

Adrian had been on the fence about where to attend college, but his experience that night made him realize how important a spiritual atmosphere and on-campus ministry opportunities were to him. In 2014 he enrolled at Southern as a music/pre-med major and joined Destiny Drama during his freshman year. His favorite skit was about encouraging people to stick close to God in their daily lives. Adrian felt convicted that although dramas often focus on huge issues, our small choices are equally important and deserve to be addressed.

Now in his sophomore year at Southern, Adrian has also joined Engage Ministries. Since he started playing the piano at age four, music has been a huge part of his life. Joining Engage Ministries felt like a perfect opportunity to share his gifts for God's glory.

"I love music, and praising God through music just hits me every time," he shares. "It's so enjoyable



Photos contributed

playing songs with other musicians and worshipping our wonderful, merciful Savior. I believe it's no coincidence that Destiny Drama and Engage Ministries came to my youth rally years ago. They've been a major blessing in my life; now I hope my involvement can help impact others."

—By Angela Baerg

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CAROLINA OBITUARIES

BASKIN, Charles Richard, 89 born Mar. 65, 1926, in Houston, TX, died July 29, 2015, in Columbia, SC. He was a member of the Columbia First Church. Charles was a retired civil engineer and physical scientist. He served in the U.S. Army and is a former prisoner of war. He was a member of the American Ex-POW's. He was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Baskin. Surviving are his son; Richard K. Baskin (Gayle); a daughter, Sheila Kelly (Woody); five grandchildren; and a sister, Mary McDonald.

CARNEY, Thomas Edward, 96, born Jul. 23, 1919, died Aug. 17, 2015 in Columbia, SC. Thomas proudly served his country during WWII in the US Army. He was a member of the Columbia First Church. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Beulah Martin Carney; daughter, Irene McLaughlin (Jim) of Orlando FL; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

CASE, Harold Lennis, Jr. 92, born Jan. 30, 1923, in Battle Creek, MI, died March 18, 2015, in Henderson County, NC. He was a member of the Mills River church. Harold worked as a painter for two years at the old Mountain Sanitarium in Fletcher. He'd had his own painting business in Battle Creek and later one in Henderson County, NC. He completed his last painting job at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Patricia R. M. Case; four sons, Daniel Case, Gregory Case, David Merrifield and Jay Merrifield; a sister, Jeanette Griffith; and nine grandchildren.

FOREMAN, Jean P., 83, born Feb. 12, 1932, in Lubbock TX, died Nov. 22, 2016, in Asheville, NC. Jean was a member of the Fletcher church. She is preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Lewis Foreman. Surviving are her daughters; Suzan Wilson, Jeannine Simmons (Larry), and Pamela Wright (Mark); a brother, Virgil Prindle, seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

HALLMAN, Glen, 83, born Sept. 2, 1931, in Salley, SC, died Feb. 17, 2016, in Gaston County. He was a member of the Columbia First Church. He was preceded in death by two sisters, a brother and a granddaughter. He is survived by his wife Margaret Bolin Hallman; six children; 13 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; five brothers and sisters.

JOHNSON, Erna Jeanne Culpepper, 82, born April 7, 1931, in Madrid, Spain, died June 26, 2014, in Hendersonville, NC. She was born to mission-

ary parents, Elder J.C. and Erna Mae Culpepper. In 1938 the family moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 1946 the family moved to Miami, FL, where her father was head of the colporteur department of the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. While in Miami she met L.D. Johnson, and they married graduating from Forest Lake Academy in 1948. In 1965, L.D.'s work took them to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. They retired to Hendersonville, NC in 1983. She is survived by her son, James Johnson; a daughter, Linda Montero; one brother, Carl Culpepper (Fabiola); six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. L.D. preceded her in death in 2009.

MAXSON, Glen Elwyn, 95, born Dec. 22, 1919, in Pulgari, Argentina, died Aug. 23, 2015. He was a member and former pastor of the Columbia First Church. He was in the Navy during WWII as a Pharmacist Mate. He served as a pastor and missionary for 29 years in Central and South America. He is survived by his wife, Faye Harmon Maxson; three brothers; one son, Ben Maxson; one daughter, Glenda Davison; two stepsons, John and Joe Harmon; two step-daughters, Dixie Richard and Rita Ballington; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SMITH, Jane (Morrison), 98, born May 8, 1917, in Scotland, died June 26, 2015, in Hendersonville, NC. Jane was a member of the Upward church. She was a nurse in London, England, prior to WWII, where she met her husband, a U.S. soldier, Harold Smith. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Heather Smith. Surviving are her husband of 71 years, Harold Foster Smith; four children, Brian Smith (Bonnie), Dianne Bremmer (David), Craig Smith (Debbie), Fonda Lynes (Brian); nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

WHEELER, Maynard Alvin, 88, born April 30, 1927, died Sept. 17, 2015 in Hendersonville, NC. Maynard was a member of the Fletcher church. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He received his Bachelor of Science from Washington Missionary College in Washington, DC, and his Master of Divinity from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Maynard served as a pastor in several states. He is survived by his spouse, Betty Jane (Moore) Wheeler of 58 years; a son, Maynard Alvin Wheeler II (Kristi); three daughters, Robin Pratt (Perry), Marilee Jeffeaux (Bryan), and Wendy Taylor (Mark); a brother, Richard Clinton Wheeler;

grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many cousins.

STUTLER, Donald Earl, 91, born Feb. 17, 1924, in Isaacs Creek, WV, died Nov. 2, 2015, at Spartanburg Medical Center. He served in the U.S. Navy and continued his career at the marine base in Quantico, VA. He attended Washington Missionary College, now Columbia Union College in Tacoma Park, WA. There he met his wife, Ethel Avadene Jones. He completed his MPH degree at Loma Linda University. He accepted a call to Spartanburg, SC, to pastor the Spartanburg church. He and his wife retired in 1994 but continued to assist the Carolina Conference in building many churches. He was preceded in death by a son, Donald Phillip Stutler, in Apr. 1969. He is survived by his wife Avadene; four daughters, Susan Louise Early (Emmett), Constance Jean DeHaan, Elizabeth Anne Barrett, and Savannah Carolyn Zelocchi; two grandchildren; many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Carolina Conference Calendar

January

Sabbath School Training for Adult Teachers/Leaders (with Curtis Hall) --- Feb. 23. Register at www.carolinasd.org. Durham Five Oaks Church.

February

Communication Training --- Feb. 7. Carolina Conference Office.

Romance at the Ranch --- Feb. 12-14. NPR.

Spanish Romance at the Ranch --- February 26-28. NPR.

Mother/Daughter & Father/Son Weekend --- Feb. 26-28. MPA.

March

Elders Retreat --- Mar. 11-12. NPR.

Alive Youth Rally --- Mar. 18-19. Spartanburg, SC.

April

Adventurer Fun Day --- April 10. NPR.

LE Spring Campout --- April 15-17. Morrow Mountain State Park, Albemarle, NC.

MPA Alumni Weekend --- April 15-17. MPA.

Pathfinder Council --- April 22-23. NPR.

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

The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
PO Box 44270
Charlotte, NC 28215-0043

A woman with long brown hair, seen from the side and looking over her shoulder, is positioned on the right side of the poster. She is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. In front of her is a large, ornate stone archway. Through the archway, a bright, sunlit landscape is visible, featuring rolling green hills, a large tree, and a winding brick path. In the background, a city skyline is shown under a dramatic, cloudy sky.

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