

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

CAROLINA ACTION



ISSUE 3, 2023



Discipleship

EVANGELISM ISSUE

The Only Thing
 People took it to heart
 in the 1960s when the
 Green Bay Packers’
 football coach, Vince
 Lombardi, said, “Winning
 isn’t everything. It’s the
 only thing.”

Christ’s calling of “Seeking
 and Saving the Lost.” We have
 been on a journey of evange-
 listic fervor and discipleship
 nurture across the Carolinas!

I pray for the day when not

the principles of health reform
 that remind us that our bod-
 ies are the temple of the Holy
 Spirit. God desires that we
 purposefully commit ourselves
 to avoid clogging our brains so



Photos by Henrique Gomes

one single
 church or
 company in
 the Caro-
 linas will
 report “0”
 as their
 soul-win-
 ning record

that we can discern the voice of
 His Spirit.

• **We will experience the amazing transformation in our lives and in our churches** only when our thoughts are focused on the spotless robe of Christ’s righteousness rather than the fads and fashions that grab our attention as distractions by the enemy of God’s children.

Tyler Long, Personal Ministries director for the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, didn’t mince words when he penned this truth: “The results you’re getting in your churches are because your systems are designed for that outcome. If you had zero baptisms last year, your systems are perfectly designed for that outcome.”

Evangelism, which is spreading the gospel, is important to Jesus. As the Bible tells us, Jesus came so that we may live. We often make evangelism and

As I complete my twelfth year as your servant leader for the Lord here in the Carolinas, I would like to modify Lombardi’s passion for football with my passion for Jesus by saying, “Winning hearts for Heaven isn’t everything. It’s the only thing.”

One of my favorite hymns that I’ve sung since my boyhood days is, “Lift up the Trumpet and Loud let it Ring! Jesus is Coming again!” Why? Simply because I want to be ready when Jesus comes. I desire to do my part in reaching every heart I can for Heaven. I choose to commit my life to

for the year. How will that be possible?

• **We can experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit** only when our hearts are more inclined to time spent in earnest prayer than to being entertained by television comedians.

• **We can expect to witness a mighty revival across the Carolinas** only when we are more interested in beginning each day with our morning devotion than ending our day with evening sports.

• **We can expect a transformation in our personal joy and peace** only when we consciously decide not to violate



FROM THE
 PRESIDENT’S PEN

Continued on page 14.

EVANGELISM. DISCIPLESHIP. CHURCH REVITALIZATION

a Triad of Spiritual Growth

Evangelism, discipleship, and church revitalization form a symbiotic triad which creates the core of Christian growth and the health of a church community.



Each element is vital, yet none can truly flourish without the other two. When these components work in harmony, churches become more vibrant, communities grow stronger, and people forge a deeper connection with Christ.

Evangelism: The Spark of Faith

Evangelism is the starting point. It is the act of reaching out to non-believers and introducing them to the life-changing message of Christ, inviting them to join the community of faith. This is the phase where the seed of belief is sown, and people are drawn into the church family. This is cause for rejoicing! However, evangelism alone isn't enough. Bringing people into the baptismal waters is just the beginning; nurturing their spiritual journey is critical.

Discipleship: Cultivating the Seed

Once someone is introduced to the faith, discipleship takes over. This is the process of deepening one's relationship with God, understanding

the scriptures, and practicing Christian teachings. Discipleship builds spiritual maturity, transforming new believers into committed workers for Christ who look to train those who come after them. It builds a solid foundation, ensuring that their faith is not superficial, but is rooted deeply in understanding and practice. Without discipleship, the newly evangelized might drift away as their connection to the Vine remains fragile.

Church Revitalization: Renewing the Community

Even with successful evangelism and discipleship, churches can face periods of stagnation or decline. This is where church revitalization comes into play. It involves renewing and rejuvenating the mission of the church, re-energizing its members, and possibly even redefining its role in the community. If a church is not seeing a steady flow of evangelism and new disciples, revitalization is most likely the answer. It ensures that the church remains a lively, relevant, and effective place for both worship and outreach.

The Interdependency of the Triad

Imagine a scenario where evangelism thrives, but there is little emphasis on discipleship. New members might flood in, but with no deep connection or understanding, they can easily lose their first love. And without church revitalization, even a strong community of disciples can

become complacent, reducing the church's relevance and vibrancy.

On the other hand, a church that emphasizes revitalization without evangelism will have a hard time growing its congregation. And a focus on discipleship without an influx of new believers or an effort to rejuvenate the church's mission can lead to discouragement.

When churches prioritize and balance these three elements of a healthy, soul-winning congregation, they create a robust environment where faith blossoms, communities thrive, and individuals find a deeper, lasting connection with God.

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 195.

—Glen Altermatt, *Evangelism Director*



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

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The True Spirit of **GOLD HILL**

Tucked away in the heart of North Carolina, the charming town of Gold Hill bears witness to a rich history that dates back to the 1800s. In those bygone days, gold flowed like water, with millions of dollars worth of the precious metal extracted from its mines.

Today, Gold Hill stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of its citizens. A group of dedicated individuals decided to resurrect the town's glory, meticulously restoring it to its late 1800s and early 1900s ambiance. But this revival story is not about bricks and mortar; it's about the soul of a community.

One figure in Gold Hill's history is a retired pastor and part-time evangelist, John Earnhardt. Born in the back of a tavern, John's younger days were not easy ones. Despite the rough life he led, John would attend the local Methodist church a couple of times each year. He clearly recalls the words of a Sunday school teacher, Patsy Yelton,

who would put her arm around him and say, "Jesus Loves You." Those words stayed with him throughout his life.

Enter Ken Wiseman and his wife Cindy, newcomers to Gold Hill who fell in love with the town's character. They met the mayor, explored the quaint shops, and found solace in the historic Gold Hill Methodist Church.

In an era where churches face challenges staying alive, Gold

John Earnhardt's return to Gold Hill to share the message of Jesus with the community was a long-awaited answer to his prayers. The revival, along with a Daniel Seminar, Revelation seminar, and a community car show, aims to uplift the name of Jesus Christ.

For Gold Hill, this is a mission to bring the Bible back to life in the lives of its people. Their goal is clear – to draw neighbors and friends closer to Christ, to help them realize Jesus' profound love, and to prepare them for His imminent return.

The revival in Gold Hill is only the beginning of their journey. The community is filled with anticipation, and hopeful that those who attended will experience a deeper connection with Jesus and embark on a lifelong walk with Him. In Gold Hill, the message is crystal clear: Jesus is coming again, and they're preparing their hearts and town for His arrival. Daily prayers abound for God's abundant blessings on Gold Hill, North Carolina.



Hill's community shared this concern. Ken Wiseman read a book written by Crystal Earnhardt, John Earnhardt's wife, and a connection was forged. With a desire to breathe life back into the local church community, a plan was hatched for a revival.

The phone call that followed was nothing short of divine intervention.



View video story

The Hands and Feet OF JESUS

In western North Carolina, the town of Franklin has witnessed a remarkable initiative undertaken by the local Seventh-day Adventist Church. Months of planning and unwavering commitment from the Franklin members have brought forth the Good Neighbor Clinic, a community-focused endeavor aimed at echoing the teachings of Jesus by addressing the immediate needs of their fellow residents.

At its core, the Good Neighbor Clinic is a testament to the church's belief in evangelism the way Jesus practiced it—meeting people's needs and demonstrating genuine care. Rather than passively waiting for people to enter their sanctuaries, the church has decided to venture into the heart of the community, extending a helping hand and providing essential services.

The journey towards establishing the clinic was not without its challenges, including setbacks brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and health issues within the church. However, the unwavering determination and faith of the congregation

prevailed. The event's success, they believe, is a testament to divine guidance and the power of collective prayer and planning.

The Good Neighbor Clinic has become a beacon of hope for Franklin's residents. It offers access to vital resources such as food from the Manor Food bank, haircuts for all ages,

dental services provided by volunteer dentists, and health screenings, including blood pressure checks. Additionally, the clinic provides pastoral support for those seeking spiritual guidance.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this initiative is the network of partnerships and relationships that have blossomed within the local community. Collaborations with organizations like N.C. Works and

Habitat for Humanity underscore the shared commitment to helping those in need.

The clinic's impact is tangible, as many attendees have not received dental care in years, underscoring the critical need for such services in the community. The Good Neighbor

Clinic is not just about introducing people to Jesus Christ; it's also about meeting their immediate needs, restoring hope, and forging connections.

As Dr. Patrick Kelly, one of the dentists who volunteered at the clinic, puts it, "We're letting people know that we love them and that Jesus loves them. We want what's best not only for their eternal life but also for their life here on this earth today."

The Good Neighbor Clinic embodies a profound message – that faith in action can make a meaningful difference in people's lives. It is an extraordinary example of a church community coming together to fulfill a shared mission of love, compassion, and service. In Franklin, North Carolina, the Good Neighbor Clinic has not only opened doors to faith but also to a brighter, more loving future for all.



Photos by Henrique Gomes



View video story





A Journey of FAITH AND OUTREACH

In the heart of Winston-Salem, N.C., a congregation faced the familiar challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance dwindled, spirits wavered, and it was evident that a revival was needed. But the journey towards revitalization took an unexpected turn, guided by a profound commitment to discipleship and evangelism.

For the members of the Winston-Salem Church, discipleship was more than a term; it was a transformative approach to evangelism. Their goal was not just to share the message of Jesus but to first deepen their own relationship with Him. This was inspired by the model of Jesus himself, who worked intimately with his disciples to spread the message of salvation.

The pandemic served as a catalyst for change. Seeking to reconnect with their roots and rejuvenate their congregation, the Winston-Salem Church initiated a powerful prayer movement. This weekly meeting helped members connect with each other and sensitized them to the needs within and outside the church.

Out of these prayer sessions emerged the idea of discipleship training. They studied the com-

prehensive book, *Amazing Disciples*, which not only strengthened their faith but also emboldened them to reach out to their church members and the community. Through weekly gatherings and study sessions, they learned how to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, spreading His message with unwavering confidence.

The discipleship class at the Winston-Salem Church became an integral part of their evangelistic strategy. Their focus shifted from just sharing the Gospel to genuinely understanding and internalizing it themselves. This approach paved the way for the GROW method, a systematic approach to reaching church members developed by the North American Division.

Every Sabbath, a component of the GROW method was presented to the congregation, ensuring that everyone was on board with this transformative journey. This synergy between sermons, discipleship classes, and evangelism created a culture where evangelism became a way of life, not just an occasional event.

The results were profound. Church members were not just informed but transformed, equipped with the tools



Photos by Henrique Gomes

and confidence to share their faith with others. Evangelism ceased to be an annual event; instead, it became an ongoing process, deeply ingrained in the church's identity.

For those wondering how to embark on a similar journey, the advice from Winston-Salem Church is simple yet powerful: start with prayer. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and take that initial step, even if all the plans are not in place. Trust in the process, and as they have found, the Holy Spirit will work wonders.

Their story is a testament to the transformative power of discipleship and an unwavering commitment to evangelism. Their journey reminds us that faith, when deeply rooted and shared with conviction, can ignite a spiritual revival even in the face of adversity.



View video story

Claire's Journey of Faith: FROM FOLLOWING TO BELIEVING

In the world of faith, one's spiritual journey is a unique and deeply personal experience. For Claire, her path to a stronger connection with God began with a simple decision – to attend church

captivated.

What initially drew Claire in was not just the teachings but the warmth and welcoming spirit of the church community. Pastor Cris and the church's greeters made her feel

ing of God's love extended beyond herself; she started to forgive others and release long-held grudges. She discovered that by embracing God's love, she could love and forgive herself, which in turn enabled her to forgive others. Her faith journey had transformed her heart and soul.

As Claire's spiritual journey progressed, she made the decision to get baptized. Her husband, who had been a long-time Adventist, was also deeply moved by her faith journey. He decided to join her in this significant step, further solidifying their shared commitment to their faith.

Claire initially attended church because of her husband, but today she attends because she wants to. Her faith journey has become deeply personal, and the church has become her spiritual home. Together, she and her husband are growing in their faith, finding meaning, and experiencing the power of God's love.

In Claire's story, we see the beauty of personal transformation and the enduring power of faith. It reminds us that sometimes, our faith journey begins with a simple decision to step into the unknown, and it can lead us to profound revelations and transformations we never expected.

with her husband. Little did she know that this decision would lead to a profound transformation in her perspective on faith and life itself.

Claire, a devout churchgoer since childhood, never strayed far from the pews. She had always been told that God loved her, but it wasn't until she married her husband, a Seventh-day Adventist, that her faith took a more intentional turn. Claire's journey truly started when she began exploring church services online. She stumbled upon a sermon by Pastor Cris Dutra, then pastor of The Vine Adventist Church in Raleigh, N.C., and found herself

at home from the very first visit. Claire vividly remembers being approached by a church member after one service who offered her a Bible study. What began as a casual acceptance quickly turned into a profound revelation.

As she delved deeper into her studies, Claire began to see God's love in a new light. The story of Adam and Eve, once seen as a tale of punishment, became a story of God's protective love. Her perspective shifted, and she realized that God's actions were always rooted in love and care for His creation.

Claire's newfound understand-



Photos by Henrique Gomes



[View video story](#)

From Darkness to Redemption: A LIFE RESTORED BY GRACE

In the quiet moments of introspection, there are times when one might hear a faint voice, whispering that something is amiss. For Jose Antonio Carlos Cota, better known as Pepe, that voice turned out to be the Holy Spirit, guiding him through a very dark time of his life.

Pepe, a hardworking mechanic responsible for keeping trucks running smoothly at a concrete manufacturing company, found himself entangled in the clutches of addiction. His journey to redemption, however, is a testament to the transformative power of faith and grace.

Raised in a conservative Adventist family, Pepe's early experiences with religion left him with a skewed perception of the church. He drifted away from his faith, seeking solace among peers who seemed to understand him better. What began as occasional social drinking spiraled into full-blown addiction to both alcohol and drugs, leaving him in a seemingly endless cycle of despair.

"I was always high from 18 to 25 years old, and after that, it was when things started to get out of hand. I wasn't drinking and getting high socially. I had become an addict," Pepe recalls.

In the depths of his addiction, Pepe was haunted by self-loathing and despair. However, a persistent, inner voice began to speak to him. "I knew that inside of me, I was rotten. I knew that I had gotten to a point of

no return. But something kept saying, 'God came for the vile and despicable. Search for Him. Search for Him,'" he says.



Photos by Henrique Grimes



One fateful day, driven by an inexplicable force, Pepe found himself at a church, disheveled and hung over, and planning to just give his tithe and leave. The only Hispanic, Spanish-speaking person at church was the one who met him at the

door, and kindly gave him the address to the nearby Greenville NC Spanish church. "They'll be waiting for you there," he said.

As he sat through the service, feeling unworthy, Pastor Jonathan Mairena's message on God's grace resonated deeply within him.

"I felt as though he was talking to me, as if God was telling me, 'I'm not mad at you. I'm not mad at you. And I never want you to be far from me again,'" Pepe shares.

This newfound connection with faith led Pepe to participate in the foot washing and communion, an experience that overwhelmed him with God's love and forgiveness. Eventually, he made the decision to be baptized, a step symbolizing his rebirth and commitment to a new life.

Pepe's story demonstrates that even in the darkest of moments, the grace of Jesus Christ can bring about transformation. "I don't wish for anyone to go through what I've been through. But if the grace of Jesus Christ could rescue me, I don't believe you're in a place so low as I was where you can't be saved by grace," he emphasizes.



View video story



Ver video en español

Today, countless videos are shared on social media platforms every day, so it's easy for most to blend into the background of our digital feeds, forgotten as quickly as they appear. But for Ashley, a woman with a penchant for scrolling through videos on her phone, one particular TikTok video stood out and altered the course of her life.

Ashley, who grew up with Christian values but never delved deep into scripture, found herself seeking something more. She attended various churches as a child, but none truly resonated with her. That was until she was introduced to The Vine, an Adventist Church community in Raleigh, N.C., that welcomed her with open arms and made her feel included.

One day, while browsing through TikTok, Ashley discovered a surprising connection. She followed Pastor Cris from The Vine and stumbled upon a video that playfully exclaimed, "Here's my number, call me maybe." Intrigued, Ashley decided to reach out. She expressed her interest in the Bible studies Pastor Cris mentioned in her TikTok videos. Ashley had questions and a curiosity about faith that she felt could be answered through these studies.

The Bible studies proved to be transformative for Ashley. They meticulously dissected scripture, revealing the profound meanings behind the text and highlighting the depth of God's love. Through these studies, Ashley discovered the solid theological foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, finding answers to the questions that had lingered in her mind for years.

What set this experience apart was the tangible evidence in the scripture that Ashley encountered. It wasn't merely something preached by a pastor or taught by her family; it was something she could see and validate

for herself, solidifying her belief in God's message.

This newfound understanding ig-



Photos by Henrique Gomes

nited a passion within Ashley. She decided to make the life-altering choice to fully embrace Christ's teachings and live by His word. The impact of this decision rippled through her life, reshaping her perspectives and priorities.

Ashley's story serves as a powerful reminder that seemingly insignificant moments, like stumbling upon a TikTok video, can have a profound impact on someone's life. It's a testament to the potential of social media to connect people with meaningful experiences and communities. Ashley's journey from a casual video viewer to a committed follower of Christ demonstrates that no act is too small to make a difference in the world and bring glory to God.

In the end, it's sometimes the unexpected, the little things, that often lead to the most amazing transformations.



A TikTok REVELATION



View video story

Carolina Evangelism

YEAR END REPORT

THE YEAR 2014 was the first time raised over \$1,000,000.00 for evangelism. That has been our goal every year since, and it is not our plan to reduce it till the Lord returns!

KINGDOM GROWTH — To date in 2023 we have 560 baptisms and POF. Praise God for these precious souls joining us in faith.

FUNDS RAISED — by the end of August 2023, \$637,786.82 has been raised for evangelism. Thank you for your generous giving!

FAITHFUL GIVING — Tithes in the Carolina Conference is still on the rise, despite our economic concerns.

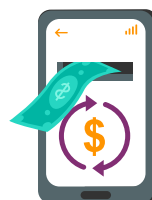
EVERY \$1 COUNTS — Every evangelism dollar goes to fund churches that commit to sowing and reaping for God's kingdom.



69%

GETTING INVOLVED

145 out of 210 churches, companies and groups held or will be holding some form of evangelism outreach in 2023!



ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is up this year! You can give to Carolina Evangelism at www.carolinasda.org. Or through the Carolina Conference app!



PRAYING FOR GOD'S MIRACULOUS POWER

We need to raise approx. \$360,000 between now and December 31 to celebrate another \$1,000,000 raised for the work of leading lives to Jesus. Please pray with us that God, through the generous hearts of the over 24,000 members in our Carolina family, will help us reach our goal. We're almost there!



God's Love UNITES TWO DISTRICTS IN EVANGELISM

A testament to the power of faith and community, the congregations of two districts comprising eight churches rallied together, uniting 750 people in a common mission—to share the boundless love of Jesus within their community. The remarkable initiative, which would see the fusion of districts and hearts, was sparked by the visionary Jonathan Mairena.

It all began when Pastor Jonathan Mairena, inspired by a divine calling, reached out to Pastor Marcos Bernal with a proposal: “Let’s do this together.” Their shared commitment to evangelism set the wheels in motion, with a resolute belief that their mission was of utmost importance. The idea not only aligned the eight churches but also effectively harnessed each congregation’s unique strengths while addressing their collective weaknesses.

As they embarked on this spiritual journey, Mairena and Bernal became an inseparable team, driving the mission forward with unwavering determination. They delegated responsibilities beyond the norm for a typical evangelistic series, nurturing a sense of camaraderie among the participating churches.

The endeavor spanned over nine months, characterized by meetings, planning sessions, and introspective discussions about the district’s needs. Kathy Hernandez and Roger Hernandez, Evangelism leaders from the Southern Union, led the way, orchestrating an action plan that included specialized training for church members. The team meticulously mapped out which churches would host each monthly event, adapting as necessary along the way.

In the initial stages, some churches

hesitated to fully engage, but as time progressed, a wave of enthusiasm swept across the entire community. Congregants of all ages, from the elderly to the youth, eagerly lent their support. The impact was profound, particularly among the younger generations.

The evangelistic campaign ignited a newfound sense of proactivity and intentionality among the youth and young adults. Parents willingly stepped aside from leadership roles, allowing their children to take the reins, a sign of the initiative’s transformative effect.

Reflecting on the experience, Mairena encouraged both pastors and congregation



Pastors Jonathan Mairena and Marcos Bernal

members to embrace similar programs and evangelistic initiatives. He emphasized the strength that can be derived from unity, stressing that together, they were not merely disparate entities but a cohesive group working harmoniously.

This inspiring initiative serves as a reminder that when God’s people unite for a common purpose, extraordinary things happen.

Note: Pastor Jonathan Mairena’s district was Albertson, Ayden/Greenville NC, Dudley, Mount Olive Spanish churches. Pastor Marcos Bernal’s district was Jacksonville, Morehead, Myrtle Beach, New Bern and Wilmington Spanish churches.



Roger Hernandez



View video story

The Story of Grace and the JOY OF EVANGELISM

In the role of president of the Carolina Conference, Elder Leslie Louis juggles an impressive array of responsibilities. With approximately 32 boards and committees under his purview, 19 of which he chairs, and a constant itinerary of church visits and administrative duties, his schedule often leaves little room for what truly lies closest to his heart: sharing the gospel.

Determined not to let the demands of the world or the church veer him off course, Elder Louis made it his mission, since arriving in the Carolinas 12 years ago, to preach an evangelistic series every single year. Except for the two years marred by the COVID pandemic, he successfully accomplished this annual endeavor, guided by an unwavering commitment to his faith.

This year, Elder Louis had the privilege of collaborating with the Charlotte Safari Adventist Company for a series titled “Live With Hope.” This transformative series, rooted in scripture, explored the foundation of faith and the profound relationship with Jesus. With an average nightly attendance of approximately 30 individuals, each gathering com-

menced with a solemn commitment to God’s Word before delving into the evening’s topic.

Emphasizing the importance of personal interaction with the Scriptures, Elder Louis encouraged attendees to physically open the Bible and engage with the truths contained within. In May, the series bore fruit with two baptisms and five professions of faith. Stories of spiritual transformation abounded, but one tale of grace stood out.

Grace Nyambaroka, a quiet and kind soul, attended the meetings from the very start, motivated by the persistent encouragement of her neighbor, Lois, a faithful member of the Safari Company. When the call for baptism came, Grace stepped forward, expressing her desire to dedicate her life to Christ. She became the first in her family to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and on the Sabbath of May the sixth, Elder Louis had the privilege of baptizing her.

Today, Grace’s journey serves as a testament to the boundless reach of God’s grace. The church rejoices in the transformation she has experienced and prays for her loved ones

to join her in the embrace of God’s family.

Excitedly, Elder Louis reports six to seven more baptisms took place in June, a testament to the continued impact of the series. He earnestly requests the support of the community through prayer, seeking the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Safari church and other congregations across the Conference.

As Titus 2:11 reminds us, “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.” Grace Nyambaroka’s journey is living proof that God’s grace extends far and wide, offering redemption and forgiveness to all who seek it. Through these efforts, Elder Louis and the Carolina Conference strive to amplify their evangelism outreach, spreading the message of hope and salvation throughout the Carolinas.



[View video story](#)



Photos by Henrique Gomes

WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES



SPEAKERS:

Sunday - Thursday Evening — Andy Nash
Friday Evening and Sabbath Morning — Alex Bryant
Saturday Evening — Leslie Louis
8 am Monday-Friday — Carolina Pastors
11 am — Bill Knott

MUSICAL GUEST:

Jennifer LaMountain

SEMINARS:

Education — Sandra Doran
Family Ministries — Rudy & Janet Salazar
Generous Living — Michael Harpe
Health — David and Beverly Sedlacek
Outreach/Evangelism — Jack Phillips
End it Now — Erica Smith
Seminar Presenter — Ricardo Palacios
Seminar Presenter — Ron Clouzet
Seminar Presenter — Steve Bauer

FOR RESERVATIONS AT LAKE JUNALUSKA
CALL: 1-800-222-4930

LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING
MAY 26 - JUNE 1, 2024



Nash



Bryant



Louis



Knott



LaMountain

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Continued from page 2.

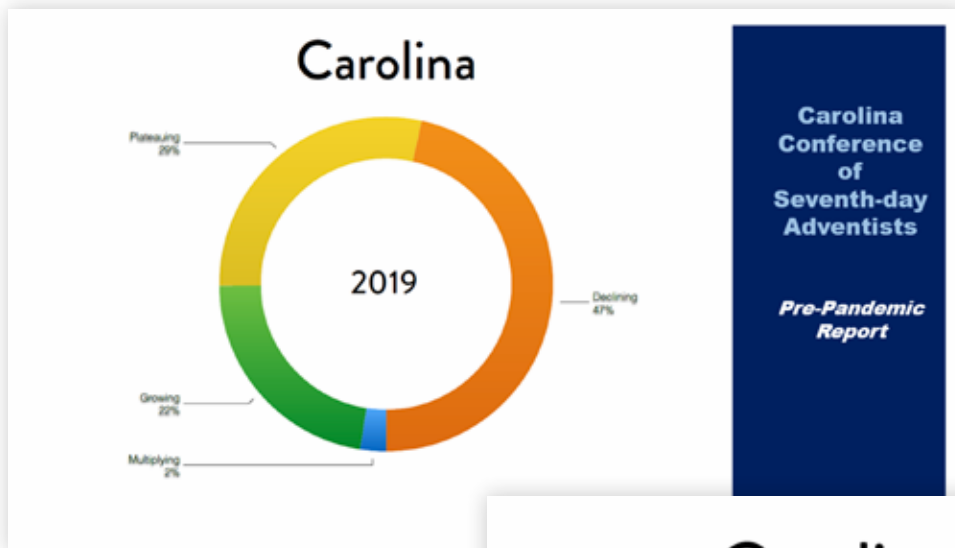
discipleship so complex and confusing with a host of strategies and programs. Simply put, Jesus wants everyone to know, love, and live His truth so they, too, can be part of God's holy kingdom.

The word "Evangelism" actually comes from the Greek words "euangelion"—a good message or gospel—and "euangelizo"—to an-

looked like in 2019, even before the pandemic years began. At that time, only 24% of our own churches were identified as growing or multiplying. In just three years, that percentage has more than doubled to 53% of churches considered growing or multiplying in the Carolinas (below, right). This is a result of the Holy Spirit blessing our Conference's intentional focus on

orange churches into green and blue churches by honoring Christ's calling to grow and multiply.

Jesus had a message, one that He came to earth to deliver, to teach, to die in our place for our sins in which He had no share, and to rise again to provide every single one of us with a glorious eternity. And we are tasked to deliver that message, both by Jesus and every other apostle, in no uncertain terms. It's the only thing!



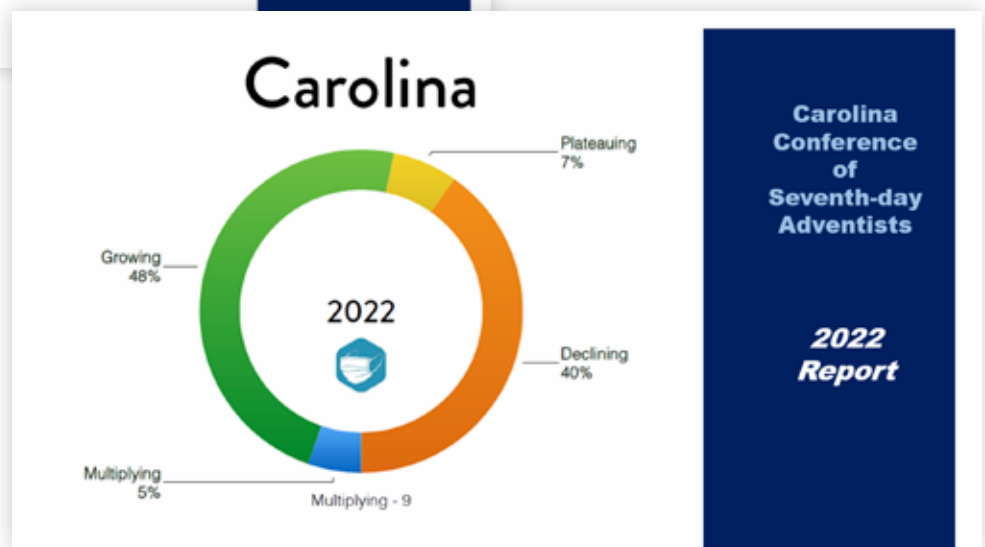
Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President

nounce, declare, bring, or preach this good news. Notice the word "angel" tucked inside the word. An angel is a messenger. Those who practice evangelism are indeed delivering a message: One of extraordinarily good news, life-giving and transformative, with eternal ramifications.

While the word "evangelism" isn't mentioned a lot throughout the Bible, its theme is woven throughout the New Testament. All four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are rooted in evangelism, and scholars often refer to the writers as "the evangelists."

Shown in the first graph (above, left) is the unfortunate picture of how our churches in the Carolinas



evangelism. We must earnestly and prayerfully consecrate our hearts to receive the power of the Latter Rain revival, to transform all yellow and

Carolina Obituaries

DAVIS, DR. COSBY M. (Bill), Jr., 92, of Winston-Salem, N.C., peacefully passed away at his home on Monday, August 21, 2023. He was born in May of 1931 in Williamson, West Virginia, to Cosby M. and Lola Hill Davis, Sr. His family relocated to Winston Salem, N.C. during his early youth, and he later graduated from Mineral Springs High School. Dr. Davis attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for one year before enlisting in the Navy during the Korean War. During his service, he was stationed in California, where he met and married his beloved wife, Dorothy, and started a family. After his honorable discharge, he pursued higher education, earning degrees from Southern Missionary College in Collegedale, T.N., and later Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, T.N. In 1961, he opened his Optometric practices in Winston-Salem and Mayodan, N.C. His unwavering dedication to improving vision health led him to continue his life's work until the remarkable age of 84, driven by his love for people of all ages. For over six decades, Dr. Davis was an active member of the Winston-Salem First Church, where he served as an elder, school board member and chair, building committee chair, and Sabbath school teacher. His greatest passions were his faith in Jesus, Christian education, and ensuring that anyone who desired an education had the opportunity to receive it. Dr. Davis was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Dorothy Crosslin Davis. He is survived by his five children: Cosby M. (Robin) Davis, III of Winston-Salem, Dr. Terry L (Melanee) Davis of Winston-Salem, Karen D. (Rick) Lewis of Matthews, N.C., Victor K. (Kelly) Davis of Winston-Salem, and Olivia D. (Brad) Butner of Winston-Salem; five grandchildren: Heather D. (Andrew) Johnson, Nicholas A. Lewis, Ashley L (Matt) Hunzelman, Zachery B. (Laura) Davis, and Eric C. (Ashley) Davis; eight great-grandchildren, Samuel, Olivia, Jacob, James, Allie, Hayden, Theo, and Harper. He is also survived by his sisters, Betty Davis Slater and Nancy Davis Colcer, and many dear friends who will forever cherish his memory.

ELLIOTT, MARVIN, 82, born in 1941 in Kentucky, passed away on May 24, 2023, in Greeneville, Tennessee, coincidentally on his late wife Candy's birthday. He was a cherished son, brother, uncle, husband, father, and grandfather. Known for his generous spirit, humility, and a delightful sense of humor, Marvin grew up in Avon Park, F.L.. He pursued his education

at Forest Lake Academy, Southern Missionary College, and eventually graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1966. For over five decades, Marvin maintained a thriving dental practice in Asheville, N.C., earning a reputation as a "gentle" dentist. He served as the head deacon and elder at both Mt. Pisgah Academy and Asheville North churches for many years. However, perhaps his most significant achievement was the unwavering care and support he provided to his wife, Candy, following a debilitating accident in 2006, until her passing in early 2020. Marvin is deeply missed and forever cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He is survived by his daughter, Michelle (Nelson); his son, Lee (Kirstin); and his granddaughters, Lauren and Kaeleigh. He is also survived by his sister, Helen Krall; his brother, Dr. Norman Elliott (Mary Lou); his brother-in-law, David Scott (Kathy); and numerous nieces and nephews.

SWENSEN, PATRICIA MARTIN HARE (Patti), 87, died July 20, 2023, in Hendersonville, N.C. She was born on June 6, 1936, in Lacombe, Alberta, Canada, to Hubert and Gladys Martin. Throughout her life, Patti dedicated herself to love, faith, and service. After completing her education at Columbia Union College, Patti worked for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Columbia Union College. Her professional achievements were a testament to her dedication and hard work. Patti found solace and wisdom in studying the Bible, which held a special place in her heart. She expressed her artistic talents through quilting and knitting, creating beautiful pieces that brought warmth and beauty to those lucky enough to receive them. Patti's deep connection to her faith extended beyond personal study. She was an active member of the Fletcher Adventist Church, where she discovered a sense of community and spiritual nourishment. Her kind heart and generous spirit endeared her to her church family. Patti was preceded in death by her first husband, Peter Edgar Hare, and her parents, Hubert and Gladys Martin. She is survived by her loving husband of 14 years, Raymond "Bud" Swensen, and her devoted children: Carol Pack (John) of Milton, D.E., Calvin Hare (Leslie) of Winter Park, F.L., and stepson Reginald Swensen (Wanda) of Weimar, C.A.; her grandchildren: Stacey Pack (John Myers) of Baltimore, M.D., Brian Pack (Samantha) of Beltsville, M.D.; and step-grandchildren Alexander (Sarah) Swensen of Nashville, T.N., and William (Rechelle-Lee) Swensen of Boise, ID; and

her great-grandchildren, Audrey Myers of Baltimore, M.D., Hailey Pack of Beltsville, M.D., Peter Myers of Baltimore, M.D., and David Pack of Beltsville, M.D. Patti is also survived by her sister, Lenore Combs (Charles), of Laguna Woods, C.A., along with numerous nieces, a nephew, and many dear friends who will dearly miss her.

Carolina Conference Calendar

JANUARY

*Growing Together Training

Jan. 26-28, 2024. Location: NPR

FEBRUARY

*Evangelism Impact

Feb. 1-4, 2024. Location: Myrtle Beach, SC

MPA Homeleave

Feb. 9-11, 2024.

*Romance @ the Ranch

Feb. 9-11, 2024. Location: NPR

*Hispanic Romance @ the Ranch

Feb. 16-18, 2024. Location: NPR

MPA Mother/Daughter & Father/Son

Feb. 23-25, 2024.

MPA Music Festival

Feb. 29-1, 2024. Location: MPA

MARCH

*Awaken Young Adult Conference

Mar. 1-3, 2024. Location: NPR

*Alive Youth Rally

Mar. 2, 2024. Location: Spartanburg

MPA Spring Break & ShareHim Mission Trip

Mar. 7-17, 2024.

*Single's Ministry Retreat

Mar. 8-10, 2024. Location: NPR

Pathfinder Work Bee

Mar. 15-17, 2024. Location: NPR

MPA Academy Days

Mar. 22-24, 2024.

*Community Services & Sabbath School

Ministries Retreat

Mar. 22-24, 2024. Location: NPR

MPA Music Festival

Mar. 29-Apr 1, 2024. Location: MPA

APRIL

*Adventurer Fun Day - 1

Apr. 14, 2024. Location: NPR

MPA Alumni Weekend

Apr. 19-20, 2024

*Adventurer Fun Day - 2

Apr. 21, 2024. Location: NPR

*REGISTRATION OR MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

The Carolina Action

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



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