

Another Coincidence... ?

By Haskell Williams

During the week of May 29 through June 4, the 2016 session of the annual Carolina Conference Camp Meeting was underway at Lake Junaluska. Speakers were preaching heart-moving messages and the Holy Spirit was changing lives.

As you may have experienced, whenever good things are happening in the lives of people, the devil is angry. On Monday evening, Ethel*, one of the senior believers, was leaving Stuart Auditorium after the evening meeting. In the front lobby, she lost her balance, fell, and hit her head, which bruised her eyebrow. Ethel was in a lot of pain after the fall, and because of the possibility of additional injury, "911" was called.

The ambulance arrived and the EMTs attended to Ethel. She was transported to Haywood Regional Medical Center and later discharged. Thankfully, though she was in quite a bit of pain, no additional injuries were found.

Later that night, Joey*, an EMT who responded to Ethel's emergency, shared with his good friend, Julie* that he had taken care of a visitor at the Adventist meeting at Lake Junaluska. The comment caused Julie to reflect – she had grown up in an Adventist home. After some discussion, they decided to attend the meetings on Thursday night.

For Thursday night's message, Dr. Derek Morris (president of Hope Channel), spoke of the exalted role of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As he preached, Julie was touched by the Holy Spirit as she recalled the teachings of her childhood.

Later that night, she phoned her parents. "Mom, Dad, things are good." As she spilled out the story, Julie's mom and dad (a pastor) rejoiced with hearts full of gladness. Still later that night, on the North American Division phone prayer vigil, we learned how God connected people and directed circumstances to draw back His child whose connection with His church had been strained.

When we think of Romans 8:28—"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose," NASB—I wonder if, in the light of eternity, Ethel would testify that banging her head was worth the pain so that Julie could find her way back to Jesus?

**names changed to protect privacy*