

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

CAROLINA ACTION



ISSUE 1, 2022



Our Gift to Jesus
IN THE NEW YEAR!

OUR GREATEST GIFT TO JESUS IN 2022

I wish each of you a bright and blessed New Year with Heaven's treasured gifts of health, happiness, and wholeness.

By the time you read this, the pages of Christmas 2021 will be a closed chapter in our lives. The lights and trimmings of the holiday season have been put away. Gifts given now serve as a reminder of our care for one another as we move into the New Year. Of far more importance than these temporal celebrations are the spiritual reasons behind it: the salvation Jesus brought into our world and our hope

Photos contributed



Pastor Elias Sandoval



Pastor Scottie Deal



Pastor Silvertone Stare

that with every passing day and transitioning year, we're indeed one day and one year closer to Jesus' return.

Do you remember the day when you gave your life to Jesus? I am a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist, however, I publicly gave my heart to Jesus in the waters of baptism on Sabbath, May 22, 1965, at the Sligo Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland.

It was my first year in America. I don't have any photos of that event, but I have the image etched in my memory as the day I began my journey to become a faithful disciple of Jesus. Irrespective of the bumps, bruises and falls I have encountered on my pilgrimage, Jesus

faithful follower of Jesus?

I get a special thrill when a pastor sends me a photo or a story of a life that has come to Jesus and found in Him the hope of his or her heart. Just look at just three of these pictures (below) that were shared with me in the past few weeks.

Now as a minister of the gospel, it's easy for me to equate Jesus words of Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19. Mark 16:15 is Jesus' calling and commission to each one of His followers to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Matthew 28:19 is Jesus' command to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

for His return. I love what Paul says in Philippians 3:15–21. He contrasts the world's way of living—with "mind[s] set on earthly things"—with a lifestyle shaped by hope in Jesus' return. "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ," verse 20. The reality that our "citizenship is in heaven" changes everything, including what we hope for and how we live. That hope is fortified by the knowledge

has meant the world to me, and I have consecrated my heart to learning more about Him and choosing to follow His direction in my life.

Along the way there have been a host of individuals—teachers, pastors, friends, my dearest companion, Carole, and, in a profound way, my parents Joseph & Ruth Louis—who helped to disciple me and direct my path. Have you ever paused to reflect on those who have disciplined (or mentored) you in your growth and maturation as a

One has to do with telling; the other with showing, or discipleship.

This may seem like a semantic distinction—a matter of emphasis—until we reflect on the alarming reports of our inability to retain faithful and lifelong members in the church. Earlier this fall I was listening to the reports presented at one of our General Conference Executive Committee meetings. I cringed when I heard that, of the over 41 million individuals who joined the Seventh-day Adventist

Continued on page 11.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S PEN

On December 4th, 2021, the Little Creek Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist church set fire to their 20-year mortgage for their sanctuary. A mortgage burning ceremony is a highly anticipated Sabbath, and thanks to the coronavirus pandemic this celebration had been postponed for more than a year. Little Creek members were thrilled to see this day finally come.

Rick Russell, Carolina Conference VP for Finance, shared a message the Lord placed on his heart entitled, "That They May Be One." He illustrated his point by sharing the true story of how shoe giants Adidas and Puma originated as one family-run company, but dissention caused a split. The split was damaging not only to the family, but also the town and employees. This resulted in another company, Nike, stealing their market and undermining their success. Similar situations come when division is introduced in a church.

Following the message, as church leaders began the special portion of the service, Chad Grundy, Undertreasurer for the Carolina Conference, pointed out the date the mortgage was granted, and that it only took seven years to pay it off. A 20-year mortgage being paid off in seven years is a testimony to the members and leadership in their dedication to stewarding God's money. Now that their mortgage has been paid, the members have decided to take a portion of what they were paying on the mortgage and invest it in missions, helping to spread the Gospel to all the corners of the world.



No More Mortgage for LITTLE CREEK FELLOWSHIP



Chad Grundy, Undertreasurer

After the service, the members served a special meal, with socially distanced spaces to eat and fellowship spread around the church in classrooms, the fellowship hall and even the outdoor picnic pavilion.

— *Story and photos by Courtney Herod*

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ASHEVILLE PISGAH **On a Mission**

Asheville Pisgah Youth Reach Outside of School Walls to Help Others

At Asheville Pisgah Christian School, a goal for this school year was for each student to participate in an ongoing service project that stretched the students beyond their walls and out into community. Led by teachers Charlie Rennard and Steven Green, each class decided on a project to plan and put into action.

Recently, teacher Danny Collins and the 7th and 8th graders served at Babies Need Bottoms (BNB). As the only diaper bank in Western North Carolina, this non-profit company partners with social services, family financial aid, and families with young children to meet a critical need in ensuring families have enough diapers. Their representative, Megan, shared with our students that some families must choose whether to

buy diapers or dinner. They have to ask, “Do I get this medication and forfeit having new diapers?” The average shortfall per family is 25 diapers a month.

Babies Need Bottoms distributes 300,000 diapers annually, making a marked difference for those families in need. They collect donated diapers and repackage them in sets of 25 for distribution. Students gained first-hand experience on November 11 as they collected diapers, opened large packages of diapers and rewrapped them for distribution.

Steven Green and his wife, Emily, have been volunteering with BNB for several years. Megan sent this letter to Steven after her morning with APCS.

Hi Steven,

Thank you so much for allowing me to join your school community for the morning and for service! I was very impressed with your students and their hard work. They were wonderful to work with and their efforts will

make a really big contribution to WNC families.

Your school community donated a generous 1,293 diapers! Those diapers alone will serve more than 68 babies. And you all wrapped more than 21 boxes of Pull Ups! It is great to have those diapers wrapped and ready to go in our warehouse.

We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate for service learning and/or diaper wrapping. We appreciate the warm welcome from your school.

In addition, on November 12, APCS hosted a service sharing chapel. Each class had representatives give presentations on what they are doing to serve. Chapel participants heard about letters to Covid patients, gifts for community children, and a school-wide recycling campaign. The student’s testimonies were inspiring to fellow students and teachers alike.

—by Erin Miller



Photos contributed

THE SANCTUARY VBS in Hendersonville

The Sanctuary was the theme of the Hendersonville, NC, church's Vacation Bible School this year. Organizers constructed a life-sized sanctuary, complete with all of the furniture and accessories. Pastor Brian Hindman took the children through the plan of salvation from the fall of Satan and Adam through each room of the sanctuary, ending with the second coming of Jesus.

The children rotated through stations, each illustrating the theme and Bible verse for the day in some way. The Health Station taught proper teeth-brushing and hand-washing techniques, and the importance of a healthy diet, exercise and water. At the Games Station the children were led in games which emphasized their daily Bible verse. Health Snacks took on the form of a cross, rainbow and clouds. In crafts, fluffy lambs and painted rocks were created.

There were a total of 39 children registered, ten of whom were from the community. The VBS staff assistants included several teens and early teens. Many of the children from the commu-

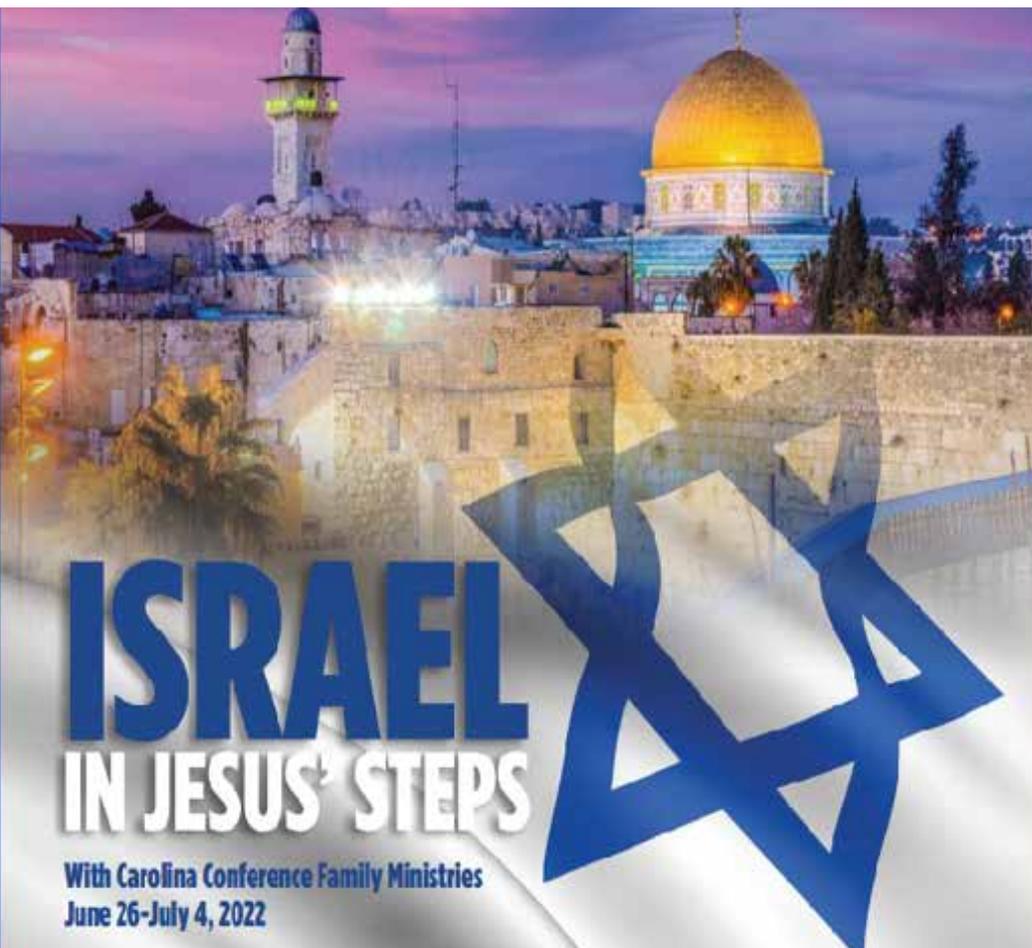


nity attended the Sabbath service with their parents.

—by Judy Possinger



Photos contributed



ISRAEL IN JESUS' STEPS

With Carolina Conference Family Ministries
June 26-July 4, 2022

Walk in the steps of Jesus!

SITES INCLUDE:

- Jerusalem
- Bethlehem
- The Sea of Galilee
- Capernaum
- Magdala
- Nazareth
- Cana
- The Judean Desert
- The Dead Sea
- Caesarea
- Megiddo
- The Jordan River

So much more!

Plus: Optional Post-Tour to Jordan & Egypt!

Hosted by Carolina Conference Family Ministries & Local Guides

To sign up for this opportunity, email tabghatours@gmail.com, go to [facebook.com/tabghatours](https://www.facebook.com/tabghatours), or call 423-298-2169.

ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION: Update from the Home Mission Field

While Adventist World Aviation (AWA) frequently flies over foreign soil, we also fly over home-grown soil here in the US of A. From AWA's HQ hangar and office, just outside Raleigh, North Carolina, God orchestrates some amazing local missions that inspire and bring transformation!

One of those missions involved a woman named Melanie. Melanie is an extraordinary woman of faith who had been battling an incorrectly diagnosed form of cancer. The disease was killing her, and her only option was a high-risk surgery that she was told would yield one of two outcomes: either she would die on the table, or never walk again. When AWA got the news of this risky surgery, we doubled down on our prayers and called for a team of prayer warriors at church. We placed her in God's hands and waited.

Then we got the call that Melanie had made it through the grueling 18-hour surgery and was wiggling her toes! She was alive and able to move! She went through about three weeks of rehab near Johns Hopkins, and when we went to pick her up to take her back to South Carolina, she was walking with a walker—no more cancer—and was ready to see her family! What a blessing it was to see her reunited with her loved ones after a month of separation!

Little Walter was a young Chipewewa boy AWA flew last fall who had stage four neuroblastoma cancer. While he has been through trial and fire since then, we have prayed and watched throughout his many treatments. Through them all, this little boy hasn't given up or given out. He had a tube in his nose for feedings, but he is now without the tube and is beginning to look a little healthier. God answers prayers to extraordinary degrees. Though Walter still has a

ways to go, he has in fact improved, even if in small increments. That is worthy of our joy!

Another of our recent flights was for a widowed husband and father, Butch. His wife had died from complications from Covid and his daughter, Kris, needed to relocate him from Georgia to her home in Durham, North Carolina. Pastor Ric Swaningson, AWA director, came to the rescue with the offer of an angelwing flight, and Butch was transported to his new

a brain bleed and other troubles that he would not recover from. Butch died on May 19th in the VA hospital



Kris and her family at Butch's memorial service



Melanie taking her flight with AWA

home. Once he was settled in, the joyful adventure was just beginning. Kris and Butch began doing Bible studies with Pastor Ric. They fell in love with the Word of God like never before, and before long, both Butch and Kris found themselves standing in the baptistry at the Wilson First Seventh-Day Adventist church in Wilson, North Carolina.

Angels sang as they were submerged in the baptismal pool and began their committed walk with Jesus. Sadly, Butch fell ill and was in and out of the hospital, the doctors finding

of Durham, and though our hearts are saddened by this, what a beautiful beginning to eternity. He fell asleep in Jesus, and to him it will be but a moment before he sees his Lord and Savior on that glorious resurrection morn! Kris holds that bright hope, and is in awe that God has used Butch's passing to open the door to witness to her other family members.



Walter

These are examples of the impact your prayers and donations have on those served by AWA. You keep us flying and bringing hope into the lives of many precious souls. Thank you for your support and for being a

part of this journey with us.

Learn more at <https://flyawa.org>.

—by Rebecca Stevenson

THE “CARE CHURCH” Resurfaces

hosted “Praise in the Parking Lot,” a concert that included members from the church and musical guests from surrounding churches in the area. More than 60 attendees were seen nestled in their cars—or with hands lifted in praise—across the church parking lot. Some of the neighbors who received a Care Pack a week before joined with the church in praise. Music from all ages rang out across the packed parking lot, inviting the community to unite in glorifying

our God who has blessed us all, even during these unprecedented times.

Beaufort Church rejoices that the AY ministry has led the church to resurface their mission of care. They aim



Photos contributed

Beaufort Seventh-day Adventist Church has been renowned as a small church with a big heart. Similar to the rest of the world, this congregation almost lost sight of their calling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They had been given the title of “Care Church” around 20 years ago when the church was well known for their “I-Care Center” that provided clothing, food, and resources for anyone in need in the community. After relocating, the church has been seeking to recreate an atmosphere of refuge within their community.

On October 2, 2021, the Adventist Youth Ministry of Beaufort church bolstered a local neighborhood in need by hand-delivering “Care Packs” to each home. Prior to delivery, the church collected face masks, hand sanitizer, tissue, individually packaged herbal tea, and other items helpful in the pandemic. AY members filled the bags with these items and small health pamphlets. The families

warmly received these

Care Packs from youth and elders alike. Powerful prayers of AY members permeated their hearts, bypassing screen doors and dismantling the distance of six feet. Within an hour the church bus was emptied of a total of 100 Care Packs.

The following Sabbath on October 9th, Beaufort Church

to continue to employ their gifts of hospitality and music in conveying the pledge of Adventist Youth Ministries: “Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the youth ministry of the church, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the Gospel in all the world.”

—by Dearra Walters, Photographers Ronesto Pineda & Dearra Walters

Leaders Train for HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



On Sabbath, November 20, 2021, the Carolinas Conference Children's Ministry Department held its first pre-quarterly training meeting for Sabbath School teachers serving the Hispanic churches. With the purpose of instructing, training, equipping and motivating, the event aimed to lead teachers toward a more effective work with our children and adolescents.

After going over key elements for the training with the team of presenters on October 2, the Children's Ministry team, in partnership with the Hispanic Ministry department and area pastors, made final arrangements for the main event.

To secure a greater participation, the event took place simultaneously in four areas of our Conference:

- **Central Zone:** Hispanic Church of Salis-



Kathy Russell, Children's Ministries Director (left), together with Ricardo Palacios, Yudith Flores and their team of presenters

bury, NC Pr. Julio Flores.

- **East Zone:** Hispanic Church of Saint Pauls NC Pr. Elías Sandoval.
- **South Zone:** Hispanic Church of Bluffton, SC. Pr. Domingo Paulino.
- **West Zone:** Family Life Ministry, Columbus, NC Pr. Moisés Souza.



Yudith Flores

Over 350 volunteer teachers attended the training. They came motivated and with the desire to continue attending future training meetings

to better equip themselves as teachers. The meetings concluded with the presentation of completion certificates, gifts and refreshments offered by the host church.

The director of Children's Ministry, Kathy Russell, Ricardo Palacios, Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry and Yudith Flores, Assistant to the director of Children's Ministry for the Hispanic Churches, had the privilege of

sharing with our brothers and sisters from the south zone in Bluffton, SC.

Many thanks to the pastors and instructors who, with great enthusiasm, participated in this important event. The Holy Spirit was evident in every meeting place. The Children's Ministry team prays that God's direction will be with them in this important work for our children and adolescents.

The next pre-quarterly training dates are: March, 05, June 11, September 10 (Recognition Day), and November 19.

—by *Yudith E. Flores, Assistant to the director of Children's Ministry for the Hispanic Churches*

Children's Ministries News

The Children's Ministries Department is pressing forward with plans to provide VBS training using Jasper Canyon: Where Every Kid is Treasured by God, Camp Meeting 4 Kids and other activities and training events for 2022 for children and children's ministries leaders, keeping safety in mind. I am grateful for the addition of a new assistant to our department, Yudith Flores, who is teaming up with trainers from four district areas to provide pre-quarterly Sabbath School teacher training, VBS training and resources to benefit children and parents for our Hispanic churches in Carolina Conference. Please pray that God will bless our efforts to point our children to Him!

—*Kathy Russell, Children's Ministries Director*



Photos contributed

www.awakennc.com

MOVE
TOWARD
GOD'S PLAN
FOR YOUR
LIFE



AWAKEN

forward



Feb 25-27, 2022

Keynote Speaker

Sam Leonor

Awaken is a 3-day conference for young adults. It is designed to equip young adults for the next step in their journey to spiritual revival. Through a connection with a community of others searching for more.



THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting

May 29-June 4, 2022 • Lake Junaluska, NC

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

DEREK MORRIS
DON MCLAFFERTY
SCOTT MOORE
ELIZABETH TALBOT

VISIT
WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG
for more information.

With music by: MIDNIGHT CRY • KEVIN WORTH • SCOTTIE DEAL

OTHER PRESENTERS:

YOUNG ADULTS: Ryan Becker
JUNIORS: Joslen Lache
EARLITEENS: Tam Adams
YOUTH: Justin Kim
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL:
David Wright/Charles Ferguson

Note: We have been informed that meal tickets for the Terrace Hotel must be purchased by May 6. Visit www.carolinasda.org for more information.

SEMINARS:

HEALTH: Stephen & Karen Wickham
DEVOTIONAL LIFE: Philip Samaan
THE MIDEAST MESSIAH:
Philip Samaan
FAMILY: Eli Rojas, Sr.
ADVENTIST EDGE (EDUCATION):
Sandra Doran
CERT (DISASTER RESPONSE)
WORKSHOP: Jim Ingersoll
THE WORLD OF THE PATRIARCHS:
Tony Moore
CHOIR CLINIC: Kathy Russell
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:
Brenda Walsh



Carolina Obituaries

BOSTIAN, Donald (Don) Fred, 88, born Feb. 19, 1933, in Northumberland, PA, died Aug. 21, 2021, in Hendersonville, NC. His love for basketball won him a scholarship for Penn State University. His older sisters, Elizabeth (Liz) and Beatrice (Bebe), who had become Seventh-day Adventists, sent him literature on the Sabbath. Wanting to keep the Sabbath, Don was at a crossroad, having basketball games and practice—as well as a class—on Saturdays. He tested God by going to the Academic Dean’s office to have the class changed. The dean laughed and said everyone would like be at home on Saturdays. Don was nearly out of the building when he was called back. The dean was writing a note stating, “Please schedule Donald Bostian’s class irregularly.” Don had his answer. At the end of his first semester, Don headed to Washington Missionary College in Takoma Park, MD, in January, 1950, to become a minister. Donald married Dorothy (Dot) Walker on December 29, 1955. He was invited to intern for the Potomac Conference at the Richmond, VA, Patterson Ave. Adventist Church. He graduated from the Adventist Seminary in 1958. On June 24, 1961, Don was ordained to the ministry, and served as a pastor for 39 years. Don and Dot retired in 1996 and moved to New Market, VA. In 2010, they moved

to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. Preceding Don in death are his parents, Fred Geyer and Myrtle Marie Mertz Bostian; a brother, Robert; and a sister, Beatrice Wetherell. Surviving Don are his wife of 65 years, Dorothy Walker Bostian, of Hendersonville, NC; two sisters, Elizabeth Harris, of Chattanooga, TN, and Joan (Charles) Ripley; a brother-in-law, Bill Wetherell, of Hendersonville, NC; five nieces and seven nephews; and 12 great-nieces and nephews.

POLIVKA, Richard (Rich) Edward, 77, born Oct. 13, 1943, in Chicago, IL to the late Frank and Mildred Polivka, died Oct. 8, 2021, in Hendersonville, NC. Upon graduating from high school, Rich volunteered to serve in the United States Marine Corps. He was a proud to be Vietnam Veteran. After his time in the Marines, Rich was employed as an installer and repairman for Bell Telephone Company. He retired at the age of 54. Rich was a member of the Fletcher Church, where he enjoyed being a deacon for the past 45 years. Richard is predeceased by a brother, Frank Polivka. Surviving are his beloved wife of 54 years, Shirley Miller Polivka, of Hendersonville, NC; children: Lora (Jeremy) Patton of Hendersonville, NC; Dawn (Kris) Christianson of Jasper, Indiana; Richie Polivka of Hendersonville, NC; five grandchildren; a brother: Terry Polivka (Trish) of Naperville, IL; and

numerous nieces and nephews.

UFFINDELL, Dennis Clifford, 90, born Feb. 15, 1931, in Watford, Hertfordshire, UK, died Dec. 9, 2021, in West End, NC. Dennis began his ministry in England, including service with The Voice of Prophecy at Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire. In 1976, he and his family were called to serve in Newfoundland, Canada. In Ontario, he pastored and served as secretary of the Ontario Conference. Dennis was called to pastor in Henderson, NC, in 1991. He retired in West End, NC. Survivors include his wife, Julia Uffindell; and three daughters, Jennifer Bonney, Sara Uffindell and Mary Millmine. **WILKINSON**, Donald Eugene, 84, born Feb. 17, 1937, died Sept. 15, 2021. He was the son of the late Roland A. and Bertha Haefeli Wilkinson. Donald worked at Greenwood Dairy Farm and was a member of 2nd SC Continental Regiment. He was a valued member of the Greenwood Church. Surviving are his wife, Ruth; his children, David Wilkinson of Tyron, GA, and Eva Fegarido and Robert Wilkinson, both of Sharpsburg, GA; five step-children, Frederick Myers and Charles Myers of Ninety Six, SC, Rose Myers and Joel Myers of Greenwood, SC, and Andrew Myers of Fort Mill, SC; a sister, Jeanette Reese of Coudersport, PA; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN

Continued from page 2.

Church since 1965 (the year I was baptized), a staggering 16.8 million have left. That’s 41 percent. Beyond these who have officially dropped their membership, even more have just slipped away. It is truly saddening, and reminds me of the adage, “It takes only as long to forget a thing as it did to learn it.”

One of the three goals our Carolina Conference administration has for the new quinquennial term (2022-2026) is to earnestly pray for the Holy Spirit to convict our local churches to build on-going, multi-year discipling groups, pairing new believers with mature, steady members for at least one year. If we don’t become intentional about Jesus’ command to make disciples, we may not just cringe at the statistical falling away of the faithful. We will experience the shock and sadness of a shaking before Jesus returns. I believe that shaking has

already begun its destructive wave.

Let’s praise God for every precious life saved by the power of the Gospel. And pray that those seasoned in his or her walk with Christ will mentor and generate an end-time generation of faithful disciples for the Lord. The very best gifts we can bring to Jesus will not be our gold, frankincense or myrrh. It is simply our hearts. And as we’ve stepped from Christmas present to Christmas past, may the focus and passionate quest of our Christmas future be that of reaching and guiding other hearts for Heaven. Without a doubt, that will be the best gift we can bring to our Jesus in 2022!

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President

Notice: Date change of Carolina Conference Session.

*The Quinquennial Carolina
Conference Session has been postponed
from August of 2021 to August of 2022.*

Carolina Conference Calendar

Subject to cancellations. See www.carolinasda.org for calendar updates.

FEBRUARY

Evangelism IMPACT Live from Myrtle Beach—3-6. Live Stream schedule available at www.carolinasda.org.

Romance at the Ranch

English—11-13. Nosoca. Register at www.carolinasda.org.

Romance at the Ranch

Spanish—18-20. Nosoca. Register at www.carolinasda.org.

Awaken Young Adult Rally—25-27. Nosoca.

MARCH

Alive Youth Rally 5-6—10-12.

Spartanburg Church.

Communication Workshop—6.

Charlotte. Register at www.carolinasda.org.

MORE EVENTS AT WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

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MOUNT PISGAH ACADEMY
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**Jesus Lives at Mount Pisgah Academy,
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For more information visit our website at www.pisgah.us