

# CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 2, 2015

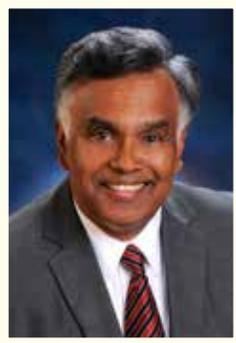


## 7TH ANNUAL 'ALIVE' YOUTH RALLY

Page 4

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

# From the Carolina Officers' Pen



**Leslie Louis**  
*President*



**Gary Moyer**  
*VP for Administration*



**Rick Russell**  
*VP for Finance*



**Chad Grundy**  
*Undertreasurer*

By now most of us have heard about “Spiritual Formation.” This term has become a buzz word for various, questionable attempts to gain a meaningful experience with God by using such methods as centering prayer, emptying your mind, repeating mantras and other forms of mysticism. Without question, these are all practices that are unbiblical, dangerous and should have no place in the Christian life. Indeed, these practices should rightfully concern us.

Now while we understand it is possible that some Adventists are, or have been, involved in some of these unbiblical spiritual practices, we believe this likely applies to only a very small percentage of those in God’s Church. We also feel it important to clearly state that the Carolina Conference does NOT condone such practices, nor any related part of this emerging church movement. We believe such things are a threat to our spiritual lives.

Do you know what else concerns us? We are concerned that we do not hear enough about true, biblical methods of forming and growing our spiritual lives. Philippians 4:8 addresses the biblical meditation we all desperately need to pursue: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Some other biblical counsel in this area advises us: “I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of your deeds.” – Psalm 77:12. “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.” – Psalm 119:97.

God’s acceptable methods of meditation do not involve emptying your

mind, but filling it with positive, true and uplifting thoughts of God from His word. In our fast-track world, we desperately need to spend more time with God to discern His will. In *Desire of Ages*, page 363, we read:

*“In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Psalm 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. The life will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts”*

Yes, we should be concerned that some Adventists may be dabbling in the dangerous, unbiblical practices some term “Spiritual Formation.” We should be concerned that we are perhaps not taught enough of the Bible’s counsel about how to grow our spiritual lives. These things do concern us. But do you know what may be the most dangerous element in all this?

We find the most dangerous and destructive element is the time and energy some folks put into studying and warning others about these errors. We believe this is distracting them and others from spending time in the

*...continued on page 5.*



# REACHING CHILDREN FOR JESUS BOOT CAMP

God is definitely impressing the hearts of our children's leaders! On February 1, 2015, we had a record turnout of 223 people from 51 churches for the English and Spanish "Reaching Children for Jesus" Boot Camps. The presenters included Leslie Louis, Rick and Kathy Russell, Steve and Connie Vail, Rhoda Burrill, Ivan and Evelyn Omana and Esperanza Flores.

The purpose of these workshops was to share ideas and resources, as well as to display tools that leaders may use in reaching out to children through evangelistic opportunities. The presentations included a devotional challenge by Elder Louis and

topics such as Sabbath School and missions, stewardship, "Destination Paradise" & "Creation Health" VBS programs, children's evangelistic meetings, health education and "Go Fish for Kids."

We hope you'll keep an eye on our webpage and plan to attend next year's event (date TBD). The workshop will feature a variety of creative approaches to teaching young people about God. If you need any help with training or planning children's ministries events for your church this year, please contact the Children's Ministries department.

—by Kathy Russell, Children's Ministries Director



Kathy Russell



Steve Vail



Connie Vail



Rhoda Burrill

Photos: Becky Carpenter



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# BROKEN

## 'Alive' Youth Rally in Spartanburg

One would be hard-pressed to argue against the observation that we live in a broken world filled with hurting, broken people. Our youth are often the most vulnerable to the competing messages and destructive activities that bombard our lives, offering “solutions” to that brokenness. Some turn to alcohol or drugs to displace their sorrows while others turn to unhealthy relationships. Still others may deal with the pain by filling their lives with hyperactivity or abusing their own bodies. Many never truly deal with the brokenness, self-medicating while slowly wasting away inside.

Yet, Jesus asks us to give Him our brokenness; not just the pain, but our *all*. In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Such love is the only way we can be placed on our journey to wholeness. This journey is what the attendees of the 7th Annual Alive Youth Rally eagerly desired to undertake.

Pastor David B. Franklin, lead pastor of Miracle Temple Church in Baltimore, MD, and co-host of Let’s Pray!, a live show on the Hope Channel, was the speaker for the weekend. The theme was “Broken”, and the over 500 attendees from seven states that attended began to develop a bond between them and God that will become unbreakable. They also began realizing that life is not truly a life at all without Christ—the same message

that has guided the Alive Youth Rally since it’s inaugural event in 2009.

Scores of dedicated volunteers from the Spartanburg Adventist Church sacrificed their weekend to prepare free meals (yes, free!) for all attendees, handle logistics, run a prayer room and lead out in community service activities for the youth on Sabbath afternoon (in conjunction with the GC’s Global Youth Day). Mt. Pisgah and Fletcher academies graciously provided bus transportation for the event, while music and drama teams from Southern Adventist University helped lead out in the worship programs, clearly demonstrating the conference and union-wide collaboration for soul winning that

we enjoy seeing every year at Alive. When God’s people work together for others, God is glorified and the Spirit wins many a victory.

Need further proof? Over 60 young people made commitments for baptism during the weekend, more than making up for the long-hours and hard efforts of so many!

We are already looking forward to next year’s rally and solicit your prayers for our young people around the conference and union. If you would like to help with this tremendous program through your time, talents, or finances, please visit [www.alivesc.com](http://www.alivesc.com) or contact the Spartanburg Church at (864) 576-3634.

—by Henry Johnson



Photo: Contributed

## Where to Witness!?

You might ask yourself, “Where, when and how can I witness?”

If you are like me, when I first met my Savior Jesus, I was a little self-conscious about praying in public or speaking the name of Jesus. But now, after growing in my faith and walk with Jesus for over 30 years, I have a clearer view of my calling as a follower and witness of Jesus Christ. Where to witness? Witness to all nations! Matt. 28:19

Some of you have heard that my wife, Loida, and I have had a precious baby son born February 26, 2015, at 1:05 a.m. He weighed 7lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 inches long. His name is Evan Joshua. We are truly blessed to have this gift from God.

As you can imagine, I was on cloud nine as we entered the hospital on Monday, February 23 at 7pm in preparation to have our son. It took almost two and a half days for my wife to give birth, as she wanted to do it naturally. (Praise God, He did bless her with a natural birth.)

As people came into our room—whether they were bringing her breakfast tray or they were one of the many nurses and doctors who rotated for a total of seven full days—I gave a GLOW tract to one and all. I told them I don’t smoke cigars, so I wanted to give them a tract about Jesus instead.

A young 18-year-old girl came into our room to test our son’s hearing, and on her way out I handed her a GLOW tract. She thanked me and left. I didn’t think I would see her again, but on our last day they are required to take another hearing test on our son before leaving. The same young girl came to administer it. She said she had read the GLOW tract and wanted to possibly learn more about who I was and what church I went to. She was Catholic and thought they were too strict.

I explained I was an Adventist but was raised Catholic. We spoke for a good 20

minutes as she was administering the test on Evan. Well, as a faithful witness for Jesus I finally asked her this question: “It sounds like you might be interested in a Bible study?” She replied, “Yes!”

When I found out she lived in Monroe, NC, I asked for her name (Nicole) and phone number and she gave it to me without hesitating. After we got home, I called the Monroe pastor, Tom Mills, and explained about this precious divine appointment.

The next day I learned Nicole was planning to come to church on the following Sabbath. Praise the Lord! Please pray for Nicole and her family as they are introduced to the truth about our Savior

Jesus!

“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day, the night is coming when no one can work.” John 9:4

—by Lance Morrison, Publishing Director



## From the Officers’ Pen ...continued from page 2.

truth. Our sincere prayer is that we don’t fall into Satan’s trap of feeling we need to know all the details of the errors out there. Experts on counterfeit money spend their time studying the genuine. Knowing the real thing is the best way to spot a fake! In reality, if we spend all our time chasing the devil’s rabbits we will not have time left to savor the Savior! Satan has a plan to keep us distracted. Study the truth and you will not stray from it!

Focusing on the dangers of the non-biblical forms of spiritual growth may just scare us away from a true, growing, saving relationship with God. We recently heard of a young lady who proclaimed she had stopped praying to God because she was afraid the devil would take control of her. What was her focus? Her focus was on the dangers of false prayer, and it turned her away from the truth and the comfort and peace that the Holy Spirit can give us through prayer! We can become entrapped in

fear and become paranoid to the point that our faith can be challenged.

Yes, Ephesians 5:11 tells us to have “no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather, expose them.” We are to expose error, not meditate on it. Nowhere in the Bible does it say we are to meditate on the errors and works of the enemy. Instead we are to meditate on the truth and beautiful character of our God.

So the question we need to ask ourselves is: What captivates our time and attention more – truth or error? Is the majority of our reading and listening focused on the Bible and truth or the devil’s deceptions? Would it not be better for us to become experts on our Deliverer, rather than the devil? If we commit and focus on the truth of God’s word, spend quality time in prayer, meditate on His word and will and share it with others, we will each grow spiritually and God’s kingdom will grow exponentially.

In our estimation, we should be

most careful to find the beautiful path of balance and harmony that Christ desires to see in His church. There are really two ditches along this path: one ditch is a focus and obsession about conspiracy theories in the church where we view ourselves as the guardians of the church and virtually see a demon behind every bush; the other ditch is to dismiss the warning lights provided to us by God’s messenger, throw caution to the wind and be “tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;” (Ephesians 4:14 NASB).

The Lord has provided us with a beautiful, balanced path of truth that is centered in Christ. The prayer of our hearts is that His Remnant Church will stay that course.

Please join us in earnestly praying for the church to be ready when Jesus comes.

—The Officers of the Carolina Conference

**O**ur Lord's command is to, "Go make disciples." But you can't make a new disciple unless you first win them for the Lord. When our members become involved in soul-winning—not just leaving it up to someone else—great things happen!

We are looking at new creative methods of reaching the community—methods that connect this generation with the message God has given for these times. Part of the challenge has been in moving away from the old paradigm, the reaping event or

series, to focus on the process leading up to the event, preparing for the harvest. We have traditionally relied upon print advertising and have had some success with that method, but it has left out an important piece of the puzzle. There is little or no connection between existing members and those visitors who attend the event. Studies have shown the best retention rates are from those who already have a relationship—a connection—with someone in the congregation.

We need to develop a reaping mentality, what one might call a cycle

of evangelism, where members are experiencing the joy of soul winning and seeing results in the lives of those they have led to Jesus. God works in even the smallest areas of our lives.

On the opposite page is a story from the recent Huntersville, NC, meetings. It is an example of how lives are change as we become engaged.

Evangelism brings results. Won't you become personally involved in your church's outreach to your city?

—Glen Altermatt, *Evangelism Coordinator*



**Please remember our Conference  
"Pray 1000" baptismal goal and the  
Carolina Evangelism offering for  
2015! By faith He will make it happen!!**

**Churches holding  
meetings in the 2nd  
quarter of 2015:**

- Greenville North
- Durham Spanish
- Lincolnnton
- Forest City Spanish Group
- Hendersonville Spanish

- Raleigh
- Spartanburg Spanish
- Swannanoa Group
- Weaverville Group
- Hickory Spanish
- Salisbury Spanish Group
- Stateville Spanish
- Raeford Spanish
- Charlotte Ghana Fellowship Group
- Monroe Spanish
- Wilkesboro Spanish Company

- Eden Haitian French
- Field School of Evangelism
- Myrtle Beach
- Florence
- Blythewood
- Whitesville
- Rockingham Spanish
- Rockingham Cornerstone
- Summerville
- Moncks Corner
- Lumber River



## Our Story

**Kent and I grew up in secular households and even lived together for 12 years before getting married.**

When the 2007 housing collapse in Michigan occurred, Kent had to go on the road for work. While in Florida he picked up a Bible at Goodwill and began reading it.

Around the same time, I had two unusual dreams in one night. In the first dream, we were in a hotel room in Florida and Kent had just gotten out of the bath tub. I went to go run water for Sydney, our daughter. When I looked in the tub I was disgusted. It was filled with sludge and insects.

Then in the second dream Sydney came running home saying there was a man drowning in the neighbor's pool. I ran to the pool and saw a thin, bald man, really pale and balled up in a fetal position under the water. I didn't know how to get to him quickly so I kicked in the side of the pool. As the water flowed out, so did the man. When he stood up it was Kent.

Later that same morning Kent called, excited to tell me something.

I said, "Wait, I have to tell you these dreams before I forget them."

When I finished he said, "Wow, I was calling to tell you that I asked Jesus to come into my life last night." We both felt that God was telling us the same thing, despite the hours and miles between us. We were united in committing ourselves to Him.

Our daughter was seven and our son was a senior in high school. Sydney and I began attending church regularly on Sunday.

Around this time our friend Waylon gave me a brochure on the Sabbath. I read it and shared it with Kent over the phone, but we had so much going on that we soon forgot all about it. Shortly after, in the Summer of 2008, we moved to North Carolina.

Fast forward to 2013. Despite having a home church we began feeling disenfranchised with the faith as a whole. Kent felt the sermons had no substance and I began noticing Sydney was losing her connection and growing bored in her faith. So we

stopped attending church regularly and instead began doing home studies and internet broadcasts.

We began looking for another church, but this time we were not basing the church on the people or the band but instead, the teaching.

We really liked Chuck Baldwin so we tried a Baptist church. The people were great, however when we asked the pastor if he believed in the secret rapture he said they did. We knew we would not return.

So back to the home study we went. In 2014, Kent stumbled upon a Walter Veith video and it brought to mind the Sabbath brochure Waylon had given us so many years before.

That Friday, we decided to keep the Sabbath. By the next week, we had done some research and decided to try a Seventh-day Adventist church. The one we chose turned out to not yet be a church, but instead was a small group of people with a leader/organizer, Mark Patterson. I thought the church too small with no kids near Sydney's age, however she loved it and wanted to go back. So we did.

The people were so friendly and welcoming. Then we discovered that Mark's father-in-law, Steve Vail (the Carolina Conference evangelist), had baptized our friend Waylon many years before. Amazingly, we had moved across the country only to discover what Waylon had originally shared with us seven years before, and now God connected it all together through His people.

In 2015, Steve Vail began a prophecy series in Huntersville, NC. We were excited to be a part of it and it was a blessing in our lives. We really learned how to read and understand the Bible. Sydney is now able to defend her faith to other high schoolers, explaining why she believes what she believes, and how the Bible backs her up.

We had been on the fence about actually becoming church members, but because of these meetings we decided to make a commitment. Sydney elected to make a profession of faith. Kent and I, despite being baptized before, decided that we should get re-baptized because of the new truths we have learned.

—by Dawn Walton

# Carolina EVANGELISM

## HOW CAN I HELP?

### WITH YOUR PRAYERS

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

### WITH YOUR CONVERSATION, PLANS AND ACTION

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

### WITH YOUR FINANCES

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

## GIVE TODAY:

704-596-3200  
CAROLINASDA.ORG  
OR SCAN CODE:



# News from AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Photo: Contributed



## So Much Love, It's Taken 70 Years to Hold It All...

On March 31, 2015, Joe and Dorothy Roberts celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

They were married in 1945 in Spartanburg, SC. Before they were married, Joe was so in love with Dot that he paid to have her teeth pulled and straightened with braces!

Joe and Dot were baptized in 1981 when Lyle Pollett held a crusade in Spartanburg. Elder Herb Crawley was pastor at that time. They both were dedicated workers in the church as deacon and deaconess. Dorothy served on the church board as well.

Dorothy worked for the police department of Spartanburg for years as a meter maid, and Joe had a floor covering business and a pest control business. He volunteered for Mobile Meals for more than 20 years.

They have been members of the Spartanburg Adventist church for 34 years and have one daughter, Sherry Roberts Ogle.

Praise the Lord for love that is ordained of Heaven and can record 70 years of togetherness and still be going strong!

—by Kenneth Wynn

## It takes a Village to bring Christmas Joy

For over 10 years, the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church has pulled together hundreds of volunteers and sponsors to put on a spectacular Christmas program that brings joy to children in the Henderson County Foster Care system.

Members of the church provided a

spread of delicious treats. The children then enjoyed stopping at various stations which included taking pictures with Santa, crafts and face painting.

Later in the program, the Pathfinder club from the Fletcher church presented a drama about the true meaning of Christmas. The evening continued with a performance by the Fletcher Academy gymnastic team, the AcroKnights, who dazzled the crowd with their acrobatic maneuvers. At the end of their performance the group invited the children to join in the fun.

Of course, the evening was topped



Photo: Contributed

off with each child walking away with gifts from Santa (or should we say little angels from the church village).

When they first started this ministry the church was hosting the party for around 40 foster children. Over the years the number of children in foster care has increased. In 2014, the church opened their doors to over 260 people, including 70 foster children, their

social workers and caretakers. Since this annual event has become so popular and the number of children has increased, the Fletcher church had to move it from their fellowship hall to the Roy Dunn Auditorium, located next door in the Leila Patterson Fitness Center.

Henderson County Department of Social Services stated that many former foster children have mentioned they still hold fond memories of attending. Some still have their pictures they took with Santa.

This event just would not be the same without the members of the Fletcher Church, their Pathfinder club, Fletcher Academy's gymnastic team and the Leila Patterson Fitness Center. Henderson County Department of Social Services wants everyone to know that the message of "Peace, Love, and Joy" is expressed loud and clear every year.

—by Darlene Stone, families4kids@hendersoncountydss.org



Photo: Contributed

## Mt. Carmel Celebrates Anniversary

On Sabbath, January 10, 2015, Mt. Carmel Mission Seventh-day Adventist Company celebrated eight years in service for Christ. Their brothers and sisters from area churches (including Charleston, Moncks Corner, Shiloh and Summerville) came to help them celebrate as they gave God the glory for great things He has done.

Sabbath School opened with beautiful music by Mt. Carmel's resident musician, Carnella Harley. Herbert Lincoln added his rich baritone/bass

# On Our Knees

LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING • MAY 24-30, 2015

## SPEAKERS:



**RANDY ROBERTS**  
Senior Pastor  
*Loma Linda University  
Adventist Church*



**IVOR MYERS**  
Pastor  
*Campbell Adventist Church  
Central California Conference*



**DES CUMMINGS**  
President  
*Florida Hospital  
Foundation*



**KEVIN WILFLEY**  
Prayer, Spiritual Growth  
and Stewardship Director  
*Washington Conference*

## MUSICAL GUESTS:

EMMANUEL QUARTET



## SEMINARS:

**MAX & CAROLYN  
HAMMONDS**

Creation Health

**STEPHEN BAUER**

Holy Spirit

**CLAUDIO & PAMELA**

CONSUEGRA

Family

**JOE KIDDER**

Outreach

**LYNN & KAREN MARTELL**

Prayer

**DAVID LONG**

Men's Ministries

**JEFF WILSON**

Finance/Estate Planning

**MARK HEISEY**

Edible Wild Foods

**RANDY MAXWELL**

Prayer

**BRAD CAULEY**

CHURCH GROWTH/PLANTING

**MARC SWEARINGEN**

Daniel 12

**LARRY BEESON**

Adventist Health Study

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# News from AROUND THE CONFERENCE

...continued from page 8.



Photos: Contributed

voice to two wonderful selections. Elder Beverly Washington led the congregation in the invocation, asking the Holy Spirit to abide with Mt. Carmel. Brenda Whaley gave the official welcome while her husband, Elder James, read the scripture reading of Genesis 47:7-9. This scripture reading coincided with Elder Tony Middleton's sermon entitled, "Looking Back."

Elder Furman Johnson also read the

history of Mt. Carmel Mission, which included how God called Elders Jerome and Beverly Washington to be used in getting Mt. Carmel started in the Charleston, SC, area while they were still residing in Huntsville, AL. The support of family meant so much!

After receiving the spiritual food, members were fed physically with an Italian meal.

Even though the service was

blessed from the beginning to the benediction, the highlight of the day was having a centenarian in attendance who is still doing well both physically and mentally. She will be celebrating her 100th birthday in September of 2015. She remarked, "It was a pleasure and an honor to attend the eighth anniversary celebration service of Mt. Carmel Mission. As I sat and listened to the early beginnings and the strides you've made, I knew that God had truly been with you. The service was well organized and spiritually uplifting. It showed beautiful diversity among the participants and attendees. The theme, 'Looking Back' would only serve to point one to look forward. May God continue to empower you as you carry out the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19 and 20."

—by Beverly Washington



**PISGAH VALLEY**

A Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Community



**Pisgah Valley Retirement Community is a licensed Continuing Care Retirement Community ("CCRC") nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina.**

Located just 10 miles from Asheville, the Community is in the cradle of the Blue Ridge. The community offers individuals 55 and older a full continuum of care—an integrated system that allows residents to move from one level of care to the next without the inconvenience of leaving the campus. This continuum includes:

- 72 condominiums for an independent living lifestyle
- A 24-bed assisted living facility
- A new 118-bed, 67,000 square-foot skilled nursing and rehab facility
- A 6,000 square-foot wellness center with a therapy pool, Jacuzzi, dry sauna and strength-training and cardio equipment

[WWW.PISGAHVALLEY.ORG](http://WWW.PISGAHVALLEY.ORG)

828-418-2333

[cstevenson@pisgahmanor.com](mailto:cstevenson@pisgahmanor.com)

Make an appointment today!



## SILVER CREEK STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE TRAIL OF FAITH

It was a cold, wintry day in January when the Silver Creek Adventist School students in grades 7-9 had the opportunity to travel from Morganton, NC, to visit the nearby Trail of Faith. It was back in 1893 that many Waldensians came to what is now, Valdese, NC, after religious persecution from their Italian homeland, to secure land for their families.

These students have been studying church history with their teacher, Dr. Harry Janetzko. As their studies brought them to the time of the Waldensians, a trip to the Trail of Faith was arranged. They experienced a two-hour orientation and walking tour of various buildings and a cave—all built to remind visitors of the Waldensians' faith-filled journey.

Over and over again, tour guide and retired pastor Barry Mahorney asked the students if they would be

willing to stand for their faith as the Waldensians had done. The scriptures were so precious to these people that they memorized large portions and hand-copied much for secretly sharing God's love with interested individuals, even though they knew they could be killed for doing so.

After the Trail of Faith the students visited the Waldensian Heritage Museum where items were displayed to give a picture of the lifestyle of the Waldensians.

How fitting it was for it to be a cold, wintry morning as so much of the Waldensian history entails frigid temperatures in prison for their faith; frigid temperatures while scaling the Alps to escape persecution; and frigid temperatures as they feared for their lives, eeking out an existence in the mountains.

Every Adventist should ponder the experience of the Waldensians. Read the chapter about them in *The Great*

*Controversy* and perhaps make a trip to the Trail of Faith ([Trailof-Faith.com](http://Trailof-Faith.com)) for yourself. We must remember how God has led in the past, as we ponder His care for us in the future.

—by Sharryn Mahorney



*Photos, top to bottom:*  
In the school were shelves for nap time, but of course for the smaller children! Cheyenne finds herself too large.

Jacob climbs through small, hidden hole to get into the cave.

At the community oven, Barry Mahorney shares that the Waldensians baked their rye bread one or two times a year, but enough to last them all year. It would be very dry when they needed it, so they chopped it into small pieces with an ax, then dunked into their soup or coffee.

Alyssa is standing in front of the College of the Barbs.

Silver Creek students try out the desks in a Waldensian school.

The steep, rugged trail was a depiction of the trail up over the Alps to secure freedom in Switzerland. Almost 200 Waldensians froze as they scaled the mountains in two feet of snow.



# GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE  
TO ALL OF HIM

## Bag of Books

Learning new Bible truths was very thrilling for me as a new Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

I was hungry to learn more and more. My Sabbath School teacher understood my feelings! She was kind and gave me one of her fragile, old beloved Seventh-day Adventist books called *Testimony Treasures* for a birthday gift. I was touched, but I knew I'd have trouble at home trying to find an opportunity to read it. Much to my regret, my husband did not agree with my developing faith at all. He tried to make life for me as difficult as possible. This persecution made my faith and determination grow stronger.

I slipped home quietly after church that day and carefully hid the precious book, hoping to find time to read it when my husband was not around. I looked forward to this spiritual feast with anticipation.

A few days later when I got the chance I'd been waiting for, I went to get the book out of its hiding place, but, to my surprise and dismay, it was not there. I knew that my husband had destroyed some of my magazines and mail before, but I pleaded, "Please, Lord, not *this* book."

Great bitterness welled up in

my heart, and I wanted to confront my husband as soon as he returned home. However, more than ever, I wanted to do only the things that would be pleasing to Jesus. I began to pray. Every opportunity found me on my knees, pleading with God to

remove my bitterness. I wrestled in prayer and was finally victorious. I never did accuse my husband of destroying the book and was finally able to say that I felt at peace with God and with my husband—no matter what.

During the worship service at church one Saturday morning, I sat with a new lady who told me she had recently moved from Texas where she had run two nursing homes. When relocating in North Carolina, she chose to run only one. "It's hard to fit all my possessions into the one location," she admitted. "I have so many books that I hardly know what to do with them! Do you know of anyone who would like to have some Christian books?" she asked. My heart skipped a beat as I wonderingly answered, "Oh, yes! Me! I'd love to have some!"

The very next Sunday, when my husband was gone to his church, I went to see this lady at her nursing home. She loaded a large brown grocery bag to the top with books, including a brand new set of the nine volumes of *Testimonies to the Church*, which is a complete compila-

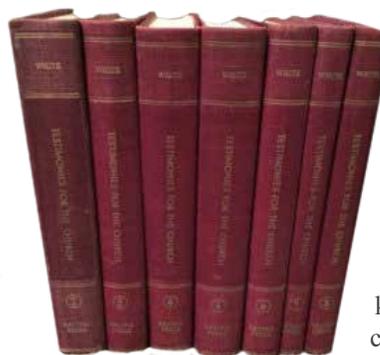
tion of *Testimonies Treasures*, still in its original shrink wrap!

Quickly, I returned home and hid the bag of books in the bottom of my closet, among all of the odds and ends that I had there. In the following weeks, as opportunities came, I read as often as I could, devouring the messages that were so sweet to my heart.

After some months, I got brave enough to bring the set of *Testimonies* out of their hiding place and put them in my bookcase. It was not very long before my husband noticed and threatened to destroy them. I turned the situation over to the Lord because He was the one who had worked in a miraculous way to get me the books. I knew He would take care of them for me, so I prayed and prayed, knowing I could trust Him completely.

The threats from my husband continued for years, but God's hand was over that wonderful set of *Testimonies*. About 25 years have elapsed since I received that bag of books. My husband has passed away, and the *Testimonies* still have a prominent place in my bookcase, a tangible evidence of God's wonderful protection and provision. As I face the future alone, it is sweet to know that He will always be with me and take of me, no matter what.

(Author Unknown. Previously published in "He's Alive magazine.")



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



## “We Need to Leave the Church”

“Blessed is the one who does this—the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil.” Isaiah 56:2

The more Cynthia Cox studied the book of Isaiah, the more she couldn't help but notice the word “Sabbath” everywhere she looked. Although the Bible study fellowship class she had enrolled in was nondenominational, it led Cox to question beliefs she had held her entire life.

Growing up in a Catholic home, Cox had always yearned for a personal relationship with God; it wasn't until she met and married her husband that her search began in earnest. Charlie Cox was a Methodist and the couple agreed to compromise on religion by attending a Lutheran church. Cox immediately immersed herself in church activities. “I was in choir, bell choir, and became the church secretary,” Cox said.

Still, something was missing. As a Catholic, Cox had never even cracked open a Bible, but as time went on she felt impressed to peruse those sacred pages. “Every night I would pray,” Cox said. “And God kept leading me to different things.” Seven years ago her studies led her and her husband to the truth about the Sabbath.

As if to confirm their newfound knowledge, the couple developed a close friendship with Monroe Adventist church member David Hood, who continually talked about the Sabbath and gradually introduced them to the Adventist message. “[It was like] the Lord was saying ‘Hello! This is what I want you to do,’” Cox said.

In spite of Hood's persistence and her husband's conviction, Cox was reluctant to leave their Sunday-keeping church. She had responsibilities she couldn't simply walk away from, and she didn't relish the thought of leaving her comfort zone. Cox explained: “As my husband kept saying ‘we need to leave the church,’ the Lord let me mourn for a year and then I told them all goodbye.”

Hood brought the couple to the Monroe, NC, church, where they were baptized. “It took us 25 years to become Adventist,” Cox said.

Tragically, her husband passed

away last year, but his death hasn't caused her to become bitter.

Through her grief, Cox has clung to God and her church family, as well as to the hope of the resurrection. She takes comfort in the knowledge that her husband is asleep, rather than somewhere looking down on her.

“I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the true Christ,” Cox said. “Every day He gives me strength to go on.”

—by Aimee Garver



Photo: Becky Carpenter

Cyndi Cox and her husband, Charlie, who passed away last year.

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## Spiritual Airways 100.3. FM in Morganton

Depending upon when you are traveling in Burke County, NC, with the radio set to 100.3 FM, you could pick up local programming, including devotions and messages by Pastor Rick Mercer of the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The studio is located within the Morganton church on Jamestown Rd. Barry Mahorney, recently-retired former pastor of the church, has more time to focus on this area of ministry. He assists Mercer in the recording of the programs.

Church volunteer Max Baynard, above, acts as the program coordinator and makes sure the programs are scheduled and aired. For the most part, Baynard monitors a computer log of programming making certain things continue to run smoothly and all necessary requirements are met that are regulated by the FCC.

The station is run by all church volunteer effort and has been in the works since 2001. The radio station isn't new, but local programming is. "The radio station is nearing 10 years old," Mahorney said. "We are in partnership with the Three Angels Broadcast Network (3ABN) from West Frankfort, Illinois."

"(For) 16 hours of the day we've been using their pro-

gramming and the other eight hours up until now has been all music," Mahorney said. "We now have daily Bible Boost, a one-minute devotional, Monday through Friday. Sermons will air three days of the week."

Mahorney said it is likely that area folks have picked up the radio station but are not aware of its locality to the local church.

"This station is going to reach where God wants it to reach," Mercer said. "The person that God wants to get it, will." The station is trying to target times for the Bible Boost when people are commuting—around 6:20 a.m. and 5:20 p.m.

"We're staying in the word of God and that's where the power is," Mercer said. "God will give us the opportunity to speak to hearts that need him the most."

Mercer attributes this implementation of local programming to Mahorney's passion for this type of ministry. In addition to local programming, 3ABN provides nutrition and children's programs to listeners. Additionally the station will supply Amber and weather alerts.

A sign on the door reads, "WHGW-LPFM Radio Room." Mahorney said they attributed the call letters to We Honor God's Word.

For more information about the church and its ministries, visit [www.morgantonsda.org](http://www.morgantonsda.org).

—by Tracy Farnham, *The News-Herald*



Retired Pastor Barry Mahorney assists Pastor Rick Mercer as he records a session for the radio station.

Photos Contributed

# Speak Our Language?

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### CAROLINA OBITUARIES

**CONNER, David W, Sr.**, 74, died February 7, 2015, in Morganton, NC. He was born in Hornell, NY, to the late Raymond Dount Conner and Anna Durky Conner. Dave was an active member of the Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving as head deacon for many years. He was dedicated to his church family and was loved by all. He enjoyed riding his Harley and taking his wife out in his London Roadster. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Anna; a son, David Conner, Jr. of Morganton; a daughter, Crystal Cogdell and her husband (Ken) of Lenoir, NC; stepchildren all of New York, Raymond Hawley (Dawn), Harold Hawley, and George Hawley (Charlotte); 24 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, Lanny Conner of Hendersonville, NC, Phil Conner (Beth) of Lincolnton, NC., Bobby Conner (Mabel), of Maryland and Alfred Conner of Maryland; a sister, Rita Phipps (Chuck) of Texas; and a number of nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by a brother, Raymond Conner and a sister, Patty Conner.

**CRITES, Dessie Naomi**, 86, born June 5, 1928, in Sutton, WV, died January 25, 2015. She was a member of the Morganton church. Dessie was the daughter of the late Nicholas and Lillie Keener. She was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin Crites. Surviving are her daughter, Brenda Crites Edwards; grandchildren, Daniel Raper, James Raper and Sherry Raper; and four

great-grandchildren, Aleigha Raper, Alona Soto, Ayden Durham and Elijah Durham.

**HEDRICK, Mary Belle Mahn**, 90, born May 30, 1920, in Rocky Point, NC, died January 15, 2015. She was the daughter of the late Willie Mahn and Clara Belle Armstrong. She was a teacher and a member of the Wilmington church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl L. Hedrick; three brothers, Morris Mahn, Richard Mahn, Sr. and Leonard Mahn; two sisters, Vivian Mahn and Sara Mahn; and a daughter, Evelyn Hedrick Swafford. She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Starr (Wilfred) of Calhoun; a brother, Louis Mahn of Portland, OR; two grandchildren, Lynette Hollenbeck and Lisa Swafford; and two great-grandchildren.

**KOHLER, Gudrun Anita**, 104, born Jan. 17, 1911, in Copenhagen, Denmark, died March 8, 2015, in Hendersonville, NC. At one time she served under Siegfried Horn. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hans Kohler; a sister, Alice Hansen Bakke; and a brother, Kund Hansen. Anita and her husband lived in England until World War II was over. They came to America in 1947, making their home in Takoma Park, MD. Anita began her work at Andrews Theological Seminary. Anita worked in various division offices as well as the General Conference as a secretary. She and her husband retired in 1977 and moved to Hendersonville, NC, where they joined and became members of the Fletcher church. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

### Carolina Conference Calendar

#### May

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** --- 1-3. NPR

**Elders Certification** --- 8-9.

Kernersville Church. The lesson discussed for this session will be "Personal Evangelism" Session # 4

**MPA Graduation Weekend** --- 15-17. MPA.

**Homecoming** --- 25. Waynesville Church.

**Camp Meeting** --- 24-31. Lake Junaluska, NC.

#### June

**Summer Camp** --- [www.nosoca.org](http://www.nosoca.org)

#### July

**Carolina Teachers Convention** --- 31-Aug. 6. MPA.

#### August

**Young Adults ROCK** --- 7-9. Raleigh.

**Welcome to the Family New Believers Retreat** --- 14-16. NPR

**Adventurer & Pathfinder Leadership Convention** --- 21-23. NPR.

*For an online version of this calendar, visit the Carolina Conference web site at [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).*

## The Carolina Action

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

# Camp Meeting SPECIALS

- \* **Coming Soon! The Ambassador Program:** order online and your church benefits!
- \* **Camp meeting food specials** will be valid from May 24-June 14, 2015.
- \* **The Carolina ACBC Charlotte store** will be closed from May 19 through June 3 for camp meeting.
- \* **The ACBC will have a special delivery program** after camp

meeting in the Piedmont area, in Eastern Carolina and South Carolina. Camp meeting food prices will still be honored, but orders will need to be placed between June 2nd and June 11th. See the Summer ACBC catalog for a schedule and more information on this program.

- \* **Be sure to follow ACBC announcements and special offers** on <http://Facebook.com/CarolinaACBC>

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Valid May 24 to June 14  
Coupon Code CM1501

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