

CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 1, 2023



MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

The Impact of One Woman's
Work in Zambia

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



By the end of June, I will have completed 50 years of service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During these years, I have been blessed to serve as an elementary and secondary school teacher, a principal of elementary and junior academies, a superintendent of education, a pastor, a vice-president (Executive Secretary) of a local conference, and your president for the Carolina Conference for the past 11 years. I am deeply honored and humbled by the sacred trust the members of this conference family have placed in me by electing me as their servant leader for three consecutive terms.

As I continue to serve the

church, I must admit that I have more questions than answers. We all need each other in this life of confusion and sometimes insurmountable circumstances. That's why I am reminded of the importance of Jesus' call to "Go and make disciples." Being a faithful disciple involves acts of compassion and kindness, honesty, seeking advice, prayer, meditating on scripture, and having a willing spirit to do all of these things.

The author of Ecclesiastes wrote the profound truth, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" As we live out our faith in Christ, we need each other, even though we often try to go it alone. We need reproof and instruction,

even though we rarely seek it out. This is why discipleship is so important.

One of our quinquennial initiatives is to develop Nurturing Companions (NCs) in all of our churches. The reason for this is that simply baptizing members into a local church will not keep them as part of the family of God. Most people leave the church or stop being involved due to fractured or nonexistent relationships, not because they have turned away from the truth. They no longer have the desire to be with God's people.

There are three reasons why discipling relationships are important for creating healthy and vibrant Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Carolinas:

1. Discipleship builds humility. We need to resist the temptation to be wise in our own eyes (Proverbs 3:7) and acknowledge

Continued on page 14.





Justin Khoe



Richie Halversen



Freddy Russell

“Walking with Jesus: Becoming His Disciple” EVANGELISM IMPACT 2023

Myrtle Beach, SC, is well-known for its beautiful coastline, warm weather, and beachside attractions. However, for the past seven years, the beach town has also become a hub for spiritual growth and evangelism. Since 2016, Evangelism IMPACT has attracted those seeking to learn more about evangelism, discipleship, and community engagement.

This year’s event, which took place from February 2-5, drew a crowd of around 750 attendees from all over the Carolinas, with most participants attending the Hispanic track. The opening night was marked by a dynamic sermon from Frederick (Freddy) Russell, which set the tone for the rest of the conference. Russell, president and founder of True North Leadership Group, brought a message of hope and encouragement to

those gathered, reminding them of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

A key speaker was Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director, who has been a presenter at the event every year. In one of his seminars he asked a critical question: “Why don’t we share?,” challenging the audience to reflect on their hesitations and reservations about evangelism.

Another Southern Union speaker, Richie Halversen, who heads up the church growth department, shared his perspectives on reaching and retaining souls for Christ.

The overall goal of Evangelism IMPACT is to encourage, encounter, and engage the community. This year’s theme, “Walking with Jesus: Becoming His Disciple,” was evident throughout the conference. The event sought to in-

spire and equip attendees to deepen their relationship with Christ and to share His message with others.

One of the unique aspects of Evangelism IMPACT is the diverse range of topics covered. Social media missionary Justin Khoe was one such speaker who provided a fresh perspective on evangelism and community engagement. Khoe shared his expertise on how to engage people online, encouraging attendees to try creating social media content to reach a broader audience.

The event was an excellent opportunity for attendees to network, learn, and grow in their faith. Evangelism IMPACT 2024 will take place from February 1-4, and we encourage all those interested in evangelism and discipleship to make plans to attend.

—Rebecca Carpenter

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

CONTACT: 2701 East W.T. Harris Blvd. • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, N.C., 28215 • P (704) 596-3200, F (704) 596-5775 • www.carolinasda.org

ADMINISTRATION: President, Leslie Louis: llouis@carolinasda.org • VP for Administration/Executive Secretary, Gary Moyer: gmoyer@carolinasda.org;

Associate, Deborah Hutchinson • VP for Finance, Rick Russell: rrussell@carolinasda.org, Assoc. Norma Sandoval; Undertreasurer, Chad Grundy: cgrundy@carolinasda.org

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY: Adventist Christian Book Center: Stanley Shireman • Adult Sabbath School/Personal Ministries: David Wright • ASI/Religious Liberty: Leslie Louis • Auditors:

Ellen Castro, Carol Marsden • Children’s Ministries: Kathy Russell • Church Planting/Church Revitalization/Global Missions: Ricardo Palacios • Communication: Rebecca Carpenter;

Associates, Courtney Herod, Henrique Gomes • Community Services/Disaster Response/Generous Living: David Graham • Disability Ministries: Gary Moyer • Education: Rick Anderson;

Associate, Cara Simonds • Evangelism: Glen Altermatt • Evangelist: Steve Vail • Family Ministries: Eric Bates • Health Ministries: OPEN • Hispanic Ministries: Ricardo Palacios • Human

Resources: Deborah Hutchinson; Associate, JoAlyce Waugh • Information Services: Elias Sandoval • Loss Control: Angela Prieto • Men’s Ministries: Tony LaPorte • Ministerial: Haskell

Williams; Associates, Glen Altermatt, Darryl Bentley, Ricardo Palacios • Ministerial Spouses Association: Carole Louis • Prison Ministries: Jim Wetmore • Property Development: Chad

Grundy, Rick Russell • Publishing: Lance Morrison • ShareHim: Jeremiah Weeks • Singles Ministry: Eli Rojas, Jr. • Trust Services: Rick Hutchinson • Women’s/Prayer Ministries: Beth

Grissom • Youth/Young Adults: Hector Gonzalez; Associate, Cris Dutra

ACTION STAFF: Editor/Layout design: Rebecca Carpenter • Assistant Editor: Courtney Herod communication@carolinasda.org

A YOUNG MAN'S JOURNEY TO SERVE in the Philippines and Beyond

Emory Kelley, a member of the Winston-Salem First Adventist Church, spent eight months serving as a student missionary on the island of Palawan in the Philippines. During his time on Palawan, Emory worked in a clinic and taught in a one-room school. He also had the opportunity to work with a group of Pathfinders in the village of Kemantian.



Emory has been a Pathfinder since the age of nine, and holds a strong passion for the organization. He is actively involved in the Carolina Conference Pathfinder Council, working to help build a robust Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program, which has proven to be an effective way to retain young people in the church and keep them engaged. The TLT ministry is designed for high school-aged Pathfinders, providing them with mentorship opportunities, the chance to take on more responsibility and, with the help of adult staff members, grow into capable Pathfinder staff members.

The majority of Emory's time on Palawan was spent working with the Pathfinder club in Kemantian. He taught drilling and

marching, helped with the club's area campout, and gave the worship talk on Friday evening. He also worked in the clinic in Kemantian for four months and then lived in the remote village of Merma for the last half of his time on Palawan. There, he ran a small clinic on his own and sometimes traveled miles on foot to help patients in need.

With a goal of providing the Pathfinders in Kemantian with the same opportunities he had as a Pathfinder, Emory dreams of giving them the chance to attend the "Believe the Promise" International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, WY, on August 5-11, 2024. This camporee is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young people from around the world to experience God's creation, deepen their faith, and make new friends. Emory is now raising funds to help make that happen.

Emory always wanted to be a student missionary. He chose Palawan because of his love for hiking and being outdoors and the opportunity to use his medical skills learned in paramedic school in the mission field. He did not expect to come back with a new mission.

If you'd like to know more about the TLT program or Emory's mission, contact him at thepathfinder629@gmail.com.

—Rebecca Carpenter



Photos Contributed





THE IMPACT OF OVERALLS: A Story of Support and Generosity

On a beautiful spring Sabbath morning, Pen Braister-Sturgis, the Arden Street Ministry leader, entered the foyer of the Arden Adventist Church and was surprised to see two men from her Sabbath School class wearing overalls. Upon asking them about it, she found out that Paul M. recently had surgery and had to wear loose-fitting clothes, so he purchased brand new overalls to attend church. When Richard H. heard about Paul's situation, he wanted to show his support by wearing similar clothes so Paul wouldn't stand out in the congregation.

As the Sabbath School began, another friend, Mike H., entered the room and asked about the overalls. Once Paul explained the medical reason for wearing them and Richard's show of solidarity, Mike sat down, but seemed to have something more to say about the subject. "I think it's a cool idea," Pen said to Mike. "It's not every day that you see conservative men wear overalls to church." Mike then challenged Pen to persuade Pastor Eric to wear overalls for

the entire church service, including the sermon, and promised to donate \$100 to the Arden Street Ministry.

Richard H. added to the challenge, offering to donate \$200 to the ministry if Pen could get Pastor Eric to wear overalls for the entire church service. Three hundred dollars would buy a lot of food for the homeless, so Pen approached Pastor Eric and explained the situation. To her surprise, Pastor Eric agreed to wear overalls if more money was raised and spoke about the overalls challenge in the church announcements, encouraging the men in the church to participate and raise funds for the Arden Street Ministry.

Over the next few weeks, Pastor Eric continued to bring up the overalls challenge in his announcements, reminding

the congregation of the increasing food prices and the challenges faced by the ministry. On Father's Day, the overalls challenge Sabbath, Pen was shocked to see the number of church members who participated, including Pastor Eric himself. During the announcements, Pastor Eric revealed that the challenge had raised more than \$7,400 for the Arden Street Ministry.



Pen was thankful for a God who used a surgery and a pair of overalls to raise funds for a homeless ministry and for a church family that was supportive of those in need. She found herself wishing that the overalls challenge could become a yearly event at the Arden Adventist Church.

—Pen Braister-Sturgis

ANSWERING THE CALL: A Look at 2022 Ordinations in the Carolina Conference

In 2022, the Carolina Conference ordained five people to the gospel ministry. The process of ordination is not simple and often follows an unpredictable path. In addition to educational preparation for ministry, it involves recognition of God's call by a conference, an invitation to a ministerial internship, a recommendation by the conference Ordination and Executive Committees, and approval by the union conference Executive Committee.

When God calls a person to serve in ministry, He doesn't choose them because they are qualified, but rather qualifies the



Becky Carpenter

Rubi Pimentel

Southern Adventist University and pastored the Florence, SC, district. Even in elementary school, Rich felt God nudging him towards a calling in ministry. As he continued his education at Blue Mountain Academy, he followed this conviction and studied theology at Southern Adventist University. Following completion of his studies at the Adventist Theological Seminary, the Carolina Conference invited him to serve in ministry. Shelly, his wife, is an upper-grades teacher at the local church school. He was ordained on May 7, 2022, in the Arden Church, where he currently serves as an associate pastor.

Having experienced a challenging childhood, Hector Gonzalez is grateful for the Adventist couple that God sent to his home to teach him about the Bible. As he completed his secondary education, Hector began feeling God's call to ministry while leading Pathfinders and Sabbath School. A church elder suggested he enroll in the Theology program at Southwestern Adventist College. While awaiting a call, Hector worked as a social worker, still involved in Sabbath School and Pathfinders. He later became an academy and college dean, where he volunteered as an associate pastor in the Takoma Park church with

Jose Rojas. After serving for 27 years as both a dormitory dean and volunteer youth pastor in New Jersey, Maryland, and North Carolina, Hector was asked to take on the role of director of youth ministries, serving the Pathfinders, young adults and youth in the Carolina Conference. His wife, Lorraine, serves as secretary to the ministerial department.

Henrique Gomes learned about minis-



Hector Ganzalez and Henrique Gomes were ordained at camp meeting.

willing. That is what God needs: people who are willing to serve Him, because "The harvest is great, but the workers are few" (Matt. 9:37). Most ministers graduate with a theology degree from an Adventist college, such as Southern Adventist University, and have also attended the Seminary at Andrews University. They serve in one or more churches, connected with a seasoned pastor for mentoring.

Rubi Pimentel, upon graduating from Antillean Union College, served as a Bible worker, an academy Bible and English teacher, and an assistant director for literature evangelism/publishing. He served as an associate pastor and led a district of churches. While the assistant director for

the literature evangelism department, Rubi felt the call to work in local churches and was given the responsibility of the western Hispanic churches of Asheville, Swannanoa, Hendersonville and Arden. He led the district to engage with the needs of their community, which led to baptisms. During that time, he met Monet, who became his wife and ministry partner. He was ordained on March 26, 2022, in the Fletcher Church.

Richard ("Rich") Maskelony also served as a literature evangelist. He followed his conviction to study theology at



Courtesy Herod

Rich Maskelony

PRAY BIG



CAROLINA CONFERENCE
PRESENTS

PRAYER RETREAT • 2023

NOSOCA PINES RANCH
APRIL 28-30

REGISTER AT: WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG
REGISTRATION OPEN FEB 9-APR. 19

“Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask
or imagine, according to his power
that is at work within us.”

EPHESIANS 3:20

GUEST SPEAKERS:
RICK & CINDY MERCER
AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, CHILDREN OF GOD



try from an early age in Brazil, where his father pastored a 26-church district. Following high school, he perceived God's call to ministry and enrolled in the theology program at Southwestern Adventist University. He worked as a literature evangelist to pay for school. After graduation, Henry worked with 3ABN, ADRA, and Novo Tempo (Hope Channel) in Brazil. He decided to prepare further for ministry at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and served the Center for Adventist Research and the E.G. White Estate as a digitization manager for the Adventist Digital Library to support his family. Henrique was then invited to serve the Carolina Conference through digital evangelism with the youth, ministerial, and communications departments. He was ordained at campmeeting in Lake Junaluska on June 4, 2022.

Evan Bujeker was 15 when his mother handed him a brochure from the Revelation seminar she was attending. Having attended Catholic church and school, the concept of the Mark of the Beast initiated an interesting biblical journey. He enrolled in the physical

therapy program at Andrews University, but after reading *The Great Controversy*, he put his studies on hold. As his understanding and conviction grew, Evan knew that God had called him to be a minister. He returned to Andrews University and graduated from the seminary. The Carolina Conference invited him to serve as associate pastor in Arden. He was ordained

on June 25, 2022, at the Pittsboro Church, as part of his current district of the Albemarle and Asheboro churches.

At each ordination, a mantle was placed on the candidate, symbolizing the pastoral responsibility that rests on their shoulders as they serve God and His people.

—Haskell Williams, Ministerial Director



Pastor Evan Bujeker with those who participated in his ordination service.

Becky Carpenter

SEEKING HIS FACE



Erhard Gallos

LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING • MAY 28 - JUNE 3, 2023



Kameron DeVasher

SPEAKERS:

8 AM—Carolina Pastors

11 AM—Erhard Gallos

Evening—Kameron DeVasher

Weekend—John Bradshaw



John Bradshaw

MUSICAL GUEST:

Charles Haugabrooks



Charles Haugabrooks

Juniors: Xavier Baca

Earliteen: Nick Wannovich

Youth: Sebastian Braxton

Young Adult: Michael Campbell

SEMINARS:

HEALTH: David Meinz

FAMILY: Mike Carducci, Ron Woolsey and Kezie Chisholm

SINGLES: Jennifer Schwirzer

OUTREACH/EVANGELISM: Richie Halversen

MEN'S MINISTRY: John Earnhardt

PRAYER MINISTRIES: Alex Rodriguez

DISASTERS: THE BEFORE AND AFTER: Jim Ingersoll

DISCIPLESHIP: Ben Maxson

HIS WORDS ARE LIFE: Kelly Mowrer

GLOBAL MISSION:

George and Melissa Tooray



LAKE JUNALUSKA

ACCOMMODATIONS:

1-800-222-4930

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

“ROOM IN THE INN” PROGRAM RETURNS to the University City Church

The University City Adventist Church in Charlotte operates under the motto “Know Love. Live Love. Share Love,” and the church strives to demonstrate God’s love through service. As part of this mission, the church relaunched its “Room in the Inn” program in partnership with Roof Above, an organization that supports the homeless community through transitional and permanent housing, basic needs, shelter, and substance use treatment. Roof Above practices radical compassion and encourages every partner to treat each individual with dignity, which is why they refer to those experiencing homelessness as “neighbors” rather than “homeless.”

The program operates on Friday evenings from December through March, when volunteers pick up eight “neighbors” from Roof Above and transport them to the church’s Family Life Center. The neighbors have access to showers, restrooms, and a free store where they

can select from a variety of items, such as shoes, clothes, jackets, sleeping bags, and backpacks. Volunteer groups cook and provide homemade meals for dinner and breakfast, as well as a sack lunch for the next day.



Photos Contributed

teers spend time with the neighbors, talking, having meals together, playing, or simply being present. The neighbors sleep in beds prepared each week by the Cornerstone Adventist Academy school children using sheets and covers made ready by volunteers.

On Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, volun-

The “Room in the Inn” program is a testament to the idea that it “takes a village” to make an impact. After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has returned and has already made a difference in the lives of those it serves. Participants have been invited to prayer vigils, worshipped and prayed together, and most of all, had their



lives impacted for the kingdom of God.

—Angela Prieto

Hispanic Volunteer Lay Pastors GRADUATE FROM TRAINING PROGRAM



Bryan Arvelo

In 2022, Pastor Elias Sandoval, co-ordinator of Hispanic Volunteer Lay Pastors (VLPs) for the Carolina Conference, provided training to over 54 VLPs from Hispanic churches in the conference. These VLPs are elders who have been chosen by their pastors and voted on by their church boards in order to serve mission groups, congregations, and churches under the direct supervision and leadership of their district pastors.

Throughout the year, these VLPs received over 36 hours of training on a variety of practical ministry topics. Many of them traveled hundreds of miles and invested additional hours in order to receive this training and be better equipped to serve their congregations.

On December 11, 2022, Sandoval and his team held a graduation program for the VLPs and their families. At this event, each

of the 54 VLPs in the program received an official credential card for the year 2023.

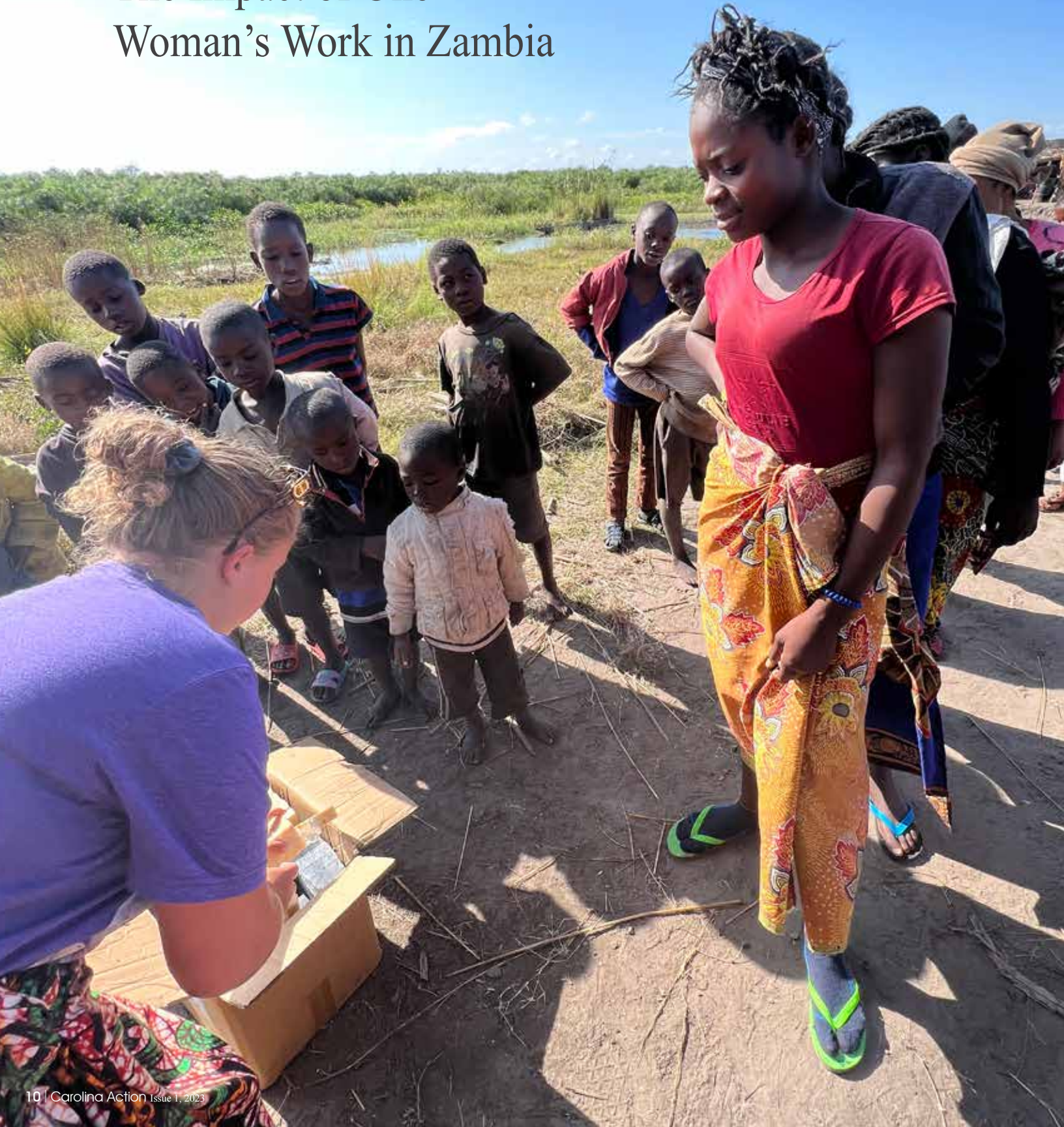
Carolina Conference president, Leslie Louis, and Vice-President for Administration Gary Moyer, were present at the graduation to thank, encourage, and challenge the VLPs to continue their service. They were joined by Miner Labrador from the North American Division and Julio Chazarreta from the Southern Union, who expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Adventist Church as a whole.

Looking forward, we are excited to see the fruits of the joint efforts of pastors, VLPs, elders, and members in growing the kingdom in the Carolina Conference territory. The dedication and hard work of these VLPs is an invaluable asset to the Adventist Church, and we are grateful for their commitment to serving their communities.

—Ricardo Palacios

Making a Difference:

The Impact of One Woman's Work in Zambia



Ashley Blake, member of the Spartanburg Church, first joined the Southern Adventist University's Enactus chapter during her freshman year. Housed in the School of Business, its mission is to engage the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to use innovation and business principles to improve the world. During her sophomore year, she became a project manager and led a project that raised funding and increased sustainability for a doctor in India who performed cataract surgeries. During her junior year, she became the president of Southern's Enactus team.

One Friday afternoon, Ashley received an email highlighting an interesting project. A student missionary from Southern had started the Akuna Soap Industry at Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia, which was helping to create local jobs. Riverside grows soybeans, among other things, and since soap can be made from soybean oil, the student had spearheaded a miniature soap production industry to benefit the community. The operation was very successful but very basic. The employees at the Akuna Soap Industry in Zambia would make soap using buckets, mixers connected to electric drills, and molds. However, the team aimed to upgrade the operation by constructing a factory.

"I couldn't stop thinking about that email," Ashley remembers. "I

loved that it was an entrepreneurial operation being propelled by a Southern student."

She decided to use her position with Enactus to help with business development and wrote a project vision charter to help Akuna Soap raise \$135,000. She proposed the goal of supporting the project while in its start-up phase with the aim of helping the business become sustainable on its own. When Ashley and club sponsor Professor Michelle Doucoumes presented the idea to a local alum serving on the Enactus advisory board, and he was so enthusiastic that he helped them connect with others until they achieved full funding for the project.

This past year, Ashley got the chance to go as a student missionary to Riverside Farm. A business and accounting major, she was excited to have another hands-on opportunity through Southern to use her professional skills to assist others. She helped manage all areas of the project, from running the new factory to helping grow the sales and marketing areas of the business. She especially focused

on local women who needed jobs, and their sales team grew from three women to 30.

Ashley was deeply impacted by the stark difference between the wealthy Zambians, residing in opulence, and the impoverished ones, residing in huts made of grass with limited access to clean water and opportunities. She was proud to be a part of an organization that made a significant positive impact on the lives of people who otherwise have limited access to basic necessities. In addition to creating many jobs, Riverside sponsors evangelism training, has launched more than 50 churches, and sponsors the education of many local children.

"I grew so much as a person during my time there," says Ashley. "I loved being a part of something that made such a positive impact in people's lives."

— Angela Baerg



Photos Contributed

FROM GROUP TO CHURCH: The Journey of the Salisbury Spanish Congregation

The transformation of a group into a company and ultimately, a church, is not a straightforward process. It requires hard work, commitment, and active participation from all members.

Gary Moyer and Ricardo Palacios were pleased to announce the official transformation of the Hispanic company in Salisbury into the Salisbury Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The idea of establishing a Hispanic church in Salisbury originated with Pas-

tor Samuel Romero in 2009. At the time, some members of the Hispanic church in Charlotte were driving an hour every Sabbath just to attend church services. A small group was formed, but it faced challenges and had to close down within a year.

tor Samuel Romero in 2009. At the time, some members of the Hispanic church in Charlotte were driving an hour every Sabbath just to attend church services. A small group was formed, but it faced challenges and had to close down within a year.

A few years later, Pastor Julio Flores, who was serving at the Hispanic church in Charlotte, approached the church members about reopening the small group in Salisbury. The goal was to get more members involved and avoid the same mistakes that led to the group's closure previously.

On July 6, 2013, the group met for the first time in a room at the Salisbury Adventist Church, an English-speaking Adventist church that generously opened their doors to host the small group. Sixteen people attended

that meeting, and in the afternoon, they went door-to-door in the neighborhood, offering literature, Bible studies, or simply a prayer.

As the group continued to grow, it officially became a company in 2016, three years after its inception.

the church's passion and dedication to serving God never wavered.

On April 16, 2022, the church gathered to celebrate its official organization as a church. The church was filled with excitement and joy, with a large white tent set up outside to provide food for the attendees.

Gary Moyer, the Vice President of Administration at the Carolina Conference, delivered a powerful sermon in Spanish to the attentive congregation. He emphasized the church's mission to spread the Gospel and challenged

the church to continue making disciples and preparing for Jesus' second coming. He stated that "we were not called to build buildings, but to share the Gospel with the world."

The story of the Hispanic Church of Salisbury serves as a reminder of 1 Corinthians 3:6, which states that "Paul planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." (NIV)

The dream that started in the hearts of Pastor Samuel Romero and a few members of the Charlotte Hispanic church is now a reality for the community in Salisbury. The official organization of the church reflects the tireless work they are doing to spread the Gospel, baptize new members, and make disciples for Jesus.

—Henrique Gomes



The next step was finding a place of worship, and in 2018, they found and purchased a suitable church building. On December 8, 2018, they celebrated their first Sabbath in the new church.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the church continued to thrive, even during difficult times. The church temporarily closed its doors but worshiped via Zoom, and

Dr. PJ Moore Jr., a man of great faith and integrity, passed away at the age of 102 on April 6, 2022, at his home in Clemont, FL. He was a well-respected medical professional who served the people of Western North Carolina with exceptional medical expertise, dedication, and love. Throughout his life, he left a lasting impression on his community and his contributions will continue to live on, long after he is gone.

Born in Spartanburg, SC, as the only child of Mary Lucretia Trimmer Moore and Pierce Jones Moore, Sr., Dr. Moore was raised with a strong foundation of faith and integrity. After completing his education at Southern Junior College in Collegedale, TN, and Pacific Union College in Northern CA, he went on to attend Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Loma Linda, CA. During his senior year, his entire class was drafted into the United States Army, and upon graduation in 1944, he was stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia. He was tasked with revising field amputations on soldiers injured in battles in the European theater, and in his limited spare time, he took pride in teaching amputees how to play golf.

After being reassigned to a military hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he met Dora Deanne Crumley, an enlisted army nurse, and upon discharge from the army, they were married in Atlanta, GA. He completed a surgical residency at Georgia Baptist Hospital and then went to Spartanburg, SC, to do a surgical fellowship,

Pickens, SC, but after a few years, he was called to go to a small, failing self-supporting Seventh-day Adventist institution in the mountains of Western North Carolina. With his leadership, the institution thrived and became Advent Health Hendersonville, a well-respected hospital in the community. In the early days, he made numerous house calls to homes



on the gravel mountain roads, delivered babies, performed surgeries without complications, and provided general medical care without discrimination to the residents of Western North Carolina.

After retiring from his surgical practice, Dr. Moore went to Saudi Arabia to work for the Army Corp of Engineers. Upon his return to the States, he continued to work as an ER physician, plant physician for Bon Worth and Diamond Brand, and contracted his surgical first-assist services to many of the area surgeons. Eventually,



privileges from Mission Hospital. At the age of 96, he decided not to renew his medical license and was told by the NC Medical Board that he was the oldest practicing physician in the state of North Carolina at the time.

After 57 years of marriage, his wife, Dee, passed away, and he went on to marry Elaine Twomley Moore (pictured with him below) at the age of 87. They were married for 14 years. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; and his five children; ten grandchildren; and ten great-granddaughters.

Dr. Moore received numerous recognitions for his contributions to medicine and the community. Some of his notable awards include the Order of



Long Leaf Pine from the Governor of North Carolina, the Person of the Week from WLOS in March 2010, the Distinguished Service Award from Southern Adventist University, first annual Dr. Pierce J. Moore, Jr. and Dr. Arthur Pearson Award of Excellence from Park Ridge Hospital, Town of Fletcher recognition for 50 Years of dedicated service, Honored Alumnus of Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Star in the Hendersonville, NC Walk of Fame, and the Park Ridge Health Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

On November 11, 2020, he was honored to give the keynote address for Veterans Day in the city of Asheville, NC, and Mayor Esther Manheimer declared that day to be Dr. PJ Moore, Jr. Day, in recognition of his contributions to the community.

Dr. Moore lived a full and rewarding life, and now he rests, waiting to meet his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He will be remembered as a man of great faith, integrity, and love, who served his community with exceptional medical expertise and dedication.

Pioneer of AdventHealth Hendersonville DIES AT 102 YEARS OF AGE



Photos: Contributed

where he was chief resident at Spartanburg Regional Hospital.

Dr. Moore set up his first practice in

he scaled back to just surgical first assisting, which he did until the age of 90. At that time, he held the distinction of being the oldest physician to have been granted

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Continued from page 2.

that we do not always know what is best. It is unwise to blindly trust oneself, as the heart is prone to deceit (Jeremiah 17:9). Wise counsel from a friend, pastor, or spouse can be used by God for our protection.

2. Discipleship unites us with fellow believers. The body of Christ is meant to travel the road of life together (Acts 2: 44-47), not just congregate on Sabbath mornings. People will not know what is happening in your life unless you are open to sharing it with them. By embracing transparency and accepting discipleship from others, we can cultivate opportunities for mutual encouragement through prayer (Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11) and strengthen our connection as members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30).

3. Discipleship equips us for faithfulness in our walk with Christ. Paul tells us in Titus 2:2-3 that more experienced members of the church

should set an example for the younger members by teaching and training them to walk in step with Christ and the truth of the gospel. It's not just a suggestion. This is a divine directive on how we should treat each other and underscores the necessity of being disciplined and being ready to guide others in their faith journey.

Well before we were called Christians, we were actually called "disciples." In this year of 2023, may each of our hearts embrace Christ's call to be faithful Seventh-day Adventist Christian disciples of His church in the Carolinas!

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President



NOSOCA PINES RANCH

SUMMER CAMP

It's Time for an

ADVENTURE!

ADVENTURE CAMP • JUNE 18-25 • AGES 7-11
JUNIOR CAMP • JUNE 25-JULY 2 • AGES 10-13
TEEN CAMP I • JULY 2-9 • AGES 13-16
RED CROSS LIFE GUARD CLASS • JUNE 4-7 • AGES 16+
S.I.T. CAMP • JUNE 11-22 • AGES 16-17
HORSEMANSHIP • JUNE 18-25 • AGES 13-16
WATER SPORTS • JUNE 18-25 • AGES 13-16
HORSEMANSHIP • JULY 2-9 • AGES 13-16
FAMILY CAMP • JULY 10-14 • ALL AGES

Pricing and Registration at
WWW.NOSOCA.ORG

Carolina Obituaries

BRYANT, DAISY AUGUSTA, 91, died December 16, 2022, in Landis, NC. She was born on September 7, 1931, in Bradenton, FL. Daisy was a retired nurse who graduated from Madison College in Tennessee with a nursing degree in 1952. Throughout her 37-year nursing career, she worked in various areas, including medical, surgical, orthopedic, neurology, ICU, and CCU, in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Daisy met the love of her life, Lane Julian Bryant (LJ), at Madison College, and they were married on December 19, 1951, in Montgomery, AL. They were blessed with two sons, James Michael and Stephen Lane, and loved to travel around the United States and Europe. Daisy was an active member of the Salisbury Adventist Church, where she found joy and fellowship. Daisy is survived by her son, Steve Bryant, and wife Dawn of Kannapolis, NC; her beloved grandchildren, Sherry Klaver (John Jr.) of Salisbury, NC, Chris Bryant (Tiffany) of Landis, NC; and her five great-grandchildren, Alyssa and Vanessa Bryant, and Ariella, John III, and Abigail Klaver.

DENNIS, AARON LEE, 91, born June 12, 1931, in Anson County, NC, died September 30, 2022, in Hendersonville, NC. Aaron was a devoted member of the Brevard Adventist Church. He attended Madison College and graduated with a B.A. degree in education. Aaron dedicated his life to serving the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in the USA, and North and East Africa. He worked for Adventist Health System, Sunbelt (now known at AdventHealth Florida) until his retirement. During his retirement, Aaron remained active and committed to serving others. He was an integral team member of the Carpenter's Hands Wood Ministry, where he helped people who depended on wood for heating and cooking. Aaron is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Laura Mae Dennis; his daughter, Beth Zachary (Jim); his son, David Dennis (Lora); granddaughters, Bethany Gallimore (Winston), and Alexandra La DiCiccio (Liam); and his brother, Robert Dennis of Anson County. He is preceded in death by his sisters, Pauline Capella, and Evelyn Beecham; his brother, Bill Dennis; and his parents.

HESS, EDNA RUTH (MISENKO), 92, born on April 14, 1930, in Bainville, MT, died August 5, 2022, in Beaverton, OR.

Edna and Alfred were active members of the Mount Pisgah Academy church for 12 years, where they found great joy and fellowship. Edna is survived by her devoted spouse, Alfred Hess, her sons John (Candace) and James (Corinna), her grandchildren Adam, Aaron (Nichole), and Amanda (CJ), and her great-grandchild, Sebastian. She is also survived by her sister, Irene Canosa.

KITTLE, RUTHIE HARPER, 70, died December 12, 2022, at Kingsbridge House in Brevard, NC. She was born on January 31, 1952, in Marion, OH. Ruthie trained to be a radiology technician in West Virginia. For many years, she worked at AdventHealth Hendersonville, before retiring. Ruthie had a heart for serving and traveled several times to Thailand to work at the Bamboo School, an orphanage and clinic. The compassionate example of the people working alongside Ruthie at the Adventist hospital, as well as her friendships with numerous Adventists over the years, allowed her to recognize and appreciate the peace they exuded in a chaotic and bewildering world. These relationships sparked a process of friendship evangelism, which ultimately led her friend Ellen O'Connor to invite her to study the Bible and attend the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was there that Ruthie found a spiritual home and became a valued member of the church community. Ruthie battled Alzheimer's disease for years, but now she is at peace, sleeping in Jesus, and waiting for the blessed hope of His return when she will be made whole once again. Ruthie is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her friends and church family who will cherish her memory and honor her legacy of service.

GAYTAN-ORTEGA, LUIS JAVIER, 67, died November 21st, 2022, at Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC, while undergoing a cardiac procedure. He was born on August 22nd, 1955, in Mexico City, Mexico, to Luis Gaytan Medel and Maria del Carmen Ortega-Silva. Luis was the oldest sibling of three. He attended the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México where he obtained a B.S. degree and worked as a chemist specializing in pharmacology. He worked for several laboratories around Mexico City for 14 years before moving to the United States, where he worked for Glenoit Corporation in North Carolina for seven years as an industrial chemist. Luis was passionate about education and

enjoyed working as a high school physics, math, and chemistry teacher for the South Mexican Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He ended his career serving the Church at AdventHealth in Hendersonville, NC, in the Environmental Services Department, where he worked for 12 years before retiring. In retirement, Luis enjoyed spending time outdoors, visiting waterfalls, hiking in Cherokee, painting on canvas, gardening, discovering new places, and spreading God's love. Luis was most proud of his children and his beloved wife, Elisa Laura Mercado, who constantly supported him. They were married for over 30 years. Luis is survived by his wife, Elisa Laura Mercado; his son, Luis Carlos Gaytan-Mercado; his daughter, Monica Gaytan Mercado; his brother, Ruben Gaytan-Ortega; his sister, Myriam Gaytan-Ortega; and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Carolina Conference Calendar

MARCH

**Adult SS/Community Services/
Personal Ministry Retreat**—24-26. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

APRIL

MPA Alumni Weekend—14-15.

Adventurer Fun Day—16. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

**CORE - Carolina Officers' Retreat
for Elders**—21-23. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Prayer Retreat—28-30. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

MAY

**West Zone Hispanic Camp
Meeting**—5-6. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Hispanic Family Camp—18-21. Each area will organize in its own location.

MPA Graduation Weekend—19-21.

Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting—28-Jun 3. Lake Junaluska Assembly.

JUNE

SIT Camp—11-22. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Bike For Life Tour—16-21. TBD.

**Adventure Camp/Horsemanship
Camp/Watersports Camp**—18-25. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

MORE EVENTS AT WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

PO Box 44270

Charlotte, N.C. 28215-0043



MOUNT PISGAH ACADEMY

Academy Days
April 28-30

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.PISGAH.US/ACADEMY-DAYS

Jesus Lives at Mount Pisgah Academy, He Lives Within Our Hearts

What To Look Forward To:

- Receive Free Food, Lodging, and T-Shirt
- Get to Know Our Students
- Audition/Tryout for Scholarships
- Experience Classes & Meet Teachers
- Discover First-Hand that Jesus Lives
- Enjoy Performances from Acrosports, Choir, Handbells, and Symphony
- Explore Our Campus

