

ACTION

CAROLINA



ISSUE 2, 2021



IMPACT

PAGE 4



A Tribute to My Dear Friends, Pastor Samuel & Mary Romero

There was a time when the work of the Carolina Conference with our Hispanic brothers and sisters was minute in comparison to what we are experiencing today. Back in the early 1990's, Pastor Mario Muñoz was part-time pastoring the only Spanish church in the conference, which was in Columbia, SC.

In 1992, Carolina Conference President Ken Coonley sensed the Holy Spirit's prompting to expand this ministry to meet the increase in Hispanic Adventists and Hispanic communities throughout the Carolinas.

Enter Samuel Romero, a young theology student at Southern Adventist University who had immigrated to the United States from Costa Rica.

Pastor Frank Ottati introduced Sam to Ken and the other officers. With recommendations from newly elected General Conference President Robert Folkenberg and Carolina Conference Treasurer Benny Moore, who were both acquainted with Samuel, they extended a call to this young pastor who barely spoke two words of English. (His story of sitting on the front row in a college composition class—smiling like he understood but having no idea what was going on—is one that will leave you fascinated, amused, and absolutely amazed! It simply illustrates Samuel's total commitment to follow God's calling for his life.)

Sam and his wife, Mary, who

is originally from Honduras, were invited to consider coming to the Carolinas, but because of limited funding, the offer was only \$1,500 a month and no medical, educational or retirement benefits. As if that were not enough reason to say no, they were being asked to launch a ministry in a territory with no prior track record of success. Meanwhile Pastor Sam was offered another call by the Georgia Cumberland Conference to be their Hispanic Ministries leader with a full-time salary and benefits. Which one would you choose?



PC: Ron Quick

After careful thought and prayerful contemplation, they felt the Holy Spirit's leading to ministry in the Carolinas, even with no church, no office, and with two young children to support. Moving into a duplex that became his office and his home, Pastor Sam and Mary began a work that was nothing short of a leap of faith and trust in God's provision. To make ends meet, Sam continued his house-painting business in his spare time.

But God's provision came through in a big way just two weeks later. An anonymous

donor gave funds to the Conference designated for new ministry initiatives, and there was more than enough to cover a full-time salary and benefits for Pastor Sam. Both of their sons were able to complete their elementary education at Adventist Christian Academy in Charlotte, their secondary education at Mount Pisgah Academy, and their higher education at Southern Adventist University.

Pastor Sam and Mary got right to work, initiating a small church group in the lower-level fellowship hall/kitchen area of the Charlotte Sharon Church with 12-15 Hispanic members. By the end of 1992, there were five small Hispanic groups, with a combined membership of 97. Through prayer, Bible study, fellowship and witnessing, they created a model based on small group ministry and discipleship. The expansion of God's kingdom among the Hispanics was founded on service, training in preaching, and Bible study, along with creating what were known as Societies of Youth. The work expanded from Charlotte to New Bern, Hickory, Roanoke, and Rockingham. When the work expanded into South Carolina, Eli Rojas, Sr. was called as our very first full-time Hispanic pastor, covering the territory of Charlotte, Columbia, and Spartanburg!

Over these past 29 years, phenomenal growth has taken place through the God-given vision, pioneering leadership and faithful efforts of Pastor Sam and Mary Romero. From that first group of 12-15, God's Hispanic work in the Carolinas has expanded to well over 6,000 members, with 19 Hispanic pastors (three of whom also pastor English churches in their

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FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S PEN

2021 VIRTUAL CAMP MEETING

With the worldwide pandemic in full swing, the Carolina Conference was forced to readjust and regroup in order for Camp Meeting to take place this year. In November of 2020, Lake Junaluska Retreat Center (where Carolina camp meeting is traditionally held) delivered the disappointing news that the Covid-19 restrictions would greatly limit our Camp Meeting attendance, with only 100 people allowed in Stuart Auditorium at one time. Conference administration, along with the Executive Committee, prayerfully decided that for the second year in a row, Camp Meeting would have to be conducted virtually.

Thankfully, the guest speakers for all age groups were willing to pre-record their presentations. The Camp Meeting Committee (and a sub-committee devoted to this virtual event) were united in their goal in maintaining a worshipful week-long virtual event.

On Sunday, May 30th, as in all the years preceding, the opening night of Camp Meeting launched right at 7:00 p.m. The presentations were available on YouTube, Roku, the Carolina

Conference app, and the Conference website. It was gratifying to know that none of the messages God had placed on the speakers' hearts were silenced by the pandemic.

Each age group from infant to centenarian was represented with virtual presentations just for them. Each day started at 10:00 a.m. with programing

for the children written and created by Kathy Russell, the Carolina Conference children's ministry director. Then at 11:00

teen speakers were Brandon Ford and Sullivan Phillips; youth and young adults was presented by Nathan Polk and Jaime Pombo; and the main adult meetings were by Mark Witas and



Mark Witas



Kathy Russell



Pavel Goia

Mark Finley.

The Carolina Conference is prayerfully hopeful that all of us can return next year for camp meeting on the shores of Lake Junaluska. But praise God for technology and for the spreading of the Word,

even in a global pandemic.

—Courtney Herod

a.m. the morning devotional was presented by Pavel Goia Editor, Ministry Magazine; Associate Ministerial Secretary

In the evening, the junior and earli-

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: russell@carolinasda.org; Undertreasurer, Chad Grundy: cgrundy@carolinasda.org; Associate, Marlene Morgan

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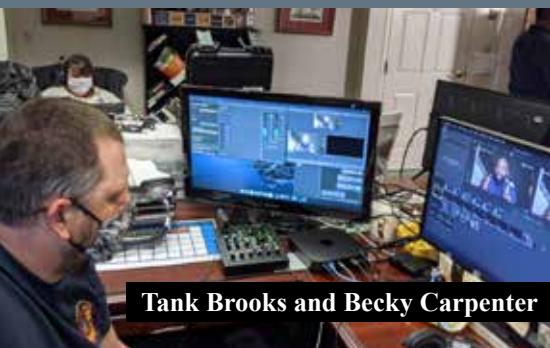
ACTION STAFF: Editor/Layout design: Rebecca Carpenter • Asst. Editor: Courtney Herod • Editorial Asst.: Rachel Beaver • communication@carolinasda.org

EVANGELISM IMPACT

Exploring and Adapting to a New Way

“I want to talk with you about the priority and the burden of evangelism and the blessings that are afforded to us, even in this very rare and strange season in which we find ourselves.”

Thus began Debleaire Snell, pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church



Tank Brooks and Becky Carpenter

in Huntsville, AL, as he shared the keynote address during **Evangelism Impact 2021** held February 19-20. Indeed, this is a “rare and strange season.” Merely 12 months ago, the Carolina Ministerial Department hosted over 1,000 attendees at the 4th annual **Impact** at the Landmark Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Leaders Glen Altermatt, Samuel Romero and Haskell Williams were determined that **Evangelism Impact** must continue in 2021, even during a pandemic.

“How can we effectively minister in these uncertain times?” Glen Altermatt, Evangelism Director, asked. “I believe this is a question all churches have been asking this past year. So we asked our presenters to wrestle with this question, and we weren’t disappointed.”

The decision was made to present the 5th annual **Evangelism Impact** virtually. While our message remains the same, the methods needed to be modified to meet the needs and the times.

“When this thing hit us, none of us were prepared for it,” Pastor Snell shared candidly. “We couldn’t rightly predict what was going to happen. And we all found ourselves in a season of having to adjust, having to adapt.”

“Learning as we go” was a consistent theme of each of the speakers. Pastor Richie Halversen, pastor of the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, TN, con-

curred, “We’re all figuring this out. We don’t have all the answers. But we do know Who does have all of the answers.”

Even in this uncertainty, Pastor Snell offered a word of encouragement. Parodying a biblical truism in Ecclesiastes 9:11, he said, “The race isn’t given to the swift, or the battle to the strong, but to those who endure to the end.”

He continues, “The most impactful thing that can happen to somebody is not education; it is not for them to receive wealth; it is not for them to be a part of social programs. The most transforming, powerful thing that can happen to a man or a woman is for them to encounter the power of Jesus Christ, and to have the truth of the Living God anchor their hearts and their souls. We have a truth that is designed to reach the world in these dark and evil days.”

The production team, led by digital specialist and Pastor Ruben Casabona, included Communication Director Becky Carpenter, ITS director Elias Sandoval, and Tank Brooks, building operations manager, along with the ministerial Department, were a multi-discipline unit.

English and Spanish tracks were taking place simultaneously in the same studio and streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Additionally, the Spanish presentation was carried on the Carolina-based internet channel, **Luz Para Hoy**.

With the multiple outlets, it is difficult to determine viewership, but the numbers reached close to last year’s in-person

meetings, and keeps climbing due to online archiving of the messages.

Hispanic presenters were: Henry Barrios, Ministerial Associate for Hispanic Ministries, Florida Conference; Abdiel Del Toro, General Vice-President, Florida Conference; and Roger Hernandez, Evangelism & Ministerial Director, Southern Union, who also spoke for the English track.

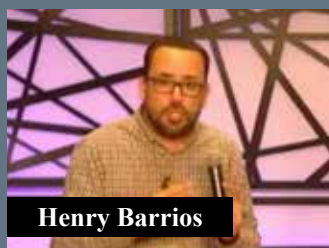
Most of the sessions featured a question & answer session as the final portion of each presentation.

Referring to the Disciples’ experience on the Lake of Galilee (Luke 5:5), Halversen reflected, “Maybe you’ve toiled all year and taken nothing. Maybe nothing your church tried (even before COVID) ever seemed to work. I believe Jesus is telling us what He told Peter, ‘I want you to let down your net again.’”

In his welcome Sabbath morning, Leslie Louis referenced Joseph Kidder’s book, **The Big Four**, and underscored prayer as the key element of four big factors in church growth. Sharing from Ellen White in *Selected Messages*, Book 1, P. 121, he quoted, “A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God’s Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word, but when the Spirit’s power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect.”

Roger Hernandez emphasized the same theme, “Prayer does not guarantee that the other person is going to change.

Continued on the following page.



Henry Barrios



Roger Hernandez



Richie Halversen



Abdiel Del Toro



Debleaire Snell

When King Uzziah died, with him died Israel's hope. The nation was mourning as they were facing a new reality; a nation without king was an easy prey to enemies. In the midst of confusion, chaos, hopeless and an uncertain future, God called Isaiah for a special mission.

"I Will Go" Carolina Magabook Ministry

At first, Isaiah was afraid and felt incapable to accomplish it, but after God's touch of Grace, he said, "Here am I, send me," Isaiah 6:8.

In other words, he said, "I Will Go, Lord."

Today we are living in difficult and rapidly changing times and God is asking the same question he asked thousands of years ago: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And like Isaiah, in the Carolina Conference Publishing department our response is, "I WILL GO".

We do believe that publishing ministry plays an important and foundational role in the spreading of the Three Angels' Message across the Carolinas. Every year, thousands of tracts, pamphlets and books circulate our territory.

Is for that reason, and by God's grace,

that Mt. Pisgah academy canvassing industry is reopening this spring. While studying, our students will have the



opportunity to engage in mission work. By doing so, they will experience the joy and satisfaction of our Lord's work. Canvassing is the very work God wants for Adventist educational institutions. We humbly ask our members for their generous prayers and support as we embrace this new challenge.

From May 23-August 18 we'll be holding our summer magabook program "I WILL GO." This year we will be impacting the Raleigh/Durham and Charlotte territories for Jesus. Every year local and international students come to our Conference to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is coming soon, and He is looking for young men and women across the Carolinas to engage in his mission.

There are still spaces available. Don't hesitate to call our department or go to carolinamagabooks.org

Also, we are creating a new presence on social media. Like us on Facebook (Carolina-Magabook) and follow



Photos contributed

us on Instagram ([carolina_magabook](https://www.instagram.com/carolina_magabook)) for more program and activity information.

The publishing ministry doesn't stop there. Just before the year ends we'll be having our winter canvassing program in the city of Charleston, SC. From early December to midst January we'll be knocking doors in that historic city.

I want to encourage every Carolina young man and woman to be part of one of our programs. Time is short, and your response to God could make a difference in someone's eternal destiny.

May God put in our hearts Isaiah's response, "I WILL GO!"

—by Caleb Matias Ayala

Continued from previous page.

But it does make it harder for them to remain the same, because we are deploying heaven's army. Start your day with a focus on reaching lost people. When you scan your social media feed, when you interact with people that cut your hair, or the person at the gas station—you're going to recognize people who are hurting. It's 'other-centered' ministry. Prayer puts us in touch with God's heart. And the prayer that God always answers is the

prayer for lost people."

"There is a direct connection between revivals in human history and prayer," Hernandez continued. "If you want to be effective about evangelism, it's about time we pray. Just start praying. Just pray!"

Snell concluded with a prayer, "May this gathering be that moment that we would look back and say this is where Pentecost happened. This is where things changed. This is where the history of

our Conference was rewritten."

As evangelism director, Glen Altermatt invites: "I hope to see you in person next year in Myrtle Beach!"

Until next year's Evangelism Impact on January 27-30—or our Lord Jesus comes—may we keep these messages in our hearts and actions.

If you missed this year's presentations you can view them on our Conference website. Just click the YouTube link.

—by Haskell Williams

Carolina Women's Retreat

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Heather Thompson Day
Date: October 1-3, 2021
Nosoca Pines Ranch



The Word of the Woman series serves Christian women of all denominations. It is centered on John 4:39 which reads, "and many of that city believed because of the word of the woman who testified."

In this seminar Heather will help encourage the gifts of women, go back to the garden of Eden, and leave every attendee assured that their words have power.

REGISTER: WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

The Word of the Woman

Teen Leadership Program Training Young People to Disciple Others

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!" Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 271

Emory Kelley, a member of the Winston-Salem First Pathfinder Club, was young and passionate about the Pathfinder ministry. Much like Franklin Moses, who was instrumental in starting the Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program many years ago, Emory wanted Pathfinders to have the opportunity to be a part of outreach projects and training as well as first aid and disaster response programs.

In the fall of 2018, Tam Adams, a member of the Carolina Pathfinder Council, caught the vision and helped Emory get his ideas heard. In January of 2020, the Council approved the TLTs as an official subcommittee. Since that time, they

have met virtually almost every Sunday to make future plans. What makes this program so special is that it is developed and implemented by the young people themselves.



The TLT Committee desires to train an army of youth to help take the Advent Message to all the world. A Pathfinder can become a TLT when he/she reaches the 9th grade. They then take on leadership responsibilities in their Pathfinder club and learn

how to be effective leaders in all aspects of life. The Committee's goal is to enroll 1,000 Pathfinders as TLTs in the Carolina Conference.

The TLT Committee has monthly virtual meetings for Pathfinders that are in the Voyager class level and up. The meetings include a short worship, time for participants to share what they are doing in Pathfinders, and games.

The TLT Committee is currently looking for dedicated volunteers to assist in program development, or be representatives from the coastal and mountain areas of North Carolina. There are also opportunities to be involved in your local Pathfinder and TLT ministry. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact pathfinderTLTs@carolinasda.org; Call/text: (704) 218-8287; Instagram: @carolinaTLTs.

A 2Serve CERT disaster relief/basic first aid training will be held July 14-18 at Tri-City Christian Academy in Highpoint, NC. This event is open to all Pathfinders in the Voyager class and up.

The TLT Committee is excited to start implementing their plans. Please join them in prayer as they seek to rightly train an army of workers in our youth.

— Sarah Echemendia, TLT Committee Secretary Mountain Area Representative

Wake Forest Church Building Project

For several years our church family in Wake Forest has dreamed of having their own church building. After years of fundraising and planning they were able to purchase an ideal property in this expensive city north of Raleigh.

However, with extremely stringent city codes and rising building costs, the church has run out of money. Today we have an unfinished church in Wake Forest, with no hope of procuring an occupancy permit unless the Lord intervenes with a miracle of financial resources.

Pastor Peter Trzinski shares that, after exhausting funding from the Carolina Conference, they are about \$225,000 short of what they need to move in. Phase 1 includes the sanctuary, Sabbath School classrooms, foyer and

bathrooms, along with landscaping and parking lot improvements.

Recently they were able to raise \$17,078.00 through an auction fund, two donors from the conference office and direct giving from members.

If they do not raise enough money for Phase 1, then they will likely consider selling the property and their partially built facility...a major, disheartening setback for this church family. Who knows if a buyer will be present, and what the selling price would be? This year will certainly be a make-or-break fundraising year for them.

Presently they are finishing up the rough electrical, low-voltage wiring for sound systems, etc. and then will move into an inspection phase, with insulation and drywall to follow.

The church has applied with Maranatha Volunteers for a visit where they will paint, and install trim and doors. The church is praying that they will be able to keep a good timeline so when the volunteer team comes, they will be ready. It is tight, but by God's grace and blessing, it will be doable.

Join me as we all make this a matter of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to convict generous hearts across the Carolinas to help our sister church in Wake Forest. By God's grace and with His blessing, I pray that we will be able to celebrate the realization of their dream come true.

All gifts to this project are tax-deductible and may be sent through the Carolina Conference for the Wake Forest Church Building Fund.

—Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference President



Photos contributed

Peter and Sandra Trzinski

Mills River Adventist School is Bursting at the Seams

Mills River Seventh-day Adventist School has been so important to the community that they have experienced noticeable growth in enrollment over the last few years. They desperately need space to accommodate the students. They also provide a weekly homeschool enrichment day so home-schooled students can experience a classroom environment. Enrichment

classes include choir, art, guitar, physical education, Spanish and educational field trips. Many families are looking for Christian education for their children.

Due to the ever-increasing numbers, it is their hope and plan to start construction on a new school building in 2021. They keep their tuition as low as possible, only enough to meet their budget, therefore their school does not have the funds for a new building.

Will you please consider blessing this building project with a generous contribution? Simply make your tax-deductible donation payable to Mills River SDA Church or give online at:

<https://adventistgiving.org/#/org/ANT8IQ/envelope/start>

and mark the memo for School Building Project. You may see the proposed building at: <https://millsrivernc.adventistschoolconnect.org/>

We know that, through faith, God will provide for the needs of our church school in Mills River. Please join us in adding the Mills River SDA School Project to your prayer list. May Heaven open up generous hearts to assist in the accomplishment of their needs.

—Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference President



Photos contributed

GENEROUS
LIVING

All of Me in
Response to All
of Him



Our Mission:
To love, educate, and
disciple students for
God's service.

"These huge campuses have many older buildings that need attention. Projects are put on the back burner and many have to stay there far longer than we want. We are so excited that the time is almost here."

RENOVATIONS

MARANATHA MAKES UPDATES TO GIRLS' DORMITORY

Mount Pisgah Academy is thrilled to have entered into a partnership with Maranatha to renovate the girls' dormitory this summer. They are pulling out carpet, demolishing closets, and adding new furniture, flooring, electrical outlets, USB ports and over-head lighting.

Many of our parents and alumni feel strongly about the need for an upgrade to the dorm. With limited budgets, all of our academies have had to make tough financial decisions and prioritize renovation projects, and it is a real struggle. These huge campuses have many older buildings that need attention. Projects are put on the back burner and many have to stay there for longer than desired. We are so excited that the time is almost here!

The dorm rooms have been changed from their original design, but the delay became a blessing, because it allowed time for us to realize that more durable furniture was needed in a dorm setting. As you can see by the photos, our new furniture is modern, sleek, and as a commercial-grade product, very durable.

Maranatha has arrived at MPA and started the project with their usual energy and helpful spirit. Prior to their arrival, contractors were brought in to manage some of the demolition of the interior. The old furniture will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The goal is to complete the entire dorm during this summer. The bathrooms are also in need of upgrades, but that project will have to be delayed. It's next on the list and will happen in the very near future.

How can you help? We need the help of our friends, alumni, and church members who feel it's time to show our girls—and our future students—that we want them to have a beautiful and comfortable place to study,



pray and to call home. All sizes of donations are needed and appreciated. You can make a online donation at www.pisgah.us, call Lucy Hall (info below) and donate via credit card or account draft, or send a check to: Mount Pisgah Academy, 75 Academy Dr., Candler, NC 28715.

We will be posting all donors' names in the dorm lobby to acknowledge your generosity and commitment to our school, and show our students that we have amazing alumni and friends who care about them.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and donations.

—Lucy Hall, Director of Development, MPA



The current girls' dormitory with the new furniture. The wood is a light, natural color as shown in the manufacturer's photo below.



Maranatha team at MPA

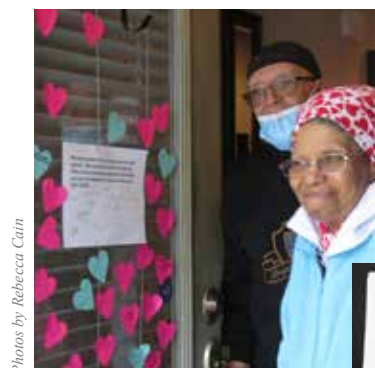
Renovations are currently underway.



Handing Out Heart Attacks?

Random Acts of Kindness During the Pandemic

February 17, 2021, was “Random Acts of Kindness Day.” What does a random act of kindness look like during a pandemic? The students of Myrtle Beach SDA Christian School found a creative way



Photos by Rebecca Cain

to bring cheer to some of the older members of their church during a time of social distancing and masks. They purchased heart-shaped sticky notes, and wrote Bible verses and encouraging notes on them. They then went to the homes of three families who had been shut in since the Covid pandemic started in March 2020. The students put the sticky notes and a

sign on the door that read, “You have just been given a heart attack. We just wanted to let you know you’ve been missed. We hope these hearts containing Bible verses and encouraging words brings you joy and happiness today and that you feel LOVED.”

Mrs. Malcolm, the first recipient of a random act of kindness, said, “This is the kind of heart attack that I want to have. It was so special to know that I am loved and not forgotten since I have been homebound since my stroke. I was so surprised and enjoyed seeing the students and Becky. Thank you for your love! It meant a lot to me.”

The second “heart attack” recipients were Mr. and Mrs. Burton. They sent the students a sweet thank you card letting them know how much they appreciated the notes.

At the final home the students observed Mrs. Fluker respond in total delight as she saw the beautiful faces of the students and read the encouraging notes on each heart.

I wish I could take credit for this

amazing and thoughtful idea but I must admit, I borrowed it from my friend’s Facebook wall. She, too, had been given a “heart attack,” and her warm response and gratitude showed me that this simple act of kindness could go a long way.

Ephesians 4:32 reminds us, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” How can you follow the principles set forth in this verse and the example given by these students in showing “acts of kindness” during a pandemic?

—Photos and story by Rebecca Cain, former teaching principal at Myrtle Beach Seventh-day Adventist Christian School



Charlotte Spanish District Holds Successful Evangelistic Event

From May 21 to 29 the Charlotte Spanish District held an evangelistic week for all five of its congregations. The presenter for the series was Elder Julio Chazarreta, hispanic ministerial coordinator for the Southern Union. He and his wife Lourdes made an excellent team, joining together to present the seminar “Apocalipsis, La Revelación de Jesucristo” (Apocalypse, The Revelation of Jesus Christ).

During the 11-night series, those who were physically present, as well

as online participants, had a wonderful experience with new and fresh insights from the Revelation of Jesus.



At the end of the series, members were treated to a spiritual feast when on May 29, the whole district joined to celebrate the victory of Jesus. 26 people were baptized and five accepted by profession of faith from the four principal congregations. To God be the glory for what He has done, touching more hearts for His kingdom.

—Pastor Julio Flores



Photos contributed

CRISPR Debate Project at MPA

With COVID restrictions in the classroom, adapting lesson plans to be challenging and engaging can be difficult. This past semester, Tricia Markoff and I decided to collaborate on a mid-term project for sophomores. This project would incorporate content from her Biology class with research and debate tools from my English II class: a project where students debate whether or not scientists should use CRISPR for genetic engineering. CRISPR is an acronym for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, and is a family of DNA sequences found in the genomes of prokaryotic organisms such as bacteria and archaea. In preparation, we discussed the material we would be teaching and evaluated the project's requirements and rubrics.

During Tricia's class, she taught students about the structure and properties of DNA and included resources that highlighted current discussions of CRISPR and genome editing. Students needed to be familiar with the vocabulary and composition of DNA before understanding how

technology like CRISPR operates and what concerns are present with editing DNA. Correspondingly, I focused on teaching students how to identify credible research sources and prepare and present an argument based on supporting evidence from their research.

After teaching the foundational subject material, students were assigned to research teams and allowed

sources, format an MLA works cited page, and write a cohesive argumentative essay with extensive evidence and rebuttals that supported their viewpoint.

The day before spring break, students presented their arguments in MPA's auditorium for their classmates; students in the audience completed forms that critiqued each team's presentation. Although students admitted the project was rigorous, many felt that it pushed them to truly understand the content material and communicate with their team to apply what they had learned.

As teachers of students who constantly absorb new information, Tricia and I believe that it is essential for students to think

critically about the ideas they are consuming and formulate conclusions founded on reliable evidence. This project allowed us to challenge ourselves and our students by connecting two different subject areas through interdisciplinary learning.

—Alexis Jones Moraga, MPA Staff,
English II, English III, English IV, &
Yearbook



PC: Abby King



to pick their stance on scientists' use of CRISPR from a list of topics. Some examples of the topics included were, "Should scientists use CRISPR to bring back the Woolly mammoth?" and "Who should decide whether or not a person receives genetic editing?". The students went through a step-by-step research process that required them to locate credible

SPEAKERS:

DON MCLAFFERTY

DEREK MORRIS

SCOTT MOORE

ELIZABETH TALBOT

YOUNG ADULT: RYAN BECKER

JUNIOR: CHRIS BUSH

EARLITEEN: TAM ADAMS/TLT

YOUTH: JUSTIN KIM

MORE INFO:

www.carolinasda.org

We cannot wait to see
everyone again in person
for Camp Meeting 2022!



LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING

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

Fort Mill and York Churches Help Youth Leaving Foster Care

Remember what it was like to turn 18? Those of us who have been there can most likely remember the excitement and the uncertainty that came with realizing the time had come to start adulting. We had many questions and honestly, if it wasn't for the love and patience of our parents or other caring adults, who knows where we would be? Imagine experiencing that transition without a parent or caregiver to provide guidance, assistance, or moral support.

Every year across the US, thousands of children in foster care reach the age of 18 and age out of foster care. Aging out of foster care means a child reaches the legal age of adulthood while in foster care, without ever achieving a permanent plan to reunify with parents or be legally placed with a caregiver. "In federal fiscal year (FY) 2018, nearly 18,000 young people aged out of foster care. As these young people leave care, they often do so without a stable network of people and resources upon whom they can rely for support." (Child Trends, 2020)

During the months of December and January, Fort Mill Adventist Church church held a donation drive



Photographs: Kathy Souare and Lydia Ra

to collect items to help 65 young adults who aged out of foster care in Mecklenburg County, NC. They were in need of household items such as bedding, cleaning supplies, kitchen tools, and personal toiletries. When the call for help was made, members of the Fort Mill and York churches came through! Over the course of four weeks, members from both

churches donated various home and personal items such as pots, glassware, kitchen appliances, cleaning supplies, comforters, towels, toiletries, and even some beautifully knitted hats, scarves, and slippers. Over 500 items were collected! On January 19th, 2021, the donations were delivered to the social work staff who oversee case management services for the young adults. The donations will be distributed by the social workers along with reading material that will help the young adults learn about Christ. What a wonderful opportunity this was to serve and

share God's love!

Thank you to all the Fort Mill and York Seventh-day Adventist Church families and individuals who donated items, funds, and time to make this possible.

—by Kathy Souare

Carolina Men's Retreat 2021

Sept 24-26, 2021 • Nosoca Pines Ranch

Hispanic Track: [Pedro M. Canales](#)
English Track: [Nelson Fernandez](#)

Register at www.carolinasda.org
Early bird prices till Sept. 1.

FREE T-SHIRT with all registrations received by Sept. 10.



Continued from page 2.

district). That represents 25% of our full-time pastors serving 25% of our conference membership. God has blessed our Conference family with a host of Hispanic hearts for Heaven, souls that will be cherished throughout the realms of eternity.

I can hardly believe that almost 10 years have come and gone since the day I drove from my home in Montgomery, AL, to Nosoca Pines Ranch to meet my new Carolina pastoral team. A group of Hispanic pastors leaned toward Pastor Sam and playfully said it looked like his brother was the new president of the Carolina Conference! Our complexion and our salt and pepper hair are not the only things we have shared through the years as we experienced the joy of working together as colleagues, friends, and brothers in Christ.



Mary, with her ready smile and willing heart, was always at Sam's side assisting in a host of ministry functions, Hispanic camp meetings, and a never-ending calendar of events both in and out of the Conference office. With an excellent command of both English and Spanish, she was always willing to assist colleagues whenever they needed something translated into Spanish. Both she and Sam served as my coaches as I practiced the delivery of my messages in Spanish...even though realmente no hablo español (I really don't speak Spanish)! Mary was always a listening ear or a helping hand or a second mom to many of our fellow office workers, pastors' wives, and members. Her beautiful, God-given love for others has been abundantly evident throughout her ministry here in the Carolinas.

With the Romero's retirement this past May, what I will miss most are the times we enjoyed each other's fellowship, sharing occasional Sabbath sunset dinners and worships at our home, laughing together over stories

and events of our lives, and even the times we shed tears together and prayed for each other, our children, and our grandchildren.

Although they have entered into a more restful and relaxed phase of their lives, Sam and Mary will always remain the patriarchs of the Hispanic work in the Carolinas, and a cherished part of our Conference family.

May the good Lord bless and keep Sam and Mary in His constant love and care till that glorious morning when we meet our Savior beside the crystal sea (Revelation 4:6). The greatest honor that can ever be bestowed on both of them and all who have consecrated their lives in service will be expressed in the heartwarming words of Jesus himself, "Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your Lord." (Matthew

Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President

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Carolina Obituaries

BROZNY, GARMAN, SUZANNE (SUE) (DANFORTH), 94, born February 11, 1926, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, died December 13, 2020, in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of Carter Memorial Church, VA. She was preceded in death by her parents, nine siblings, her first husband, her son-in-law, and two great-granddaughters. Sue grew up in Holly, MI, and graduated from Adelphian Academy. She attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University). Later she studied at Hinsdale Hospital School of Nursing, where she graduated with a Licensed Practical Nursing Degree. Sue married John Frank Brozny in the mid-1940s and together they had three daughters. In the 1950s, the family lived on the edge of the campus of Andrews University. A stay at home mom, Sue supplemented the family income by selling fudge. She later became a student center hostess at the university, then worked in healthcare at Berrien General Hospital and as a reporter for the Berrien Springs newspaper. In the early 1960s the family moved to Loma Linda, CA. Sue became an assistant girls' dean at Loma Linda University. In 1998, after being a widow for some years, Sue met and married the love of her life, Hubert Joyce Garman, and went to live with him in his home in Warsaw, VA. In 2013, after a terrible house fire, Sue and Hub moved to Fletcher Park Inn. Sue is survived by her daughters, Katherine Jo Brozny Goodz, Candace Sue Brozny Boothby, Kelly Sue Boothby Lessmeister (Bradley), and Rebecca Anne Brozny Finnegan (Bryan); two step-children, Donald Wesley Garman and Deborah Garman Kearney (John); four grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

DUNNING, ROY ALBERT, SR., 88, born August 23, 1931, in Guilford Co., NC, died July 10, 2020. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Grace C. Dunning; three brothers and five sisters. He was a member of the High Point Church for over 80 years, and believed to be the longest attending member. He was self-employed as a general contractor building residential housing. He was the owner and operator of Yadkin Memorial Gardens in Yadkinville, NC. He served in the US Army stationed in Germany. Survivors are his wife of 41 years, Celia Y. Dunning; a son, Roy A.

Dunning, Jr., two daughters, Judy Burke (Gary), Jo Ann Sapp (Lee), a sister, Juanita Connor; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

KELLY, CAROL ANN, 80, born April 9, 1940, in Syracuse, NY, died January 21, 2021, in Hendersonville, NC. She was a member of Fletcher Church. Carol and Bill, her husband, took care of numerous children all of their lives and in the summer would teach Vacation Bible School in their home for those in the neighborhood. Carol retired as a cook after more than 15 years with the Nutrition and Food Department of Advent Health Hendersonville (formerly known as Park Ridge Hospital). She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; a grandson, Arthur Ray Corn III; and two brothers, Robert and Charles Cowburn. Carol is survived by her children; Brenda Kelly (J.J. Mathis), John Kelly (Michelle), James Kelly (Kristy), Carolyn Gasperson (David), Kimberly Davenport (Diana) and Jessica Kelly (Jonathan Jones); 16 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

LANDERS, ALVIN TERRY, 82, born February 11, 1938, died February 2, 2021, in Columbia, SC. He was member of Columbia First Church. The fourth of six children, he was raised in Duluth, GA, and graduated from Duluth High School in 1956. He served in the United States Army as an artilleryman and was deployed to Germany during the Korean Conflict. Al met and married the love of his life, Audrey Evans Landers, in 1962. He was formally trained in heating, ventilation and air conditioning and established A & R Service, Inc. in 1973. He and Audrey went on to operate Landers Properties in the latter part of his life. An avid philanthropist, he became a foster parent to several children, traveled to Estonia and Costa Rica as a missionary, and gave back to his community most every opportunity afforded him. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Pamela Landers Edwards (Tommy) and Amy Landers May; two sons-in-law, H. Michael Helms (Terrie), and Jon C. May; one daughter-in-law, Amy White Landers; two sisters, June Starnes and Mary Ann Kenerly; one brother, Billy Landers (Mary); a brother-in-law, Franklin Evans (Mildred); two granddaughters; two

grandsons; and more than 30 nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his son, Jason Todd Landers; a brother, Neal Landers; and a sister, Marie Powers.

NORTHCUTT, JACK MARTIN, 89, born April 10, 1931, in Donna, TX, died February 11, 2021, in Hendersonville, NC. The oldest of four children, Jack received his B.S. in nursing in 1953 from Union College and served, as a nurse in the U.S. Army during the Korean War stationed in Germany. He became a certified nurse anesthetist while attending Madison College in Tennessee, and later completed a master's degree in healthcare administration at Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. He served as a healthcare executive for several decades, first in New Braunfels and then San Marcos, TX, and later, at Florida Hospital in Orlando, FL. In addition to his parents and siblings, he is preceded in death by his spouse, D. Lois Yvonne (Sharpe). Surviving are his children, Heather Brownlow and David Northcutt; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

OH SOOK, DOROTHY (LEE), 88, born September 10, 1932, in Gangwon Province, South Korea, died February 4, 2021, in Asheville, NC. She was member of the Fletcher Church. During the era when Japan occupied Korea, she became a Seventh-day Adventist through her brother, who later became a prominent pastor. She graduated from Ewha Girl's High School, one of the elite schools in Seoul. She studied linguistics at Seoul National University, and attended the seminary at Samyook College. She served the church as an educator for more than 20 years in Korea, including as an English teacher at Seoul Samyook Academy and Adventist Nursing School. Later she was a Hebrew instructor in the theology department. In 1958, at age 25, she married a seminary student, Jae Yoon Oh. She came to the United States in 1961, and her husband attended graduate school at Andrews University. They returned to Korea and continued their work at Adventist schools. Having no biological children of their own, they regarded their students as their family. In 1975, the couple immigrated to the United States. She studied nursing at Loma Linda University and became an ICU nurse. As a pastor-nurse duo, they planted and

served many Korean churches over the next two decades. They found their retirement home in 1997 in Fletcher, NC, but even during retirement, organized and ministered to the Korean Asheville Group, which they served for 18 years. After her husband's death in 2015, her last years continued to be full of service and cheerfulness.

OLSON, ALTHEA LORRAINE (KINNEY), 99, born March 26, 1921, in New Orleans, LA, died February 3, 2021, in Cleveland, TN. She was member of Fletcher Church. Lorraine graduated from Broadview Academy in La Fox, IL, in 1938. She later attended Walla Walla College, Home Study Institute, and Atlantic Union College. On March 12, 1942, she married her academy sweetheart, Franklin W. Hudgins, in Cheyenne, WY, where he was stationed during World War II. When the war was over, Franklin and Lorraine moved with their two daughters to Lincoln, NE. In 1950, their third daughter was born. Lorraine worked beside her pastor husband as his secretary in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Ohio, then worked for Faith for Today and in Southern California. In 1974, Lorraine became administrative assistant to H.M.S. Richards and his son, H.M.S. Richards, Jr. at the Voice of Prophecy. When Franklin was called to the Columbia Union Conference in Takoma Park, MD, in 1977, Lorraine worked at the General Conference as the administrative secretary to Duane Johnson in Secretariat and later for A. J. Patzer and Neal C. Wilson in Presidential. When Lorraine and Franklin were called back to Southern California in 1983, Lorraine served as the Bible School supervisor at the Voice of Prophecy before retiring with Franklin on December 31, 1985. After retiring, they moved to Glendora, CA. In 1997, the couple moved into Linda Valley Villa in Loma Linda, CA. Shortly after, Franklin was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. After caring for him for two years, he was transferred to the Care Center on the Villa Campus before he passed away on December 23, 2001. On June 9, 2002, Lorraine married Dr. Charles B. Hirsch, a long-time friend and colleague who had lost his wife to the same disease. He passed away 18 months later. In September, 2004, Lorraine moved to the Collegedale, TN, area to be near her daughters. In 2007, she moved back to the Villa in Loma

Linda. Lorraine married former Broadview Academy school mate Dr. Robert W. Olson (former director of the E.G. White Estate) on May 7, 2009. They moved to Fletcher, NC, in July, 2011. Bob died on April 15, 2013. In November, 2019, Lorraine's children moved her to an assisted living facility in Ooltewah, TN. Lorraine co-authored pageants for two General Conference Sessions, and produced *The Worth of a Soul*, which was later presented under the title, *Is My Name Written There?* She was a member of the National Society of Mayflower Descendants, having descended from James Chilton, the oldest passenger to make the historic voyage. Lorraine is survived by her five children: Barbara Stevens (Ray), Sonnie Harp (Herman), Beverly Wahlne (Lennart), Lonnie Hudgins (Barbara), and Steve Hudgins (Sherri); 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

THOMAS, TURNER, HELEN ELIZABETH (WESSELS), 89, born February 22, 1931, in Durban, South Africa, died November 28, 2020, in Sonora, CA. She was member of the Fletcher Church. Helen served alongside her husband, Don Thomas, in various mission capacities (secretary, bookkeeper, teacher) for the Adventist denomination, including in Central Africa, South Africa and West Africa. Helen was preceded in death by her husband in 2003; her second husband, James Turner, in 2018; her daughter, Margaret Thomas, in 1956 at the age of 3; her daughter, Marilyn, in 1978 at the age of 18; and all her siblings. Her family lived in Johannesburg, South Africa, during the great depression. After completing grade 10 in Johannesburg, Helen joined her sister at Helderberg College, near Cape Town. She graduated with a commercial diploma and went to the Belgium Congo to serve as a missionary for 18 months. She married Don Thomas in 1951. After their wedding both Don and Helen went to the Belgium Congo. Over the next 43 years Helen and Don served at several mission locations in Central Africa and Zimbabwe, South Africa and West Africa. In 1994, they moved to the United States where they served the Safford and Wilcox congregations in Arizona for six years. Helen worked as a medical transcriptionist and also for an insurance company. Don pastored two

congregations in Georgia for two years. After Don passed away in 2003, Helen volunteered at a hospital and community service center in Greenville, TN. She went on mission trips to Tanzania, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Helen spoke five languages, and during her adult life she lived in 37 different homes in six countries. After eight years as a widow, at the age of 80 she married James Turner. After two years on James' farm, they retired to Fletcher Park Inn. After moving to an assisted living facility in Georgia, James passed away in 2018. Helen moved to Sonora, CA, near family. Helen is survived by her daughter, Charlene Masson (Andy); her son, Robert Thomas (Sherry), four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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 website for
COVID-19 calendar updates.**

JULY

Mental Health Virtual Seminar—24. Coping with the Pandemic and Post-Pandemic World. Virtual.

AUGUST

Volunteer Lay Pastor Training—6-8. NPR

Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership Convention—27-29. NPR.

SEPTEMBER

Carolina Retirees' Retreat—19-23. NPR. www.cransda.org

MPA Alumni Weekend—24-25. MPA.

Carolina Men's Retreat—24-26. NPR. Register at www.carolinasda.org.

OCTOBER

Carolina Women's Retreat—1-3. NPR. www.carolinasda.org to register.

Hispanic Women's Retreat—8-10. NPR. www.carolinasda.org for more information.

**Please visit our website for
updates on whether COVID-19 will
negatively affect these events.
www.carolinasda.org.*

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- Provide all interested students with **on-campus jobs** where they can earn up to \$2,000 each school year.
- Handed out over **\$60,000 in scholarships** during Academy Days Weekend.
- Gave all 8th grade graduates from Carolina Conference SDA Elementary Schools **scholarships for their academic performance, totaling over \$40,000.**
- Grant students funding from our generous donors through our **Touch A Life scholarship program.**
- **Match 50% of summer camp and literature evangelism gross earnings.**
- Partner with North Carolina to allow **Opportunity Scholarships** for students transitioning from public school.