

# CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 2, 2023



## GOING THE DISTANCE

Run4Life 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run  
at Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting

pages 8-10



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

## A Tribute to Our Adventist Educators

Our Adventist schools across North and South Carolina have now closed the memory pages of the 2022-2023 school year.

God has graciously and safely guided each of our Carolina schools through another year. The longer and lighter days of summer are upon us. Graduates from our academies are now headed to the next step of their lives.

Later this summer, over 6,000 Adventist educators from across the North American Division will soon gather together for their quinquennial convention in Phoenix, A.Z., from August 7-10. The theme is built on reaching for "Something Better." Rooted in scriptural teachings that vividly depict God's character, our teachers will be encouraged to delve deep, personally experience, and truly comprehend the transformative power of the One who seeks to restore us to completeness. Seventh-day Adventist beliefs are intended to encompass every aspect of our lives, permeating our thoughts, actions, and world view.

It was Samuel, under the Lord's direction, who established the schools of the prophets – the first in Ramah, his hometown, and the other in Kireath Jearim – prototypes or forerunners of today's Seventh-day Adventist Christian schools.

Exactly 151 years ago in 1872, the Seventh-day Adventist Church opened the doors of its first church school in Battle Creek, Michigan, with Goodloe Bell as the first Seventh-day Adventist church school teacher. How coincidental that we had a

Bell as our first Adventist educator! Today, I thank God for our church elementary schools, high schools, colleges, and universities that circle the globe from the Carolina to Calcutta, India. You'll find Adventist schools in nearly 150 countries. With

wrote this in one of her letters: "The teachers in our church schools should not be left to carry alone the burden of training and educating our children and youth. They need the sympathy, kindness, the cooperation, and the love of every church



85,000 teachers, 1.5 million students, 7,500 schools, the Adventist school system is the largest Protestant Christian educational system in the world.

In India, my parents made the transition from Catholic schools to Adventist schools during their childhood. This change occurred after my grandparents embraced the message of the Adventist Church, which was prompted by their reading of *The Great Controversy* and their subsequent commitment to follow the Bible faithfully. As a result, I completed my elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate education in Seventh-day Adventist institutions and had the privilege of serving in educational ministry for 32 years. Exactly 50 years ago (July 1973), I began my teaching ministry in Fort Myers, F.L., in a classroom of twenty 5th and 6th graders. I was only 20, and had so much to learn!

Ellen White's prophetic pen

member." *Manuscript 22, 1904, Letters and Manuscripts, Volume 19, page 252*

Let's uplift and honor each of our Adventist educators in our prayers, invoking God's blessings in their personal lives, families, and in their schools. Let us fervently pray for God to provide teachers, as the pool of educators we urgently need has alarmingly diminished. This is not an exaggeration but a matter of utmost significance, as we seek to save our children from the influence of the enemy in these end times.

I am grateful to God for our Adventist educators, and recognize the profound impact they have had on my life and the lives of the children and youth within our Carolina Conference.

Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis  
Carolina Conference President





Photos by Rebecca Carpenter

## CAROLINA CONFERENCE EQUIPS ELDERS AND PASTORS FOR MINISTRY AT C.O.R.E RETREAT

“**M**oses was overworked, but his father-in-law Jethro loved him enough to instruct him on how to organize other leaders under himself” (Ex. 18:13-27). With the busyness of the modern world, the need for organized leadership is greater than ever. Thus, the Lord established elders to help oversee the work of the church alongside their pastoral leaders. One of the primary roles of the pastor is to train church members for service in ministry (Eph. 4:11-13). This, of course, includes church elders, and the Conference Officer Retreat for Elders (C.O.R.E.) endeavored to do just that.

On April 21, 2023, elders and pastors from across the Carolina Conference gathered to receive a weekend of training, inspiration, and ideas to further ministry. The theme of the weekend was “Filled with the Spirit,” and Pr. Pavel Goia shared both inspirational messages and instructions on

what it looks like to cast a vision for the local church and launch meaningful, Spirit-led outreach. In concert with Goia’s teaching, the Carolina Conference officers and the ministerial department shared practical tools and training related to evangelism, preaching, community outreach, and total member involvement. Local elders sent in questions with their event registration, and many were addressed by the leadership team via panel discussions and Q&A.

The goal of the event was to both inspire and equip local leadership teams for ministry in their context and specific demographics. On Sabbath afternoon, Pr. Darryl Bentley, associate ministerial director, shared a tool called MissionInsite that taps into census and consumer trend data to help local churches know specifics about their communities. Bentley gave a live demonstration of how the data can be used to meet needs present in the community, and each

church represented was given two reports on their community. Other churches can request a report by visiting [www.carolinasda.org/elder-resources](http://www.carolinasda.org/elder-resources) and clicking on “Request MissionInsite Reports for Your Church.”

The weekend culminated with a send-off from Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis. Elder Louis challenged attendees to make time in their lives to stop and listen for the voice of God and to actively take up the mantle of leadership in their churches. He also shared the Conference’s goal of emphasizing discipleship along with our consistent evangelistic efforts. Apart from the training and inspiration, each meeting was bathed in prayer and blessed by music from various elders across the Conference. All leaders are encouraged to continue learning and growing in their walk with and service to Jesus.

—Darryl Bentley

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Photo by Courtney Herod

the Carolina Conference, and he and his family accepted the call to pastor in Jacksonville, N.C. They served there until being called to his current assignment in Winston-Salem and Clemmons, N.C.

On the day of his ordination service, Pastor Howard was recommended for ordination to the gospel ministry by the same pastor who baptized him in prison many years ago. Elder Keith Noll, now retired, gave a rousing message and passionately described Pastor Howard's love for the Lord and pastoral ministry. Following the prayer of ordination and laying on of hands, Elder Howard

was officially welcomed into ministry by Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis. Elder Louis and Elder Haskell Williams placed the mantle of leadership upon Elder Howard.

Recognizing that ministry is a family affair, Mrs. Carole Louis affirmed and uplifted Ana Howard in her role as a faithful ministry spouse, and Isabella Howard, the Howard's daughter, blessed the event by sharing special music on the violin. Pastor and Mrs. Howard have been faithful in their ministry, and the Conference leadership team counts it an honor to welcome them to the worldwide gospel ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—Darryl Bentley, Associate Director, Ministerial Department

One day, Justin Howard found himself sitting in prison for dealing drugs. In that moment, he never suspected that the Lord could or would use him to bring others to Christ. Yet, within the walls of prison, Justin met Pastor Keith Noll, and one evening in a lonely, dirty prison cell, Justin gave his heart to Christ. That commitment began a journey that not only compelled Justin to share his faith while behind bars but, upon his release from prison, also led him to become a Bible worker for his grandmother's church in Ohio. Eventually, he sensed the need for deeper training in his work for the Lord, and Justin attended Mission College of Evangelism. After the training, Justin returned home, where he was asked to be the evan-

gelism coordinator for his church, and he held his first series of public meetings.

Some time passed, and Justin returned to Mission College, where he was called to be the outreach and meeting coordinator. The Lord blessed his efforts there, and the door opened for Justin to serve in the Washington Conference as the Bible trainer and evangelism coordinator. In that role, he worked alongside churches to train lay members for service in evangelistic efforts and Bible work before and after the meetings. Justin's success in ministry led him to accept a call to pastoral ministry in the Mountainview Conference, where he served for several years. Eventually, Pastor Howard caught the attention of the leadership team of

## FROM PRISON TO THE PULPIT: The Ordination of Pastor Justin Howard



# The Carolina Conference

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Includes recordings from Camp Meeting!



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## BUILDING A BEACON OF FAITHFULNESS in Greenville, North Carolina

For more than a century, the Greenville Seventh-day Adventist Church has been known in the Upstate South Carolina community for their faith. Now, with an aging infrastructure and limited physical facilities, the congregation knew they would soon be forced to remodel or build a new church. But as they looked to their future in this rapidly growing city, they realized they needed more than just a new building. They needed a new vision for daily applying their faith—to now be known to their community as a center of true joy, peace, and restoration through authenticity, openness, and opportunity.

Monday to Friday, most church buildings stand empty, with locked doors and darkened windows. However, the needs of those who pass those buildings aren't limited to the weekend. This church is stepping out in faith

to build something new—something that stands as a daily refuge for those seeking encouragement, community and connection in a continually fractured world.

The church has partnered with a leading worship-and-community architect to plan a space that includes:

- An expansive, open lobby with



open access to outdoor green space, a kitchen, and public restrooms, designed to host a wide range of community events,

from concerts to farmer's markets to job fairs.

- A main Worship Center that is also equipped with theater loading access behind the stage to facilitate other community uses outside of worship services.
- Retail space as a community commons with reservable meeting areas.
  - A modern, connected board room for NGOs to use freely in pursuit of their mission.
  - Logistics and storage area for their community clothing drives and homeless outreach efforts.
  - A two-car, in-ground oil change facility for single parents or people without resources.
  - Secure, extended-stay, temporary housing spaces for those with nowhere else to turn.
- Greenville County Police annex that serves their neighboring



school facility and increases security and monitoring for the facility and surrounding community.

- Soccer field that supplements the community parks in the surrounding neighborhoods and provides space for underprivileged kids to engage in athletics Summer Camps.

The Greenville Church believes that their Gospel impact begins on their own street, in their own neighborhood. They have a renewed commitment to serving others as Jesus served. He didn't just heal the blind, lame, and leper – He healed their hearts too. He was present and engaged among the outcasts and invisible. He was a friend for sinners and screw-ups. And He preached a life of repentance and forgiveness of sins, only found in Him.

That's the Jesus they hope to show

their community, not by just talking about Him, but through how they develop their facilities, leverage their capabilities, and increase their reach. Together, they will build a beacon of faithfulness that shines bright across their city with Good News.

If you are interested in learning more about the future of Greenville Seventh-day Adventist Church or their mission, visit [www.buildingabeacon.com](http://www.buildingabeacon.com).

*By Henry Johnson, Pastor GSDA*



Photos contributed

## FROM TEACHING TO SERVING: Adult Sabbath School and Community Services Conference

**O**n March 24-26, a group of Adult Sabbath School teachers, Superintendents, Community Service Leaders, Personal Ministry Directors, and Elders came together for a weekend of training and inspiration at Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Dr. David DeRose was the week-

end's keynote speaker. In addition, eight breakout sessions equipped attendees with a variety of topics. Royce Snyman provided resources and insights highlighting the



Photos by Rebecca Carpenter

end's keynote speaker. He shared the Timeless Healing Insights from the



GROW model for teaching and preparing the Adult SS lesson. Community Service Director Dr. David Graham spotlighted "Attaining the fullness of Christ through serving on the frontline." Lorna

Dever and Wanagua Hartwell shared how effectively helping people facing food deprivation is like serving with the hands of Jesus. Ray Gray's theme, "Stand Up and Stand Out," challenged leaders to meet the "end time" emotional needs of the church and community. Stacey Ashmore shared the remarkable story and lessons from God guiding him and his church to serve their community in Greenville, South Carolina.

The schedule also allowed time for attendees to enjoy Nosoca and network with others around the conference. On Saturday evening, Jennifer LaMountain's concert exalted God and moved all to worship Him.

Feedback from attendees indicated the weekend was practical, helpful, and inspiring. Please save the Adult Sabbath School and Community Services date for the last weekend of March at Nosoca Pines Ranch. The organizers welcome others to join them for this event.

*—David Wright and David Graham*





Photo by Courtney Herold

# Carolina Conference

## A Week of Spiritual Growth



Photo by Courtney Herold

**C**arolina Conference Camp Meeting 2023 took place from Sunday, May 28th to Sabbath, June 3rd at the picturesque Lake Junaluska, N.C. The theme for this year's gathering was "Seeking His Face," and it proved to be a transformative and enriching experience for the more than 2500 attendees of all ages.

The event kicked off on Sunday evening with a warm welcome from Leslie and Carole Louis. Elder Louis emphasized that the theme of seeking Christ's face was not just a mere slogan but a prayer that the attendees would earnestly seek a deeper connection with Jesus. The opening night featured a powerful presentation by Tom Evans of Child Impact Interna-

tional, our Global Vista presenter. He was followed by Kameron Devasher, director of the Sabbath School and personal ministries department for the Michigan Conference, who continued to deliver thought-provoking messages in the evening sessions. His presentations highlighted the significance of knowing our enemy and the role of God's divine plan in dealing with sin.

Numerous speakers and presenters shared valuable insights and messages throughout the week. The mornings were filled with inspiring talks and calls to action from our own Carolina pastors. Patrick Williams, pastor of the Asheville Foster Church, shared a personal story

Photo by Courtney Herold



Photo by Jessica Kovach



of regret when he left a birthday card from his father unopened. He stressed the importance of opening God's love letter, the Bible, to receive the gift of Jesus Christ. Ryan Ashlock, pastor of the Fletcher Church, addressed the challenges of sharing the gospel and provided

insights on effective ministry based on principles from 2 Corinthians.

Camp Meeting also provided a platform for attendees to explore various





# Camp Meeting 2023: Faith and Fellowship

ministries and engage in discussions. The Harrell Center hosted booths that showcased missionary stories, provided information about sponsorship and mission opportunities, and even offered free items.

The event also touched on important topics that are often considered taboo in Christian circles. Mike Carducci and Ron Woolsey, co-founders of ‘Coming Out’ Ministries, shared their testimonies as individuals who have come out of active homosexual backgrounds. They addressed the topic of sexuality and sexual identity, providing resources and guidance for families seeking to better understand and minister to their loved ones who identify as LGBTQ+.

Camp Meeting was not just limited to adults; it catered to children and youth as well. The children’s programs offered engaging activities and interactive lessons that centered on biblical teachings. From space-themed classrooms for kindergarteners to discussions on Jesus’ true identity for youth, each group had a unique and meaningful experience. On Thursday evening, the Kindergarten and Primary classes took center stage in the main auditorium, delight-



Photo by Courtney Herod

ing their families and other onlookers in the audience as they shared the music they had learned throughout the week.

Several outings took place in the younger groups during Camp Meeting. The teens and young adults both took rafting trips, and the Earliteen

group joined in the water activities with a tubing excursion.

The week was also filled with memorable moments and special tributes. A Memorial Day tribute on Monday night honored the sacrifices of those who served in the military,

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and on Wednesday the annual Senior Tribute recognized those who don't let age become a factor in their dedication to attend Camp Meeting. The most senior man and woman this year were both 97-years-young!

Retired pastor but forever evangelist John Earnhardt delivered com-



Photo by Angel Guerrero



Photo by Benjamin Lawson

elling messages to the men highlighting the divine calling to be a beacon of light in the world. Another seminar by Jim and Becky Ingersoll prepared attendees to respond to unforeseen disasters.

The week also featured prayer walks each morning and trips to the Adventist Christian Book Center to browse a diverse range of books and materials (and to pick up an ever-popular fruit bar). On Friday morning young and old participated in the Run4Life 5K and 1-mile Fun Run race that brought together participants of all fitness levels.

Near the close of Camp Meet-



Photo by Angel Guerrero



Photo by Courtney Herod

ing, attendees gathered for an anointing service led by Beth Grissom, the prayer ministries director.

This service provided an opportunity for attendees to seek spiritual healing and experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

John Bradshaw of It Is Written concluded the final meeting on Sabbath with

Carolina Conference Camp Meeting 2023 was a



Photo by Angel Guerrero

truly transformative experience. It provided a platform for spiritual growth, fellowship, and the exploration of important topics relevant to our end-time faith. The event left each person inspired, challenged, and equipped to continue seeking God's face in their individual journeys.

—Rebecca Carpenter



Photo by Christina Costan



# SPREADING JOY AND NOURISHMENT: ACPS Students Support Appalachian Trail Hikers



Photos contributed

The 7th and 8th graders from Asheville Pisgah Christian School recently had the opportunity to serve as Trail Angels. Every year, thousands of hikers attempt to traverse the 2,190 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. These miles are long and challenging, with hikers carrying all their supplies in small, heavy backpacks through beautiful, rugged terrain. Most hikers carry minimal, freeze-dried, and prepackaged food. This time of year, many of these thru-hikers are crossing the North Carolina section.

“Trail Angel” is a term of endearment given to volunteers who bring fresh food and supplies to intersections of the trail, offering them to passing hikers. Steven and Sharon FitzGerald regularly serve as Trail Angels at different points along the trail. They helped the class compile a list of supplies. The students then loaded up and drove to Sam’s Gap on the North Carolina/Tennessee border, where they set up tables and chairs. Some students manned the sandwich station and offered a variety of fruit, chips, and cookies, while others operated a cooler filled with sodas and water, or poured coffee and milk.

When hikers approached, they were warmly welcomed and invited to join the group. They could take off their packs, wash and sanitize their hands, and select the food they wanted. They were invited to sit and eat at camping chairs around a table. Many of the hikers shared with the students details about their homes, how long they had been hiking, what animals they had seen, and how they dealt with the cold and rain. As they finished, the students offered to pack an additional sandwich for them to take for later.

One of the students’ most enjoyable tasks was to offer each hiker a business-sized card, each printed with a unique Bible verse appropriate for their hike. Hikers were encouraged to select a card and carry the verse with them on the trail. Examples of the cards included:

“You are a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat.” Isaiah 25:4

“I lift up my eyes to the hills...My

help comes from God, the Creator.” Psalms 121:1-2

“The water I give is a spring of living water; whoever drinks of this water will never thirst.” John 4:14

As they planned and set up, the young people anticipated this experience, knowing they might bless new friends on their journey. But it’s hard to describe the joy of seeing the hikers’ surprise at the preparations made for them, their delight in fresh grapes, bananas, and orange soda, and a soft sandwich with fresh lettuce and tomato. It was heartwarming to witness heavy packs being laid on the ground for a few minutes,

to serve these hikers as they sat and savored an unexpected meal. As is often the case, it was far more fun to give than to receive.

— Erin Miller, Asheville Pisgah Church School Principle





# ADVENTURER FUN DAY: An Epic Day of Adventure and Learning

The Adventurer Fun Day held this year at Nosoca Pines Ranch was a roaring success, with a record-breaking attendance of over 900 participants,

promises, a message that resonated with both children and adults.

To bring the theme to life, children came dressed in colorful costumes, depicting various characters from the

Adventurers embarked on a thrilling treasure hunt, uncovering fascinating animal fossils. In the lab station, they were taught the value of cooperation through engaging activities and games, fostering teamwork and camaraderie.

Creativity flourished at the craft station, where children made colorful rainbow-themed crafts as a symbol of God's covenant. An exciting obstacle course challenged adventurers to test their physical abilities and perseverance, while a blindfold

including parents and siblings. The event, organized by the Carolina Conference Adventurer Council, brought together 535 Adventurers and staff for a day filled with excitement and learning.

The theme for this year was "God keeps His promises," inspired by the biblical verse Genesis 9:13: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." This theme served as a reminder of the faithfulness of God's

Photos by Courtney Herod



activity encouraged trust and communication. Other options included a bounce inflatable activity to release boundless energy, a horseback riding station, and face

painting that allowed children to transform into their favorite animals.

Sadly, organizers had to turn down participation from approximately five clubs due to reaching the maximum capacity allowed. To accommodate the growing demand, plans have already been made to hold the event on two separate dates next year, ensuring that more Adventurers can join in the fun and educational experience.

Adventurer Fun Day was a testament to the power of community, faith, and exploration. As the day came to a close, children left with hearts full of joy, carrying the promise of God's faithfulness in their hearts and minds.

—Vanessa Arana

biblical story of Noah's Ark. Each Adventurer Club was tasked with building their own "collection" of Noah's Ark models using creative supplies, showcasing their imagination and teamwork. The models were displayed at the gym during the event.

The guest speaker, Jan Young, the owner of "Already Trained Australian Labradoodles," shared her expertise on dog training and the importance of responsible pet ownership, captivating the audience with her knowledge and love for animals.

The Fun Day featured a variety of stations and rotations, ensuring there was something for everyone.







Photo by Courtney Herod

## A PRAYERFUL REUNION

Family reunions, high school reunions, or church homecomings can be special and meaningful times. Reunions include seeing people you haven't seen for a long time, reminiscing about old times, and simply having the privilege of being together. The Prayer Retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch was the best kind of reunion!

The former pastor of the Morganton Church, Rick Mercer, and the former leader of Prayer Ministries and Women's Ministries in the Carolina Conference, Cindy Mercer (right), were the speakers for the weekend. Having them back in Carolina brought hugs, stories,



Photo by Rebecca Carpenter

laughter, and joy. They led everyone in times of prayer, inspiring attendees to pray boldly, pray for those God puts on their hearts, and to be persistent in their prayers. Rick and Cindy are prayer warriors, and witnessing their transformation and joy in prayer was inspiring.

The Carolina Conference Prayer Line (left) also enjoyed a reunion! Many were able to put a face to the voice of their prayer line family



Photo by Courtney Herod



Photo by Rebecca Carpenter

for the first time. Others reunited after long periods of distance. YouthPray, the Carolina Conference Youth prayer line (above), which meets on Tuesday nights via Zoom, gathered in person as well. The beauty of prayer is the family it instantly creates. We are children of God, adopted into His family, and when we come together in prayer, we sit in our Father's presence. A prayerful reunion is the best kind of reunion, offering a glimpse of what heaven will be like.

If you missed the retreat, you can join the Carolina Conference Prayer

Line every Monday night and experience love and support through prayer. The prayer retreat served as a beautiful reminder that one day soon, we will all be together again, face to face with our Lord and Savior, sharing hugs, smiles, and never having to say goodbye again!

—Beth Grissom, Prayer Ministries Director



# FIRST LEGO League Qualifier TOURNAMENT IN RALEIGH, NC

The FIRST LEGO League is a global initiative designed to engage children between the ages of 4 and 14 in STEM subjects by offering interactive and stimulating educational experiences. It encourages students to enhance their problem-solving abilities through collaborative participation in robotics projects on a global level. Adventist Robotics, a non-profit organization committed to inspiring and engaging students in STEM education, sponsors nine qualifying tournaments and a final championship in Florida.

The 2nd Annual Adventist Robotics Regional Qualifying Tournament in Carolina was held at the Adventist Christian Academy in Raleigh, N.C, from March 31 to April 2, 2023. LaFayette Trawick, the Carolina tournament director, stated that the event this year featured 65 students from eight schools in six different states, divided into nine teams competing in total.

This year's tournament had a "Super Powered" theme, which encouraged participants to "explore where energy comes from and how it is distributed, stored, and used – and then put their superpowered creativity to work to innovate for a better energy future." Students presented their ideas to a panel of judges who evaluated their presentations and ideas. In the second phase of the tournament, teams competed against each other to earn points by completing a series of challenges within 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

According to Cara Simonds, Associate Superintendent of Education at the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the tournament provides a platform for students to collaborate, support each other, showcase their creativity, and technical skills. Simonds emphasized that the students learned critical thinking skills, experimented, and worked collaboratively, which would help them succeed in future endeavors.

Mel Wade, Director of Adventist Robotics, emphasized that the tournament's primary focus was on learning rather than winning. "What we learn is more important than what we win," Wade said.

For the second year in a row, the RoboRevelators from Tri-city Christian Academy in High Point, N.C, emerged as the overall winners of the tournament. However, the event's underlying message was that winning was not the only important thing. The tournament provided a platform for students to showcase their creativity and technical skills while encouraging collaboration and sportsmanship. Chantell Coetzer, head coach of the RoboRevelators, expressed her pride in her students' accomplishments and emphasized that winning was just "the cherry on top" of the weekend. "The students' collaboration, hard work, and the skills they developed will help them succeed in the future," Coetzer said.

With the win, the RoboRevelators secure a spot in the National Championship in Apopka, F.L. The Gear Girls from the Adventist Christian Academy of Raleigh placed second and will also advance to the National Championship where they will compete against Adventist Schools around North America.

Overall, the 2nd Annual Adventist Robotics Carolina Regional Qualifying Tournament was a resounding success. The event provided students with an exciting and educational experience, where they demonstrated their impressive problem-solving skills and innovative solutions. The tournament emphasized the importance of collaboration and learning together, where the students' hard work and dedication will undoubtedly serve them well in the future.

—Story and photos by Henrique Gomes





## Carolina Obituaries

**GANG, ELSIE MAY, 82**, passed away on February 2, 2023, after complications from a fall. She was born on September 12, 1941, in Takoma Park, M.D., to Carl and Ruth Anderson. During her early years, Elsie May resided in South Lancaster, M.A., where she attended Browning Memorial Elementary School and later graduated from South Lancaster Academy. Following her passion for nursing, she enrolled in the nursing program in Glendale, C.A., while her future husband, Eddie Gang, pursued dentistry at Loma Linda, C.A. They exchanged wedding vows on August 16, 1964, at the Portland, Maine, Adventist Church. In the same year, Elsie May graduated from the Glendale nursing school and worked for two years with the heart team at Loma Linda University. In 1966, after Eddie's graduation, they moved to Alameda, C.A., where he was stationed at the USS Coast Guard base, serving in the U.S. Public Health Service. Their firstborn, Jeffrey Allen, currently serves as an Associate Professor of religion at Loma Linda University. The majority of Elsie and Eddie's life together was spent at Cedar Ledge Farm in New Jersey, where Eddie practiced dentistry and where their daughter, Carla Lynn, was born. Elsie May actively participated in various church activities, including running cooking schools, extending hospitality, leading Pathfinders, and serving as head deaconess for thirty years. In 2004, they tragically lost their daughter, Carla, due to a fatal cerebral hemorrhage. In 2010, Ed retired from his dental practice, and in 2016 they relocated to Hendersonville, N.C., becoming members of the Fletcher Church. Elsie May is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Ed, their son, Jeff (Gina), and three cherished grandchildren: Madison, Braden,

and McKenna. Elsie May Gang will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched through her kindness, dedication, and service.

**LABRADOR SR., MINERVINO, 86**, of Charlotte, N.C., passed away on April 30, 2023. He was born on December 31, 1936, in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, to Dionicio Labrador and Rosa Cruz. In 1954, while working at the Panamerican Hotel and Resort, Minervino met the love of his life, Eva Sosa. Together, they raised four children: Loida Rojas, Eunice Williams, Minervino Labrador Jr., and Daniel Labrador. Minervino, known affectionately as "Pipo" to many (a Cuban term of endearment) instead of "Pastor", was a deeply spiritual man who devoted his life to serving others. Though successful in business, ministry was his passion, and he joyfully visited, counseled, mentored, and helped others draw closer to God. His love for God and dedication to serving others left a lasting impact that will be felt for years to come. He was a beloved figure in his community and beyond. The legacy of Minervino Labrador Sr. will forever be cherished by his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched through his love, faith, and selfless service. Minervino was preceded in death by his parents, Dionicio Labrador and Rosa Cruz, and his beloved wife of 57 years, Eva Labrador. He is survived by his children: Loida Rojas (Eli), Eunice Williams (Scott), Minervino Labrador Jr. (Evelyn), and Daniel Labrador (Margarita). He is also survived by his grandchildren: Jahnil Ancheta (Andres), Efrain Murillo (Katherine), Minervino Labrador III, Eli Rojas Jr., Nico Labrador (Amanda), Eileen Wil-



liams (Joseph), Jasmine Gibson (Joshua), Mario Labrador (Cambria), Kayla Labrador, and Sabrina Labrador. Additionally, he is survived by his great-grandchildren: Kylee and Lexie Ancheta, Noah Murillo, Ziya Gibson, Lucas and Levi Labrador, Lyla Labrador, and Nora Labrador. Minervino is also survived by his siblings Carmen, Dionicio, Clara, Eugenio, Humberto, Silvia, Joel, and Orlando.

## Carolina Conference Calendar

### JULY

**Bike For Life Tour**—16-21. TBD.  
**Master Guide Camporee**—21- 23.

### AUGUST

**VLP Annual Workshop**—11-13.  
NPR.

**LE Retreat**—17-20. NPR.  
**Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership**—25-27. NPR.

### SEPTEMBER

**Master Guide Backpacking**—8-10.  
**Hisp. Children's Ministries**—10-11.  
Conference Office.  
**Retiree Retreat**—17-21. NPR.  
**Carolina English & Hispanic Men's Retreat**—29-Oct. 1. NPR.

### OCTOBER

**Hispanic Women's Ministry Retreat**—6-8. NPR.  
**Low Country Harvest Impact**—6-7.  
Summerville, SC.  
**Eastern Carolina Harvest Impact**—13-14. Raleigh, NC.  
**Women's Ministry Retreat**—13-15.  
NPR.  
**Carolina Conference Pathfinder Camporee**—19-22. Camp Grimes.

### NOVEMBER

**Low County Camp/Imp Youth Rally**—3-5. MPA.

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