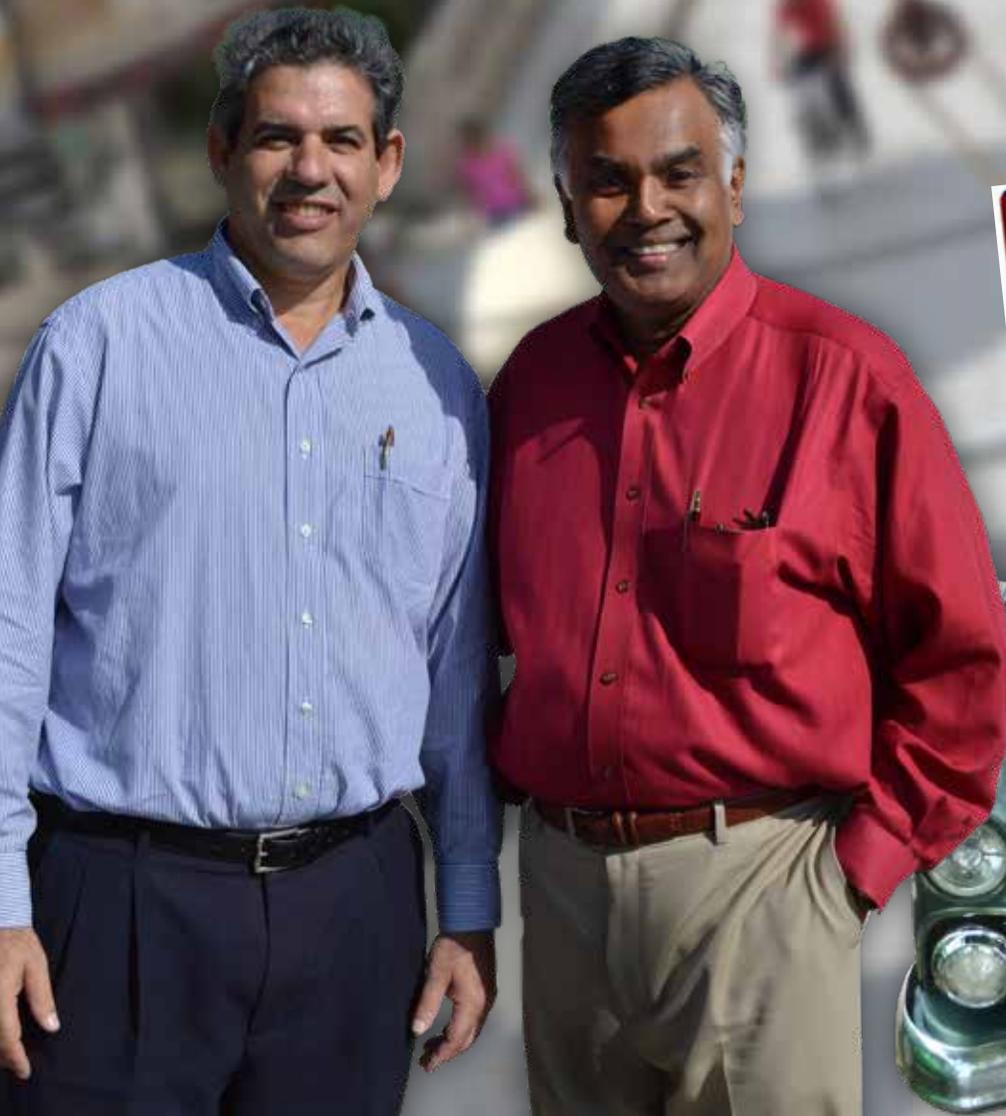


# CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 2, 2014 EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST

## The Carolina Conference Goes to CUBA

Pages 4-5





# From the President's Pen

by Leslie D. Louis, Carolina Conference President

## Tell Me the Story—The Most Powerful Tool of Evangelism

Her name was Clarissa. Every night she would board a cattle truck with a group of around 30 who traveled 45 miles from their rural village in Pedernalis to the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church of Holguin, Cuba. She, along with her two sons, came to attend the nightly ShareHim meetings that I held just a few weeks ago in that city. She had once been a spiritist, casting incantations of evil spirits to remove the ailments of villagers who came to her seeking relief from pain. The work of a faithful Bible worker in that community had helped to redirect her eyes to Jesus and the truths of His Word. He was the one who invited her to my meetings.

As I faced the audience, including over 100 visitors who came faithfully each night, I became accustomed to seeing Clarissa's smiling face on the left front of the congregation. One evening I was preaching on the power of the Holy Spirit and how He wants to point us to Jesus. Abandoning my prepared notes I told about the moments I shared with my one-year-old granddaughter, Rosalind, who was just learning to walk before I left for Cuba. With my eyes on Clarissa I demonstrated how I'd held my arms out to Rosalind as she took small, wobbly steps toward me. After about five steps she fell on the carpet. I applauded her baby steps, picked her up, gave her a hug, set her back on her feet and held out my arms so she could try again.

Still looking directly at Clarissa, I said that Jesus was holding His arms out for each of them; that when we fall, He is there to pick us up and set us back on our feet—always reaching out to us faithfully with those everlasting arms. That night, Clarissa came forward with 15 others and made a decision to be baptized and follow Jesus.

Your testimony—your story—is simple. It's merely what you have seen and heard God do in your own life. After the healing of the demoniac as recorded in Mark 5:19, Jesus' counsel to him was a very simple, yet direct commission: "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." God will bring people across your path that need to hear your stories. You will have something in common. It is my

personal conviction that this is the most powerful tool that each of us have for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Make God's answers to your prayers a starting point for conversation, leading to a direct opportunity to draw others to the Lord.

Your story should lead them to God's Word, demonstrating the Biblical principle behind how God interacted with you. Let them know that God wants a relationship with them, too, if they just accept Jesus' sacrifice and surrendering their lives to Him. Then, help them follow through on their decision by disciplining them, sharing what you know about Jesus and inviting them to get involved in Bible studies and participate in your local church.

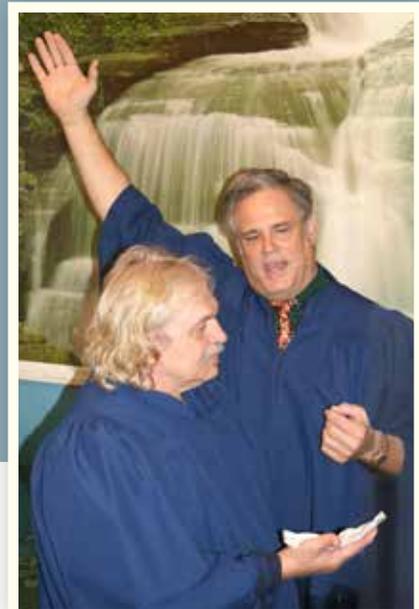
"Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine." —Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

Jesus loved to teach by telling stories. What is your story—your testimony—for Him? May God bless each of us as His Carolina family of disciples as we seek to tell our story of Jesus and His love through our faithful witness.

Leslie D. Louis, President



Clarissa and her family



Photos contributed

## Reunited... Through the Carolina Action, the Blythewood Pastor Reconnects with an Old Friend.

A text every parent should put to memory is Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This important text gives you assurance that what you teach your children in the early formative years truly matters.

Robert is living proof of this. He was raised in an Adventist home and attended an Adventist church school until ninth grade. Then he transferred to public school for the remaining three years of high school. It was there that he started to compromise his beliefs and participate in a host of worldly events. They were small things at first, but soon Robert was making friends with the wrong people and drifting further and further away from the teachings of his childhood. Bad habits were learned, and his activities led to several brushes with the law.

About seven years ago Robert met

a young lady that captured his heart. After a brief courtship Robert and Jacqueline were married. Because of his love for her and his determination to please her, he began changing some of his habits. Eventually they started studying the Bible and soon Robert decided to join her at her church on Sundays.

One day while he was visiting his mother he noticed a copy of the *Carolina Action* magazine on a table. Out of curiosity he picked it up and started looking through it. To his surprise he saw a picture of Charlie Young, pastor of the Blythewood Seventh-day Adventist Church. Robert was startled. He and Charlie had been classmates at the Adventist church school in the early 70’s. Since then they’d had very little contact with each other. Robert told his wife that they needed to go see Charlie at his church.

Imagine Charlie’s surprise when Robert showed up at the Blythewood church. At the end of the worship service the reunited friends were talking about current events in their life. When Jacqueline mentioned that they had been studying the Bible together and had several questions,

Pastor Charlie seized the opportunity and offered to set up Bible studies. They gladly agreed, and Charlie grabbed the church clerk, who was interested in teaching Bible studies, and right then and there they set up a time for the first lesson.

Talk about a happy ending for everyone! Robert could hardly imagine his church school classmate being a pastor, and Charlie could hardly imagine that just a short time later, he was able to baptize his good friend Robert who, along with his wife, committed his life back to the Lord and the teachings of his childhood in the Adventist Church.

“Train up  
a child in the  
way he  
should go...”

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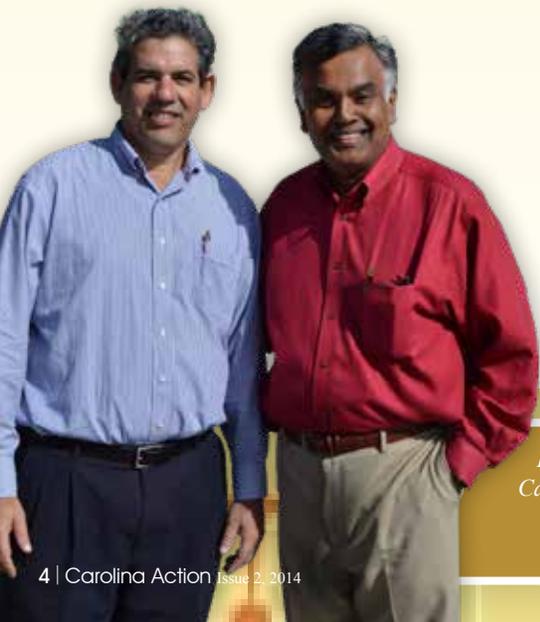
On January 22 of this year, a team of “12 apostles” left the comfort of the Carolinas bound for Holguin, the fourth largest city of the Republic of Cuba. These ShareHim volunteers included, among others, a civilian logistic officer, a physician’s assistant, a dentist, a management instructor, a retired professor and a mechanical engineer. Their mission: to share the Everlasting Gospel with the people of the Province of Holguin.

The evangelists came from several churches throughout the Carolinas and preached in varied churches in the Eastern Association (Conference) of Seventh-day Adventists—from



Photos contributed

downtown Holguin, a city of more than a quarter-million, to the village of Potrerillo, so small that it’s hundred homes don’t appear on many maps. In each of the churches the evangelists found warm-hearted fellow believers who were praying for God’s harvest.



*Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference and Eber Delgado, president of the East Cuba Conference*

## My First Time

Before this trip to Cuba, Carlos Ortega had never preached before. He was nervous. Even his son tried to dissuade him, “Dad, are you sure?” But he had a jump on all the other team members: he was fluent in Spanish. “I had very good response,” he said. And though it was his first experience preaching, 21 people were baptized from his site.

Carlos was even able to witness to his taxi driver each night as they drove to and from Cueto. The “taxi driver” was actually a talented orthopedic surgeon who specialized in hands. This doctor, whose monthly salary is only \$25, was earning a little extra cash using his 1950’s Pon-

gathered to recount God’s victories, everyone but Bev was present. Finally the yellow 1942 Chevrolet taxi drove up with a beaming Bev. She wouldn’t leave the church until the last of the 38 people who had responded were baptized.

“Life-changing.” That is how Gary Himmelwright describes his Cuba experience. “There were a huge number of children,” he says, “Sixty-two of them—all visitors.” Every day Gary tailored his messages to reach his young audience and designed ways to engage them in the message. “All wanted to give their hearts to Jesus, so we had a special altar call just for the children.” Though they were too young to be baptized at that

# CUBA

Just a short hop across the Straits of Florida, but a world away...

tiac to transport Carlos nightly from Holguin to Cueto.

Beverly Winsted had pictured herself doing volunteer medical work after she retired, but God nudged her to join the ShareHim team mission to Cuba instead. Bev had never preached an evangelist sermon before, much less a series, but she was amazed by the enthusiasm of her listeners. “People of all ages responded,” she recounted.

One man asked for help in getting rid of a spiritualistic idol. He was also a heavy smoker, but on the last Sabbath he joined his mother and brother in baptism, joyful in his new freedom in Christ. That night as the team

time, their commitment is recorded in heaven.

## Surprise!

Robiel was a hardened secularist who adamantly opposed his son’s and wife’s involvement in church. He was steeped in cynical atheism, having worked in the Siberian oilfields during the 1990’s. But each night his wife, Nereyda, gathered a small group to pray for Haskell Williams and the meetings in Alcides Pino.

Robiel began attending during the first week; then he came every night. “It was a shock to everyone who knew him when he came forward to be baptized,”  
Pastor Williams



noted. But there was also a surprise for Robiel. Through special arrangements with the Association president, Robiel's son, an elder in the church, had the privilege of baptizing his father.

Having fallen in love with the Cuban people through previous ShareHim campaigns, Dr. Mary Ann Roberts jumped at the chance of holding a fourth campaign in Cuba. On a previous trip her husband, at the time not an Adventist, came along for the unusual opportunity to visit Havana. Mary Ann asked him to keep an eye on the equipment at the meetings. At the final meeting he was the first one to respond to the appeal to be baptized.

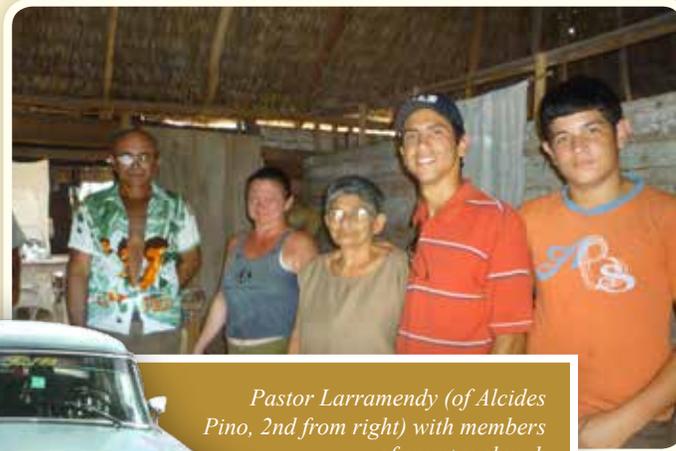
On the first night of this trip the sermon graphics didn't work, so

Mary Ann, known as 'Ms. ShareHim' because of her numerous campaigns around the world, gave her personal testimony instead. It was compelling. People could identify and see how God had transformed her life.

The Spartanburg church sent a team of evangelists: Pastor LaFave, his wife, Barbara (who had come because of a last-minute cancellation), Dr. Ron Fowler and Patricia Davis. Pastor LaFave was impressed by the commitment of church support and their dedication to attend nightly. In Delicias where he spoke, as in most other churches, many of those attending had worked long hours in sugar cane fields, then traveled several kilometers in trucks, carts or on foot to hear the word of God.

Pastor LaFave reported, "One individual, who had not been an Adven-

tist very long, worked diligently to get 45 guests to attend. He is actively giving Bible studies. His 78-year-old mother was won to the Lord during the meetings. I had the privilege to baptize her in the ocean in front of her home." This new member has



*Pastor Larramendy (of Alcides Pino, 2nd from right) with members of country church*



been instrumental in establishing a home Bible study group that meet weekly in this very poor community.

Elder Leslie Louis, our Conference president (see his additional story in this issue), set the example of evangelistic service by leading this all-Carolina team. Hundreds of visitors were present each night in the Central Holguin church as he spoke. Many had travelled dozens of kilometers to hear the Word. Elder Louis committed to finding partners to raise the funds for a church structure in a remote village called Pedernalis. Through God's providence and the generosity of our members, the amount has been raised and exceeded!

### "Side Benefits"

To find translators fluent in English, Elder Luis Leonor, ShareHim trip coordinator, was forced to hire several individuals who were not members of the Adventist church. Gary's

translator was a teacher of socialistic philosophy at the local college. What started as a chance to earn more money profoundly impacted his thinking, and demeanor, as Gary unfolded the soundness of God's Word.

Since her interpreter had no religious background, Mary Ann let her take the laptop home so she could become familiar with the sermons. The interpreter kept exclaiming, "This is so beautiful!" As the Holy Spirit touched her there was a marked change in her appearance. Since returning home, Dr. Roberts received an email inviting her to come back for her baptism.

Pastor LaFave's translator was the wife of a Baptist minister (and the child of three generations of Baptist ministers). She was truly moved by the nightly messages and expressed several times that the meetings were for her, too. "She had serious questions to ask about our faith and requested a copy of *The Great Controversy*, which we presented to her at our last meeting," said Pastor LaFave. "Through our ongoing communication, we're praying for her acceptance of God's last day message of truth."

Barbara LaFave's translator, a Pentecostal, made her decision to join the church. She and Barbara continue in communication. She said that she visited her former congregation and found it unappreciative of the new truths she had learned. Though she lives some distance from Palmarito, she longs to get back.

*...continued on page 6.*



*Beverly Winsted preaching at San German church*

# CUBA Continued...

The Carolina ShareHim team solicits your prayers for her and all of the translators, as well as the 134 persons who were baptized and over 400 who made decisions to accept Christ and prepare for baptism.

## Future Plans

“I would love to do [an evangelistic series] every month if I could,” Carlos says. Already he and his pastor are planning for outreach in his home church of Jacksonville, NC.

Beverly’s pastor asked her to do a ShareHim series in her home church of High Point. She knows that groundwork needs to be done first, and is looking at people’s needs and interests. Community services, ads in newspapers and surveys are some things she is considering.

Mary Ann does several homeland campaigns each year. She is looking at renting a small storefront in a shopping mall that, with a large screen, could be turned into a mini-theater. Before doing a series, however, she wants to create interest.

Gary is excited about possibly doing a ShareHim series in Ethiopia using one of his High Point Pathfinders (a native of Ethiopia) as an interpreter and associate speaker.

Pastor Louis and Pastor Williams are each planning to hold a series of evangelistic series this year in Hickory and Rocky Mount (respectively).

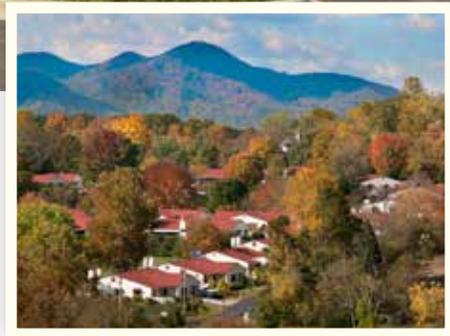


They solicit prayers for those who will hear.

For those who want to experience the joy of soul-winning, the Carolina Conference is planning a ShareHim campaign in 2015 (late January – early February) to Central or South America. Plan now and watch for upcoming details in the *Carolina Action*.

If we care about others, or only care to finish the work so that we can go home, we must share the hope—ShareHim. But...how much better if we do it from genuine love for those who are perishing.

—by Haskell Williams



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

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

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

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

828-418-2333

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

## The Russian, The Bible & Hilton Head

What do they have in common?

Timur came to the United States from Russia and eventually moved to Hilton Head, SC. Removed from his family and friends and coming to an unknown country to live on his own, Timur was in a position where God could get his attention.

In an apartment in Hilton Head



Photos contributed

Timur, to his amazement, found a Bible written in his mother tongue and began to read it as he searched for God. As he studied, he wanted someone to help him understand what he was reading, so he came to the Hilton Head Adventist church one Sabbath. Timur remembered the example of his devout grandmother who was a Seventh-day Adventist, and how well she knew her Bible. Timur was sure that the Adventist Church could help him understand this Bible he found.

For a year, Timur studied with both the pastor and the head elder and attended Bible studies during Tuesday evening prayer meeting. Timur was baptized in early November, and has been embraced by his church family who continue to encourage his spiritual growth. Timur has told his pastor repeatedly "I don't think I would have searched for God had I not come to the United States. There were too many distractions in my country."

—by Jason Belyeu



# Southern Union SEEDS

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**Tom Evans**  
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**Roger Hernandez**  
Ministerial/Evangelism Dir.  
Southern Union

**Rod & Donna Willey**  
Church Planters  
Illinois Conference  
**Simon Martin**  
Church Planter  
Southern England Conf.

## With the Lord in the Midst of Them...

February 8, 2014, was an exciting day for the members of the Sanford Spanish Company.

It was the day when this vibrant congregation was officially organized as a church, with 66 signing their names as chart- ed members.

After many years of hard and consecrat- ed work, these faithful mem- bers recognized and celebrated the abundant blessings of the Lord as they have tried to fulfill the Great Commission in the “Brick Capitol of the USA”—San- ford, NC.

Francisco and Isida Avila, founders of the church, came to the United States from Mexico and, along with their son Adalberto, began to attend the Durham Spanish church. In 1999, they decided to open the work

in Sanford under the leadership of then-Pastor Andres Sequera and his wife, Roxana. They met in members’ homes, then a funeral home and then took a step of faith and moved to their current location. Two more pastors have had the privilege to work with this congregation: German Morell and his wife Dalia (2003-2006) and Domingo Paulino and his wife Janet (2006-present). In 2013, Iván Omaña, a retired pastor, and his wife, Evelyn,

moved their membership to Sanford and are currently using their gifts and vast experience to minister to this congregation.

On the day of the organization the Carolina Conference was represented by Vice-President Gary Moyer and his family; the Hispanic coordinator, Samuel Romero and his wife, Mary; the communication director, Ron Quick, and his wife, Regina; and the undertreasurer, Chad Grundy.

Pastor German Morell was also present for the occasion and a brief video gave greetings from Pastor Andres Sequera. The event was also attended by some members of the Spanish churches of Durham, Raleigh and Carrboro.

The service was highlighted by a powerful sermon by Elder Moyer (his first ever in Span- ish.) The message challenged the newly organized church to always maintain focus on the mission of preaching the Gospel in Sanford and in the whole world. This gesture of preaching in the native language of the congregation was greatly appreciated by members and visitors alike. It was really a day to remember in Sanford!!!

—by Domingo A. Paulino



Photos by Ron Quick



## They were celebrating at St. Pauls, too!

St Pauls Church...no, it's not a Catholic church, nor is it to be confused with St Paul's Cathedral in London. Actually, St. Pauls is the latest Seventh-day Adventist His- panic church to join the sisterhood of churches in the Carolinas.

St. Pauls is located on Interstate 95 between Fayetteville and Lum- berton, NC.

February 22, 2014, was the official dedication for this 70-plus member Hispanic church. Elder Leslie Louis was on hand to deliver the Sabbath message. Oh, and by

the way, Elder Louis preached in nearly flawless Spanish (well, at least they understood him) to the overflowing crowd of church mem- bers and guests. The question is, will this new trend continue when our two linguists, Elder Louis and

Elder Moyer, visit the other non-En- glish speaking churches in our Conference? Korean, Cambodian, Burmese, Swahili . . . we can't wait to find out!

—by Ron Quick



Photo by Ron Quick



# UNA RESPUESTA A LA ORACIÓN

## Rick Hutchinson Joins the Conference as Director of Planned Giving and Trust Services

Joseph W. “Rick” Hutchinson, III, is the new director for Planned Giving & Trust Services and stewardship for the Carolina Conference. Hutchinson comes to Carolina from the Gulf States Conference where he was director of trust services and stewardship. Hutchinson takes the place of Ken Ford who accepted the call to the Southern



Photo by Ron Quick

Union as director for trust services.

Hutchinson’s wife, Deborah, is a CPA who taught accounting at the University of West Alabama and Alabama Southern Community College. Deborah maintained a public accounting practice until September 2009, when she assumed a full-time position as Associate Treasurer for Gulf States Conference.

Hutchinson is an attorney licensed in the states of Alabama and Mississippi. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Alabama. After working several years

in a family-owned timber and real estate business, he returned to school and obtained a Juris Doctorate Degree from Mississippi College School of Law in 1983. He was admitted to the bar in both Alabama and Mississippi and opened law offices in Meridian, Mississippi, and Butler, Alabama. He maintained his private practice in Butler until May 2010, when he began working with the Gulf States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as director of trust services and stewardship.

Rick is proud to declare that he’s a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist. Rick and Deborah have three children and six grandchildren.

### Stewardship/Generous Living awareness and action is my number one goal for the members of the Carolina Conference.

*I have many plans for the constituents of the conference and hope that I will have the opportunity to meet many of you. Each Sabbath I plan to visit a different church and hopefully either preach and or present a financial stewardship seminar.*

*As good stewards, we must be faithful to manage, according to biblical standards, the blessings that God has bestowed on each of us. The conference estate planning service is a tool*

*that will be presented for everyone’s use. By having your estate planning documents (EPDs) prepared, you are exercising good stewardship. EPDs may include a will, power of attorney, living will & healthcare power of attorney. EPDs are prepared for members of the Carolina Conference at NO COST.*

*Contact Rick or Balinda at the Conference office for more information, or stop by and see us at camp meeting. Our camp meeting schedule will be listed in the upcoming program.*

*I look forward to seeing you there!*

*God is faithful—ALWAYS.*

—Rick Hutchinson, Stewardship and Trust Services Director

## Little Lambs are Learning . . .

Seven pre-kindergarten children were inducted into the Little Lambs program during a special service held recently at the Mills River church. This is a new program spearheaded by Laura Figueroa, a former elementary school teacher. The Little Lambs program meets every Wednesday morning, and gives these little tykes a chance to experience what school will be like when they are old enough to attend. They also have the privilege of participating with the older students of the Mills River Seventh-day Adventist Church School for trips and church programs.

Every class is based around a

different theme such as My Home, My God, My Family, Community Helpers and more. Every week they make crafts, play games and have outdoor time. Ms. Figueroa’s goal is to get them ready for school by teaching them skills like raising their hands to speak, walking in a straight line, sharing and socializing. They also work on other pre-k activities such as making letters, numbers, color and shape recognition even calendar skills and Spanish. Often guests are invited, such as representatives from the fire department who came and talked about fire safety.



Photo contributed

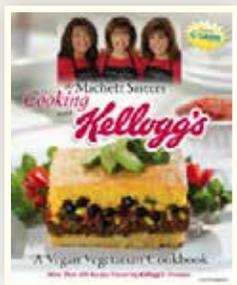
The Little Lambs program is teaching these children to have a deep love of Jesus, while also teaching them skills that they can carry forward with them as they grow.

—by Angela Raimondo Rosebrough

# CAMP MEETING PREVIEW

AT THE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN BOOK CENTER

**B**renda and Cinda, two of the Micheff sisters, will be at camp meeting on Friday, May 30 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to share sample recipes and sign copies of their new cookbook, *The Micheff Sisters Cooking with Kellogg's*.



Once again, you are invited to share a meal--or many meals--with the Micheff Sisters! With more than one hundred new recipes, including some of their favorite ingredients from the wide range of Kellogg brands of excellent vegan/vegetarian products, this new cookbook is sure to please. Linda, Brenda,

and Cinda have been cooking together since they were kids. Now they are reaching millions of viewers each week with their nutritional wisdom, cooking expertise, and a whole lot of fun and laughter on their popular 3ABN television program, *Cooking With the Micheff Sisters*.

In *Cooking With Kellogg's* they share their favorite recipes that include healthy Kellogg products from Worthington, Loma Linda, Morning-Star Farms, and Garden Burger. These family-friendly recipes are perfect for the table at home or for that special gathering. Be sure and try the Country Biscuits and Gravy, Spicy Hickory

Riblets, Pepper Steak, and the Black Bean Bistro Burgers.

On each page, you will find a simple, time-saving recipe that will quickly become a treasured favorite in your family.

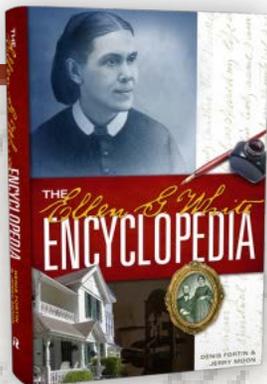
Whether you're new to vegetarian cuisine, or an accomplished cook looking for new recipes to please your family and friends, this book from the Micheff Sisters and Kellogg will tempt you with new ways to explore the deliciously exciting possibilities of vegetarian cuisine. Try something new today!

**Reg Price \$18.99**

**Campmeeting Price \$15.99**

**Get it for Only \$11.99!:** Purchase three cases of canned Worthington or Loma Linda Products get *Cooking with Kellogg's* for \$11.99 (one per customer) Mention Coupon Code CM4 when ordering.

Brenda will also be signing her Kids Time items such as the NEW Kids Time DVD Set and Kids Time Praise DVD, along with other Kids Time items!



## THE ELLEN WHITE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Everything about Ellen White in one resource!

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**Sale Price \$39.99**

This master work brings together hundreds of articles that describe the people and events in the life of Ellen White, as well as her stand on numerous topics. Sale price offered through the Carolina ACBC and can be mailed only to Carolina addresses. Call us to order.



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# GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM



## Man Feeds the Hungry Through Recycling

Members of Dan Bowen's church, Little Creek Adventist Fellowship, gave him a quilt in honor of his work to feed the hungry.

As the saying goes, one's man trash is another man's treasure. But in Johnston County, NC, one man's trash, once recycled, helps another man feed the hungry.

Dan Bowen, 66, attends Little Creek Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship. In early 2013, he was struck with an idea: Recycle aluminum cans to raise money for the poor.

"It just seemed like the Lord laid it on my heart to do something," he said.

So Bowen began asking neighbors, friends and family for cans. Two neighbors were supportive, giving him cans that had piled up at their homes.

But after the first month, not many others had donated, and Bowen was feeling down. He then announced at church that he had raised \$400 so far, and donations took off, Bowen said.

Since March, he's raised about \$2,500 from recycling, and now he picks up almost anything people are willing to give: old washers, fans,

lawn mowers and even stoves.

Bowen drives around the Triangle in his pickup truck to get the metal, often stopping on the side of the road if he sees something useful.

He strips the metal out of the items and sells the material by the pound. Recently, he's been getting 58 cents per pound of aluminum, eight to 10 cents per pound for tin and steel and \$3.19 per pound of copper. The average truckload raises about \$80, he said.

Bowen takes 30 percent of the money to reimburse gas and some of his time; the project has become almost a full-time job, he said, and he's almost been fired from his job as an insurance salesman.

Photo courtesy of the Herald News and Observer



Bowen retired after working as a parole officer in Johnston County for 14 years and as a correctional officer in central prison in Raleigh for 14 years before that, he said.

The other 70 percent of the money goes into a bank account at his church, where a small group of people decides how to give it out. Sometimes that means buying groceries for a family in need or giving someone an Aldi's gift card.

Bowen encourages people to buy healthy food, especially fruits, vegetables and nuts.

"We don't want it to be permanent," he said. "We just want to meet the

need as it is."

Helping people in lean times is important to Bowen because of his own experiences, he said. Bowen said he came to the area from Chicago in 1982 and was out of work for more than a year. During that time, only one family ever brought him food. That's why Bowen wants to focus on making sure those in his church get help when they need it.

"Jesus fed people before he talked to them, and after he talked to them, he didn't send them away hungry," Bowen said.

Lee Griffin is a friend and elder at Little Creek Fellowship, where Bowen has placed a large barrel where people can leave unwanted metal.

Griffin said Bowen's project has been wonderful. "It's just snow-balled," he said. "We love it and we're all on board at Little Creek."

Griffin and Bowen hope other churches will start similar programs. "I think our priority right now has been inside the church, seeing who needs stuff inside the church and building up the fund," Griffin said. "(But) we want to reach out into the community for needs for food."

Bowen's wife, Evelyn, thought it was a good idea when her husband first told her, but she didn't expect the messy back yard, often littered with the remains of appliances.

She also hopes other people and churches will get involved. "Because that's what Christ is like, that we're supposed to feed the hungry," she said.

*Reprinted with permission from the Herald News and Observer. By Paula Sigelson*

*To learn more about Generous Living, or to sign up to be one of the 10,000 Presidential Prayer Partners, go to [www.carolinanasda.org](http://www.carolinanasda.org) or scan this code with your smart phone.*





Photo by Ron Quick

Above: The community service center was outfitted with computers and used as a classroom for teaching computer skills. Charlene Moore taught two sessions a year, giving those who needed it the chance for a better job. Right: Charlene Moore



Photo by Leslie Louis

## A Remarkable Community Service Leader Retires

After more than 18 years as Community Services leader for the Spartanburg church, Charlene Moore will be retiring.

In recognition for the work this remarkable community service leader has accomplished, the Spartanburg church held a “day of recognition” on March 15th. In addition to the plaque and other gifts she was presented, it was announced that the modern brick community service center at the

Spartanburg church complex will be renamed “The Charlene D. Moore Community Service Center” in her honor.

Charlene was very active in Spartanburg politics when evangelist Kenneth Cox came to Spartanburg in the early 1990’s. Charlene attended the meetings and was baptized. The words of Matthew 25, “In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me,” just stood out in bright lights to her, and she felt impressed that the Lord wanted her to serve him in a ministry to the poor. She approached Dave Dobias, Spartanburg pastor at that time, with this burden. Pastor Dobias was very supportive and encouraged her along that

line. Soon after this they began construction on the community service addition.

The community service center was outfitted with computers and used as a classroom for teaching computer skills. She taught two sessions a year, giving numerous women, many of whom were single mothers, the chance for a better job. Organizations donated clothing, shoes and furniture which were distributed to other agencies such as safe homes, Carolina Pregnancy Center, the children’s shelter and others. Donations of coats in the Winter went to the School for the Deaf and Blind and the soup kitchen. Electric fans in the Summer went to those who had no air conditioning.

Not only that, but over the past 18 years Charlene has sponsored monthly birthday parties at the Boy’s Home of the South and held Christmas parties for these boys at the church. This is just some of the work of this remarkable community service leader over the years. Is it any wonder that they would rename this building dedicated to serving others for a woman who embodies the phrase, “You have done it unto me.”

To view a video of the work of Charlene Moore, go to; <https://vimeo.com/90891899>

—by Valerie Smith and Ron Quick



Photo by Ron Quick

## Moncks Corner Community Services Center Dedicated

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Moncks Corner held a dedication ceremony Sunday, March 16, for its recently completed community service building, The HOPE Center. HOPE stands for “Helping Others Prepare for Eternity.”

Special guests for the ceremony were Pastor Leslie Louis, President of the Carolina Conference and Dan Davis, Berkeley County Supervisor. Pastor Louis was the keynote speaker. Davis followed with words of encouragement and support. Both men participated in the ribbon cutting that marked the culmination of this multi-year project and the beginning of this new service to the community.

Pastor Bill Underwood of the



Photo contributed

Moncks Corner church opened and closed the service with prayer. Mary Mitchum, director of community services, addressed attendees regarding the mission of the new center and scriptural directives.

The Center, located behind the church, opened officially on Thursday, March 20, “to serve and demonstrate the love of Christ to the disadvantaged in the community,” according to Mitchum. It will be open on the third Thursday of every month from 12 to 3 p.m.

In order to assist those in need, the The HOPE Center is stocked with food, appliances, home furnishings, family clothing, shoes, supplies for babies and much more.

*The Berkley Independent*  
by Deborah Blum

## Crisis Care Seminar

Divorce, the death of a child, the loss of a job, a destroyed house, a chronic disease—These are all crises that destroy the joy, security and sometimes even the life of the one who experiences them. What can you say? How can you comfort?

This is the subject of a 13-hour class, “Individual Crisis Intervention.” Dr. Steve Willsey, NAD Crisis Care Coordinator East, will provide the important tools necessary to assist people who are going through a life crisis.



- June 14-15 9:00—High Point, NC, church
- June 20-21—Umoja church, Raleigh, NC
- Sept 6-7—Asheville North church
- Sept 13-14—Spartanburg, SC, church

Cost for the class \$20 per person. Pre-registration required but can pay at the door. For more information contact Bob Self at 828-279-2243 or email [rself@carolinasda.com](mailto:rself@carolinasda.com)



Recently the Tryon church held a cooking class for the community. Although they have had cooking classes in the past, this one was quite different, being a hands-on, interactive experience taught by Bev Cook.

The students learned about natural, whole ingredients to use in making some of their familiar dishes such as pizzas, tamale pie, Italian salad, apple pie and even peanut butter cookies. One favorite recipe was barbecue tofu.

The class was 100% plant based and the students made their own dishes at the class. Since some of the ingredients were unfamiliar, each night an activity was introduced which would help the students identify some unfamiliar ingredients like arrowroot powder, nutritional yeast, teff, carob powder, coconut sugar, etc. One night the activity was meal planning, and the students pasted pictures on a poster board to make their very own meals.

There were approximately 30 in attendance each evening. It was well received and already a second series is being formulated for the fall to precede an evangelistic series. The members are thankful that interest is building in the community for the many events held at their church.

—by Bev and Chet Cook



Photos contributed

## Carolina Obituaries

**ACUFF, CHLOE EMELINE GRAHAM, 82**, born Aug. 21, 1930, in Ashland, AL, died on Oct. 12, 2012, in Morganton, NC. Chloe was a member of the Table Rock church where she served as church clerk and bulletin secretary. She also served as Home and School leader, Sabbath School superintendent, and a number of other offices. Chloe worked as a teacher's aide and was a technician at Broughton Hospital. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Charran Graham, Thelma Ellyson, Irving Graham, Alvan Graham and James Graham. Surviving are her children, Faye Acuff (Howard Bumgarner) of Morganton, NC, Lynda Bivens (Chris Metts), of Holden Beach, NC and Terry Acuff (Angie), of Morganton, NC; grandsons, Josh Rhodes, Graham Rhodes, Weston Acuff and Eric Powell; and several great-grandchildren.

**ACUFF, FRED ALBERT, 84**, born Nov. 18, 1929, in San Bernadino, CA, died on Feb. 10, 2014, in Morganton, NC. Fred was a member of the Table Rock church where he served as treasurer and religious liberty leader for many years. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Chloe Emeline Graham Acuff; three brothers, Ernest Morgan, Foster Morgan and Jim Acuff; and a sister, Vivian Breen. Surviving are his wife Margaret; two daughters, Faye Acuff (Howard Bumgarner) of Morganton, NC, and Lynda Bivens (Chris Metts), of Holden Beach, NC; one son, Terry Acuff (Angie), of Morganton, NC; four grandsons, Josh Rhodes, Graham Rhodes, Weston Acuff and Eric Powell; and several great-grandchildren.

**ANDERSON, FLONNIE BEAL, 89**, born Dec. 22, 1923, in Cincinnati, OH, died Feb. 18, 2014, in Morganton, NC. Flonnie was a member of the Table Rock church, and was the Sabbath School secretary for many years. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Scott Anderson; and a sister, Vera Powell. Survivors include her brother, Ray Arthur Beal of Ohio; two nephews, Delmar Beal and Billy Beal; and a niece Sherry Sons (John) of Ohio.

**BEDDINGFIELD, FRANCES BERNICE, 79**, born Oct. 28, 1934, died Feb. 11, 2014, in Hendersonville, NC. Bernice was a member of the Fletcher Church and worked in the cafeteria of the Fletcher elementary school. She was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Marvin Beddingfield; sister, Linda Fletcher; grandson, Christopher Mann. Bernice is survived by two sons, Phillip Beddingfield of Fletcher and Robert Beddingfield of Dana; three daughters, Billie Sue Surrent, Donna Cooper and Lisa Metcalf of Fletcher; one brother, James "Bill" Fletcher; four sisters, Betty Davis, Judy Norwood, Nancy Ringer and Laura Ringer; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**HUGHES, ROSS EUGENE, 90**, born in Ardmore, OK, died Feb. 11, 2014, in Hendersonville, NC. He met his wife Betty at Southern Adventist University. They were married after college in 1945 while Ross was attending Emory University, from which he graduated with a degree in dentistry. He was a member of the Mills River church. He retired from dentistry with the Veterans' Administration in Johnson City, TN, in 1986. He very actively served his

Lord faithfully in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as elder, Sabbath School teacher, religious liberty leader, even helping to raise up two new congregations: Kingsport, TN, and Sevierville, TN. To their loving union came four children: Sharryn Rose Mahorney (Barry) of Morganton, NC; Lynda Varlene Seidel (Dave) of Waynesville, OH; Glen Eugene (Lynn) of Candler, NC; and Juanita Jeanne Carwile (Bo) of Midlothian, VA, who lost her battle with cancer in 2011. He is also survived by five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## Carolina Conference Calendar

### May

**Elder Certification** --- May 2-3. Arden, NC Church. The focus for this training session will be Unit # 1 "Elders Duties."

**Parenting Seminar** --- May 9-10. Spartanburg, SC, Church.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** --- May 16-18, NPR.

**MPA Graduation Weekend** --- May 16-18. MPA.

**Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting** --- May 25-June 1. Lake Junaluska, NC.

**Pathfinder Award Ceremony** --- May 31-June 1. Lake Junaluska. Maggie Valley, NC

### June

**Elders Certification: Session #3 (Preaching)** --- June 14. Kernersville.

**Elders Certification: Session #4 (Evangelism)** --- June 21. Columbia.

**Family Camp** --- June 30-July 4. NPR

### July

**Couples Retreat** --- July 24-27. NPR.

**Master Guide Training** --- July 25-27. NPR.

**Sabbath School Workshop** --- July 25-27. NPR.

### August

**Carolina Teachers Convention** --- Aug. 1-6. NPR.

**Parenting Seminar** --- Aug. 8-9. Arden.

**Prayer Rally** --- Aug. 9. Arden.

**Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership Convention** --- Aug. 22-24. NPR.

### September

**Glow Tract Training** --- Sept. 5-7. Kernersville.

**Prayer Summit** --- Sept. 5-7. Raleigh.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** --- Sept. 12-14. NPR.

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



Photo contributed

## Deaconesses Ordained at Charlotte Sharon Church

The Charlotte Sharon Church recently held their first ordination service for the deaconesses in recognition of their continuous spiritual and dutiful service to the congregation.

Standing at left is Senior Pastor Bryan Aalborg, who conducted the ordination service. Standing at far right is Assistant Head Elder

Jennette Robinson, who is the overseeing elder of the deaconess ministry.

Church members are glad that their deaconesses are now publicly recognized with an ordination ceremony and certificate and that they, too, have been empowered to establish their spiritual leadership role within the Sharon Church congregation.

—by Ellie Green

## The Carolina Action

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



# LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING • MAY 25-31, 2014

## SPEAKERS:



**JOSÉ ROJAS**  
President  
*MOVEmentum*



**GORDON BIETZ**  
President  
*Southern Adventist University*



**DAN JACKSON**  
President  
*North American Division*



**JACK BLANCO**  
Former Dean, School of Religion  
*Southern Adventist University*

## SEMINARS:

**DAVID DEROSE**  
Health  
**GENE BREWER**  
Education, Adventist EDGE  
**DONNA JACKSON**  
Women's Ministries  
**TONY LAPORTE**  
Men's Ministries  
**MARVIN HUNT**  
A Look at Everyday Life  
in Bible Times  
**JENNIFER SCHWIRZER**  
Finding Peace  
**MARK HEISEY**  
Gardening  
**ED COOK**  
Religious Liberty:  
Islam and Democracy  
**BRAD CAULEY**  
Church Growth/Planting  
**MICHELE SEIBEL**  
Prayer

## MUSICAL GUESTS:

MESSAGE OF MERCY



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