

April 2017

Carolina's 10,000 President's Prayer Partner Petitions & Praises

The 10,000 President's Prayer Partners is a fast-growing group of Carolina Conference constituents who take matters such as these to their knees. We invite you to join us, and make this monthly list a matter of prayer. Together we seek the Lord for His answers and provisions to every need we bring before Him.

1. PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION IN THE SELECTION OF A NEW PRINCIPAL FOR MOUNT PISGAH ACADEMY

God has certainly blessed the youth of Carolinas with the educational ministry of Mount Pisgah Academy now for over 100 years. For the past 17 years, we have been equally blessed to have the caring and gifted leadership of Rick Anderson as our principal. We are truly grateful that Rick has accepted the invitation of the conference to serve as our newly elected Associate Director of Education. That means that we are definitely in the process of looking for a new principal and leader for our academy. We solicit your prayers as we explore the various possibilities that will be considered by both the administration, the Personnel Committee of the Academy, and ultimately confirmed by the Board of Education. Being a principal of a high school – even in a Seventh-day Adventist setting -- in today's context presents many challenges and opportunities. I do know since I have walked in those shoes! But for the rest of my days, I will treasure the memories and the lives of those that I had the privilege of guiding in a closer walk with Jesus.

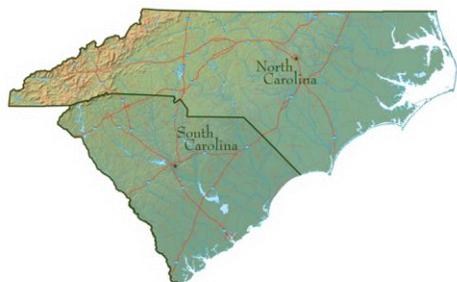
Here are five primary things that we are looking for in the new leader for our academy:



1. Someone who above all else loves Jesus and radiates that love in both word and action.
2. Someone who genuinely loves God's youth and is committed to their guidance and development.
3. Someone who will honor the sacred trust of keeping Mount Pisgah Academy faithful to the mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
4. Someone who will unflinchingly dedicate his or her energies to preserving and protecting the safety of our students and campus from every form of endangerment.
5. Someone gifted as an administrator to foster a vision collaboratively with the staff and board for a vibrant academy that will excel in its educational scope to encompass a beautiful balance of academic and programming options.

*Thank you, Rick & Beth Anderson
For your 17 years of faithful service to
Mount Pisgah Academy*

2. A PRAYER FOR OUR MINISTERIAL COUNCIL & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



Transitions & Change! That is definitely one thing you can depend on in this life! As pastors retire, accept new opportunities for service elsewhere - necessary adjustments need to be made in various church districts within the Carolinas. That is why I am truly grateful for the recent formation of a valued team of colleagues, known as the **Ministerial Council (MC)**.

The MC members serve in an advisory role to administration and the personnel committee of the conference. They include:

Elder Haskell Williams, Ministerial Director & Chairperson
Elder Glen Altermatt, Associate Ministerial Director for Evangelism
Elder Samuel Romero, Director for Hispanic Ministries
Elder Brad Cauley, Director for Church Planting & Church Growth

This year – especially after camp meeting -- a number of transitions and changes will be enacted. Our Personnel Committee has been busy processing the recommendations of the Ministerial Council, and much more work needs to be done. This is far from an easy task and we seek your earnest prayers as we meet with churches, develop church profiles, consider our options, interview and extend calls to new pastors or transition our current pastors to new areas of responsibility.

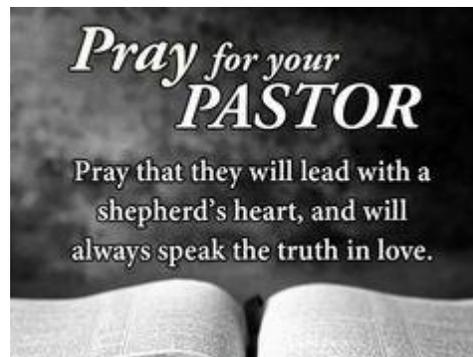
Our **Personnel Committee** is made up of:

Elder Leslie Louis, Conference President & Chairperson
Elder Gary Moyer, Vice-President for Administration
Elder Rick Russell, Vice-President for Finance
Chad Grundy, Under Treasurer
Debbie Hutchinson, Director of Human Resources
Elder Haskell Williams, Ministerial Director
Elder Samuel Romero, Director of Hispanic Ministries
Elder Brad Cauley, Director of Church Planting & Church Growth
Elder John Earnhardt, Upward & Fairview Church Pastor
Elder Glen Garver, Greensboro Church Pastor
Elder Ryan Ashlock, Charlotte University Church Pastor
Elder Tony LaPorte, Charleston Church Pastor
Elder John Huskins, Fayetteville Church Pastor



3. PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH DISTRICTS & PASTORS

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, these words of encouragement were penned for our churches: *“Ask of me, and I will answer your requests. The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another.”* [9MR, 303]



This was the experience of Christ’s faithful disciples as they met in earnest prayer in that upper room as described in Acts 1:14. Let’s pray for a genuine revival in these churches uplifting them and each pastor by name:

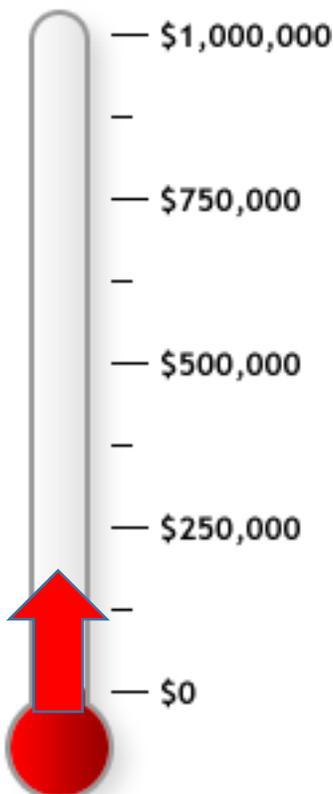
PASTOR	CHURCH(ES); COMPANIES & GROUPS
Alvaro Torres	New Bern SDA Church New Bern Spanish SDA Church Wilmington Spanish SDA Company
William Underwood	Moncks Corner SDA Church Summerville Community SDA Church
Steve Vail	Carolina Conference SDA Church Conference Evangelist
Isaac Vallejo	Winston-Salem Spanish SDA Church High Point Spanish SDA Group Burlington Spanish SDA Company Greensboro Spanish SDA Group
Alexander Vargas	Hanahan Spanish SDA Company North Charleston Spanish Church Summerville Spanish SDA Mission Group
Fredy Villamil	Wilson Spanish SDA Company Albertson Spanish SDA Mission Group Greenville (NC) Spanish SDA Church Mt. Olive Spanish SDA Church Dudley Spanish SDA Company



4. PRAYING FOR **858** MORE CAROLINA ADVENTISTS WHO ARE WILLING TO COMMIT TO OUR MILLION DOLLAR EVANGELISM INITIATIVE!

We can do it!! I know we can. By God's grace, I believe with all my heart that we have at least 1,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the Carolina Conference who truly believe that Jesus is coming again ...soon and very soon! ~~4,000~~ 999 (Count me in!) Adventists who are willing to dedicate at least \$1,000 every year for evangelism till Jesus returns. For those who have such a passionate conviction, we invite you to prayerfully consider investing in the mission Jesus has entrusted to each of us . . .

TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST!



In our GOALS FOR SOULS initiative of reaching 1000 precious lives with the beautiful message that God has blessed this church family, join me in praying that we will continue to have the resources needed to reach our goal of at least ONE MILLION DOLLARS that can be invested in the ministry of evangelism.

I'm thrilled to let you know that our latest Conference clerk's report indicates that we've had 174 baptisms and professions of faith so far – which is 32 more precious lives that have made a decision to embrace Jesus as the Savior and Lord of their lives than we had at this same time last year. Praise the Lord for the power of His Holy Spirit! Evangelism & Discipleship are truly the heartbeat of the church in the Carolinas.

So how is it that I've come up with this number – 858? As of the end of February, we have raised \$142,000 for 2017 evangelism. That's equivalent to 142 giving units in Carolina of \$1,000 each! So we are praying for least 858 more generous hearts before the end of the year. Although we're still a bit behind our goal compared to where we were last year, remember how the University of North Carolina Tarheels came back from trailing the top Nike-sponsored Gonzaga Bulldogs to win the 2017 men's college basketball title! THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE!! If hundreds of thousands can get so excited about winning a basketball game, I know that we have at least one thousand (and far more than that) passionate and faithful Carolina Adventists who are even more excited about winning hearts for Heaven. Let's do something amazing in Carolina for Jesus this year and every year till we see His face and hear His voice resoundingly say – *“Well done, good and faithful Carolinians!”*

Let's pray for an amazing victory for evangelism in 2017. One Million Evangelism Dollars and One Thousand Priceless Souls for Christ's Kingdom in the Carolinas! **Oh what glory that will be for HIM!**

5. REMEMBERING AND KEEPING IN FOCUS OUR 2020 VISION

Over the past seven months, we have focused on each of the seven visions that we have prayerfully embraced and endorsed since our constituency session last August. We don't want this to be lost on a "back burner;" rather, it's our desire to keep this in our ongoing prayers and efforts to make a difference during this quinquennium ending in 2020 for Christ and His kingdom.

So we will repeat them again beginning with each vision and then provide you with an update of where we are in the process of reaching these goals.

VISION I: ESTABLISH NEW CHURCH PLANTS & GROW EXISTING ONES

PRAY AND COMMIT to a FAITH GOAL of raising at least 20 New Church Plants in South Carolina and 40 in North Carolina.

In addition PRAY and COMMIT to a FAITH GOAL of 90 TOTAL progressions or steps in congregational status [GROUPS > COMPANIES > CHURCHES].



Since the beginning of this five year quinquennium, the Carolina Conference has launched a total of 16 new church plants (7 church plants in SC; 9 church plants in NC).

The Church Planting Committee has also authorized a total of 20 progression steps based on clearly established guidelines and benchmarks.

Let's consider and pray for the fulfillment of this Heavenly vision that Ellen White received in 1909:

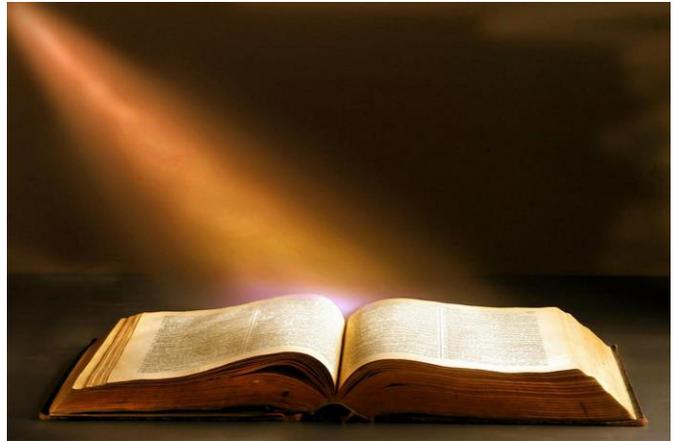
"As light from heaven shone upon any one, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were to be kindled in many places, and from these lights still other lights were to be kindled....I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world." Testimonies to the Church, Volume 9, Pages 28-29



"Success in any line demands a definite aim. He who would achieve true success in life must keep steadily in view the aim worthy of his endeavor... The heaven-appointed purpose of giving the gospel to the world in this generation is the noblest that can appeal to any human being. It opens a field of effort to everyone whose heart Christ has touched."

6. SATURATED WITH THE WORD

Beginning with this issue of the *President's Prayer Partners*, we again invite you to truly be a people of the Word. As Seventh-day Adventists we embrace 28 Fundamental truths that are based on the Bible alone. During the coming months, we will focus on four passages of scripture each month that are foundational to each of our fundamental beliefs. Here's our third set of 4 memory passages for this year to coincide with our third fundamental belief as Adventists. **Let's place His Word prayerfully in our hearts each day of this month.**



I carry a set of these passages with me in my car and repeat them aloud as I drive from place to place. My goal is to prayerfully say one verse at least five times a day for a week, thus embracing the promise of God's Word – *"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee."* Psalm 119:11 Repeat these passages over and over till they become a part of your very being. Of course, you can always choose to do more. Prayerfully consider how you can saturate your soul and make His Word a part of your heart every day.

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF # 3: The Son: God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things.

- A. Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV)** *"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."*
- B. Daniel 9:25-27 (NKJV)** ²⁵*"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.*

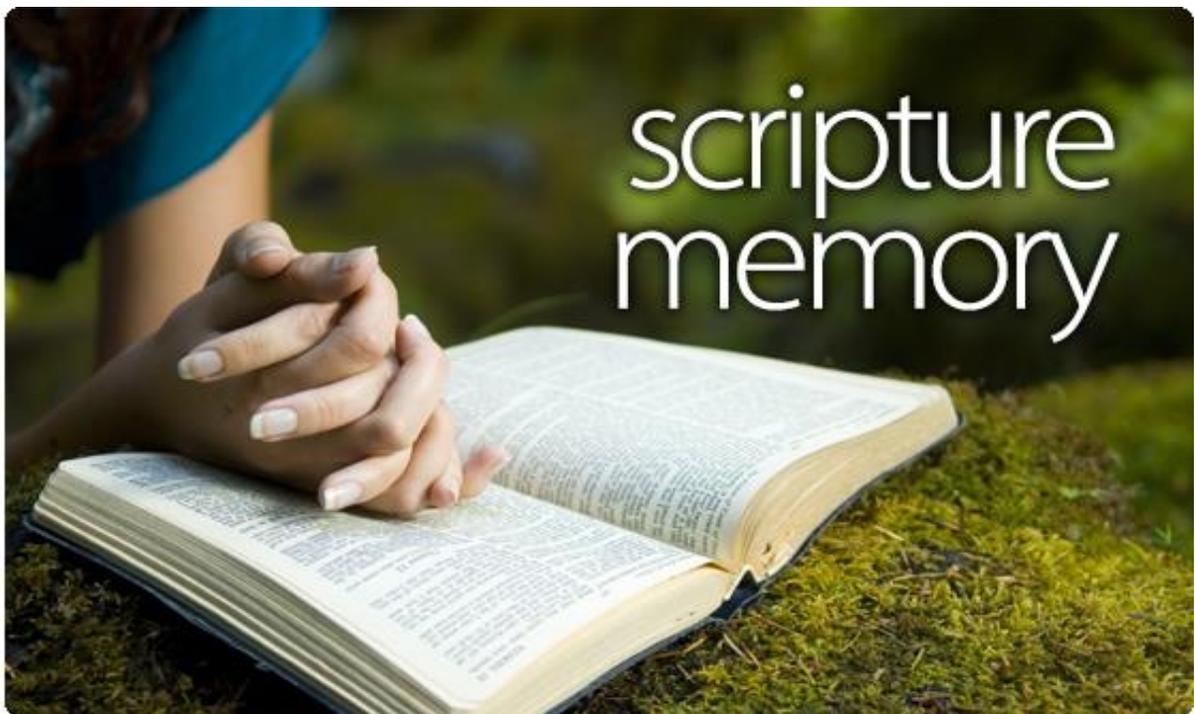
²⁶*"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

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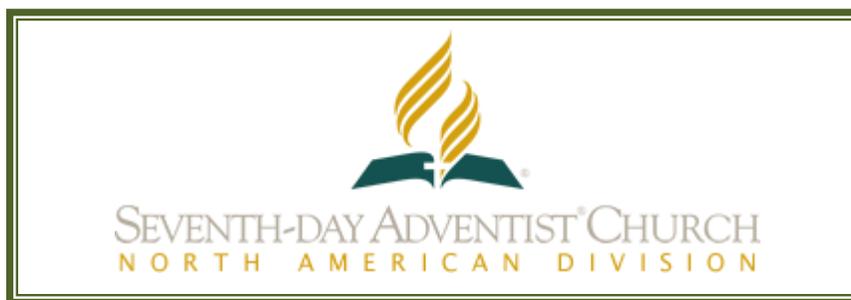
²⁷ *“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”*

C. John 1:1-3 (NKJV) - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*

D. Philippians 2: 5-11 (NKJV) - ⁵ *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*



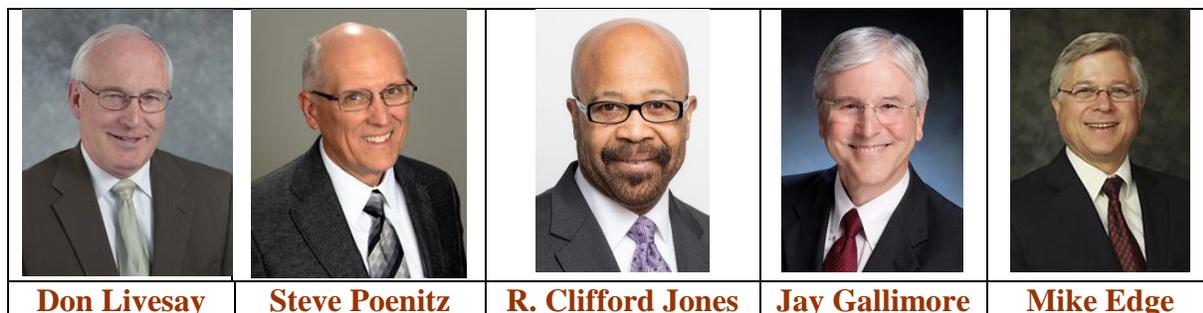
7. GOD’S LEADERS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH:



Be part of God’s praying church across North America for the leaders who guide God’s work in the following territories:

Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists		Don Livesay, President
a. April 2-8	Indiana Conference	Steve Poenitz, President
b. April 9-15	Lake Region Conference	R. Clifford Jones, President
c. April 16-22	Michigan Conference	Jay Gallimore, President
d. April 23-29	Wisconsin Conference	Mike Edge, President
Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists		Gary Thurber, President
e. April 30-May 6	Central States Conference	Roger Bernard, President

Photos of each of these leaders is provided below for your reference



You are Invited to Join!

Every Monday evening from 7 to 8 PM

Circle Carolina in Prayer

Simply call 712-770-4010

Enter code 205023# when prompted

**SHARE THIS INVITATION TO BE A
CAROLINA 10,000 PRESIDENT'S PRAYER PARTNER**

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

- **ONLINE:** www.carolinasda.org – at the bottom of the page in the “Welcome from the President” section.
- **CALL:** 704-596-3200; Extension 5743
- **EMAIL:** bcrofford@carolinasda.org