

# August 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 to 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 THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH**

#### ***A. Carolina's Welcome to the Family***



Every other year, the Carolina Conference hosts a special retreat for those individuals and their families who have recently joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church as members of one of the 154 churches/companies in North and South Carolina. Next weekend we will be hosting such a weekend for those who were baptized or came into the church on profession of faith between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2017. There is no cost to anyone who has registered to come for this event.



Along with administration, every department of the Carolina Conference will be represented. We want to highlight the various ministries of the church for our newest church family members. Opportunities for camp activities in the restful, serene atmosphere of Nosoca Pines Ranch will be enriched with inspirational messages by our guest speaker, Elder Gordon Bietz, retired president of Southern Adventist University.

The purpose of this weekend is to encourage and nurture faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus and His remnant church. Please keep these precious new family members in your prayers as we seek to help them learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, its missions and ministries, and how they play a vital part in God's plan for a finished work.

#### ***B. The World Religious Liberty Congress***

At the end of this month, the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) will be hosting its 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress in the United States for the first time, and even more importantly,



this event will be hosted in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in our own Southern Union Conference territory.

An extraordinary lineup of speakers, including approximately 50 scholars, lawyers, advocates, government officials, and religious leaders, will dialogue about key issues and challenges regarding religious freedom. This event is hosted by the Adventist church every five years and provides a wealth resources regarding a topic that is close to the hearts of every worshipper of God.

As your Religious Liberty leader in the Carolinas, I will be attending this congress along with four of our pastors. Please pray for traveling mercies for the thousands of others who will be coming to this World Congress. Pray earnestly for the impact of this congress as it reaches across cultural and social boundaries to preserve and protect the basic right of every human being to a liberty so dear to our hearts.

## 2. A PRAYER FOR ADRA'S HUMANITARIAN CRISIS OF REFUGEES ENTERING ITALY



A dear friend of mine, Dag Pontvik, who serves as Director of ADRA Italy, asked me to share this urgent need with our conference family as a matter of prayer this month.

One year ago ADRA Italia undertook, in close cooperation with the cooperative organization named “Al di là dei sogni” (Beyond Dreams), a project that grants work training for refugees.

The current project, which assists participants in reaching their workplaces, is about 12 miles from the city of Castel Volturno in southern Italy and uses a nine-seat vehicle owned by ADRA Italia. This van is driven by one of the project participants, who happens to be the only one who holds a driver's license. Without the driver's presence, the group of refugees loses the ability to move around. The van already has over 200,000 miles, and the risk of breaking down is very great.

These migrant workers, who have escaped hunger, homelessness, and hardships beyond our imagination, simply need hope. A new van to help them get to and from work would be a great blessing to them.

Dag is asking those of us in the Carolinas to partner in prayer with them over this desperate need in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's desire to reach out with compassion to hurting humans who are innocent victims of war and national strife.

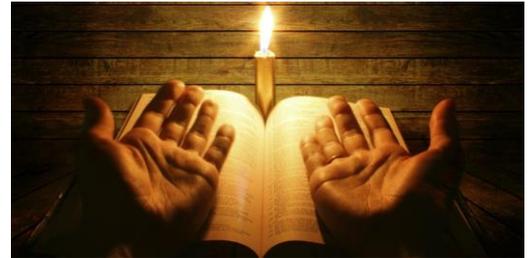


Should the Lord inspire you to help in anyway, here's the link for an online tax deductible donation:

<https://www.purecharity.com/adra-italia-refugee-sabbath>

### 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” Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, p. 303.



Praying for our pastors is very important. They are serving God, and the attacks of the enemy are relentless. The pastors need to be covered in prayer on a daily basis.

Our prayers should be personalized by saying the title of *pastor* along with their name since they hold a position of sacred trust for God’s remnant church.

Here’s a suggestion for this month: Why not pray for our pastors by name using these seven scriptural passages?

1. *Ps. 31:23 ..... Father, I thank You that our pastors are faithful*
2. *Ps. 31:23 ..... and that you preserve them,*
3. *Prov. 28:20 ..... that they abound with blessings,*
4. *Gal. 6:9 ..... and do not grow weary in well doing,*
5. *Phil. 1:6 ..... and that you who began a good work in them will perfect it.*
6. *Eph. 2:10 ..... They are Your workmanship created in Christ Jesus*
7. *Heb. 13:21 ..... and equipped in every good thing to do Your will.*

#### PASTOR

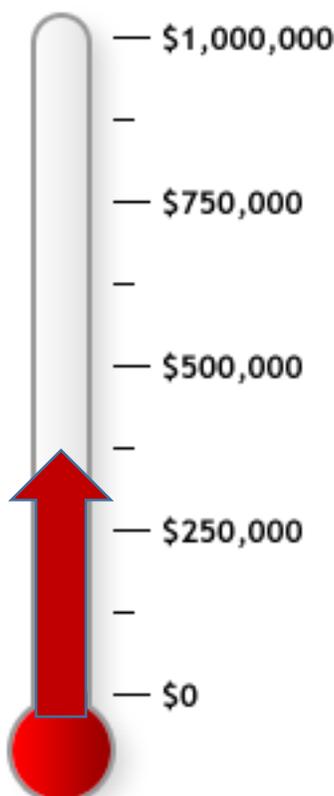
#### CHURCH(ES); COMPANIES & GROUPS

<b>1. Daniel Bran, Jr.</b>	<i>Pastor</i> <b>Tryon SDA Church</b>
<b>2. Jeff Carlson</b>	<i>Associate Pastor</i> <b>Fletcher SDA Church</b>
<b>3. Dana Connell</b>	<i>Associate Pastor</i> <b>Raleigh First SDA Church</b>
<b>4. David Cook</b>	<i>Pastor</i> <b>Pittsboro SDA Church</b> <b>Carthage SDA Group of the Sandhills</b> <b>Albemarle SDA Church</b>
<b>5. Ed Couser</b>	<i>Pastor</i> <b>Erwin Hills SDA Church</b> <b>Burnsville SDA Church</b>
<b>6. Tim Cove</b>	<i>Pastor</i> <b>Mocksville SDA Church</b> <b>Statesville SDA Church</b>
<b>7. Donovan Davis</b>	<i>Lead Pastor</i> <b>Spartanburg SDA Church</b>

**4. PRAYING FOR 600 MORE CAROLINA ADVENTISTS WHO ARE WILLING TO COMMIT TO OUR MILLION DOLLAR EVANGELISM INITIATIVE!**

By God’s grace, we can reach our goal! I know we can! 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 — ~~1,000~~ 999 (*Count me in!*) Adventists who are willing to dedicate at least \$1,000 every year for evangelism until 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 1,000 precious lives with the beautiful message with which 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.

Now that most of our GOALS FOR SOULS plans have been developed by each of our churches, join me in uplifting these plans for God’s direction and blessing as we labor for the lives we seek to reach for Christ and His kingdom.

*“If the members of the churches would but put to work the powers of mind that they have, in well-directed efforts, in well-matured plans, they might do a hundredfold more for Christ than they are now doing. If they went forth with earnest prayer, with meekness and lowliness of heart, seeking personally to impart to others the knowledge of salvation, the message might reach the inhabitants of the earth” Ellen G. White, The Review and Herald, April 11, 1893.*

**So how have we come up with the above number of 600?** As of the end of June, we have raised \$399,458 for evangelism in 2017. That’s almost 400 giving units in Carolina of \$1,000 each! So we are praying for least 600 more generous hearts before the end of the year. Our June totals indicate a 1.35% increase in support for evangelism — over \$5,300 more than at this same time last year. Praise the Lord!



Let's do something amazing in Carolina for Jesus this year and every year until we see His face and hear Him 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

We continue our second cycle of repeating and remembering our seven-fold 2020 vision, and how the Lord has been guiding us in our quest to accomplish these goals for which we have asked Heaven's blessing. This month we focus on our fourth vision of those seven.

### VISION IV: ADVANCE ADVENTIST EDUCATION

**PRAY AND COMMIT to increasing the number of our church schools to at least 25, with a 5% increase from our current overall K-12 enrollment. We embrace the Advent message that we are living in the closing moments of earth's history. Therefore, it is our desire to advocate and validate the counsel of God's messenger that "in the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one" *Education*, p. 30.**



Two weeks ago the Carolina Conference hosted a joint convention & retreat with both our pastoral and educational ministry teams and their families. What an amazing time of fellowship, worship and spiritual renewal this was as we joined hands to dedicate our energies to the work of education and redemption – for they are indeed "ONE!"

The officers of the conference have dedicated their time to ensure that we personally visit every church school this year. I have had the privilege of speaking at two of our elementary graduations and will be hold a week of prayer at two of our church schools this fall. We truly care about the advancement of Adventist education.

Let's pray that we, as God's remnant church who are preparing our families for the soon return of Christ, will prayerfully heed the counsel God has provided for us through His appointed messenger for these end times:

***"The subject of education is one that should interest every Seventh-day Adventist. The Lord says to us, Seventh-day Adventists are not to place themselves under the counsel and instruction of teachers who know not the truth for this time."***

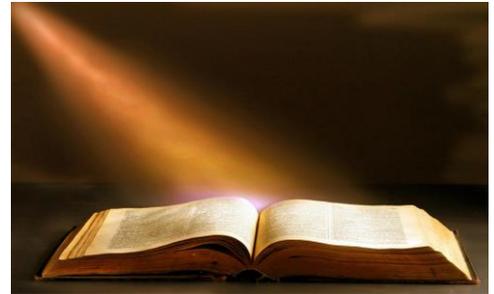
*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 401

***"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."***

*Education*, p. 262

## 6. SATURATED WITH THE WORD

As *President's Prayer Partners*, you are invited to truly be 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 next set of four memory passages to coincide with our eighth fundamental belief on the great controversy between Christ and Satan. **Let's place His Word prayerfully in our hearts each day this month.**



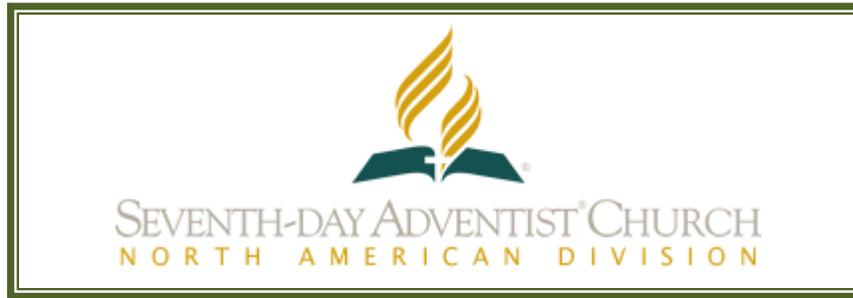
I carry a set of these passages with me in my car and repeat them aloud as I drive from place to place. My goal is to prayerfully say one verse at least five times a day for a week, thus embracing the promise of God's Word: *"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* *Psalm 119:11*. Repeat these passages again and again until 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 with His Word every day.

### FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF # 8: The Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation.

- A. **Isaiah 14:12-14 (NKJV)** -*"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'"*
- B. **Ezekiel 28:14-15 (NKJV)** -*" You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you."*
- C. **Romans 1:20 (NIV)** -*" For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."*
- D. **Revelation 12:7-9 (KJV)** -*" And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

**7. GOD’S LEADERS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE & JULY:**



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

<b>North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists</b>		<b>Ricardo Graham, President</b>
<b>a.</b> July 30 – August 5	<b>Nevada-Utah Conference</b>	<b>Leon Brown, Sr. President</b>
<b>b.</b> August 6-12	<b>Northern California Conference</b>	<b>Jim Pedersen, President</b>
<b>c.</b> August 13-19	<b>Southeastern California Conference</b>	<b>Sandra Roberts, President</b>
<b>d.</b> August 20-26	<b>Southern California Conference</b>	<b>Valino Salazar, President</b>
<b>Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada</b>		<b>Mark A. Johnson, President</b>
<b>e.</b> August 27 – September 2	<b>Alberta Conference</b>	<b>Gary Hodder, President</b>

*Photos of each of these leaders is provided on this and the next page 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](http://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](mailto:bcrofford@carolinasda.org)