

# CAROLINA ACTION

ISSUE 3, 2017



# AWA

Moves to the Carolinas

p. 4-5

EMBRACING CAROLINA WITH THE COMPASSIONATE CALL OF CHRIST





# From the President's Pen

## Urgency in a Time of Uncertainty

To be painfully transparent, my heart sank as I scanned through our conference clerk's latest report. I was disappointed that the numbers for the 154 churches and companies in the Carolinas showed a decline in soul winning, especially compared to where we were last year at this time.

We have set a very attainable goal: Every church, by God's grace, reach at least one person for Jesus every year. Through our faithful dedication to this mission, I truly believe God can redeem more loyal disciples for Christ in the Carolinas. With His blessing, we can experience 1,000 or more baptisms and/or professions of faith this year and every year until Jesus returns.

Since we are now completing our study of this quarter's Sabbath School lessons on Peter's two epistles, I feel an overwhelming conviction to share this message of urgency with each of you.

Living in today's fast-paced age, it is so easy for us—even as Adventists—to become somewhat apathetic and assume the outlook Peter referenced in 2 Peter 3:4: "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation," (NKJV). However, consider the reality facing every one of us: The end of time is in my lifetime—just as close as my last heartbeat!

These are days of great uncertainty and danger. In 1 Timothy 4:1, the apostle Paul warned believers about times like these. "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and

things taught by demons" (NIV).

There is a quote attributed to secular French philosopher Voltaire that goes something like this, "God made man in His own image, and man returned the favor." Ever since the perfect image of God was ruined when sin entered the Garden of Eden, mankind has been attempting to recreate God in his own frail image. We want a feel-good religion that is void of guilt and the conviction of sin.

Paul predicted this would happen: "For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear," 2 Timothy 4:3 (NLT).

We want a God we can check in with now and then who will tolerate our excesses and oversights. We want Him to love us right where we are and look the other way when we refuse to live up to clearly defined principles from His Word.

People who choose to drink beer but wish to avoid a weight problem purchase a beer called Bud Light. When we want to enjoy religion and avoid the weight of guilt on our hearts, we choose a form of godliness called "Religion Light."

Slowly, but very surely, the society in which we live is giving God a makeover for our time. At the expense of His sovereignty, the secular mind-set has made God into a comfortable pal. We think of Him as a user-friendly God who makes allowances for our sins and accepts excuses for the background or culture in which we grew up. That mind-set, prompted by the enemy of Christ, opposes the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Have we turned

our God into a deity who delights in just an occasional moment of attention we might choose to give Him? One who happily rewards us for attending church on Sabbath whenever the Spirit moves and we feel like going?

What is happening to the church today? Yes, even our own Seventh-day Adventist Church, which we regard as God's remnant people. Instead of turning the world upside down with the power of the gospel, have we allowed the world to turn us upside down? Have we allowed the world to "squeeze [us] into its own mould," as the J.B. Phillips translation of Romans 12:2 points out?

The pure and simple message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that you and I are sinners, that sin always separates us from a close and loving relationship with God, and that Jesus paid a supreme price to achieve the impossible dream—to reunite us with God by taking the penalty for our guilt on Himself through stretching His innocent body on the cruel, rugged timbers of an instrument of incomprehensible suffering and torture.

Paul said in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. ..." (NKJV). The word Paul used for power in this passage is the Greek word *dynamos*. From it, our English words "dynamic" and "dynamite" are derived. Yes, there is an explosive power in the God-inspired message of the gospel, but not when we change it or update it to suit our own convenience.

As your servant leader for the Lord, my heartfelt prayer is that we will allow the sacred Scriptures to transform us into God's image, not the other way

(...continued on page 15)



Becky Carpenter

Pastor Tom Hughes (center) with Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis, Ministerial Director Haskell Williams, Vice President for Finance Rick Russell and Evangelism Coordinator Glen Altermatt.

## Police Officer Project

As police officers across the nation continued to receive bad press, Pastor Tom Hughes felt a burden to give back to these men and women. When he began brainstorming, the Lord impressed him to purchase quality reusable water bottles for the police officers in the Myrtle Beach and Florence, South Carolina, areas.

When Hughes brought the idea for the Police Officer Project to his church members, they were ecstatic and told him they could not wait to show the police officers their gratitude. Hughes then negotiated an agreement with Camelback to sell him insulated water bottles for nearly half the retail price, which included placing the church logo on the front and the words of Psalm 23:4 on the back. By including this text, Hughes

hoped to remind the officers that no matter what hardships they face on the job, the Lord is watching out for them.

Hughes' churches raised more than \$22,000 to purchase water bottles for the police officers. After receiving the funds, Hughes contacted each of the county police departments and got permission to deliver the water bottles. With each delivery, words of gratitude and thanks inundated Hughes and his church members. The officers were so thankful to receive a practical gift and to be reminded that they are appreciated. Unfortunately, two counties refused the water bottles for various reasons, although the individual officers continued to express interest. Therefore, Hughes and his team plan to hand-deliver water bottles to these officers rather

than distributing the bottles through the department.

Despite minor setbacks, Hughes has nearly reached his goal of providing a water bottle to every one of the 1,400 sheriffs, police officers and highway patrolmen in Myrtle Beach and Florence, South Carolina. Overall, the response from both the church members and the officers has been extremely positive, which was exemplified by a recent feature on the Channel 15 news. Hughes continues to dream of providing every emergency worker in the area with a water bottle, and he thanks God for what he and his church members have already been able to do.

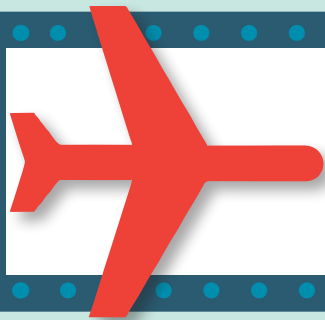
—by Abby King

“With each delivery, words of gratitude and thanks flooded Hughes and his church members”

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# Adventist World Aviation

## COMES TO THE CAROLINAS



In the early 1990s, the General Conference (GC), under the leadership of Robert Folkenburg Sr., established Adventist World Aviation (AWA). This organization was formed as a support infrastructure for the GC at a time when unions and local conferences had stopped training aviators. For more than a decade during its early years, AWA called Andrews University home. Although the university provided a beautiful training ground, the location was not conducive to AWA's efforts because many of the students there had a different focus in ministry.

Following a stint in Troy, Wisconsin, the AWA board decided to move their operations to a location with a warmer climate. Additionally, they were looking for an area where they would have assistance in their purpose of training people and operating for the mission field. As the board began contemplating the options, they homed in on the Southern Union. With its warm weather and participation in missionary work through ShareHim, the Southeast seemed like a wonderful corner of the United States for AWA to be located. Ric Swaningson, president of AWA, spoke with Folkenburg about the board's consideration of the Southern Union, specifically North Carolina, as the new home of AWA. Upon Swaningson's mention of the Carolinas, Folkenburg was ecstatic and encouraged the move.

Following this conversation, Swaningson contacted Elder Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference, to discuss AWA's possible move to North Carolina. From the moment Swaningson introduced himself, Louis met him with a warm invitation, which helped finalize the decision to move. Although Folkenburg passed away before the relocation, AWA was excited to take advantage of the better climate, both economically and meteorologically. Once a new home for the corporate office was found in Smithfield, North Carolina, AWA made a smooth transition in September 2016 and began planning a grand opening.

On March 26, 2017, 260 attendees crowded onto the tarmac at Johnston Regional Airport to celebrate AWA's recent move. A special ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the recently renovated airport building, and guests were made comfortable in the spacious main airport complex afterward. Additionally, Louis was in attendance and offered a dedicatory prayer for AWA's future partnership with the local church.



# Aviation CAROLINAS

He also prayed that God would bless the outreach AWA and the Conference would accomplish together.

During the celebration, Swaningson offered free flights in one of his aircrafts to each child (age 8-17) in attendance. For many of the kids, this was their first time up in the air. Although this activity was meant for the children, Louis also had an opportunity to fly high with Swaningson, and he enjoyed his time above the clouds. Overall, the grand opening ceremony was a huge success and helped spread the news about AWA's ministry to the Carolinas.

As AWA continues to acclimate to their new home, they are beginning to plan for the future. At their new location in Smithfield, they are organizing Angel Flights, non-emergency medical flights for patients in the United States who would benefit from a short flight versus a long, painful drive to a medical facility. Through this program, AWA is not only showing the love of Jesus to those in far off countries but also sharing His love with those in the Carolinas.

AWA continues to train pilots for missionary work because their goal



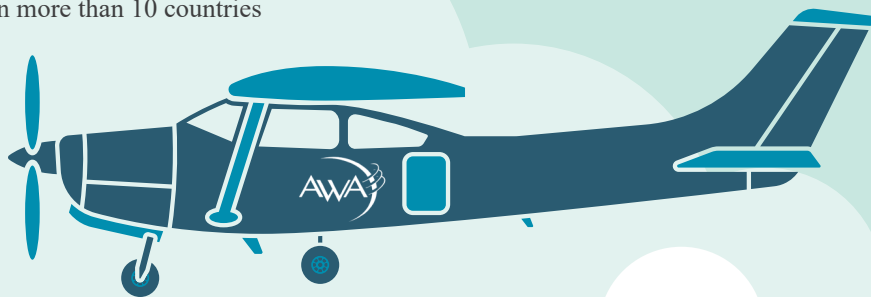
**Above:** Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis greets Ric Swaningson, president of AWA, at the grand opening celebration on March 26, 2017.  
**Left:** Ric and his wife, Dawn, share in this aviation ministry.

is to reach the 800 million people in the world

who have never heard of Jesus and are accessible only through aviation. They are working to heal the sick in countries like Brazil and Nicaragua, as well as provide services to all the people living there. Currently, AWA has 45 missionary family members operating in more than 10 countries

on four continents. If you are interested in becoming involved in missionary work through AWA, you can visit their website, [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org).

—Abby King



Photos by Carol Louis

# CLASS ON DIABETES Draws Public Attention

National statistics show that diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes cases in this country together total 29.1 million people, or 9.3 percent of the population, according to a 2015 report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Furthermore, of the 29.1 million, approximately 8.1 million persons are undiagnosed. This disorder has become not only one of the most entrenched chronic conditions in this country but also America's most expensive disease, both personally and nationally.

Since our church is concerned with carrying the health message to our brothers and sisters in Fayetteville, NC, and the surrounding community, our Women's Ministries sponsored a seminar entitled "Diabetes—What

"I had no idea how much damage I was doing to myself because of my poor choices with food and drink."

You Need to Know" on February 19, 2017. Presenters of the class included two active members of the Fayetteville congregation: Abigail Sam, MD, and Samantha Sands, RN. These ladies defined diabetes and identified the different classifications or types of diabetes and also explained in layman's terms the body's processing of glucose. They went on to describe how the prolonged consumption of excess carbohydrates coupled with a lack of exercise could result in elevated insulin production. Both presenters shared examples and used pictorial charts and diagrams to supplement the information being presented.

The question and answer session at the end of the class demonstrated that attendees' interest in the topic was stimulated, and they desired further education. "The class was enlightening," said Catherine Lewis,


who attended with her husband, Bob. "My husband and I learned things we had not been told at previous classes on diabetes held elsewhere. These new methods give us hope that we can overcome his diabetes." Another attendee, Andrea Quirindongo, concluded, "My afternoon in the diabetes class was rewarding and educational. I had no idea how much damage I was doing to myself because of my poor choices with food and drink. Before I attended the class, my average blood sugar was 325; now it is 188. Thank you for the wonderful information."

Overall, the response to the seminar was positive, and church members are encouraged to know that members of the community are responsive to the church's outreach in the field of health education.

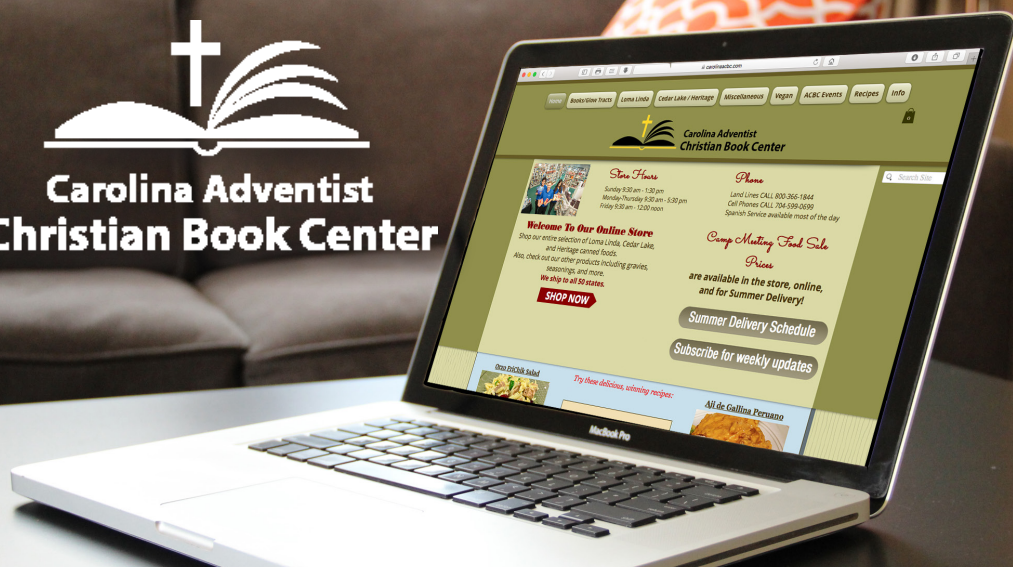
—Maria Hamilton



Photo contributed



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## VISION IV: Advancing Adventist Education in the Carolinas

Our fourth 20/20 Visionary Goal is to pray and commit to enhancing and encouraging our members to embrace Adventist education.

We see Adventist Education as a vitally important ministry to prepare our children and youth for service in this world and to guide them into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Across North America the secularization of society has corrupted the public curriculum. Every day we are seeing a moral decline from the standards of God and His Word. A shifting of priorities, combined with increased financial commitments, has contributed to an overall decrease in enrollment in our church schools across the North American Division, including our own conference.

At the end of 2015, the Carolina Conference was operating 18 church schools and Mount Pisgah Academy. It is our desire to increase the number of our church schools to 25 by the end of this quinquennium.

By God's guidance, I am happy to report that we added three new church schools in North Carolina during this past school year: Waynesville, Salisbury, and University City (Charlotte). This brings us up to 21 conference-operated church schools.

It is also our desire to see a steady trajectory of growth in our overall K-12 enrollment with an increase of at least 5 percent. This means taking our K-12 enrollment from 688 to at least 723 students. That may seem like a small step for our church schools, but it will be a giant leap in growing our schools and truly valuing the counsel Ellen White provided: "In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one" *Education*, p. 30.

## KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR

# 20/20 VISION

## FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

I am so grateful for every opportunity I have of visiting and interacting with our students at schools such as Silver Creek Adventist School (Morganton, N.C.), or speaking at graduation services at Tryon Adventist School (Tryon, N.C.) and Brookhaven Adventist School (Winterville, N.C.).

I believe in the amazing power and influence Adventist education can make on a person's life. We are so blessed to have two wonderful academies in our conference: our conference-operated secondary school, Mount Pisgah Academy, and Fletcher Academy, our neighboring self-supported

school system. I am thankful for our church schools, which operate with the same mission of helping our children grow up in the world but not of the world.

I am grateful to be a living testimony to the sacrifices made by my parents to keep all three of their children in church school, despite all the ups and downs of their lives. Today my brother, sister and I are a living testimony to the dedicated commitment of consecrated educators who guided our lives. They challenged our thinking, provided us with opportuni-

ties of growth and practical experience, and pointed us to Jesus.

That's what I see happening in our church schools across the Carolinas. I thank God for our wonderful team of teachers, who touch the precious lives of our children and youth every day for Christ in the classroom.

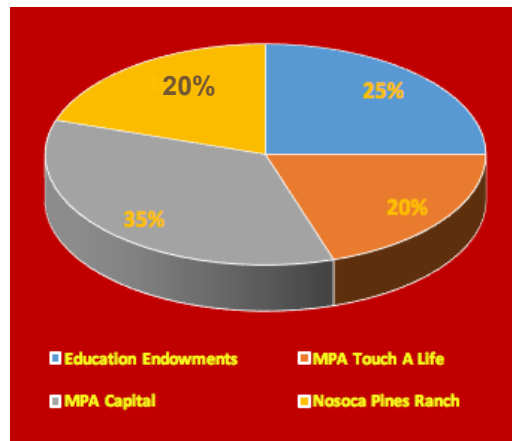
When anyone is tempted to think that church school is just one of the options for Adventists, I hope every Adventist in the Carolinas will recognize the eternal implications of that decision for our children and youth. The Lord asks a heart-rending question in Jeremiah 13:20, "Where is your flock—your beautiful flock—that he gave you to care for?" (NLT). What will your answer be? Every member of the Carolina Conference has a sacred responsibility in fostering a generation committed to Christ and His Kingdom. Whether or not we have children in school, we all play a vital role in supporting our schools with our time, talent, and treasure.

As Carole and I look back on our own experiences, and those of our two children, we can say this with absolute confidence: Adventist education is essential, not optional.

—Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference President



Photo contributed



I am so grateful that we have changed the offering once known as Carolina Advance, then as Carolina Building and Youth, to the recent emphasis known as **Carolina Youth**, which is specifically aimed at benefitting primarily our educational ministry along with our camp's ministry.

# CAROLINA ADVENTIST RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CARS) Sold to Liberty Healthcare Management

When Pisgah Manor Health Care Center opened its doors in 1974, a two-fold vision was realized: 1) provide post-acute care in the Greater Asheville community, and 2) construct a venue at which students from Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) could learn the importance of real-life work while offsetting the cost of their tuition. Over the past 43 years Pisgah has grown, expanded and established itself as the only state-licensed Seventh-day Adventist Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) on the East Coast. With Carolina Adventist Retirement System (CARS) as the corporate umbrella over the Asheville and Elizabeth City campuses, post-acute care, assisted living and independent living services were provided to approximately 450 residents on a daily basis. The mission of the CARS organization extended from the mountains to the coast.

In 2015, the CARS Board of Directors and the Carolina Conference Executive Committee (dual boards) voted to sell the Elizabeth City campus and use the proceeds to eliminate all debt to the CARS organization. This was a solid business decision resulting in the payoff of the new \$9 million skilled rehabilitation facility on the Pisgah campus and relieving the Conference of a \$4 million contingent liability, which was a contractual obligation to the home owners of Pisgah Estates. By reassigning these contractual obligations to CARS, the Conference now has no financial obligation to any sector of the CARS organization.

In May 2016 a board member of the Conference Executive Committee, who was also a member of the CARS board, suggested that it may be time for the Conference to rethink its involvement in senior living and health care. That suggestion started a year-long exploration and dialogue into the implications, both pro and con, of advancing this idea. The dual boards spent much time in prayer asking for God's divine wisdom and direction to

be revealed. On February 5, 2017, it was voted to have four (4) organizations narrowed from a larger list of potential buyers to submit bids for the purchase of CARS. On May 1, 2017, the Conference Executive Committee and the CARS Board of Directors met again for the sole purpose of reviewing and discussing the bids. Again, after much prayer and deliberation, a motion was made to sell CARS. A paper vote was tabulated, revealing a unanimous decision to sell CARS to Liberty Healthcare Management (based in Wilmington, NC).

Reaching this decision was an extremely difficult process for both boards. The members were sensitive to the fact that with the sale a vision and tradition of 43 years would come to an end. However, the end of one tradition simply opens the door to new opportunities for MPA—opportunities that previously could only be hoped for and imagined. Understanding the importance of properly governing the funds received, the Conference Executive Committee voted unanimously that all proceeds from the sale be placed into an endowment for MPA. The return on investment from the principal alone could generate—on an annual basis and in perpetuity—more than triple the amount CARS has been contributing to MPA. Think of the possibilities: scholarships, a new industry for the student work program, and much needed improvements to MPA's infrastructure. These dreams can now become realities.

As the Chief Executive Officer of CARS, it is my responsibility to assess the operation of the organization, making certain that it remains viable and sustainable into the future. When contemplating the possibility of a sale, I took a hard look at the direction of health care and senior living with a focused analysis on post-acute care. Reimbursement from the state and federal governments is uncertain at best, with all indicators pointing toward major reductions and changes.

If the current administration's budget is approved and actually implemented (as it reads today), the Medicaid program will realize an \$800 billion reduction over the next 10 years (64 percent of our skilled residents are recipients of Medicaid). Regulations are being passed at both the state and federal levels that are making operations more challenging. Finally, as I assessed the long-term financial strength of the organization, I knew that within the next three to five years we might be faced with a very similar decision to merge or affiliate with a larger organization. If this had come to fruition, it would have been based on the need to acquire capital for CARS to retain its competitive edge within the industry. Considering the assessment of our business model and the health care industry at large, I must agree that the May 1, 2017, vote was the right decision. I had my strategic plans for the organization, but God had His.

While working with this organization for the past 31 years, I have seen God work through our very capable staff as they diligently labored to sustain and advance the caring mission of CARS. As difficult as this transition is, I see God's hand in this decision. Ellen White once shared a thought that has carried me through some very challenging times, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history," *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 10.

As we move forward with this sale, I ask for your prayers. Pray that our staff will find strength, peace and comfort during the organization's transition to a new owner, and pray that this new vision will allow many young people, who would normally only dream of attending MPA, to gain an education for this life, as well as an education for eternity.

—David Kidder, CEO of Carolina Adventist Retirement System



# MEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION

MEN'S  
RETREAT



## With Manny LaPorte

Pastor Emmanuel (Manny) LaPorte is a minister in the Oklahoma Conference, where he has served since 2008. He presently pastors the Oklahoma City Central Church. LaPorte served in the U.S. Army as an enlisted soldier and later as a chaplain. He received a Master of Divinity from Andrews University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree (with a family life ministry emphasis). LaPorte has been happily married to his wife, Marian, for 21 years. They have one son, Manny LaPorte Jr., age 12.

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## A New Approach TO LEARNING

As teachers continue to reuse the same methods for teaching their pupils each year, it is necessary to come up with engaging, new ideas to help their students understand the principles they have been learning.

Pastor Tony LaPorte, the ninth grade Bible instructor at Charleston Adventist School, recently gave his students a unique assignment: write and present a play. Not just any play, but one that would, in his words, “wow” him. The students immediately got to work, taking their assignment seriously as they brainstormed and planned. As the ninth graders researched, they utilized excerpts from Messiah, the updated paraphrase of Ellen White’s *The Desire of Ages*. In two short weeks LaPorte’s students had written and illustrated in Power Point a play outlining the life of Christ, which spanned the four-day period between the foot washing and the resurrection.

During the final chapel of the school year, the class presented their play, “Steps to Jesus’ Sacrifice and Resurrection,” impressing both the audience and their instructor. Everyone in attendance was blessed to be part of the worship service that day. Using creative projects like this to teach young people engages both the pupils and their peers.

—Delores Qualls and Abby King



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# Taking the Health Message TO PAKISTAN

More than a year ago, Barbara Kerr began supporting a Christian orphanage in Toba Tek Singh in Pakistan. Although she has been unable to send them large donations, she has paid for several surgeries and has purchased food



Photos contributed

for the children there. In addition to sending funds to Pakistan, Kerr (pictured left) is involved in her community and recently presented a health seminar at her local church in

Columbia, SC. Focused on how to make and use charcoal in an emergency, the seminar caught the attention of the orphanage leader, Pastor Johnson Gill, who read her handout and watched part of her video.

After hearing about Kerr's work, Gill became excited about the information he had learned and wanted to

publish her handout for the people in his community in Pakistan. Following a conversation with Gill, Kerr quickly edited the handout and made it more user friendly for the Pakistani people by removing recipes with ingredients they do not have access to and adding a section on how to purify water. Kerr also obtained permission from Pastor Dan Jarrard to include his book, *Why I Am a "Sabbath-Keeping" Christian*, with her handout, which resulted in a 32-page booklet.

Once the information was assembled, Gill assisted her by locating a Christian translator and publisher in Pakistan. Three hundred copies of her book were printed and distributed for the first time in May. Since then, additional booklets have been produced as Kerr continues to fund raise for



this ministry. With each delivery, recipients who crave healthier alternatives eagerly accept the booklet.

"The children and people are hungry for this message," Kerr says. "They are so happy that they all want to help distribute the books, even though none of them are Sabbath-keepers!"

Kerr is ecstatic about sharing the health message and the Sabbath with those in Pakistan. God is moving upon the hearts of the people there as they receive truth.

*If you would like more information about this project, please contact Barbara Kerr at (803) 936-1714.*

—Abby King

## Clemmons Fellowship Company Attains Church Status

In a building next door to a roller skating rink in Clemmons, N.C., a group of faithful worshippers gather each Sabbath to give thanks and share what God has done for them. Originally proposed by several members of the Winston-Salem First Church, Clemmons Fellowship came about as a solution when attendance at Winston-Salem was more than the church building could comfortably accommodate.

In September 2010 the Winston-Salem church board issued its formal approval for the church plant, which was followed by Carolina Conference approval in December 2010. Soon after receiving approval, the new Clemmons group held its first Sabbath worship service on January 8, 2011.

Under the leadership of David Bermudez, this small group of 20 grew to more than 60 members, attaining church status in April of this year. They celebrated their new status with a special worship service, which was attended by Gary Moyer, vice president for administration, and Brad Cauley, church plant coordinator.



Photos by Courtney Hensel



To honor Clemmons Fellowship's achievement, a certificate of church status was presented to Bermudez. He then shared with those present a detailed church

history, including the church's vision for two new church plants in the future. In closing, their pastor-coach, Art Staggs, prayed over the church and its members.

Every time a new church is planted, there is great celebration in heaven. The Conference rejoices also and praises God for the missionary-minded folks right here in the Carolinas.

—Abby King



One family from the Hendersonville Adventist Church in North Carolina is meeting an unusual need in their community.

In January of this year, as Lois Vera Cruz was battling ovarian cancer and being cared for by Four Seasons Compassion for Life at her home, it became apparent that she needed a hospital bed. Through hospice services, Four Seasons delivered a bed to the home, but Lois' husband, Stanley, realized he did not have any twin-size sheets. Family members quickly responded and retrieved some brightly colored linens for the bed, but they noticed a need.

Lois passed away on February 1, 2017, surrounded by her family. As servants of the Lord, Lois and Stanley served their family, church and community for many years. After this experience the Lord gave their daughter-in-law, Malinda, a way to continue that ministry. Her idea was to provide bed linens to hospice patients who require a hospital bed. She shared her thoughts with her husband, Valen, and members of his family: Kathie and Josef Ludwig, and Shari and Bobby Step.

Thus Lois' Linens was born. The family established an endowment with Four Seasons to provide linens to patients in 11 Western North Carolina counties. Every time a hospital bed is delivered, the patient will also be given a gift of two new sets of sheets.

"We appreciate this family finding a ministry born out of their own experience," said Loretta Shelton, executive director of Four Seasons. "By providing complimentary linens for hospital beds, they are not only giving a beautiful gift that fulfills a necessity but also they are demonstrating love and support for people who are at the most vulnerable stage of their life."

On June 14, 2017, the Vera Cruz family delivered 50 sets of sheets to Four Seasons, along with funds to purchase more, to launch Lois' Linens. Many people in the community have contributed and been involved with the program. The Vera Cruz family desires for their ministry to continue serving the community for years to come and to share the love of Christ with patients and their families. Search for Lois' Linens on Facebook to receive updates on this ministry.

— Abby King

# LOIS' LINENS



**GENEROUSLIVING**  
ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

To learn more about  
Generous Living, scan  
this code or go to [www.  
carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).





# Leadership SUMMIT

The first Leadership Summit combining previously separate retreats for elders and for deacons and deaconesses was held the first weekend of April at Nosoca Pines Ranch. In past years these two retreats were held in alternate years, but the Ministerial Department decided to combine them, which resulted in a special blessing for those in attendance.

The guest speakers for this summit



were Pastor Ben and Mary Maxson and Elder Ralph Ringer. The Maxsons are no strangers to the Carolina Conference as Pastor Ben previously served as a ministerial director here. He shared with the group some areas of ministry in which he has seen the most change and some areas in which more sensitivity is needed. Mary talked with the deaconesses about the vital role they play in ministry and gave the ladies a chance to openly discuss situations they have become aware of in their local churches. She provided much appreciated advice on how best to handle these situations. As in past years Elder Ringer presented the elder certification class.

This weekend was not merely informational, but spiritual as well. The focus was first on worship, and then on the role each leader holds. If you are a local church elder, deacon, or deaconess, you won't want to miss the experience in store for you at the next Leadership Summit.



Photos by Courtney Herod

## Undeserved Gifts of Grace

*Women's Retreat with Special Teen Track*

### Featured Speakers:



**Shelley Quinn**

Speaker and Codirector for Word Warrior Ministries



**Erica Jones**

Assistant Director of Women's Ministries for the North American Division

*Teen Track* (ages 13-17)

October 13-15  
Nosoca Pines Ranch



**Carolina Heartsong**

Register at  
[www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org)





# TRANSFORM NOT IN FORM

Adult Sabbath School Teacher Retreat

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Learn how to be a disciple-making teacher and make your Sabbath School a soul-winning ministry.

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**WITH FRANK BONDURANT**  
**OCTOBER 20-22, 2017**  
**NOSOCA PINES RANCH**

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**CABIN: \$100/person**

**LODGE: \$125/person (double occupancy)**

**LODGE: \$175/person (single occupancy)**

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REGISTER AT [WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG](http://WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG)



## Carolina Obituaries

**COSTERISAN, FRANCIS JOSEPH**, 98, born July 5, 1918, in Ironton, WI, died April 18, 2017, in East Flat Rock, NC. Francis was a dairy farmer and a master carpenter. He attended Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University. In 1962, Francis and his family moved to Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University, where he remained as plant engineer for 21 years. He built several churches during his career. He retired to Fort Payne, AL, and moved to Fletcher Park Inn in North Carolina in February 2001. He was an active member of the Adventist church his whole life and a member of the Fletcher Church at the time of his death. He was preceded in death by six siblings; his wife of 63 years, Adabelle White Costerisan; and one granddaughter, Julie Costerisan. He is survived by his sister, Jesse Schroeder of Elk Park, NC; four children, Frank Costerisan (Joan) of Hendersonville, NC, Daryl Costerisan (Lee Anne) of Collegedale, TN, Marji Tiptom (Tom) of Knoxville, TN, and Bruce Costerisan (Jayne) of Chattanooga, TN; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**DAVIS, MARY SUE MULLINAX**, 94, born Sept. 15, 1922, died March 23, 2017, in Greenville, SC. Sue was a member of the Fletcher Church. She earned her nursing diploma at Fletcher Mountain Sanitarium. She and her husband, Herman, served as missionaries in Ethiopia for 11 years. Upon returning to the U.S., they pastored churches in both North and South Carolina. She was a private duty registered nurse while she raised their four children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Davis; and two brothers, Aaron Mullinax and Doyle Mullinax. Surviving are her daughters, Mary Jo Davis of Hendersonville, NC, Gene Davis of Tampa, FL, Suzanne Davis of Chattanooga, TN, and Suzette Davis of Newport Beach, CA; a brother, Joseph Mullinax; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**HAAS, RICHARD WARREN**, 85, born Sept. 30, 1932, in Scranton, PA, died April 26, 2017, in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher Church. Richard graduated from Columbia Union College with a major in chemistry and a minor in mathematics. He worked at Glendale Adventist Hospital in California. His 1957 marriage to Betty Tumlinson lasted 60 years. They lived in Paradise, CA, and then in Puerto Rico, where he served as head of the lab department at Belle Vista hospital. He earned an M.Div. degree from Andrews University. He served as a pastor in Dodge Center, MN, Prairie du Chien, WI, and in PA. He is survived by his wife, Betty Haas, of Hendersonville; a daughter, Judith Haas Brauer (Marvyn) of Leister, NC; a son, Richard Warren Haas Jr. (Gail) of Pittsburg, PA; a brother, Charles Haas of Riverside, OH; and four grandchildren.

**JOHNSON, NILDA L. (SHERMAN)**, 85, born Oct. 6, 1931, in Alva, OK, died March 9, 2017, in Orlando, FL. She was a member of the Fletcher Church. Nilda received a degree in nursing from Union College and worked at Porter Adventist Hospital for 10 years. For 25 years she specialized in emergency room and recovery nursing at Park Ridge Heath. She was preceded in death by her son, Dan Johnson. Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Bob Johnson, of Altamonte Springs, FL; her children, Lori Cadiente (Eric) of Altamonte Springs, FL, Angela Jensen (Mikkel) of Lyngby, Denmark, and Mike Johnson of Daytona Beach, FL; and three grandchildren.

**OWEN, JAMES RICHARD**, 33, born July 15, 1983, in Ann Arbor, MI, died June 5, 2017, in Hendersonville, NC. James was a graduate of Fletcher Academy in Fletcher, NC, and Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN. He worked with his father and brother at E-Z Roll Off Containers. He was a member of the Fletcher Church, where he was an effective Pathfinder director, and he helped with the AcroKnights, the Fletcher Academy gymnastic team. He

is survived by his wife, Robin Owen; father, Jim Owen; mother, Judy Swensen; a brother, Jeff Owen (Leah); a son, James Owen; and a daughter, Ruth Owen.

**VOSS, WILLIAM**, 95, born Nov. 1, 1921, in Homestead, OK, died April 7, 2017. He served in Iran in the Army during World War II and earned a business degree from Union College. He worked as a teacher and business manager in Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota and Georgia. He served as assistant treasurer for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, where he was also ordained to the ministry and pastored two churches. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Fay McMullin; two daughters, Linda Herman (Ron) and Shirley Rumsey (Greg); six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

## Carolina Conference Calendar

### July

- 2-9 ..... Teen Camp. NPR.
- 10-14 ..... Family Camp. NPR.
- 28-30 ..... Hispanic Master Guide Training Campout. NPR.
- 30-Aug. 4 ..... Carolina Education/Ministerial Retreat. Ridgecrest Assembly.

### August

- 11-13 ..... "I Still Do" Marriage Retreat. Pigeon Forge, TN.
- 14 ..... First Day of K-12 School.
- 18-20 ..... Welcome to the Family. NPR.
- 25-27 .Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership. NPR.

### September

- 8-10 .... Hispanic Camp Mtg. Orangeburg, SC.
- 18-21 ..... Carolina Retiree's Retreat. NPR.
- 22-23 ..... Elder's Certification #2/Visitation. Kernersville, NC.
- 29-Oct. 1 ..... Men's Retreat. NPR.

### October

- 1-2 .Ministry Opportunity Day. Harrisburg, NC.
- 6-8 .....Hispanic Women's Retreat. NPR.
- 12-15 ..... Carolina Pathfinder Camporee. Darlington, SC.
- 13-15 ..... Women's Retreat. NPR.
- 20-21 .....Adult Sabbath School Retreat. NPR.
- 26-Nov. 3 .... Carolina Mission Trip. Honduras.
- 27-29 ..... Community Services Retreat. NPR.
- 28 ..... Low Country Camp Meeting. Summerville, SC.

### November

- 3-5 ..... Ministerial Spouses Retreat. NPR.
- 10-12 ..... Volunteer Lay Pastor Training. NPR.

## From the President's Pen *(continued from page 2)*

around. I believe then, and only then, will we experience God's blessing across the Carolinas as expressed in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people [in North and South Carolina] who are called by My name [as Seventh-day Adventists] will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land [with unprecedented growth for My glory].

By God's grace, may we see that day in the Carolinas this year and every year until He welcomes His children home!

Your servant leader,



Leslie Louis  
Carolina Conference President

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

## The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists

PO Box 44270

Charlotte, N.C. 28215-0043



# “I Still Do”

Marriage Retreat at  
RiverStone Resort & Spa, Pigeon Forge, TN

*Starting at \$300/couple.  
(Limited to 50 Couples.)  
Registration fee includes  
accommodations.*

*with Eric and Ann Marie Bates*  
**Aug. 11-13, 2017**

Register at [WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG](http://WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG)

