

SKETCHES



Pure Reality Weddings

Set Apart
by Divine Design



VOLUME 26 / ISSUE 1 / JANUARY - MARCH 2013

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ROBERT L. HENLEY, JR.

Editor

Simple Evangelism

At the completion of his earthly ministry, Jesus commanded his followers “Go ye therefore into all the world and spread the Gospel.” In our efforts to do as Christ has commanded, we often feel that we have to put on some elaborate and expensive evangelistic event.

While those events have a place in evangelism, there are many simple yet effective ways by which we can share the gospel.

My daily one way commute from where I live in Maitland, Fla. to the conference office, which is in Mt. Dora, is 45 minutes. As I travel along Highway 441 to and from the conference, I often see individuals standing alongside the road holding up signs that read “Jesus Loves You”, “It is not too late”, or “He is coming again.”

Each time I encounter one of these groups, I am impressed by their commitment and dedication to take the gospel to the streets. I am also struck by how simple their efforts are – a poster and a maker. In the short time that they are out there on the streets they share the gospel with thousands of motorists.

I challenge each of you to develop some simple ways to share the gospel with the members of your community. As you I develop your strategies, I encourage you to share your efforts with me at www.secsda.org/simpleevangelism. I can't wait to read about the innovative yet simple ways that you will share the gospel.

The following Icons indicate additional on-line content.



Comment on story



Full Story



On-Line Video



Audio Content



Photo Gallery



Social Bookmark

As we enter the year 2013, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the vision that God has place on my heart for Southeastern Conference as we move forward.

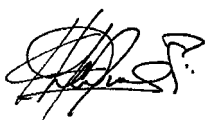
The NAD recently commissioned a study of the Adventist Church in North America that revealed some alarming facts about the Adventist Church in North America. Two of the facts that surprised me were about Adventist Youth. According to the study, which was conducted by Monte Sahlin and the Center from Creative Ministries, more than 1,000 churches in North America have no young people. This is extremely alarming because the Adventist Church defines a young person as an individual that is in the age range between 13 to 35 years old. That means that those churches do not have any youth programs in place. The second fact that alarmed me was that the average age of Adventists in North America is 58 years old, while the average age in the United State is 39.

I have always felt that evangelism is the life blood of the church. Thus, during my first term in office I made evangelism a priority. I increased the Conference evangelism budget, which made it possible to assist local churches to conduct more efforts. We conducted two Conference sponsored city wide efforts in Orlando and Tampa.

The study also revealed that as church seekers are baptized into the church within 3 months they leave the church. Thus, we must develop a comprehensive evangelism initiative that not only focuses on the reaping part of evangelism but also emphasize the retention part.

During this term, it is my desire for us to tackle evangelism on both fronts the reaping and retention. My team and I are in the process of developing innovative strategies that will hopefully assist us in effective evangelism for the 21st century. To address the youth issue, we are seeking to develop cutting edge youth programs that will not only keep our young people in the church but also attract new youth to our faith. Share your thoughts and ideas on this issue at www.secsda.org/strategies. I would love to read what you have say.

God bless you as we continue to labor together to grow the Kingdom of God until the return of Jesus Christ.



Hubert J. Morel Jr.
SEC President





Weddings

WWW.PUREREALITY.ORG

—By John Devine

Exodus 23:19 says “The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.”

In early days, people were taught to give the first fruits “the first and best” of their harvest to the Lord in recognition of His blessing.

Now after eight years, Pure Reality is seeing its first fruits begin to bloom. The organization’s mission is to reinforce God’s plan that sexual purity is the standard God has set for us, and it continues its phenomenal growth through annual retreats, Treasure Key ceremonies and its Pure Ambassador program.

The eighth annual retreat held at Camp Kulaqua from March 16 to 18, 2012 had 510 people (including staff) from 12 years old to young adults ready to give their lives to him. Twenty-four people gave their hearts to God through baptism.

The attendees reinforced their commitments through Treasure Key ceremonies held on April 22, 2012, at Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church in Miami, Fla., and on June 2, 2012 at First University Church in Tampa, Fla. In June 2011, the Pure Reality team hosted a Treasure Key Weekend in Nassau, Bahamas.

Each attendee receives a token key, which symbolizes that their sexual purity was reserved for their spouse and is exchanged during their wedding vows or on their wedding night.

Though there have been baptisms and rededications, the “first fruits” of Pure Reality now include young people who are now giving of themselves in marriage.

Since 2010, four couples — Jono and Ketsia Gustave, Jonathan and Natacha Dalberiste, Adley and Alexa Philossaint and Gregory and

Clodianne Larose — have gotten married and use many of the principles they learned at Pure Reality to this day.

The Gustaves are at Oakwood University and serve with the National Association to Prevent Starvation, where they travel around the world taking care of physical and spiritual needs of others while spreading the word of purity. Before their wedding, the Gustaves, both 27, shared this message with their guests.

“After Pure Reality we walked in confidence understanding what God was calling us to: a pure, sanctified relationship covered in the blood of the Savior. A year and a half after Pure Reality we decided to join in holy matrimony, and a symbolism of our love on that day was the exchange of the keys that were given to us at the Pure Reality ceremony. Even before Pure Reality we agreed not to get wedding bands, so the key that symbolized our purity in Christ was perfect!”

The Dalberistes, who were married on May 8, 2011, were friends since 2006 and did not begin dating until 2008. Said Natacha, 25, “We each agreed and made the commitment that we would remain pure for our future spouses when we were just friends, not knowing that we would end up being each others’ spouses. God has a funny way of working things out. We made the vow of remaining pure to each other not only to be able to exchange treasure keys the night of our wedding but also because we understood that God intended sexual intimacy to be for marriage.”

Jonathan, 26, introduced his future wife to Pure Reality in 2009. The two attended the 2010 retreat and were engaged months later, but the time before marriage can be filled with temptation.

Said Natacha, “There were times when the devil tried to make us believe that because we loved each other and were contemplating marriage that it was OK to indulge in activities of married couples, but praise God the Holy Spirit constantly reminded us of Hebrews 13:4. ‘Let marriage be held in honor





A Pure Reality Event at Camp Kulaquua

among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.' With much prayer, advice from married couples, and constant communication with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we were able to make it through our two-and-a-half years of courting and dating."

While the Dalberistes have been married for a year, the Laroses and Philossaints are still in their honeymoon phase. Not only do they share the same wedding date — July 1, 2012 — but many of the same beliefs regarding abstinence.

Adley Philossaint, 26 and Alexa Philossaint, 24, grew up together and have been part of Pure Reality since the beginning. In fact, Alexa is the daughter of one of the mothers who were inspired to start the program.

Said Alexa, "I had a candle from the first year of Pure Reality on which I had written a promise to keep myself pure until my wedding day. And when I was finally able to give it to my husband, the feeling was exhilarating because God helped me to achieve what the world said was impossible, waiting until marriage."

Added Adley, "It has been so amazing to experience true love, love that is patient, kind, long-suffering. But all this comes only with waiting on the Lord's master plan for your life."

With such a long relationship — they dated four years before they were married — they have been fortunate enough to see God move in their lives. Both have completed their undergraduate degrees. Adley is preparing to be a certified public accountant while Alexa is in law school at the University of Miami. The future is bright, but only because God comes first.

And these are lessons that they would like to pass down to others.

"Pure reality has given me so much," Alexa Philossaint said. "I can't imagine not giving back to show the young people that living a life style of purity is possible with the help and constraint of the one and only true Living God."

The Dalberistes and Philossaints had long relationships before dating, but the Laroses met at Pure Ambassador training. The Pure Ambassadors are young people who are specially trained to talk to their peers about the merits of such a program. From that program, love bloomed.

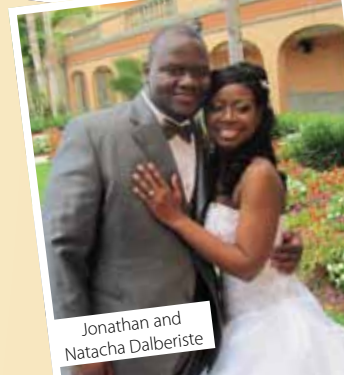
Said Clodiane Larose, 25, of her new spouse Gregory, 23, "During the Pure Ambassador training and the game night, we were learning, growing and planning for our future spouse. We had no idea we were seating right next to each other the whole time. It surprised us that God was playing matchmaker, and we were meant to be more than just friends."

As the Pure Reality continues to grow and evolve, so do the relationships of the people involved. Seven years ago, the goal was to lay out the plan of love and marriage as young people transitioned from adolescence to adulthood. Now adulthood and marriage have been reached the messaged has not only spread throughout the country, but it has deepened the bonds of matrimony.

Perhaps Clodianne Larose summed it up best when she said, "[at our wedding, many witnessed God's real version of love, pure love and were inspired. We believe this ministry is powerful, and we definitely want to share it."



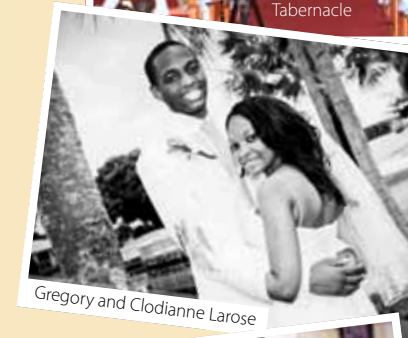
Jono and Ketsia Gustave



Jonathan and Natacha Dalberiste



Treasure Key Ceremony at Tabernacle



Gregory and Clodiane Larose



Adley and Alexa Philossaint

Pure Reality Retreat 2013
Camp Kulaquua
March 15-17

Three Southeastern Schools awarded School of Excellence Status

—By Robert Henley

Three schools from the Southeastern Conference were recently awarded the Southern Union School of Excellence Award. The award recognizes schools that have meet a specific criteria that has been established by the Southern Union Office of Education.

The schools that were recognized are the Mt. Olivet School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Kalisha Waldon, principal, celebration date September 9; the Daughter of Zion School in Delray Beach, Fla., Audrey Wainwright, principal, celebration date September 29; and the Mt. Sinai school in Orlando, Fla., Betty Nugent, Ed.D., principal, celebration date November 17. During the celebration program each school was awarded a School of Excellence plaque, trophy, flag and a check for \$18 thousand.

“We are proud of the excellent job that these schools have done. The principals, pastors, teachers, staff, students, parents, school boards, church boards, and church members are greatly appreciated for the part they played in making sure these schools reached their goal in attaining this high status of School of Excellence,” said Carol Byrd, superintendent of education. “The ultimate aim of all schools in Southeastern is to reach the status of excellence.”

To qualify for the designation each school had to complete a rigorous certification process that examined all areas of the school’s operation which included spirituality, academics, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, public relations, and customer service.

The School of Excellence program is a part of the Southern Union Adventist Edge initiative. The Adventist Edge is a comprehensive school improvement program that is designed to enhance the quality of education in all areas of a school. Of the 222 schools throughout the Southern Union, 22 currently hold the School Excellence Certification.



Betty Nugent, Ed.D., principal of Mt. Sinai School, receives the School of Excellence plaque from Jim Ingersoll, Southern Union associate superintendent of education. Pictured are Debra Fryson (left), Southern Union superintendent of education; Gene Brewer, Ed.D., Southern Union education specialist; Jim Ingersoll; Betty Nugent; Cheryl Soriano, school board chair; Janet Floyd, assistant school board chair; and Herman Davis, M.A., pastor of Mt. Sinai Church.



Jim Ingersoll, Southern Union associate superintendent of education, presents Audrey Wainwright, principal of Daughter of Zion School, with the School of Excellence plaque.



Jim Ingersoll, Southern Union associate superintendent of education, presents Kalisha Waldon (not pictured), principal of Mt. Olivet School, with the School of Excellence crystal on September 9, 2012.

Kalisha Waldon, principal of Mt. Olivet, presents Dale Holness, Broward County Commissioner District 9, who attended the Mt. Olivet Edge Celebration, with a certificate of appreciation.



Southeaster Education Department Maintain 100% Teacher Certification

—By Robert Henley



For eight years the Southeastern Conference has been the only conference in the Southern Union to consistently hold 100 percent teacher certification.

For two weeks every summer during the month of July, teachers from Southeastern gather to participate in the Southeastern Oakwood Teacher Institute to take courses that enable them to maintain their certifications.



“The teacher institute is the sole reason that we have been able to maintain 100 percent certification over the past eight years,” said Carol Byrd, superintendent of education for the Southeastern Conference. “Teacher certification is a critical part of establishing quality schools.”

During the two week period four intensive courses are offered based upon the certification needs of the teachers. Courses offered last summer included the exceptional child, social studies method, science methods and math methods. The courses are taught by professors from the Oakwood University School of Education.



The institute is not just for teachers from Southeastern. Over the past eight years teachers from the Florida Conference and South Atlantic Conference have participated in the Institute.

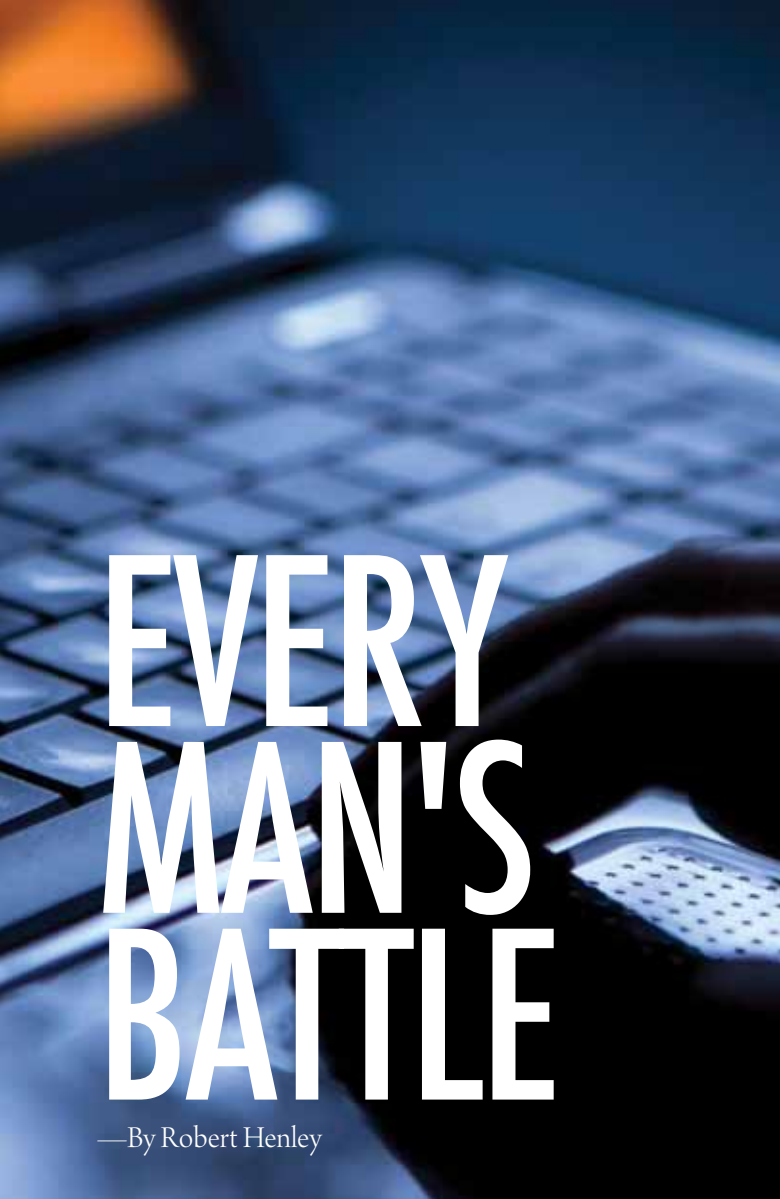
“I have been attending the Teacher Institute for the past three years. The methods and tools that I have acquired here have been life changing form me,” said Sandra Geach, teacher of the Florida Conference Mt. Dora School in Mt. Dora, Fla.

View photos of this event at www.flickr.com/secsda.

Watch the video at www.vimeo.com/sectv.

Teachers are working on a group project during the Oakwood Southeastern Teacher Institute which is held every summer for two weeks during the month of July at the Southeastern Conference office in Mt. Dora, Fla.





EVERY MAN'S BATTLE

—By Robert Henley

During the Southeastern Conference 2011 Men's Ministry Convention, Bernie Anderson, pastor of the Wasatch Hills Church, in Salt Lake City, UT and author of the book *Breaking the Silence: A Pastor Goes Public About his Battle with Pornography*, shared with the more than 200 men in attendance how his addiction to pornography nearly destroyed his ministry and marriage.

Like many others, who are addicted to pornography, Anderson was introduced to pornography as a young man while visiting with relatives. Anderson was just 9 years old when he stumbled across a crumpled-up page of a porn magazine while rummaging through a relative's closet. That would not be his last encounter with pornography. Over the next few years, Anderson would be exposed to more pornography while visiting with relatives.

As a young man struggling with the issue, Anderson approached his pastor for help with his problem. After a brief discussion and prayer, Anderson felt better about his situation. During his academy and collegiate years, his addiction to pornography dissipated.

While in college he felt a call from God to pursue a career in ministry. Shortly after graduating college Anderson married his college sweetheart and entered full-time ministry as a youth pastor. Unfortunately a month after marriage, Anderson's addiction reared its head again.

"Like so many guys who struggle with porn, I bought into the idea that once I was married and could legitimately fulfill my sexual urges, the desire of pornography would fade. But that wasn't the case."

While Anderson struggled privately, outwardly his ministry seemed to be prospering despite his problem. "As a youth pastor, I knew what I was doing was wrong. Daily I confessed and repented of my sin, only to give in to the temptation a week later."

Anderson's addiction with pornography caused him to secretly watch tapes in a church classroom. With the emergence of the Internet, he would later escape to his church office to view porn on the church's computer. Feeling guilty about his secret Anderson would repent and vow to never view pornography again. Before every sermon, Anderson would confess and repent his sin asking God to bless his efforts. However, after a few days he would find himself again participating in that sin.

One evening Anderson's wife confronted him about his pornography addiction. She had found some images on computer. Confronted with his secret, Anderson confessed to his wife and vowed that he would stop viewing pornography. His wife vowed to support him. However, Anderson continued to struggle with the issue.

Desperately wanting freedom from the chains of pornography, Anderson was impressed to tell someone about his problem. He approached the senior pastor that had trained him with his secret. After sharing his struggle with his colleague they prayed a prayer of sexual deliverance. Anderson also agreed to enter into accountability relationship with his colleague. He was relieved and felt that he was on his way to freedom.

During that same time, while away at camp meeting with their daughters, Anderson's wife made the decision to leave Anderson. She had had enough of his roller coaster and was going to leave him if she had not seen some real changes in his life. Upon returning home after camp meeting she found a different man. That encounter with his colleague changed Anderson. The stranglehold that pornography had on his life was shattering.

Over that next few months, Anderson began reading everything he could find on sexual addiction. He came across the book *Every Man's Battle* and decided to attend the *Every Man's Battle* multiday workshop. That experience changed Anderson's life and saved his ministry and marriage.

Anderson is not alone. According to Transparent Ministries and

Morality in Media, a national organization opposing pornography and indecency, 67 percent of men say they look at it at least once a month.

Influential pastor Chuck Swindoll has called porn "the #1 secret problem in your church." "It's ruining marriages, destroying relationships, harming youth, and hurting the body of Christ," he has lamented. "Our churches are in trouble. This is no time to simply wait and pray."

"For some time I've felt that the church needs to have a candid and open discussion about sexual integrity. In my ministry as a pastor I've found that the most common spiritual struggle—especially for men, regardless of age or background – is in the area of sexual sin."

The misconception is that women are free from sexual addiction. Pornography isn't just a male problem either, it also impacts women. According to Today's Christian Woman's online newsletter 36 percent of its female readers of have admitted to intentionally accessing Internet porn in a recent poll.

"Because of our silence, many men and, yes, even women simply struggle on, tangled in an endless cycle of secrecy and acting out, until I comes to light in some devastating public scandal. I'm praying that things will change. I'm praying that churches will begin to talk about the issue and that lives will be transformed because of it," says Anderson.

Southeastern is starting to address this issue that has been considered taboo for many years. During the Men's Conference a frank discussion was held on what the church should do to confront this issue.

"This is an issue that we must face head on," said Lewis Edwards, former director of family ministries. "For far too long, we have allowed Satan to run ramped in our homes because we have been afraid to talk about this issue. While no one knows what statistics on pornography addiction is in the Adventist church, we cannot assume that it has not gained a foot hold on our families."

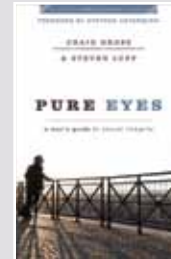
The SEC Men's Conference is annual conference that is designed to bring men closer to God. It ministers to the specific needs of men by highlighting the roles of men in the home and church. For tips on starting a Men's Ministry in your church visit <http://www.emale.org/article/10/starting-men-s-ministries>.

Online Resources

- <http://www.freedombeginshere.org>
- <http://www.x3pure.com>
- <http://newlife.com/emb>
- <http://newlife.com/emb>

Books

- ◆ Every Man's Battle
- ◆ Pure Eyes: A Man's Guide to Sexual Integrity
- ◆ Breaking Free: Understanding Sexual Addiction & the Healing Power of Jesus



Christians, Pastors and Church Pornography Statistics

- ◆ A 1996 Promise Keepers survey at one of their stadium events revealed that over 50% of the men in attendance were involved with pornography within one week of attending the event.
- ◆ 29% of born again adults in the U.S. feel it is morally acceptable to view movies with explicit sexual behavior (The Barna Group).
- ◆ 57% of pastors say that addiction to pornography is the most sexually damaging issue to their congregation (Christians and Sex Leadership Journal Survey, March 2005).
- ◆ 47% percent of families said pornography is a problem in their home (Focus on the Family Poll, October 1, 2003).

Statistics on Women with Pornography Addiction

- ◆ 28% those admitting to sexual addiction are women (internet-filter-review.com).
- ◆ 34% of female readers of Today's Christian Woman's online newsletter admitted to intentionally accessing Internet porn in a recent poll and 1 out of every 6 women, including Christians, struggles with an addiction to pornography (Today's Christian Woman, Fall 2003).

Statistics on Pornography's Effect on Families and Marriages

The Internet was a significant factor in 2 out of 3 divorces (American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 2003 - divorcewizards.com).

- ◆ In a survey of over 500 Christian men at a men's retreat, over 90% admitted that they were feeling disconnected from God because lust, porn, or fantasy had gained a foothold in their lives. As reported in an article on Pastors.com by Kenny Luck. (source)
- ◆ 47% percent of families said pornography is a problem in their home. Focus on the Family Poll, October 1, 2003.



John Washington, II becomes FAMU College of Law Assistant Dean for Admissions

—By Robert Henley

Attorney John Washington, II, who most recently served Fla. A&M University (FAMU) as director of the pre-professional law program, has joined the College of Law as Assistant Dean for Admissions.

Washington, a native of Gainesville, Fla., gained considerable legal experience prior to working with the university. He worked with both the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the State of Florida Correctional Privatization Commission before making the move to the higher education sector. He has also served FAMU as an adjunct professor of Business Law.

“Attorney Washington brings to the College of Law a grassroots approach to recruiting that supports the mission of this law school,” said Dean LeRoy Pernell. “His expertise in working with undergraduate students interested in pursuing law will greatly enhance our overall recruiting efforts.”

As director of the pre-professional law program, Washington designed and taught courses to prepare students for the Law School Admissions Test, and held workshops on law school admissions and personal statement writing. He also advised students who expressed an interest in pursuing a career in law.

He was instrumental in collaborating with the College of Law to establish the FAMU All-Stars Program and Inaugural All-Stars Tour.

This initiative is aimed at attracting the most gifted students from FAMU’s main campus to attend the College of Law in Orlando. The College of Law hosted the All-Stars for a two-day introductory program in February 2012. Several students who participated in the program will attend the College of Law in the fall with full or partial scholarships.

Washington is a graduate of the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law. He also served as a legislative affairs director for the Florida Department of Corrections, where he provided legal advice to the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. He is a member of the Florida Bar.



Southeastern Conference

PRAYER CONVENTION 2013

April 19-21, 2013

Experiencing God

Everyone Is Invited!

Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church

8017 NE 2nd. Avenue, Miami, FL 33138

Friday April 19

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday April 20

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday April 21

6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Speakers & Presenters:



Samuel Telemaque



Marta Gordon Duffis



Pavel Goia

Lunch will be served on Sabbath and brunch on Sunday

Date of fasting - April 11-13, 2013

We invite you to spend the weekend of April 11-13, 2013 fasting, praying, and clearing the way to be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

*"There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD."
Proverbs 21:30*

*"But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart
through all generations." Psalm 33:11*

French & Spanish Translation will be available

Make plans to be there!

(Place a pair of comfortable flat shoes in your car for Sabbath afternoon prayer walking)

www.secsda.org

Sponsored by Prayer Ministry, and All SEC Ministries

Elim Hosts Annual Bible Bowl Competition

—By Robert Henley



The 30th annual National Bible Competition was held on October 25-26 at the Elim Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. Thirty-five teams from throughout the North American Division competed in the two day event, which is patterned after the 1960's television game show General Electric. The competition requires the competitors to display quick recall and split second response as they answer questions from the scriptures.

The teams competed in five age divisions - pre-junior youth (ages 6-9), junior youth (ages 10-15), youth (ages 16-22), young adult (ages 23-35) and adult (ages 36+). Bible Bowl Champions in this year's competition came from the Southwestern Conference - pre-junior and young adult divisions – and the Northeastern Conference - junior youth, senior south, and adult divisions.

Teams from the Southeastern Conference placed in three of the five divisions: Patmos Chapel Church from Orlando, Fla. finished in second place in the junior youth division; Town & Country Church from Tampa, Fla. finished third in the young adult division; and the New Hope Church from the Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. finished in second place in the adult division.

During closing ceremonies, Shearna Tolbert, SEC Bible Bowl coordinator announced that she was moving to Washington D.C. and presented Sherrie Barton-Smith as the new coordinator.

In an effort to encourage young people to study the Bible, Trevor H. C. Baker, while serving as youth ministries director of the Northeastern Conference, conceived and launched the Bible Bowl competition in 1979.

The Bible Bowl is sponsored by the youth department of the North American Division. Next year the Bible Bowl competition will be held in New York. For more information about the Bible Bowl visit www.bible-bowl.org.



Shearna Tolbert, outgoing SEC Bible Bowl coordinator, is pictured with a member of the Patmos Chapel Church Bible Bowl team.



Sherrie Barton-Smith, incoming SEC Bible Bowl coordinator, moderates a Bible Bowl match.

SO DO YOU WANNA PLAY?

SEC Youth Ministries Department presents



Registration is now open. Sign your team up NOW!

Bible Bowl Books for 2013 (Breakdown by Division & Age)

Pre-Junior (5-9)	Junior (10-15)	Senior (16-22)	Young Adult (23-35)	Adult (36 and up)
Acts	Acts	Acts	Acts	Acts
1 Chronicles 10-29	1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles
	Habakkuk	Habakkuk	Habakkuk	Habakkuk
	1 & 11 Thessalonians	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai
		1 & 11 Thessalonians	1 & 11 Thessalonians	1 & 11 Thessalonians
			Psalms 101-125	Psalms 101-125
				Revelation

Games Begin March 2013

Congratulations Junior Youth, Patmos Chapel, Winter Park, FL!
XXX National Bible Bowl Championship Games 2012, Second Place winners!

Congratulations Young Adult, Town & Country, Tampa, FL!
XXX National Bible Bowl Championship Games 2012, Third Place winners!

Congratulations Adult, New Hope, Fort Lauderdale, FL!
XXX National Bible Bowl Championship Games 2012, Second Place winners!

THIS COULD BE YOU!

Contact your local Pastor, AYS Leader, Sherrie Smith (SEC Bible Bowl Coordinator)
954-907-0137 or SEC Youth Dept. 352-735-3142, ext 101.



STUDY NOT FOR COMPETITION, BUT FOR LIFE!

Your words have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee. Ps 119:11

Conference NEWS



Brent Waldon appointed as Ministerial Director

—By Robert Henley

On September 16, the Southeastern Conference Executive Committee appointed Brent Waldon, to serve as ministerial director a post that was left vacant by the sudden death of Milton Sterling in on October 11, 2012. Prior to his appointment, Waldon was serving as the stewardship and trust director for Southeastern; a post that he was appointed to during the SEC Session that was held in May of 2012.

Waldon possesses a bachelor of arts degree in theology from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. and a master of ministry degree from the Andersonville, Theological Seminary, Andersonville, Ga.

Waldon, who has served as an Adventist minister for more than 30 years, has pastored the following churches in Southeastern: Berean Church, Brunswick, Ga.; Daughter of Zion Church, Delray Beach, Fla.; Ebenezer Church, Dania, Fla.; Lebanon Church, Miami, Fla.; Mahanaim Church, Pahokee, Fla., Maranatha Church, WayCross, Ga.; Mt. Olivet Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Mt. Pisgah Church, Miami Gardens, Fla.; Mt. Sinai Church, Orlando, Fla.; Trinity Temple Church, Belle Glade, Fla.,

As ministerial director, Waldon will serve as the pastor's pastor. He will also oversee the ministries of elder, deacons and deaconesses. One of his goals is to better equip the pastors of Southeastern to shepherd their flocks in this post modern era.



Lannie Louise turns 100

—By Evelyn Iomas

Lannie Louise Thomas was born to Kelly and Elizabeth Thomas on December 15, 1912 in Ruffin, S.C. The middle of 9 children, she spent most of her childhood with her grandmother. After attending a tent meeting that was conducted by Calvin Rock and the late E.C. Ward in Jacksonville, Fla., she became a Seventh-day Adventist. As a single parent, she raised 2 children and taught them about the love of God.

Louis is in perfect and doesn't take prescription drugs. She walks a lot, rides the bus to the grocery stores or shopping centers, pays her bills, cooks her food (the way she likes it). She lives alone in a senior complex.

She has a sense of humor and a sweet and lovable personality, many friends. She supports the church school and other charitable programs on her fixed income. She purchases book cases of Steps to Christ, Bible Readings for the Home, Marked Bibles and gives them away.

She feels her longevity comes from being obedient to her parents. She has one daughter (that preceded her in death), eight grandchildren, and twenty great grand-children. She prays constantly for them that will be ready, with her to meet Jesus when He returns.



Mt. Olivet Women Ministries Launch Homeless Feed Program

—By Maureen Sterling

“I was an hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink,” Matthew 25:35. Following Christ’s command to feed their fellowmen, the women ministries department of the Mt. Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., brainstormed and formulated a plan to launch a quarterly homeless feeding program.

The initial event was held on July 29, 2012, in downtown Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Dressed in pink polo shirts bearing the Seventh-day Adventist logo, the women met at the Mt. Olivet Church and was transported to downtown Ft. Lauderdale where most of the homeless in the city congregated.

As the women approached with hot breakfast in hand, the people began to line up in anticipation to be fed. After grace was said they came in an orderly fashion – one by one. Approximately 135 people were fed that morning.

At the end of breakfast, the women had devotion. Everyone stayed and gave praise to God. One of the individuals stated that breakfast was an answer to prayer and requested that they sing “Amazing Grace.” The women prayed for God’s blessing and protection over the homeless individuals before they departed.

“We thank God for giving us the vision to begin this ministry; we did the giving but we were the ones blessed,” said one of the participants. “As we continue the master’s bidding we are hope to make our next event even better.”



Grace Youth Power Initiative produces Baptisms

—By Anakaye Fagan

Grace Youth Power (GYP) is a youth group that meets every Friday night at the Grace Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church, Valdosta, Ga.. More than 20 young people meet with Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship, and his wife Kamala from 7 to 8:30 p.m. simply to talk. Taylor guides the group's discussion on various topics, but the purpose of the group is simply to provide a confidential and safe environment where the young people can talk about the things of life.

Several Friday nights ago Johnathan Welch, a GYP member, brought his friend Joel Anderson to the group. Joel enjoyed it so much that he visited Grace Fellowship that Saturday morning, prayer meeting that Wednesday night and was back at GYP on Friday night.

Joel kept coming to church and on December 22, 2012 he became a member of the Grace Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church through water baptism. On that same day Deandre Robinson was also baptized. Deandre has been visiting the church with his girlfriend Lauren Dobson for quite some time. Approximately two weeks before his baptism, out of the blue, he called the Taylor and asked him, "What must I do to be baptized." The words from Acts 16 formed the pastor's response—believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Deandre, having professed his belief in Jesus Christ, was baptized along with Joel.

On December 22, 2012, Winston Taylor, pastor of the Grace Fellowship Church, Valdosta, Ga., baptized Joel Anderson who joined the church as a result of attending the Grace Youth Power youth group initiative.





Where is God when I need Him?



What happens when I die?



How will the world end?



Can I get a day off in this rat race?



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NewsOnline

- ▶ William Byrd Selected Chairman of Urban League of Greater Miami Board
- ▶ CBS sitcom star becomes Adventist
- ▶ President Obama Meets with Daughter of Zion Students
- ▶ More than 640 SEC Pathfinders attend Southern Union Camporee
- ▶ Southeastern Pathfinders honor Williamson during Southern Union Camporee
- ▶ Andrews Ranked as Overperforming School
- ▶ Student Speaks Out about Sabbath
- ▶ 2013 Adventist world budget: mission, administrative support

SketchCast: Sketches Video Magazine

- ▶ Martin Francis shares how Message Magazine changed his life
- ▶ SEC Teacher Institute Overview
- ▶ Ivan Sanky presents Allan Williamson with a gift from Southeastern
- ▶ Caesar Robinson, SEC Youth Director, Talks about the Southern Union Camporee
- ▶ Jonathan Rolle Interviews Amber Willis Alumni Awards Teacher of the Year



- ▶ Camp Meeting 2012
- ▶ South Florida Youth Federation
- ▶ Southern Union Camporee

Get Social with Southeastern



Calendar of Events

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE

Date	Description
February 22-24	Women's Ministries Leadership Training
February 23	Conference-wide Spelling Bee - Mt. Calvary, Tampa
February 23	Sabbath School Teachers & Superintendents Workshop
March 2	Stewardship/Trust Services Rally Ephesus West Palm Beach
March 9	Stewardship Rally West Coast Haitian Churches
March 9	Sabbath School Teachers & Women Ministries Superintendents Workshop
March 9-10	S. Fla. Men's Weekend
March 22-24	Master Guide Retreat Hawthorne
March 28-31	Oakwood University Alumni Weekend
April 6	Haitian Youth Federation
April 6	Hispanic Family Life Convention
April 5-6	Stewardship/Trust Services Weekend Sheeler Oaks Church - Apopka
April 13	Haitian Family Life Convention
June 20 - 29	SEC Camp Meeting

Word Network

(eastern time)
Sunday - 1:30 p.m.

3ABN - (eastern time)

Wednesday - 3:30 p.m.
Friday - 8:00 a.m.
Friday - 7:00 p.m.

Hope Channel

(eastern time)
or on DirecTV channel 368

Sunday - 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 8:00 a.m.

Blue Mountain Television

Sunday - 3:30 p.m.
Monday - 7:00 a.m.
Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - 4:30 a.m.
(Pacific Time)

BROADCAST AND CABLE STATIONS

(eastern time)

Huntsville, AL
Comcast Channel 3
Sunday - 12:30 p.m.

Huntsville, AL
MediaCom TV 4
Monday - 12:00 a.m.

Hartford, CT
Comcast Channel 5
Sunday - 7:30 a.m.

RADIO STATIONS

3ABN Radio

WEBSITES

StreamingFaith.com
AdventistReview.org
Hope.tv
LightSource.com
TheAdventistChannel.org



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