

CONNECTIONS

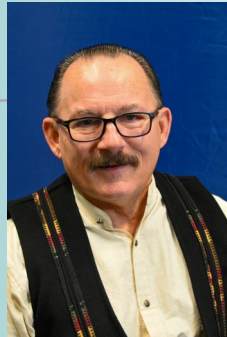
A Newsletter of the ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

In with the New...

This is going to be a busy year. But more importantly, a productive year is unfolding. 2023 holds a lot of promise, and we started it off with a push here at the conference office in Shreveport. Our winter Ministers' Meetings took place in January on the 17th through 19th (a little later than normal due to Ministerial Meetings happening the previous week on the NAD level.) Twice a year, the pastors of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference convene to learn new policies, receive guidance and spiritual enrichment, and to generally prepare for the upcoming months. It is also a great time of fellowship, and an opportunity to share stories, methods, and get to know one another better. At this time, we got to meet with our three new pastors.



Ronald Costa is joining us as the shepherd of the flock for New Orleans Spanish and Westbank Spanish Churches in South Louisiana.



William "Mitch" Elrod is the leader for the congregations in Mt. Ida and Bonnerdale, Arkansas.



And Ryan Watson is stepping into the pastoral role in Springtown, Arkansas.

There is a shortage of pastors, in case you are not aware, and we are very blessed to have been sent some of the best! We are grateful to God for all of our hardworking and spiritual-minded pastors.

Out with the...

I cannot say "old," but we did have some departures from our staff and are in the process of finding valuable players to replace these positions.

Brandie Kolff van Oosterwyk, whom many of you were familiar with in our treasury department, has taken a position at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. We had a farewell party for her in December and she finished up her assignments here the first week of January. Until we have a replacement for Brandie, please direct all questions aside from payroll to Rodney Dyke or Deyvy Rodriguez. We wish Brandie well in the "cool" climes of the north!

And off to the warmer west coast, from our Ministerial Department, Jose and Marta Pagan have accepted a call to the Central California Conference, where Jose will be serving as the Director of the Youth Department. Happy trails to you both! At present, our president, Elder Rick Dye and vice president (Secretariat) Jeff Villegas will be sharing the leadership of the Ministerial and Evangelism Departments.

We will keep you posted as new changes happen!

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FEB - MAR
2023

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South Louisiana Teen Prayer Conference



Over 30 young people met together on January 21, 2023 in South Louisiana to experience **THE GREAT ESCAPE**. This was the theme for the Teen Prayer Conference this year. In the big picture, it is metaphorical for our escape—from sin, and from Satan. And in keeping with this theme, there were three different escape rooms set up for this experience.

The young people were divided up into groups of 10 and each group got to go through twice, so they each got to “escape” from two of the three rooms. They had to finish the process within an hour, and they all managed to “get out safely,” some with a few minutes to spare. The prize at the end was the teen devotional book, **“Into the Wild”** written and compiled by Charles Mills.

The day began with Sabbath School first thing in the morning, and continued with the main message of the day delivered by **Buford Griffith III**, of the Region Conference. The kids loved his inspirational talks. Some said this was the highlight of the day (along with the afternoon adventures in the escape rooms.) The worship service was followed by a spaghetti lunch, then the escape rooms, and a closing meeting. The supper meal was hay-stacks.

When asked what had the greatest impact on them, the young people responded that the speaker was fantastic, and the escape rooms had a powerful effect. The world needs more young prayer warriors joining together in teams like these, dedicated to overcoming the wicked one and escaping from the snares of this world!

~Reported by Sylvia Downs

HAPPY 2023 FROM GNOCA

Greater New Orleans Christian Academy & Capobres Family ministry to the homeless.

The best way to end 2022 is remembering our homeless brothers and sisters. The photos shown here depict this ministry in action.



Out of 200+ schools in the Southwestern Union, GNOCA (Greater New Orleans Christian Academy) was picked out of 5 to be featured in a short video that will be shown in the churches for Education Sabbath..” (See below)

(Dr. Carol Campbell, Union Education Director, is there on the right, and Renee Whiting, Union Curriculum Coach, is there toward the left end in front in the cardigan.)



“The new basketball court and goal donated by Bro. Romeo and Sis. Lurene Castro. Praise God for another blessing to the school.”

~ submitted by Rodil Capobres

GO 

 **GROW** 

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

MULTIPLY  

I have a handful of these “little black pocket planners” from Seminars Unlimited left over. Ministers have first priority, but if anyone else wants one. They are handy for keeping track of dates, events, and include helpful notes, Adventist hotlines, toll free numbers, area codes, time zones, weights and measures, and a place for phone numbers, birthdays, and auto service records. It has the monthly and daily calendars (including Bible scriptures for the day). First come, first served! Once they are gone, they are gone.



Contact falcorn@arklac.org

MESSIAH'S MANSION WAS IN JEFFERSON, TEXAS.... AND SOME OF OUR ARKLA YOUTH WERE VISITORS



This is specifically the story from the perspective of the Baton Rouge SDA Church Family, who took a road trip the first Sabbath in November following the fellowship meal after church. Here's how it all went down:

In September of 2022, several ladies from the Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church attended the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Anchor Holds Women's Retreat in Texarkana, TX. While there, Sandy Keller of the Jefferson Seventh-day Adventist Church made an announcement that their church was hosting Oklahoma Academy's *Messiah's Mansion*. This was our chance to view and to learn about the full-scale model of the Sanctuary, the Israelite's experience there during Bible times and to get an up-close understanding of "the Gospel in Symbols". We immediately went to planning a Church Road Trip!



The Baton Rouge church has a special relationship with Jefferson Christian Academy (JCA), so, we contacted our friends, created a flyer with all of the details, for the overnight trip, and submitted it to the church family. We thought only our families would want to attend – boy were we wrong! We had 10 families sign up which included all of our Jones Creek Adventist Academy (JCAA) school teachers. Mr. Marcos Cruz, our 5th-8th grade teacher asked if it would be ok for him to invite the kids in his class – well, yes!

We were attending the Messiah's Mansion on the first weekend in November, which for us is potluck. We left immediately after the fellowship meal with a carpool and caravan of eight vehicles of all sizes, for the 4 ½ hour ride. We were welcomed at JCA later that evening with the friendliest faces and the most wonderful meal. We occupied 12 rooms on campus which included one large room for the boys and one large room for the girls who came from JCAA. On Sunday morning, we were fed a delicious breakfast before an extensive tour of the campus, then sent on our way with delicious loaves of homemade bread and fond memories of Christian fellowship.

Since we were a large group, Messiah's Mansion set up a special morning tour for us. It was important for us as adults, and even more important for our children to learn about the plan of salvation. The Tour, which is broken into five sections: Overview, Courtyard, Holy Place, Most Holy Place and the High Priest, was indeed a powerful evangelist tool. We thank God for allowing us this opportunity and for safe travel mercies for everyone. "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary. Who is so great a God as our God?" – Psalm 77:13



Submitted by Tracy Francis

NEW WEBSITE IS FUNTIONING

Changes are happening! The new website is still not at 100%, but you can access it at arklac.org. The old website is still working for now, and if you can't find what you're looking for on the new website, check the old. If it isn't on either site, we are working on it. (Please be very patient with us.) Feel free to call the office. Sylvia will cheerfully direct you to the proper information. She is very helpful.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

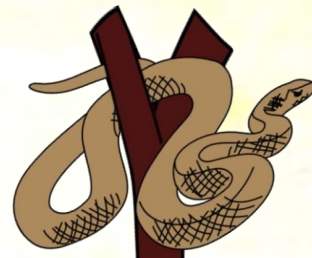
The 2023 South Louisiana Camp Meeting has been rescheduled for May 13. We are planning a special Evangelism thrust beginning April 29, in conjunction with the Union and Region Conferences. The last of these evangelistic meetings will be held on Friday, May 12 and we will celebrate together with Camp Meeting in New Orleans on Sabbath. It will be a joint meeting with both English and Spanish Groups together, having separate programs, but fellowshiping together. We will provide more details for you in the near future. Talk to your pastors, as they will be updated when plans are formulated.

The Northwest Arkansas Camp Meeting will take place at the usual time—the last week of May into the first week of June. It will be in Gentry. We will share more details on that in the next newsletter, also. When we have details, we will make them available online and in your pastors' emails, so be sure to check with them if you have any questions.

Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

~St. Francis of Assisi



Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

Numbers 21:8



Fanning the Flames of Evangelism in New Orleans (Jan. 27-28)

We are looking forward to seeing new churches coming out of these efforts that are taking place in South Louisiana. Let's keep praying for this city where we have so many people who need to hear and know about Jesus Christ!



IN MEMORY.... Lt. Col. H. Britt Doze, Jr. USA Ret.

Herman Britt Doze, Jr. died peacefully on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at the age of 77, in Bossier City, LA. Born on July 31, 1945 in Haynesville, LA, he was oldest of four children born to Herman Britt Doze, Sr. and Mary Deloris Speech of Houston, TX. Britt was raised by grandparents Lemmie and Loreen Speech in Haynesville, LA and was given much love and many opportunities in life. He excelled in school, sports and his first love – music.

Britt had a beautiful singing voice and a life-long love for singing, playing musical instruments and performing. This was never more evident than when, upon graduation from high school in 1963, Britt chose to head “south” to attend Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the ROTC – Jaguar Battalion, Southern University Choir, the University Quartet and the Human Jukebox – the Southern University band. He loved to perform at campus events and while traveling with these groups. During the Vietnam era, Britt decided to put his studies on hold. He auditioned and was selected for the Air Force Band, his musical talents serving him well as he was an integral part of the band playing clarinet, saxophone, sting bass, and at times acted as vocal soloist.

In the Fall of 1964 while having lunch in the campus dining hall, Britt met Carolyn Smith who became his college sweetheart and three years later she became his wife. To this union of 28 years, a daughter, Tracy, was born. They traveled the world and had many exciting adventures together. Always searching for spiritual truth, the family was led by the Holy Spirit and influenced by Britt’s beloved cousin Thomas Ray Bell, of Shreveport, who had become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, and in 1979, Britt, Carolyn and Tracy were baptized together into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alexandria, VA.

After serving four years in the Air Force, Britt headed back to Baton Rouge to complete his undergraduate education after which he continued on with graduate school at Louisiana State University. After graduation from LSU, he decided to join the United States Army and was inducted as a commissioned officer at the rank of First Lieutenant in 1975. He practiced Clinical Social Work, in the Army, for over 20 years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Britt and Carolyn served in places such as Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, Stuttgart, West Germany where he was director of the outpatient Social Work Services and the Family Advocacy program at the 5th General Hospital, and the Sinai Peacekeeping Force where he gave support to NATO Forces in Egypt and Israel. In South Korea he served as Clinical Director at the Yongsan Hospital. While in Korea, Britt sang the South Korean national anthem, in Korean, on Korean TV and on the American Forces Network, which aired daily for many years. Finally, he served as an instructor at the U.S. Army Medical Center and School, and Deputy Chief of Social Work at the Brook Army Medical Center located at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX.

At churches around the world where the family were members Britt served as a Sabbath School teacher, Pathfinder Leader, sang special music and loved bringing others to the foot of the cross, even baptizing a soldier, to whom he had witnessed while stationed in Sinai, Egypt. Over the years, within the Southwest Union Conference Britt served as a member of the Ephesus SDA Church, Elder at the Highland Hills SDA Church, and Elder/Lay Leader of the Greater Randolph SDA Church in San Antonio, TX. The family ministry was inviting visitors to their home after church each Sabbath, for lunch and Bible study, fulfilling the Great Commission in Matthew.

Britt married Col. Elizabeth Anderson, MD in 1995 adding Eliana, Justin, Brittany, Jonathan, DeAnna and John-Michael to the family. Britt and Liz managed their own medical clinics in North Louisiana for several years prior to Elizabeth continuing her career as a physician in the United States Air Force. The family were members of the Shreveport South SDA Church. Later in life, Britt was rebaptized and participated in mission trips to the Philippines, Honduras, Jamaica and Tanzania, where, as the main speaker for *Share Him* he helped to lead over 500 people to Christ.

In May of 2022, Britt moved back to Bossier City, LA living for a time in Bloom at Bossier assisted living, and lastly at the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home. Once again in his beloved northwest Louisiana, where he was able to receive visits from family and friends in his last days.

Britt is survived by seven children; Tracy (Ron) Francis of Baton Rouge, LA, Eliana, Justin, Brittany, Jonathan, DeAna, and John-Michael, five grandchildren, Azzy, Jordan, Ayden, Kacy and Rohn-Michael, Ex-wives Carolyn and Elizabeth and two sisters; Tarana Doze-Smith and Pamela Doze-McCoy. Britt also leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.



Food Pantry News in Huntsville

The last Food Pantry Giveaway of the year at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Arkansas turned out to be a very special one. On December 20th 2022 the local Walmart donated a lot of kids' clothes including hoodies and jeans. There was also a lot of toddler size clothing. These items were given away in addition to the regular food pantry items which are offered twice a month. A one hour Bible Study class in conducted before the food give-away starts and is very faithfully attended. There are other food pantries in the community but the Huntsville SDA Church is a favorite due to the warm welcome from church workers and their emphasis on fresh produce and healthy food items. The Pantry is operated by donations from church members.

~ Submitted by Toni Johnson



THE ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE WEEK OF PRAYER

... is currently going on (through February 3). Hopefully you have been able to join in from wherever you are. Please know that we are ALWAYS willing to pray for you. Anytime you have a need, feel free to call or email the office and we will lift you up during our regular morning worship. Blessings to all of you in 2023!



Direct2U
800-333-1844

2023 Schedule:

Houston	Feb 13-14
Louisiana/East Texas	Feb 27-Mar 1
West Texas/Southern New Mexico	Mar 13-15
Dallas	Mar 20
Eastern Oklahoma/NW Arkansas	Mar 27-29
Arkansas/East Texas	April 10-12
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	April 24-26
Austin/San Antonio/Valley	May 1-4
Houston	May 15-16
Louisiana/East Texas	May 29-31
West Texas/Southern New Mexico	June 5-7
Arkansas/East Texas	June 26-28
Austin/San Antonio/Valley	July 10-14
Houston	Aug 7-8
Dallas	Aug 14
Louisiana/East Texas	Aug 28-30
West Texas/Southern New Mexico	Sep 11-13
Eastern Oklahoma/NW Arkansas	Sep 25-27
Arkansas/East Texas	Oct 9-11
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	Oct 23-25
Dallas	Nov 6
Austin/San Antonio/Valley	Nov 20-23
Houston	Dec 4-5

Save
the Date

MAY 19-21, 2023
Embassy Suites, San Marcos, TX
More information to follow soon

THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
PRESENTS

Brave & Bold

Facing my Fears

SPIRITUAL WELFARE
Women's Retreat



2024 INTERNATIONAL PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

The International Pathfinder Camporee is held every five years. It's an opportunity of a lifetime; sure to strengthen your relationship with God. Over 50,000 Pathfinders from around 100 countries come to play, share, learn and worship together. These events have become a leadership and spiritual rite of passage for youth and adults. They have also become a gathering place for world leaders who understand the importance of this generation and their value to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Formerly, this has been held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The venue has changed! But the spirit of the event remains strong.

Want to attend?

The dates are August 5-11, 2024 Gillette, Wyoming.

We hope to see you there!

For more information, visit this site:

<https://www.camporee.org/>

BRIGHTEN THEIR CORNER

SOUTHWESTERN UNION ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES CONVENTION

Encouragement and ideas for church leaders to develop community outreach ministries.

FEB. 16-18, 2023

LONE STAR CAMP | ATHENS, TX

EARLY BIRD | DEC 1-JAN 5 | \$100

REGULAR | JAN 6-JAN 26 | \$125

LATE | JAN 27-FEB 9 | \$150



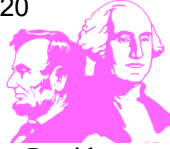
[SOUTHWESTERNADVENTIST.ORG](https://www.southwesternadventist.org)





APOLOGY:

I would like to note that in the previous *Connections* issue, when given credit for a submitted story, **Rosemarie Jeffries'** name was misspelled. To avoid any confusion in the future, please note that it is correct as written above.

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4 Pathfinder Bible Study Bowl—Area
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NAD Annual Conference Presidents' Retreat						
12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 UNION: ACS / DR Training ARKLA Executive Committee Meeting	17 Louisiana Youth Federation Hammond	18 Volunteer/ Lay Pastor Training (Location TBD)
EVANGELISM Advisory	Committee Week					
19	20  Presidents Day OFFICE CLOSED	21	22	23 Ministerial: Pastoral Development #1	24	25 Local Church Elders' Retreat Baton Rouge Pathfinder Bible Study Bowl—Conf
26	27	28				

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 UNION: Children's Min & VBS Training @ Lone Star Camp
			OAA Music Festival		UNION: "Inspire Productions" Youth Drama	
5 BOE Meeting OAA 10 am UNION: Youth Drama Training @ CYB	UNION: Mission Trip — More Compassion					11 Children's Mistry Training @ Little Rock
12 	13	14	15	16 ASI SW in Crowley Texas	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Personal Ministries Training in Shreveport
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Youth Ministries Fair Gentry, AR UNION: Education Sabbath
26 "A Night at the Myerson" SWAU event	University Board Mtg.—SWAU					31

2023 — EVENT LIST

FOR CHURCHES IN THE ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY

Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 4	Pathfinder Bible Study Bowl—Area Level
Feb 6-9	NAD Annual Conference Presidents' Retreat
Feb 12	Evangelism Advisory
Feb 16	ARKLA Conference Executive Committee
Feb 16-18	UNION Adventist Community Services/Disaster Relief Training
Feb 17-18	Louisiana Youth Federation in Hammond
Feb 18	Volunteer/Lay Pastor Training (Location to be determined)
Feb 20	Presidents Day (Conference Office Closed)
Feb 23	Ministerial Pastor Development #1
Feb 25	Local Church Elders' Retreat, Baton Rouge
Feb 25	Pathfinder Bible Study Bowl—Conference

MARCH

Mar 1-4	Ozark Adventist Academy Music Festival
Mar 4	Children's Ministry/VBS Training—Lone Star
Mar 5	Board of Education Meeting at OAA
Mar 5-11	Union: More Compassion Mission Trip
Mar 11	Children's Ministry/VBS Training--Little Rock
Mar 16-19	ASI Southwest in Crowley, Texas
Mar 18	Personal Ministries Training in Shreveport
Mar 22	UNION Executive Committee (Tentative)
Mar 25	UNION Education Sabbath
Mar 25	Youth Ministries Fair— Gentry
Mar 26	"A Night at the Myerson" SWAU Event



APRIL

Apr 1	Volunteer/Lay Pastor Training (Location TBD)
Apr 8	PAC Meeting
Apr 11	BOE Meeting OAA/Zoom
Apr 13	Conference Executive Committee Meeting
Apr 13-16	Conference Second Level Master Guide Camporee
Apr 23	Pathfinders Honor Festivals by area
Apr 29-May 12	New Orleans Evangelism with Union & Region

MAY

May 1-12	New Orleans Evangelism continues...
May 1-5	Outdoor School at Camp Yorktown Bay
May 5-6	Spanish Lay Training @ CYB
May 5-7	SWAU Graduation Weekend
May 12	New Orleans Evangelism culminates on Friday
May 13	South Louisiana Camp meeting (English and Spanish) in Hammond
May 14	Mother's Day
May 14-Jun 3	Little Rock: Field School of Evangelism
May 18	Ministerial: Pastor Development #2
May 19-21	Union Women's Ministries Retreat in San Marcos, Texas
May 19-20	English Lay Training at Camp Yorktown Bay
May 21	PAC Meeting
May 27	OAA Graduation
May 29	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
May 30-June 3	Northwest Arkansas Camp Meeting
May 30-June 3	CYB: Lifeguard Week

OUR HOURS

Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays. Our office workers put in full-time hours; and the officers and department directors are often on the road serving our churches and communities over the weekend. So if you can't reach us during our normal working hours, please leave a message, or email: info@arklac.org We continuously keep you all in our prayers. (We meet each day for worship, so let us know if you have special needs and we will gladly add you to our prayer list.) God bless you all!

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of SDA

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