

fall 2017

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

columns

Who Is My Neighbor?

Southern alumni and students help refugees

make a new life | page 12



Believing in Students

With his 17-year history as an English professor, plus his time as a pastor and university administrator, President David Smith, PhD, has a heart for students. Under his leadership, a new emphasis is being placed on making it possible for more students to afford a quality Adventist education. As a result, the largest portion of the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning now aims to increase scholarships and endowments at Southern. With the slogan “We Believe,” the campaign exemplifies Southern’s belief in our students.



Photo: Ryan Pierce

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Southern alumni and students have stepped up to help refugees both internationally and closer to home.

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For a well-rounded education, every year Southern provides opportunities for hundreds of students to expand their horizons—and their knowledge—on a global level, offering field classes, focused tours, mission trips, and more.

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Picturesque streets connect people to places across Southern’s campus: Taylor Circle, Hickman Drive, and now Colcord Drive, to name a few. Although they are made of simple asphalt, the people whose names they bear were far from average men and women.

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Through the years, thousands of Southern alumni have returned to reconnect with each other and with their alma mater during these reunions.

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On the cover: Refugees in Tanzania wait in line to receive food distributed by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), with the help of a Southern alum.

columns

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Alumni Edition

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In honor of Southern's 125th anniversary, in this section we are featuring posts from the social media accounts of a variety of Southern departments. Consider following them to see updates from across campus.



Find the video link at southern.edu/columns.



Southern emphasizes career and calling. The new Bietz Center for Student Life will help students in their journey to combine their passion with God's purpose.



"Everyone wears multiple hats on a micro-feature. Sophomore film major Madelyn Rogers both directed *Belly of the Whale* and acted on screen. #behindthescenes"

» @svadatouthern

*This summer, the School of Visual Art and Design shot a feature film titled *Belly of the Whale*.*



"On this campus, when we see someone who is [different from us at any level], we should reach out to them. We should support them. We should be their friend. We should defend them and stand up for them. We should, with God's own love, love them, accept them, share life with them. On this campus, we should treat others as God has treated us, value them as God has valued us, lift them up as God has lifted us up." #newschoolyear"

» @southernadventistuniversity

President David Smith, PhD, speaks during the Student Dedication Convocation at the beginning of fall semester.



"I have a little sticky note on my desk that says, 'Recognize the value of not doing anything and simply being.' That speaks to me because I feel most productive when I'm doing a million things, but sometimes that's the most counterproductive thing you can be doing. ... I think that comes a lot with nursing, because we're expected to do things as fast as we can, all at one time, and to be the most efficient and most effective. That spills into my daily life ... so I try to remember to just be."

» Alexandria Martin, senior nursing major,
@thehumansofsouthern



"Thirteen Japanese students arrived on campus ... from Saniku, our sister college in Japan, and other universities in Tokyo. They stayed with host families in the area and got to experience the culture here in America firsthand."

» School of Nursing



"Academy students from all over the Southern Union joined us today as we learned about careers in communication. A few volunteered as news anchors and camera operators in the TV studio."

» School of Journalism and Communication



"Colors of Summer"

» Thatcher Farm

worth a click!

With the goal of fostering discussion among Adventist young people, particularly those in college and university, *Dialogue* has been in print since 1989. However, in order to make the content more accessible, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists hired Southern's Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC) to develop a mobile app, which was released this year. CIRC provides Southern students with the opportunity to earn money while gaining real-world programming experience on campus. Visit dialogue.adventist.org to download the app.



"Twenty-six alumni and friends of Southern enjoyed ... visiting Protestant Reformation sites throughout Germany and Switzerland."

» Alumni Association



"This picture shows students running fiber cable from Wright Hall to Hickman Science Center about 1996. One of these students came back later!"

» School of Computing

Tyson Hall, '97, PhD, on the right, has been a professor of computing at Southern since 2005.



"Local astronomy buff Stephen Johnson, '85, took this picture near Dayton, Tennessee. Solar flares are nicely visible. He has photographed the transits of Mercury, Venus, and the Moon."

» Physics and Engineering Department



"Inspired by the Spirograph, SVAD covered the lawn with unique designs for departmental convocation."

» School of Visual Art and Design

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Archaeology Program Wraps Up Israel Dig



Archaeology dig participants examine a newly discovered artifact.

Southern's Institute of Archaeology completed its final excavation at Lachish, Israel, during a six-week archaeology dig this summer. Thirty-five art and archaeology students were part of the team. Now the members of the institute are eager to temporarily put down their gear and focus on publishing their findings.

The digs at Lachish, which have been part of a five-year plan with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to excavate and establish the early history of the biblical Kingdom of Judah, have been the site of one of the largest archaeology research expeditions to the Middle East. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, students, and staff, several important discoveries



A team member cleans a handle fragment.

have been made. The fortification system, a domestic area of houses, and the destruction left by kings Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar were uncovered. The buildings included inscriptions, seals and seal impressions, hundreds of vessels, sling stones, and other weapons. Through these discoveries, the team established that Judah was settled in the 10th century BC, not the 8th century.

"This summer was the one that would decide if our research design was accurate and worth it, and we were spot on," said Michael G. Hasel, PhD, director of the Institute of Archaeology.

While the archaeology majors worked to uncover ancient items, the group of art



Professor Hasel helps extract a large vessel.

majors practiced their technical illustration skills. They drew artifacts such as seal impressions, pottery with writing on it, and bones.

"It's a practical way of learning, and it is so out of the box," said Giselle S. Hasel, associate professor in the School of Visual Art and Design.

For Michael Hasel, there is something powerful about excavating in the country of Israel.

"You are contributing to the knowledge base about ancient biblical history," he said. "But more than that, you are contributing to the identity of Jews and Christians around the world."

—Oksana Wetmore

» by the numbers

832

Solar panels on campus.

300

Square feet of living space in the tiny house built by technology students.

12:35:19

IRONMAN Chattanooga time by Elizabeth Perry, '03, '17, who is currently in Southern's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Southern Adds Two New Nursing Programs

The School of Nursing is offering two new options: a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a direct path from a bachelor's degree to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). These options will give nursing students more flexibility.

Southern still plans to offer an associate degree in nursing (AS), which qualifies graduates to pursue licensure as registered nurses (RN) as well as to continue on to complete their bachelor's degree in nursing (BS)—also offered at Southern. The new BSN program combines the information taught in the AS and BS programs into one four-year degree.

Barbara James, '75, PhD, dean of the School of Nursing, explains that both programs have their merits. The AS-BS program allows a student to begin working sooner, while the BSN degree may hold more weight with employers.

"Deciding between the options is a very personal decision," James said. "We are adding new programs because we are a progressive department. We read widely, are members of professional organizations, attend professional meetings, and keep up with what the profession is expecting."

Many students, such as BSN candidate Raina Simon, expressed interest in the program even before enrollment was available; she plans to be in the first cohort, starting in the Winter 2018 semester.

"The nursing program at Southern will lead me to maximize my time, strengthen my communion with God, and ultimately help me become the dream nurse I've always wanted to be," Simon said. "One day I would like to give back, and I think this is how I will do it best."

For those interested in reaching the highest qualification in the field of nursing, the department's new BS to DNP program allows students to jump directly from completing their bachelor's degrees into a doctoral program. Usually students would earn a master's degree or accumulate extensive work experience first, but the program builds this much-needed hands-on experience into the degree.

The School of Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and currently is operating close to capacity with nearly 800 students.

—Tierra Hayes

New Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication

This fall, Southern welcomed Rachel Williams-Smith, PhD, EdD, as the new dean of the School of Journalism and Communication. Williams-Smith came to Southern from Andrews University, where she served for four years—most recently as graduate program director of the Communication Department. She has 19 years of teaching experience and eight years of overlapping management experience at the university level.



Rachel Williams-Smith, PhD, EdD

"We are delighted that Rachel Williams-Smith joined our campus family," said President David Smith, PhD. "Rachel has had considerable administrative experience at a number of levels. The communication faculty are excited about her and believe that her enthusiasm, knowledge of the communication field, creativity, and effective leadership style will strengthen the position of Southern's communication and journalism programs for the future."

In addition to teaching, Williams-Smith is a life lessons coach who enjoys presenting both in person and on radio and television, speaking openly about her faith and experiences in order to help others grow. Recently she authored the autobiographical book *Born Yesterday: The True Story of a Girl Born in the 20th Century but Raised in the 19th*, sharing her journey from growing up in extreme circumstances to leading a balanced, vibrant life.

Williams-Smith is married to Carl Winston Smith, a professional tailor, and together they have four grown children: Chris, Sharon, Sheryl, and Wesley. They also have three grandchildren.

—Staff Writer

5,000

Protective glasses given away by Southern for the Great American Eclipse.

5

Acres added to Thatcher Farm, where students learn agricultural skills.

\$305K

Scholarship and endowment funds raised during this year's President's Gala.

Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning

Art Annex Renovations Add Creative Space



Photo: Ryan Pierce

Students now have the needed space to work on projects in the expanded Art Annex.

The Art Annex, located behind Brock Hall, recently received more than 6,000 square feet of renovations in Phase 1 of a multi-year plan. Changes included adding a printmaking lab and individual studio cubicles as well as remodeling pottery spaces. The facility also benefited from a completely new roof and new heating and air system, among other improvements.

"We've needed this space for years," said Randy Craven, MFA, dean of the School of Visual Art and Design. "I'm extremely grateful for the donors."

Along with the physical benefits, David George, '98, MFA, film program coordinator, believes the renovation holds psychological value as well.

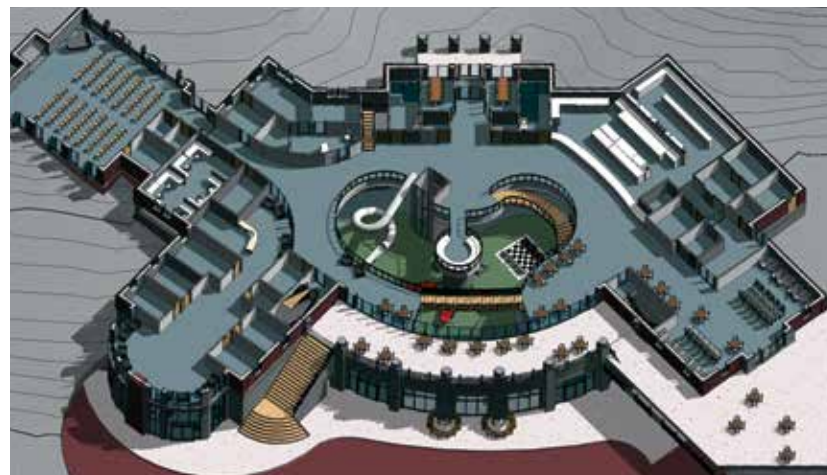
"Having a bigger and better workspace empowers the students and allows the creative process to unfold with fewer interruptions," George said.

When funds become available, Phase 2 will realize the creation of a new film studio, allowing the film program to move from Ledford Hall to the Art Annex, where it will partner with the School of Journalism and Communication in using this production space for student instruction.

—Gavin Finch

Excitement Builds for New Student Center

One huge change during the Bietz Center for Student Life's redesign was to move Southern's campus bookstore into the building. And while the original plans called for the entire Dining Hall to be in the student center, revised plans show a smaller, innovative campus eatery. Construction is scheduled to begin during the Spring 2018 semester. For renderings of each floor within the Bietz Center, visit southern.edu/webelieve.



Endowment Gift Funds Student, Faculty Research

Southern's Biology Department recently received a \$50,000 gift for an endowment to support student and faculty research opportunities, as well as to send students to educational conferences. The funds were given anonymously in honor of David Steen, '68, PhD, a former biology professor and department chair at Southern in the 1970s and '80s.

"In those days, research was not emphasized here; there simply wasn't enough time, money, or equipment," Steen said.

Much has changed in the years since. Undergraduate research across all disciplines is now a signature component of Southern's academic experience. McKenzie Martin, sophomore biology major, is helping with an arboretum research project on campus and will be participating in a dinosaur dig with Biology Department Chair Keith Snyder, PhD, next summer.

"Student research creates a positive cycle of success and is helpful for those of us planning to pursue graduate school," Martin said.

Biology conference registration for students, another component of the Steen Endowment, also helps lay the foundation for successful careers.

Southern welcomes gifts to the Steen Endowment, part of Southern's Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning. For more information about the campaign, visit southern.edu/webelieve.

—Lizzie Williams



Photo: Tommy Moon

Sheann Brandon's California adventure included a trip to Joshua Tree National Park to watch the Perseid Meteor Shower.

God Chuckles

by Sheann Brandon, senior journalism major

Control. I am a self-proclaimed queen of control. Last year, despite the endless checklist of my everyday life (including but definitely not limited to tests and projects, working multiple jobs, trying to remember to eat, and internship hunting) I felt in complete control. I had a plan that I'd been following throughout college: pursue journalism, complete two TV news-station internships, work for the university newspaper, graduate in four years, get a job as a television news reporter, and eventually become a news anchor.

Why did any of this matter? Because I always have a plan. That's when God chuckled—as I imagine He does during many points in my life—and set out to not only completely obliterate my plan but to outdo it in the most grand and explosive fashion.

Crumbling Plans

With the all-important last summer of my college career approaching, I began frantically looking for the perfect summer internship. One that would boost my resumé and portfolio, help me make connections, and ultimately challenge me to grow.

However, this didn't factor in my real issues: I was exhausted, burned out, dejected, and discouraged with my major and the career path I had spent the last three years building. The passion I'd once had for journalism had withered. I had become what I feared the most: mediocre, stumbling along aimlessly with no real purpose.

I was too much of a coward to admit to everyone that my control and my plan were failing me. Most of all, I couldn't admit the desires of my heart to God. I desperately wanted a respite, to be able to take a deep breath somewhere away from Tennessee, so that I could gain fresh perspective.

But I kept trekking forward, applying for solid, resumé-boosting internships in Chattanooga, Nashville, and Atlanta. When I received no replies, I only mildly panicked and continued to follow my plan.

Then, one morning in March I walked into class and was surprised to see we had a guest speaker. A bit ashamed because I was five minutes late and the class was very small, I stumbled in.

The speaker was from Loma Linda University and had come to Southern to interview applicants for a videography/creative media internship. At first I didn't pay very close attention; I hadn't heard about

the internship, I'd missed the application time, I was underqualified, and most of all, it wasn't in my plan. But the more I heard about the opportunity, the more I couldn't shake the overwhelming feeling that I should try to interview. By the end of class, I'd gathered my nerve. I interviewed later that day, and God, with a chuckle, swung that door wide open.

California Summer

The internship passed in a blink. I spent most days hauling video equipment around Loma Linda University's campus and beyond, learning to shoot creative promotional videos. Other days I was glued to a computer screen for hours, meticulously editing the footage we'd shot. From the mundane tasks, such as email correspondence, to the truly monumental task of delivering a finished video to a client, I enjoyed every second.

This summer was the most fulfilling and growth-filled summer of my life so far. I achieved everything that had been on my strategic, future-focused list, but God had so much more in mind for me. I rediscovered a passion inside of myself to tell people's stories. I gained valuable videography skills while discovering how much joy it brings me. I developed wonderful friendships with my coworkers and was able to work in the shadow of people with a wealth of wisdom. Finally, career paths that I had previously never considered were now clearly visible and calling to me. God gave me a summer beneath the California sun to heal and restore my discouraged soul.

Reflecting back, I'm not surprised. My entire Southern experience has been one challenge met with an even bigger blessing, again and again. God has worked through my classes, my peers, and my professors to help me develop and grow beyond the limits of myself. The past three and a half years, God has been chuckling and whispering to me to let go and let Him take control.

Do I still micromanage too much? Do I still struggle with obsessing over my plans? Absolutely. But I'm growing and learning every day. I don't have a set plan right now, but I have confidence that God will work for my good despite my interference, both during my time left at Southern and beyond graduation. He will chuckle, and my life will flourish. ■

Bitten by the Mission Bug

by Joe Mixon, senior history major

Early in life I caught the mission bug. Maybe it was in my genes, since my great-great-grandparents, Robert and Lottie Stewart, were the first Adventist missionaries to the Philippine island of Cebu. Maybe it's tied to the long line of relatives who attended Southern, starting with two of my great-grandfathers in the 1930s. Whatever the case, at the age of 9 or 10, I heard a missionary couple sharing stories at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists, and I said, "I want to do what they do someday."

Over the years, I had the opportunity to go on several short-term mission trips to Fiji and Panama. By my senior year at Collegedale Academy, I had decided that I would serve as a student missionary once I got to college.

I didn't waste any time; my first semester at Southern, I applied to be a student missionary. After extensive prayer, I felt called to the island nation of Palau to teach high school history and English as a second language. The following school year, I packed my bags and headed off.

Ice in the Tropics

One of my responsibilities at Palau Mission Academy was Student Association (SA) sponsor. On Palauan Independence Day, most of the country gathers in the main town of Koror to celebrate. They barbecue and set up booths to buy and sell food and things from their respective states. We set up an SA booth to recruit students to the academy—the only Adventist high school in the country.

We had planned to sell ice-cold bottled water to attract people to our booth in the sweltering heat. The problem was, we had forgotten to purchase ice. We needed five bags for the day, so the academy principal and I headed out with a student named Kobe to the nearest store, but they were sold out.



Joe Mixon discovered his passion and calling as a student missionary in Palau.

We went from store to store all the way down the island on our quest for ice but had no success. The principal and I were discouraged. That's when Kobe suggested that we pray—something neither the principal nor I had thought to do. I felt ashamed; I was supposed to be the "missionary," yet it was my student, who wasn't even Adventist, who made the suggestion. We invited Kobe to pray, and he said the simplest prayer I've ever heard: "Dear Lord, help us find ice. Amen."

As we reached the far end of the island, Kobe pointed out a hole-in-the-wall shop and said we should ask there for ice. It was the last gas station on the island and wasn't even for cars; it was for boats. We sent Kobe inside to check.

As soon as he spoke to the cashier, he turned to us, and through the window we could see the biggest smile on his face and two thumbs up. They had exactly five bags of ice—a direct answer to Kobe's prayer.

Where He Leads

Spending that year in Palau as a student missionary absolutely changed my life! I realized that while our goal as missionaries is to serve, in many ways we receive much more in return. I also discovered that I have a passion for youth and feel called to be a high school teacher.

Once I arrived back in the United States, I couldn't stay put. Six months later, over Christmas break, I bought my own ticket back to visit "my kids" and the others I had grown to love in Palau. A year after that, I planned and led out in Southern's first short-term uQuest mission trip to the islands.

Now in my senior year, I am serving as Student Missions Club president, making sure former student missionaries on campus feel loved as well as helping them find ways to continue serving.

Next year I graduate, and I feel called back to the islands to teach; this mission bug is part of who I am! Whether it be Palau or one of the many other islands of Micronesia, I will trust God's leading. ■

"Dear Lord, help us find ice. Amen."

Wowed by Totality

The first day of fall semester at Southern proved to be memorable this year. August 21 brought the Great American Eclipse to the university's backyard. While many students enjoyed 99.7 percent totality on campus, the Alumni Association and the Physics and Engineering Department provided the option of a better view. More than 300 students, alumni, and employees traveled to the center of totality in Athens, Tennessee, where physics professors set up telescopes and cameras for participants to use.



Who Is My Neighbor?

As war unravels societies in Africa, the Middle East, and beyond, refugees attempt to make a new life for themselves and their families. Southern alumni and students have stepped up to help, both internationally and closer to home.

by Bridgette (Church) Mabuto, '10



atching the news, it's hard to miss the growing global crisis. Around the world, families trapped in war-ravaged areas are fleeing their homes, seeking refuge in other countries. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, the world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement ever recorded.

More than 65.6 million people across the globe have been forced from their homes, and 22.5 million of these people are classified as refugees. Children are the most affected; more than half of all refugees are under the age of 18. In the midst of this crisis, Southern alumni and students have rushed to provide support.

Becoming Friends

Newly graduated, with an associate nursing degree in hand, Breck Lang, '11, '14, '17, knew that he wanted to spend a year overseas as a missionary. Lang's goal was to serve in Africa or Brazil, but plans kept falling through. While feeling discouraged, Lang heard about an opportunity to work in a Karen village in Thailand.

In the 1960s, the Karen people of Myanmar were forced from their homes, fleeing to Thailand for safety. When the unrest in their home country didn't settle down, many fled into the mountains and created a society of their own.

Lang flew to Thailand and dedicated himself to spending nine months in these rural villages. Virtually overnight, everything he thought he knew about refugees changed. They were no longer faceless, nameless people in the news. They were his friends.

"After living with the Karen people, the only thing I felt I really understood was that these people, *my friends*, ran in fear of their lives," Lang said. "The cliché became my reality; they taught me about what it means to truly live life. They gave to me more than I could possibly give back."

With renewed motivation, Lang returned to Southern to earn his bachelor's degree in nursing, then his master's in global community development. Since his time in Thailand, Lang has worked with refugees in Tanzania; coordinated the resettlement of refugees in Atlanta, Georgia; and supported project development in Mozambique. The need to serve those who have had to flee their homes has stayed at the center of his actions. Next, Lang will serve with the Norwegian Refugee Council in a position that will move him to the epicenter of the refugee crisis: Erbil, Iraq.

A Deeper Understanding

About 90 miles east of where Lang will work in Erbil, two other Southern alumni have recently answered the call to serve. For a long time, Tyson, '05, and Caitlin (Cress) Musgrave, '05, who lived in Florida, had wanted to work overseas. However, the pieces didn't fall into place for them until they connected with Sarah (Matthews) McDugal, '03.

McDugal had experienced helping refugees in Greece on a mission trip last year. This June she suggested that the Musgraves join her for a short mission trip to Iraq. When she



In Thailand, Breck Lang made friends with refugees in rural villages.



Tyson and Caitlin Musgrave (center and right) worked with local doctors to meet the medical needs of refugees in Iraq.

learned that Tyson was a nurse, the invitation quickly changed to a suggestion of a long-term position. Within a few days, the Musgraves had not only committed to moving to Iraq and working at the Hasansham U2 Refugee Camp, but they had agreed to leave in August, giving them just a month to make arrangements and move.

Now Tyson is serving as the director of nursing for an Adventist Development and Relief Agency field hospital in the refugee camp. He has a wide range of responsibilities, including triage, scheduling, and working closely with short-term medical directors. Caitlin helps by providing basic medical care.

Saying that the work hasn't been easy would be an understatement; setting up a field hospital is difficult in any place at war. The team constantly struggles to maintain a consistent supply of medical equipment and volunteers. In addition, the Musgraves have faced many cultural differences, from gender expectations to communication styles. Yet even in the short time they have interacted with the refugees in the camp, Tyson and Caitlin have developed a greater understanding of the deep suffering experienced by those who have had to flee their homes.

Despite the challenges, the Musgraves have an unwavering dedication to serve the sick and needy with love and compassion. They have kept the first part of James 1:27 close to their hearts during this transition to Iraq: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress."

New Neighbors

While refugees overseas have great and immediate needs, there is also a need here in the United States. Not far from Southern, more than 1,000 refugees currently live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

When Wahab and Jinan Alabid and their three children fled their home in southern Iraq, gaining refugee status was their only option. Their lives were in danger after working with Americans and Europeans. Moving from house to house in Iraq to avoid being caught, the Alabids began the drawn-out process of earning refugee status. Roughly five years ago, they found themselves in Chattanooga, where they faced a new problem.

"Everything was different," Jinan said. "A different

language, a different culture, a different kind of environment. It is like coming into a dark room without knowing anything about it."

Two months after arriving in the area, the Alabid family met the local branch of the Adventist Muslim Friendship Association (AMFA). This Adventist organization strives to create relationships with refugees in order to help them integrate into American society in a godly way.

Darleen (Elkins) Handal, '76, and Melissa Giebel, '11, '13, have both been instrumental in AMFA's work in Chattanooga. Handal served overseas as a missionary, and upon returning to Chattanooga, she felt called to reach out to the Muslim community, becoming deeply involved in AMFA.

Giebel, on the other hand, grew up as a missionary kid and planned to return to the international mission field after earning a nursing degree at Southern. However, during her senior year it became apparent that God had something else in mind. As plan after plan for her to go overseas fell through, Giebel heard of a nearby Muslim refugee woman who needed a tutor.

What started as a three-month tutoring commitment turned into a role as assistant to the AMFA coordinator in Chattanooga. While it isn't what Giebel pictured herself doing, she knows it's exactly where God wants her, helping hundreds of refugees develop strong relationships in their new home.

Giebel has a special empathy for the trauma refugees have faced. Growing up in Nigeria, Giebel experienced conflict firsthand.

"We grew up in a war zone," Giebel said. "It was nothing compared to what a lot of these refugees have gone through, but we had bullets raining down on our house. We'd be playing outside, and people would start shooting, so we'd run inside and hide in the closets. Once the shooting was over, we'd go back outside and play again."

Now Giebel works hard to bridge the gaps between refugees like the Alabids and their new neighbors. The AMFA

Wahab (left) and Jinan Alabid offer hospitality and delicious food to their new friends in Chattanooga.



team introduced Wahab and Jinan to both the refugee and the American communities, providing them with friends and a support system. They also helped the Alabids enroll their children in school, open a bank account, and even find a home.

After discovering such a supportive community in Chattanooga, Wahab and Jinan wanted to contribute back to their new friends and family. The couple recently opened a catering business called Jinan's Kitchen, which has introduced Chattanooga to Iraqi food and allows the Alabids to share a taste of their culture with their new neighbors.

A New Generation of Volunteers

Southern students have also gotten involved in this meaningful work of building connections in the refugee community. With Southern's long history of encouraging students to serve others, its annual Ministry Expo connects students to a wide range of opportunities in the greater Chattanooga area. Through this event, Kyle Griffith, junior biology major, discovered how he could make a difference in the lives of refugees. He immediately signed up as a volunteer English tutor.

Understanding and speaking English is a big hurdle for refugees in America. Without a basic grasp of the language, they struggle to shop, work, or pass a driving test. Griffith began by helping young refugees with their homework. By keeping these sessions casual and conversational, the students were able to pick up the new language, and in the process they developed a deep friendship with Griffith.

Griffith was so impacted by his tutoring experience that he took the summer to travel and explore Jordan and Israel to better understand the culture. Once he finishes his degree in biology—and before he enters medical school—he hopes to work as a medical missionary in refugee camps in Iraq.

Spread the Light

The refugee crisis will not resolve overnight; lives will continue to be thrown into chaos as "wars and rumors of wars" increase. Yet Griffith and countless other Southern students and alumni will work tirelessly to befriend and make a tangible difference in the lives of refugees around the globe. Through these connections, not only do the displaced find help from caring, godly people, but also the volunteers are transformed, finding deeper meaning in their work and gaining a broader understanding of the struggles experienced by millions around the world. ■

Editor's note: At the time of publication, Tyson and Caitlin Musgrave were back in the United States after being forced to evacuate due to instability in the region of Iraq where they served. They are looking to God for guidance in their future plans.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

While it can be exciting and rewarding to reach out and create friendships with the Muslim refugee community, the cultural differences can present some unique obstacles. Experts suggest working through a local organization that offers orientations, resources, and support to help volunteers interact with refugees in a respectful, safe, and godly way.

Because cultures vary in so many ways, here are a few simple suggestions to help Christians to be culturally sensitive and to improve interactions with Muslims.

DO

- Males should wait to see if a female extends her hand in greeting before reaching out.
- Remove your shoes when entering a home.
- Wear modest clothing.
- Keep dogs out of sight, as they are considered unclean.
- Pray using "God" and "In Jesus' name."
- Ask questions for clarification.
- Keep a spiritual focus on God.
- Avoid political debates.

DON'T

- Shake hands or make physical contact with people of the opposite gender.
- Show the soles of your shoes.
- Use imitation pork, since Muslims consider it as unclean as pork.
- Praise something in their homes, because a Muslim will feel obligated to give it to you.
- Attack the Qu'ran, Islam, or the Prophet Mohammad.

For more information, visit amfa4refugees.com.



Kyle Griffith (right) tutors young refugees in both English and math.

THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

Textbooks can convey only so much information. For a well-rounded education, every year Southern provides opportunities for hundreds of students to expand their horizons—and their knowledge—on a global level, offering field classes, focused tours, mission trips, and more. by Janell Hullquist, '05



WASHINGTON, D.C.

This fall, the **School of Social Work** took 10 seniors to Washington, D.C., for a real-life look at how to engage in policy change. Among other activities, students and faculty met with current members of Congress such as Tennessee Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander.

BELIZE

Best known for their acrobatic and gymnastic routines, the **Gym-Masters** took on a different challenge during spring break: laying the foundation for the new wing of an Adventist elementary school in Belize. The group of 32, which included 28 students, also put on two shows, much to the delight of local students. However, the group's main goal was to make a tangible difference for the 300-plus young people at the school.

HAITI

Over spring break, Southern's short-term mission program, **uQuest**, sent teams around the world, including one to Bohoc, Haiti. With the **School of Nursing's** involvement, the team of 21 undergraduate students, two health care providers, and two sponsors held a clinic and cared for more than 400 people. They also offered VBS for the children every day. Ronda Christman, PhD, associate professor of nursing, called the experience "life-changing."

ENGLAND

One way to gain a broader view is by spending a semester at an international college. Through a special arrangement, Southern students have the opportunity to attend classes at Newbold College in England for a few months at no additional cost—not even airfare. Many other students take advantage of Southern's partnership with **Adventist Colleges Abroad** to study overseas for a year.

GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND

Learning doesn't stop at graduation. This summer, the **Alumni Association** hosted a fun learning opportunity in Europe. Traveling through Germany and Switzerland, 26 alumni and friends of Southern visited significant Protestant Reformation sites, led by Faculty Emeritus Bill Wohlers, PhD.

ITALY

Singing at Saint Peter's Basilica was one of the highlights for students on the **School of Music's** concert tour through Italy. The group, comprising Southern's *I Cantori* chamber choir and *Quattro Coloré* string quartet, also visited charming medieval cities like Assisi and Pisa and spent time in Florence at a sister Adventist school, Villa Aurora.

ZIMBABWE

Every year, the **School of Religion's Evangelistic Resource Center** (ERC) sends teams of volunteer evangelists abroad. This summer, 78 students spent one to four weeks in Zimbabwe, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, or Cuba. Nick Wanovich, junior theology major, preached in Zimbabwe and said: "I am so humbled to be here.

God is truly among His people!" Over the last 17 years, the ERC has sent 1,222 student preachers to 79 destinations, resulting in 33,218 baptisms.

CHINA

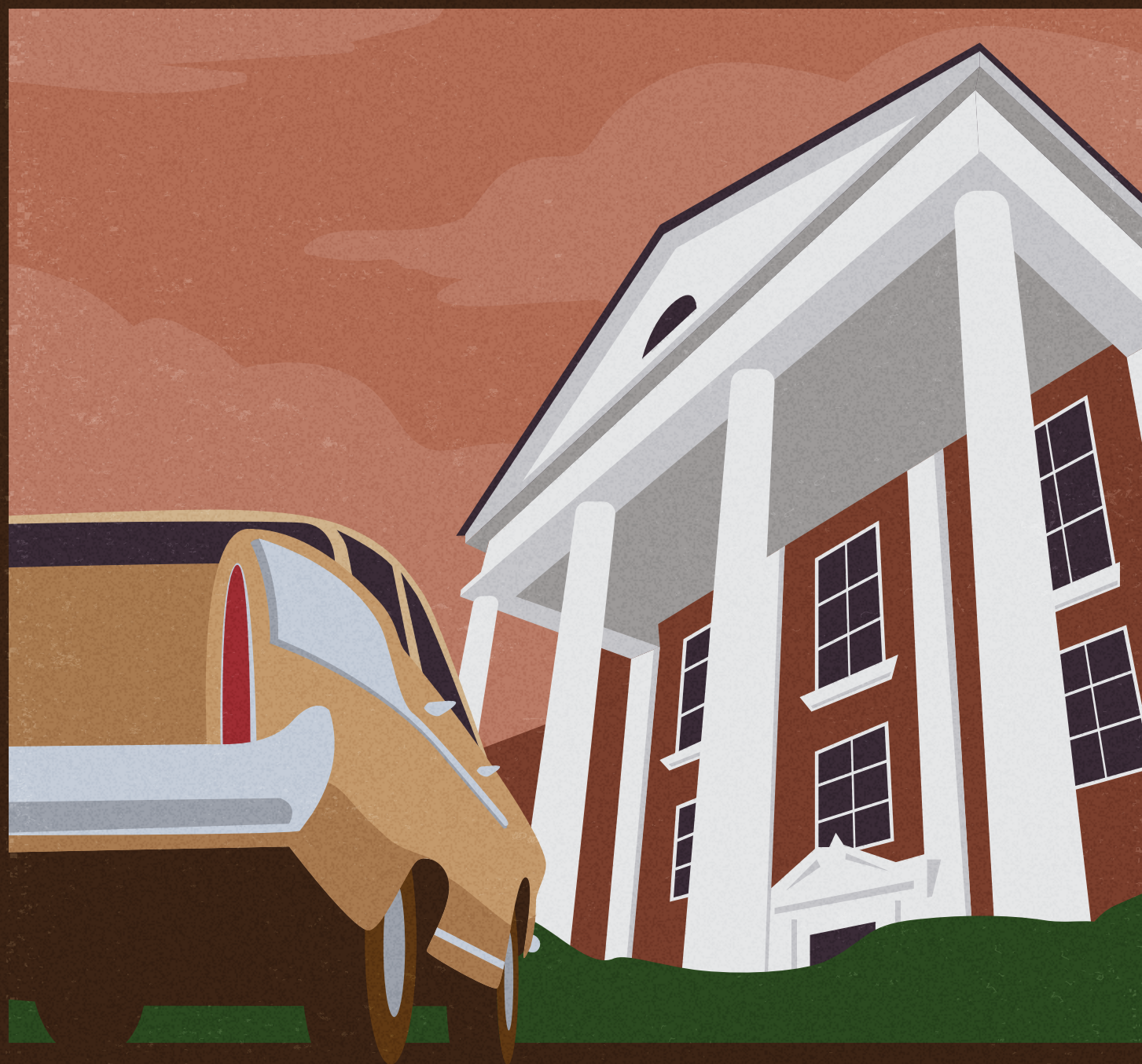
The China Business and History Tour is an annual educational adventure sponsored by the **School of Business**. This summer, 23 participants toured China, visiting well-known business interests including Bao Steel in Shanghai, the largest steel manufacturing facility in the world. They explored cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, and had the opportunity to visit Hong Kong Adventist College and China Union Mission.

INDONESIA

On alternating summers, the **Biology Department** takes a group of students to Indonesia for a three-week intensive field course in tropical biology. Participants get hands-on experience with flora and fauna in the ocean and jungle while exploring a different culture.

MICRONESIA

A long-standing tradition at Southern, the **Student Missions** program currently has 60 student missionaries serving in 22 countries. The largest group of students (15) is in Micronesia, on the islands of Chuuk, Kosrae, Majuro, Palau, Pohnpei, and Yap.



PAVING THE WAY

BY DEBBIE BATTIN SASSER, '02

Picturesque streets connect people to places across Southern's campus: Taylor Circle, Hickman Drive, and now Colcord Drive, to name a few. Although they are made of simple asphalt, the people whose names they bear were far from average men and women. As Southern celebrates 125 years of excellence in Adventist education, the contributions of these dedicated, determined individuals take on special significance.

TAYLOR CIRCLE



Visitors, employees, and students alike frequently find themselves in the heart of campus, where the iconic columns of Wright Hall draw them in. While attention is naturally focused on the stately brick building, it is Taylor Circle that truly defines the center of campus.

The circular drive gained its name in 1986 in honor of Bill and Elsie Mae Taylor, a couple who dedicated 30 years of outstanding and selfless service to Southern starting in the 1950s.

Bill Taylor not only served as a recruiter but was an important part of the administrative team, dean of student affairs, college relations director, and director of development. He launched the Committee of 100 in 1963 and a \$10 million endowment campaign in 1984.

"Bill was often called 'Mr. Southern' because he always had such enthusiasm and excitement as he visited various towns to meet students and parents," says Helen

Durichek, who worked at Southern for many years managing building renovations and maintenance needs for the campus.

Durichek remembers the charismatic energy Bill Taylor brought to everything he did at Southern, describing how every year he organized students into teams to circulate through the community to collect donations for Missions Promotion Day.

"This was such an important activity that there were no classes that day," she says. "Students went out in cars and campaigned in towns to collect money to give to humanitarian relief efforts. As the cars came back to campus, they all gathered, and Bill would write down all of the money collected on a large, black chalkboard. It was a big event back in those days!"

Elsie Mae Taylor was also a key representative of the college. Serving as the switchboard operator and receptionist, she was the first person everyone saw when they entered Wright Hall.

"She took her position very seriously," Durichek says. "If you had something you wanted to know about Southern, she was the person to ask. She either already had the information you needed or she could tell you exactly where to find it."

The couple's legacy of enthusiasm and excellence contributed to the

steady rate of success and tremendous growth experienced by Southern during that era. Today, as new students arrive on campus and park on Taylor Circle, that legacy lives on.

K.R. DAVIS PROMENADE



Immediately following Bill Taylor as dean of student affairs, Kenneth Davis, better known as K.R., also left an indelible mark both on the campus and on the lives of hundreds of students.

"I got to know K.R. while working in the Service Department," says Brett Meliti, '07. "He was someone who not only served Southern but also would lend a caring ear to the students around him. He had a great sense of humor and would join in the fun at the office, too."

In his many years at Southern, Davis' other positions included dean of men and director of counseling and testing—a title he held for more than 20 years. He also taught many religion classes, assigned student employment, and recruited students each summer. But of all the roles he held at Southern, serving as Student Association sponsor—which he also did for 20 years—was his favorite, saying it was the “most enjoyable part of my work.”

“He did so much for students and student activities,” Durichek recalls. “Anything the Student Association needed, he built it—stage props for talent shows, apparatuses for games, decorations for social activities; anything they asked for, he did it.”

Davis was the handyman called upon to fix anything or build anything needed around campus, too. He not only fulfilled his work requirements, he always went the extra mile.

“I noticed that *Southern Accent* newspapers were flying everywhere in the wind outside of the buildings, so I asked K.R. if he would make some newspaper stands to put around cam-

pus,” Durichek says. “He built them and solved the problem completely. If no other staff member had the time to take on a special project that was needed, K.R. was right there, willing to do it, and always did excellent work. He just loved Southern so much!”

This dedication to the school and students is honored and remembered with the K.R. Davis Promenade. Once a road spanning campus, the promenade serves as the sidewalk that connects most of the academic buildings. As students pass each other on their way to class, they exchange greetings and meet new friends. It makes sense that this walkway—an important path students use to get to their academic commitments and to socialize—bears Davis' name, as he was an incredible supporter of students and their overall experience at Southern.

“He was a good friend and mentor,” says Dennis Schreiner, director of the Service Department at Southern. “Almost every day, he would come into my office with a drawing of a project he was working on for the students, and he would ask my opinion on how I would build it. The last thing he would say to me each day when he left was a reminder of why I was at Southern. ‘Remember,’ he would say, ‘you’re here for the

students. Don’t let anything sidetrack you from that mission.’ I still think of that statement every day.”

HICKMAN DRIVE



Marvin Hickman (a member of the family for whom the Hickman Science Center is named) was another beloved figure on campus. Though mentally and physically challenged, Hickman did not let that stop him from being one of the most helpful, dependable, and likeable people on the Southern campus. He could be seen riding his bicycle or scooter to campus every day for most of his life.

“Marvin would pick up the mail from the train station on a post that was high in the air, next to train track,” says his niece Candace Hickman Waters, ’77. “Way back then, the canvas sack of mail would be left as the train was moving. Then Marvin would bring the mail to the Post Office daily.”

His errands frequently took him to the Campus Kitchen and the nearby beauty salon.

“The staff at both of these places

held special birthday parties for him every year because they loved him so much,” says his niece Brenda Hickman Johnson (attended). “He was very friendly and happy and brightened the lives of everyone he met.”

Each day, he fulfilled his tasks faithfully and responsibly and was well known even beyond campus, often delivering telegrams in Collegedale. When the connector road in front of Brock Hall was constructed, the administration named it Hickman Drive in his honor. After that, Hickman would often go down and sweep that street.

“He was a true star at the college and in the Hickman family,” Waters says. In his later years, he often dressed as Santa Claus to bring cheer and smiles to all he met.

“At his funeral in the Collegedale Church in 1989, there was standing room only,” Johnson says.

COLCORD DRIVE



As the newest street name on campus, “Colcord Drive” follows the tradition of commemorating individuals who left their mark on Southern. In fact, George W. Colcord had the ultimate impact: in 1892, he founded what is today Southern Adventist University.

When Elder and Mrs. Colcord arrived in Tennessee, their goal was to offer quality Adventist education in the Southeast. They used their own money to rent and set up the first classroom for 23 students in the second floor of J.W. Clouse’s General Store in Graysville, Tennessee.

Tuition at the time was \$4 per month, which seems like so little today but was a large sum at the time. Part of Colcord’s plan included setting up industries where students could work to pay for their tuition, room and board, and other expenses. He did not want anything to prevent students from getting a good education.

At times this caused challenges, due to Tennessee’s Sunday laws. Colcord himself was once jailed for doing carpentry work in his house on Sunday. With the help of a former congressman and a judge, Colcord and other Adventists were all acquitted and the charges against them were deemed unconstitutional. After the unsettling incident, *The Chattanooga Times* published a series of stories about the peaceful, noble, and industrious education being offered at the school, and there were no further conflicts over the Sunday laws.

Colcord was once called “a grand old drillmaster” by student A.W. Spalding, because he taught rudimentary concepts with such rigorous and exacting standards. However, within one year of opening the school, enrollment had nearly tripled under the Colcords’ leadership. Although the early school faced many setbacks and seemed to go from crisis to crisis,

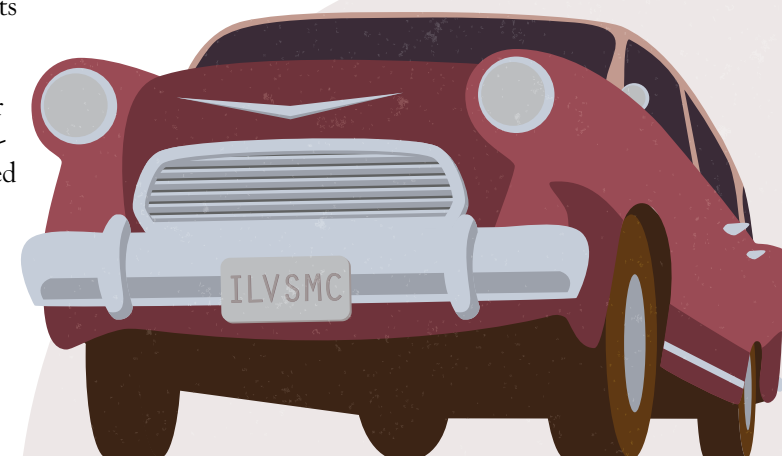
Colcord’s commitment to teaching the Adventist message of present truth never wavered, and his ingenious solutions to problems and strong work ethic kept the school open and thriving.

In 1916, the school moved to its current location, and today, Southern continues to thrive as leaders with characteristics much like the Colcords move the university forward with confidence and optimism wherever God leads.

During Homecoming Weekend this year, alumni, faculty, students, and community guests gathered for a special ceremony to honor the Colcords by renaming Industrial Drive as Colcord Drive. As the backbone of Southern, this road runs the full length of the west side of campus, so who better to name it after than the original backbones of the institution?

PAVING THE WAY

Throughout the years, committed individuals have paved the way for success at Southern, serving God and upholding the standards of excellence in Adventist education. While only a few can be commemorated through street names, countless people have had a positive impact on the school and, more importantly, on the lives of students. ■

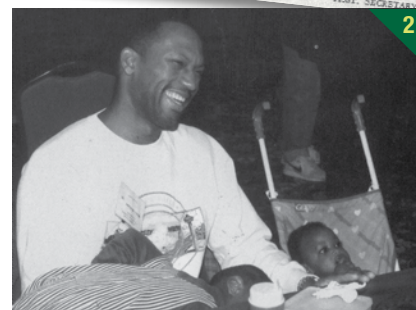
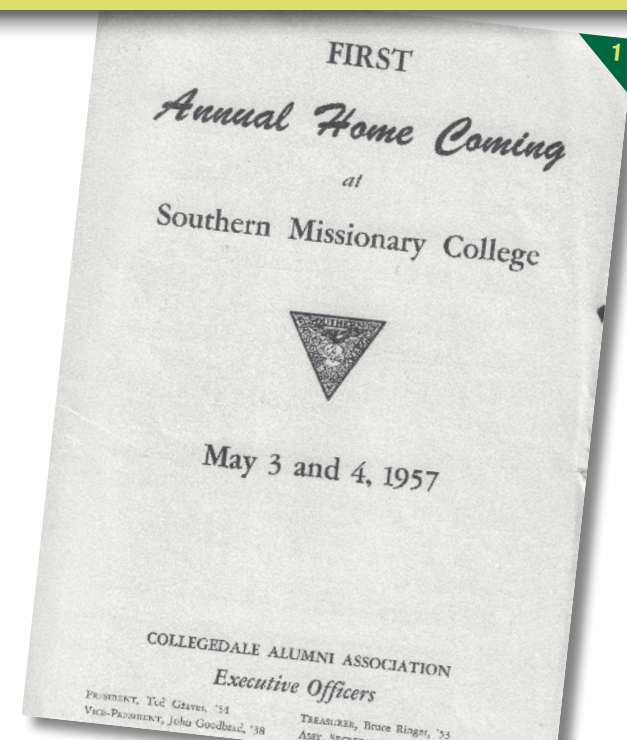


K.R. Davis frequently visited the Service Department and was popular with both staff and students. Brett Melitti, '07, was a graphic design student and worked in that department. As a personal project, he created this poster in Illustrator; the original now hangs in the Service Department office.

60 YEARS OF HOMECOMING



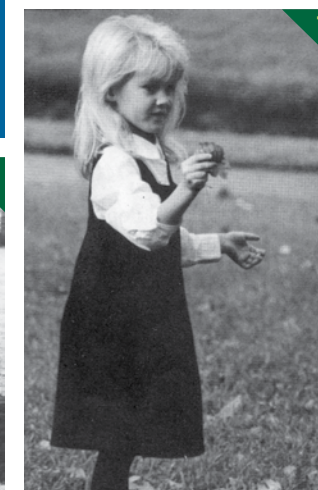
This is a year of notable anniversaries for Southern. Not only does it mark the 125th anniversary of the school, but it also represents the 60th Homecoming Weekend. Through the years, thousands of Southern alumni have returned to reconnect with each other and with their alma mater during these reunions. Traditions have formed and many alumni have been joined by their descendants, continuing the generational legacy of a Southern education.



Friends for Life

In the 1930s, two young women began a friendship that would last a lifetime. Laura (Ashby) Holmes, '36, and Elaine (Foley) Turner, '36, roomed together at Southern Junior College from 1933-1936. More than five decades later, the ladies reminisced during the 1988 Homecoming Weekend.

Holmes, who is on the left in both photos, began a family tradition, with multiple generations of her descendants graduating from Southern, including her daughter, Libby Steele, '63 and '66, and her grandson, Dennis Steele, '95, PhD, a current professor in the School of Business.



THROUGH THE YEARS

1. The first official Homecoming Weekend program included Friday vespers, Sabbath school, and church, with T.W. Walters presenting the sermon.

2. Robert Williams, attended, returned to Southern for the 1995 Homecoming with his wife, Denise (not pictured), '83, '85, '17, and young family. His son Dalin, '15, '16, went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science at Southern.

3. John Keplinger, '43, and his wife, Thyra (Bowen Sloan), '42, retraced the steps of their Southern experience at the 1997 Homecoming.

4. The Doll House has served many purposes on campus, including registration during the 1986 reunion.

5. As chair of Southern's English Department, David Smith, PhD, now Southern's president, presented during Homecoming 1997.

6. The class of 1967, pictured here in 1992, is this year's 50-year honor class.

7. Natalie Dickerhoff, who attended the 1997 Homecoming with her family, went on to earn a degree in chemistry from Southern in 2014.

8. Bob Rodgers, '86, introduced his young son, Austin, to Southern 20 years ago.

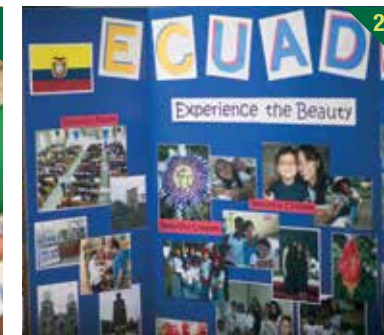
9. Class reunions are a highlight of every Homecoming Weekend. Here the class of 1983 reconnects.

10. The Wedgewood Trio (Bob Summerour, '67, Don Vollmer, '67, and Jerry Hoyle, '66) have performed during multiple Homecomings, including the one pictured here in 1996.

Celebrating Missions

Since its foundation in 1892, Southern has fostered an emphasis on missions. Hundreds of Southern students and alumni have served as student missionaries, as well as career missionaries, through the years. Homecoming Weekend has been a time for these missionaries to share inspiring stories and celebrate the unique cultures of their host countries, as in this photo from 1967.

In that spirit, this year's Homecoming included an international supper where alumni were served delicious food representing multiple countries and were encouraged to wear the traditional attire of the country where they served.



HOMECOMING 2017

11. President David Smith (left) and Phillip Warfield, junior history major and Student Association president, greeted alumni arriving for Homecoming Weekend.

12. Gennevie Brown-Kibble, professor of music, directed Southern's choral ensembles during a sacred concert celebrating the Protestant Reformation. The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Laurie Redmer Minner, associate professor of music, also performed.

13. Bob Boggess, a Southern employee, and his daughter, Rachel Boggess, '15, took home the People's Choice Award for their restored 1959 Chevy Impala during the 14th Annual Antique/Classic Car Show.

14. At 101 years old, Harry Bennett, '36, (right) was the oldest alum to attend this year's Homecoming. He was accompanied by his daughter, Marilyn (Bennett) Justesen.

15. Missions Vespers was a highlight for many; missionaries such as Frank Ricks, '76, (left) and Natalie Wood shared about opportunities to get involved.

16. Car enthusiasts enjoy the yearly display of classic cars, including Hahna McGrath, attended.

17. Sporting a pith helmet during this year's International Supper, Jim Herman Jr., '67, established the Student Missions program at Southern while serving as chaplain from 1976 to 1991. This year he received the Distinguished Service Award from Southern.

18. During the Missions Vespers, Marc-Anthony Pierre, senior theology major and assistant chaplain, joined other former student missionaries in worship through music.

19. Tamekia Bush, '15, who earned her master's degree in professional school counseling from Southern, received the Graduate Studies Alumna of the Year Award.

20. On Sunday, Krista Maekawa, senior nursing major, and Joe Cruz, junior film production major, joined 455 other Southern students, alumni, employees, and friends of the university to pack 101,088 meals, helping to fight global hunger through Feed My Starving Children.

21. Former student missionaries prepared elaborate posters to share their experiences during Friday evening's Missions Expo.

22. As part of the E.O. Grundset Lecture Series, James Gulley, '87, MD, an internationally recognized cancer immunotherapy physician scientist, shared about the immune system's role in preventing and fighting cancer.

All photos on this spread by Barry Daly except as noted.

Community Connections

by Oksana Wetmore, public relations major

When she's not teaching social welfare and policy classes, Kristie Wilder, '03, JD, dean of the School of Social Work at Southern, is making the world a better place one community at a time. As a member of the leadership committee for the Chattanooga Mayor's Council for Women, co-founder of a nonpartisan political action committee, and a participant in changing Tennessee laws regarding educational policies, Wilder is dedicated to living out her civic duty in the local community.

Her ultimate goal, however, is to show her students the tangible ways in which they can make a difference for others. One way she accomplishes this is by getting her students involved in organizations like Causeway, a nonprofit that helps people bring about social change by developing and testing their ideas.

Carolita Claus, '17, a master of social work student, has been an advisee of Wilder's since her freshman year.

"I started off being very awe-inspired by this cool social worker who was my adviser," Claus said. "Over the years she has really pushed me out of my comfort zone."

Wilder asked Claus to embrace leadership roles that she would normally have been scared to take on. Those tiny pushes led to something bigger: Wilder convinced Claus and two other classmates to apply for a grant in the community through Causeway. This resulted in a \$3,000 award for each of the students and a jumpstart on their project, which involves voter empowerment in the field of social work.

"The biggest lesson that I have learned from Dean Wilder is that to be a changemaker as a social worker, you must be connected in your community," Claus said. "Because of that lesson, I feel like I am going to leave Southern as a well-rounded social worker."

Wilder's 15 years of experience in social work, both in nonprofit organizations and government agencies, have equipped her with the skills she



Kristie Wilder meets with students in her office in the School of Social Work.

needs to teach and inspire others. She began using these skills as a professor at Southern seven years ago and then became dean in 2013.

"I don't want my students to ever be disconnected from their community," she said. "I want them to see the ethical responsibility that they have, especially as Christian social workers."

Mackenzie Nomura, '16, '17, who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees through the School of Social Work, feels privileged to have had Wilder as a mentor. After completing five years in the department, Nomura can now look back and see how influential Wilder has been in her life.

"Dean Wilder taught me the value of policy work and how we, as social workers, can impact the world of policy through advocacy," Nomura said. "She provides more than just an education; she also gives relationship. She has continually encouraged me during my master's classes, in finding a job post-graduation, and in other personal aspects of life."

Bringing Balance

Students are not the only ones who have benefited from Wilder's impact; the faculty she works with also feel it.

"She is very competent, professional, and committed to social work, integrating it in the context of the Christian faith," said Cornel Rusu, associate professor of social work. "She is caring and empathetic with the population that she engages with in social work, and it definitely reflects in her interaction with the students in the classroom."

Rusu explains that Wilder began her leadership at Southern during a time when the department was struggling to find balance. However, with her expertise and capabilities, Wilder was able to help rally the faculty together and lead the department through a major accreditation.

Wilder also strives for balance in her own life.

"My sons, Ace (4) and Jude (2), are my self-care," she says. "They make me stop work, and they bring so much joy to my life."

As a family, she and her husband, Tron Wilder, '01, PhD, associate professor in Southern's School of Education and Psychology, love to travel and work on house projects. He appreciates his wife's drive for excellence and loves to see her shine.

"I'm glad she has a voice as a leader both on this campus and in the community," Tron says. "Her passion makes her projects thrive." ■

Photo: Barry Daly

Paul Adeogun, '06, '09

Regional director of operations for Adventist Care Centers' post-acute and long term care facilities in Kansas and Texas

Why did you pursue a career in long term healthcare administration?

My parents were missionaries in Kenya, which taught me the importance of serving those around me. At the same time, I have always wanted to successfully manage a business. Working in long term healthcare has allowed me to do both.

The skilled nursing industry serves a portion of our population that is often overlooked and in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual care. I am able to ensure that residents receive the best care possible while also maintaining efficiency and profitability. Over the years, I've been able to develop personal relationships with many residents.

Ms. Weather had no living relatives, and no one ever visited her. My wife and I decided to invite her to our home for Thanksgiving Day. It was such a blessing to all of us!

And I will never forget Mr. Knight. He was a successful basketball player back in the '60s, part of a team that made historic strides against segregation in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2016, I was honored to accompany Mr. Knight to an event organized in honor of his basketball team and their accomplishments.

We have a lot to learn from those with more life experience than us. I am thankful to God that I work in an industry where I can meet wonderful individuals with amazing stories and get to know them while serving them.

How did you get to where you are in your career?

God has helped me through a lot of challenging moments to get to where I am today. And He is still helping me. Growing up, I was often told that I had leadership qualities and would one day be in a leadership position, but no one told me how hard managing people can be. Getting people to work together harmoniously has been my biggest challenge. But God has blessed my efforts.

After graduating from Southern with my master's degree in business, I worked for Grace Healthcare for seven years, rising through the ranks. As the administrator of a facility in Nashville, my team and I received the American Healthcare Associations (AHCA) Bronze Award in 2012, and in 2015 we were one of only two facilities in the state to receive the Silver Award. That year Grace Healthcare also honored me with "Administrator of the Year." Before too long, Adventist Care Centers contacted me and asked me to join their organization.

How did Southern affect the trajectory of your life?

I arrived on campus in 2002 as an international student, hardly knowing anyone or how the system worked. My student finance counselor picked me up from the airport, took me to his home, took me shopping, fed me, checked me into the dorm, and got me registered. It seemed like there was always someone helping me in one way or another. It was unbelievable, but that was the story of my life at Southern.

Then there was Robert Montague, PhD, a professor in the School of Business. He asked me several times if I was interested in studying long term healthcare. I turned him down every time. Finally he invited me and my girlfriend (now my wife) to his office and prayed for us, because he felt I had a calling in healthcare. Now, when I look back, I can see God's hand guiding me the entire way, using people like my finance counselor, Dr. Montague, and many others. I will forever be grateful to Southern. ■



Photo: Jim Overa

We'd love to hear from you, and so would your classmates! Send updates about additions to your family, educational accomplishments, marriage, professional recognitions, or other news you'd like to share to: alumni@southern.edu or **Alumni Relations • P.O. Box 370 • Collegedale, TN 37315-0370**

It was a pleasure to see more than 1,000 alumni back on campus for Homecoming Weekend 2017! In the Spring 2017 issue of *Columns*, I shared about an alumna who is building bridges with prospective students on the West Coast on Southern's behalf. Now I have the honor of introducing another bridge builder—Abby Jansen, senior history major and soon-to-be member of the Class of 2018. This innovative young leader has accepted the challenge of developing the first Student Alumni Council for Southern, with support from the Alumni Association.

She has researched similar programs and recruited fellow student leaders to serve as members of this council. The goal is to enrich the experiences of alumni currently attending Southern by getting them involved in activities that many remember fondly from their time on campus, by increasing school spirit, and by raising awareness of the rich legacy that has been built by others over the past 125 years. She is also developing a creative vision for helping new alumni integrate more comfortably into new locations and careers after graduation. You will hear more about the Student Alumni Council activities as the school year progresses.

Our Alumni Association would love to provide tools to support your bridge-building activities! Visit southern.edu/alumni, email alumni@southern.edu, or call Evonne Crook, director of Alumni Relations, at 423.236.2830.



Jay Dedeker, '88
Alumni Association, President

60s **Joyce (Cuilla) Hawkes**, '66, works as a renal dietitian for DaVita Dialysis in Goldsboro, North Carolina, where she lives.

at the Waldensian Trail of Faith in Valdese, North Carolina, the largest Waldensian settlement in North America. The couple lives in Morganton, North Carolina.



70s **Barry Mahorney**, '70, and his wife, **Sharryn (Hughes)**, '69, retired from pastoral ministry in 2014 but remain active by leading a church plant. After the couple had the opportunity to visit the Waldensian villages of Italy in 2016, Barry began volunteering as a tour guide



John Negley Sr., '70, and **John Negley Jr.**, attended, recently had a unique father-son experience. Both men enjoy mountain climbing, so last November the two traveled to Nepal. There, they climbed to the Mount Everest base camp. The elder Negley

is retired after 24 years in Adventist Health System where he was vice president and executive director of the Foundation for Florida Hospital West Florida Region. John Negley Jr. is the owner of a successful family law practice in Ventura, California.

Denise (Knight) Carrion, '77, has worked as a registered nurse since graduating and is currently employed by ADL Homecare. She is married with three children, three stepchildren, and eight grandchildren. Denise and her husband, a family practice physician, volunteer in various church and Pathfinder activities. They live in Bloomingdale, Michigan.

80s **Cindi (Thomas) Hayes**, '81, lives in Maitland, Florida, and works as a nurse practitioner for uninsured cardiac patients.

Harvey Brown, '85, is an information security consultant. In 2016, he wrote an article published in *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism*, and in 2017, Harvey passed the Certified Information Security Manager exam. He lives in Lexington, South Carolina.



Kelly Rose (Bishop) Bolton, '87 and '88, who currently lives in Bolton Landing, New York, entered 60 plants in the 2017 New York State Fair horticulture competition—her sixth year entering that competition. Of the 60 plants, 43 won ribbons. Her red Bromeliad won “Queen of Flowering Plants” (first place overall) and her Hoya took 14th overall in the “Court of Honor.”

90s **Rachel (Bates) Jameson**, '92, teaches at Edenville Seventh-day Adventist School in Michigan. The Southern community grieved alongside Rachel and her husband, George, after the loss of their eldest son, George, in 2017 while he was working at Camp Au Sable. They live in Hope, Michigan, and their two younger sons, Michael and Silas, attend Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

Leon Austin, '95, who lives in Alma, Michigan, works as a licensed clinical psychologist supervisor in Michigan and Indiana with Gratiot Psychological Services.



Travis Patterson, '96, and his wife, **Aimee (Wright)**, '96, live in Keene, Texas, where he is pastor for ministry empowerment at Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University. Aimee works at a Methodist preschool in Joshua, Texas. They moved to Keene in 2016 from College Station, Texas, where Travis pastored in a multi-church district and spent much of his time caring for the spiritual needs of Adventist students at Texas A&M University. The Pattersons have two children, Elijah (14) and Lillian (10).

00s **Brad Cauley**, '01, is director of church planting and health ministries for the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He recently authored a book, *Steps to a Vibrant Church*, which is available through AdventSource. Brad and his wife, Nellie, live in Indian Trail, North Carolina, with their two children, Alexandra and Bradford.

Devon Howard, '03, is assistant professor and chair for the Music Department at Southwestern Adventist University in Texas. After graduating from Southern, Devon studied organ performance and technique as a Fulbright Scholar at Codarts Conservatorium in The Netherlands. He has served as director of worship and arts at the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ohio, as well as director of worship and music at a large two-campus Lutheran church in Mesa, Arizona. In 2012, he completed a Doctor of Music Arts degree at Arizona State University. Devon performs regularly throughout the United States and is a passionate advocate for improvisation, education, and performance.



Adam Brown, '04, and his wife, **Jessie (Brodie)**, '05, recently moved to Kettering, Ohio, where he works as associate dean of Enrollment Management for Kettering College and she is employed as a nurse practitioner for Kettering Physician Network. The Browns have two sons, Callan and Henry.

Melissa Turner, '05, is a health, medical, and social issues writer living in Chattanooga. Since graduating, she has worked in magazine publishing and served as a communications director for the City of Chattanooga. She co-founded *Gandhi's Be Magazine*, where stories often take her to India, Africa, Haiti, Nepal, and other global locations to write about efforts of nonviolence and peace. She has also spoken at several human rights conferences, including engagements with Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley.



10s **Jimmy Closser**, '11 and '12, is a registered nurse and was recently interviewed by internet celebrity Zubin Damania, MD (known online as ZDOGG), for a series about violence against medical professionals. Closser was attacked in 2015 by a patient he was treating and struggled to find adequate legal support during the impending proceedings. A link to his video is available at southern.edu/columns. Closser works at the Vanderbilt Adult Emergency Department and lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



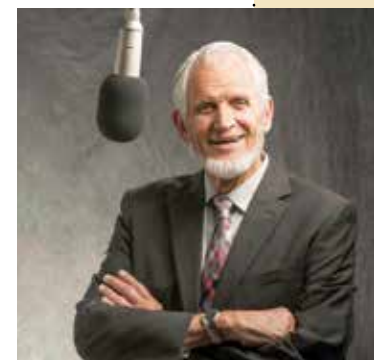
Remembrance

Elizabeth Ann Goodge, '67, passed away on August 30, 2017. Ann was born June 22, 1944, in Loma Linda, California, and received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Southern. She was well known in her local nursing community, serving as administrator at Little Creek Sanitarium Nursing Home in West Knoxville, Tennessee, for many years. She was a member of the Knoxville First Seventh-day Adventist Church and an avid Lady Vols fan. Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Roger and Genevieve, and sister, **Rogene Goodge**, '63.

Lennette (Lester) Lesko, '67, passed away on April 27, 2017, after complications from cancer. Lennette was born December 7, 1943, in Orlando, Florida. She attended Forest Lake Academy and received her bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern. Upon graduation, she worked for Southern, Voice of Prophecy, and San Gabriel Academy before taking employment with the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from 1981-2009. Lennette is survived by her husband, **Arthur**, '67; son, Todd, and his wife, Alma; daughter, Angela Lesko-Webley, and her husband, Michael; and two grandchildren, Jared and Cassandra.



Chester “Chet” Damron, '57, passed away on October 1, 2017. Born June 3, 1934, in Fellowship, Florida, Chester met and married **Mary Jean (Brown)**, '53, while earning his bachelor's degree in theology at Southern. Together they served as missionaries in the Far East for 16 years, where Chester worked as pastor, evangelist, and administrator at various institutions. Upon returning to the United States, he served as associate pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church and college chaplain at Andrews University. He eventually entered hospital chaplaincy and served in the Florida Hospital network for the rest of his career. Additionally, Chester is remembered as the voice of Uncle Dan for *Your Story Hour* programs and for his characterization of Abraham Lincoln at countless Pathfinder camporees, General Conferences, parades, and civic organization activities. In 2011, Chester married Carolyn (Miresse) Rollins. He is survived by Carolyn; former wife, Mary Jean; children, Don, Debi Bennett, and Delisa Purchase; stepchildren Gina Boller and Les Rollins; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



Making a Sweet Difference

Following a string of deadly hurricanes this fall, Southern students stepped up to help. Alexandria Martin and Jennifer Vigil, senior nursing majors, organized a community fundraiser that included a bake sale—with goodies contributed by students, employees, and community members—live music, and a blood drive. Casey Goldring, sophomore elementary education major, pictured, also designed a T-shirt to sell. The group raised more than \$3,500 to help with hurricane cleanup, and their efforts captured the attention of local media.



Photo: Terry Henson

»the word

hero

by David Smith, PhD, president

We are born with the need to look up to someone, to find a hero who lives out our hopes and dreams. This is human nature.

Samuel, a longtime prophet of the Israelites, ran up against this desire. He had dedicated his entire life to serving these people. He had been their spiritual leader, led them into battle, been their judge, and interceded for them with God many times. Now he was old.

The people rejected Samuel's leadership because they wanted a king, like all of the other nations. They wanted a superhero, someone who seemed larger than life, someone who made the impossible seem possible.

Samuel was devastated. God's response to him is instructive: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king" (1 Samuel 8:7).

Only Human

I understand the Israelites' desire for a hero to lead them. At an early age, I found myself wanting a hero. And a hero wasn't hard to find. He was in the cartoons, on TV, and in the movies.

"Faster than a speeding bullet. More powerful than a locomotive. Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound." Superman. He was all I wanted to be but never would be. He could fly; he had super strength, X-ray vision, super intelligence, super hearing. He was virtually indestructible. He could do anything. And he was a good guy, repeatedly saving the world!

But Superman was simply the product of someone's imagination. He wasn't real. This was painfully evident May 27, 1995, when Christopher Reeve, the actor who played Superman in the movies, was thrown from a horse and instantly became a quadriplegic. "Superman" required a wheelchair and a portable ventilator for the rest of his life.

It can be a hard experience to idolize someone who looks larger than life, only to discover he or she is as mortal and vulnerable as you are. That's because, apart from Jesus Christ, there are no superheroes.

The Real Deal

During Jesus' earthly ministry, those who met Him discovered that He was the real deal. He could do what no one else could do. People flocked to see Him. They showed up by the thousands. They had to see

for themselves: was He the superhero they sought?

What drew these crowds? Clearly the miracles were a factor, but there was more. Jesus was different from anyone they knew. Something stood out, seeming too good to be true, yet it wasn't: Jesus' goodness. Jesus was good in a way that no one else had ever been. People flocked to Him because they wanted to be with goodness, holiness.

Consider the disciples. The first thing Andrew did after meeting Jesus was to tell Peter, "We have found the Messiah," and bring him to Christ. Likewise, the first thing Philip did was to find Nathanael. In response to Nathanael's initial skepticism ("Can anything good come from Nazareth?"), Philip replied, "Come and see" (John 1:40-46).

Jesus' goodness was pronounced. In the minds of the disciples, His goodness could only mean that He was the promised Messiah. Nobody had ever seen such goodness. You had to "come and see" for yourself in order to believe it.

True Today

The remarkable news for us is that Jesus' amazing goodness can be ours. In the face of His goodness, we change. We become new, just as Zacchaeus did.

After years as a despised tax collector, Zacchaeus heard about Jesus, that He was different. But was He for real? With a grain of hope, Zacchaeus climbed into a tree and waited to see for himself.

When Jesus stopped, looked up, and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5), Zacchaeus was so overcome by Jesus' goodness that he blurted out "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount" (vs. 8).

Jesus' words to Zacchaeus could be to us as well: "Today salvation has come to this house ... For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (vs. 9-10). This is what happens when you come and see Jesus. His goodness changes you.

I invite you to "come and see" a Hero—the real deal. Someone whose goodness has the power not only to save you, but also to do the seemingly impossible: to change your life. Come and see! ■

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