



# Kernersville Kourier Seventh-day Adventist Church

## FEBRUARY 2010

### Was It Worth It?

On Saturday night January 16 as Angel Henson and I took down the decorations and moved our equipment from the Adventurer room for the week of hosting homeless families for the Family Promise ministry, I thought in my somewhat resentful heart, “Is this really worth all this effort?”



The next day on Sunday, January 17, the Sabbath school classrooms that double as Pathfinder and Adventurer rooms and the Youth room were transformed into a living room and sleeping quarters for our guests. Joan Raible, Peggy Winsted and crew worked all day setting up the dormitory rooms. Each sleeping room was set up with nice cots with fresh linens and warm blankets for adults and older children and cribs for the babies. Each sleeping room also had a night stand and lamp, a rack for hanging coats and clothes, a table and two chairs, sparse but adequate. The kitchen was stocked with food and the living room equipped with comfortable seating, a TV for watching videos, books and games.

At 5:30 p.m. our guests arrived to a warm dinner that Peggy Winsted and Dan McDowell had prepared. Roy and Denise Foster together with Pastor Don and Robin Davis sat with the families, chatting with and getting to know them. Our first guests for the week were three single mothers with a total of five children among them, a 14 and a 16-month-old toddler, one 5 and one 6-year-old and a 14-year-old. Together the hosts and other volunteers ate and visited with the families until 7:30. The over night hosts arrived at 7:30 p.m.

### Inside...

Pastor's Perspective	2
Calendar	3
Congregational Life	4
Church Ministries	5
Church Happenings	6
Kids Korner	7
Board Minutes	8

After dinner the families went to their room or went to their living room to read, watch videos, or play games. Roger and I were the first overnight hosts so while he secured the building, I played with the five-year-old while his mother bathed his baby brother. When the five-year-old fell asleep in the chair watching a video, we put him in his bed. I then was companion with the six-year-old who wanted to sit close on the sofa as we watched videos. Two of the mothers and the teen looked at books in the living room. One of the mothers read in The Bible Story book until time for her shower.

With her five-year-old in bed, I held and walked the baby who was very tired and needed to go to sleep, while she showered. As I stood rocking the baby in the dim light of the lamp in the quiet, comfortable, safe sleeping room I couldn't help but think how just hours earlier the Pathfinders had assembled for their inspection in this very space and how appropriate that these rooms were now being used by children who

*Continued on page 5*

# GET IN TOUCH

**Kernersville Seventh-day Adventist Church**.....336-996-3777  
 Address.....896 Old Winston Rd., Kernersville, NC 27285  
 E-Mail.....kernersvilleadventist@gmail.com  
 Website.....www.kernersvilleadventist.org  
 Church Services: Sabbath School 9:15am-10:30am / Church Service 10:45am-12:30pm

# PASTOR'S Perspective

## Worship Is a Verb



What is the most memorable worship service that you've ever experienced? I asked that question at a recent church business meeting and without exception nearly every person shared a worship experience that involved either music or some other participatory event.

As I think back over the years a communion service at a college leadership retreat, a preaching service by H.M.S. Richards, Sr. (with music by the King's Heralds), youth Sabbaths with special guest speakers in my home church, as well as singing old rousing gospel songs in my aunt and uncle's small church in northern Wisconsin all still carry special memories for me. The reason that those memories have stayed with me is because I was not just a spectator, I was personally involved in worshipping God.

In talking to a woman that He met at the community well just outside the Samaritan town of Sychar Jesus describes the kind of worship that God the Father desires.

"The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23,24)

Unfortunately both the Samaritans and the Jews had allowed the worship of God to degenerate into a spectator event. A few people led out in worship while the rest simply watched. Yet God is seeking people to worship Him out of a heart of thanksgiving as they experience the transforming power of God's truth in their lives. As creatures we are to joyfully worship our Creator, and Redeemer and soon coming King.

Ellen White understood the importance and transforming power of such worship among Seventh-day Adventist Christians. This is what she says,

"Where the church is walking in the light, there will ever be cheerful, hearty responses and words of joyful praise." (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, p. 318)

"The Sabbath meetings...unless wisely planned and vitalized by the Spirit of God, may become the most formal, unpleasant, unattractive, and to the youth the most burdensome of all..." (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, p. 174)

This past October, 30 of our members, both young and old, new to the church and those who have been in the church for years, took a church health survey from our church's seminary in Michigan. Together they rated Inspiring Worship Services as the lowest of eight characteristics of a growing church, with a score of 30 out of a possible high of 80.

Since we learned those survey results in November the leaders of the music team, board of elders and church board have been prayerfully considering what to do to make our worship of God more inspiring. We have had some very positive discussions with more to come. We ask you to join us in prayer so that together we will truly learn to worship God in both spirit and in truth.

### Our Vision Statement

1. As members of the Kernersville Seventh-day Adventist Church we are passionate about experiencing and sharing the Good News of God's love; which is salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We see ourselves providing a friendly, vibrant, growing, nurturing and safe environment where everyone has the opportunity, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus as they participate in creative and inspiring worship and practical Bible study.
3. We see ourselves continuing, by God's grace, the work of the great reformers by calling people's attention to the neglected truths of God's Word, including the everlasting gospel as proclaimed in Revelation 14:6-12, thus helping us to see God's true character.
4. We see ourselves helping people from all cultures and age groups to discover their God-given purpose through their natural and spiritual gifts, so that they are equipped to serve Jesus by serving their neighbors.
5. We see our local church facility as a beehive of internal and external ministries where we seek to form positive relationships. Thus, we desire to grow and multiply as God leads us to reach a lost and dying world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Don".

### Our Mission

"To proclaim to all peoples the everlasting Gospel as stated in the Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, to unite with His church, and to prepare for His soon return. We pursue this mission by utilizing all of our God given talents and resources, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> No School TCA Parent-Teacher Meetings 6:30pm Quilting Guild	<b>2</b> 7pm Elders' Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Adventurers & Pathfinders 7pm Interpreting Ellen White Prayer Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> No School TCA Teachers' Convention	<b>6</b> 10:45am Pastors Don & Scott Worship Series, Part 3 Breadshoppe Cafe & Youth Recreation
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> No School TCA Teachers' Convention	<b>9</b> 6:30pm TCA Board Meeting No School TCA Teachers' Convention	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Adventurers & Pathfinders 7pm Interpreting Ellen White Prayer Meeting	<b>11</b> 7pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:45am Christ's Way to Restoration - Dr. Philip Samaan 12:30pm Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 2:00pm Dr. Samaan workshop Valentine's Banquet
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> No School TCA	<b>16</b> 7pm Church Board Meeting	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Adventurers & Pathfinders 7pm Interpreting Ellen White Prayer Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm Youth Meeting at the Eglinger's	<b>20</b> 10:45am Elder Joe Kidder Pastor Scott's Ordination Service 12:30pm Fellowship Lunch 7pm TCA Variety Program
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Adventurers & Pathfinders 7pm Interpreting Ellen White Prayer Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9am TCA Community Service Day TCA Spring Break	<b>27</b> 10:45am Pastor Don Youth Social
<b>28</b>	 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">FEBRUARY</h1> 					

## every week at the Kernersville Seventh-day Adventist Church

<b>Sunday</b> Men's Basketball in the Family Life Center	7:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b> Mid-Morning Prayer Meeting in the Fireside Room	11:00am
<b>Wednesday</b> Vegetarian Food Pantry open in the Community Service Building Pathfinders/Adventurers	5:30-6:30pm 6:30pm
<b>Saturday</b> Sabbath School Worship Service	9:30am 10:45am

### Kernersville Kourier

**Editor:** Robyn Klass

**Writers:** Andrea Andrews, Irene Tise, Margaret Wilburn, Duane Peterson

**Photographers:** Rick Tilbury, Brian deFluiter, Mike Blevins, Landon Lowe & Mark Gregson

**The Kernersville Kourier is available online!** Go to [kernersvilleadventist.org](http://kernersvilleadventist.org) to view this newsletter each month. Please email [robynklass@hotmail.com](mailto:robynklass@hotmail.com) to submit information to be added to this newsletter.

# congregational LIFE

## Tuesday Morning Prayer Meeting

Learn how you can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Join the Morning Prayer Meeting group each Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. in the church library as they study LeRoy Froom's book *Coming of the Comforter*.

## Make Kernersville Your Home

You are invited to make Kernersville your church home through either baptism or transfer of membership. Simply make

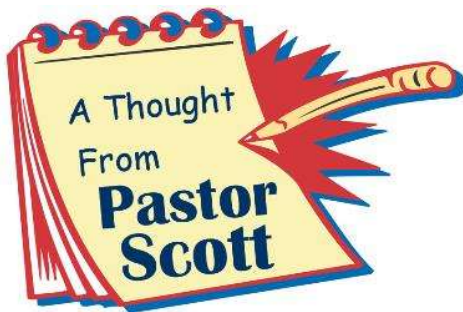
your request known by filling out a card in the pew rack or emailing your request to our church clerk Priscilla Moretz at [airportgrandma@att.net](mailto:airportgrandma@att.net).

## Church Budget Update

Through a spirit of sacrifice and coming together at the end of 2009 we miraculously wiped out a \$20,000 deficit in the church budget. Even though times are tough let us continue to exercise our faith and trust in God and His ability to provide for our needs!

## Interpreting Ellen White Study

How should we view the writings of Ellen White in 2010? How did Ellen White view her ministry? How should the principles of interpreting Scripture influence our interpretation of Ellen White's writings? Learn all this and more in a new prayer meeting study with Reed Christman entitled *Interpreting Ellen White* that will begin this coming Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in the church library.



## He said "Thank You, Daddy."

I have an unspoken deal with Jennifer. When our children were born, Jennifer would get up with the kids at night to nurse them, change them, and get them back to sleep. With Evan, waking was a nightly event for the first two years of his life. Almost every night he would wake up. At first, he would wake several times a night, but after a few months, that was reduced to once with the rare occasion of a second awaking. Jennifer would get up and go nurse him, and then settle him. I don't know when, but she eventually stopped nursing him at night as he got old enough to forgo his midnight snack.

Meghan, on the other hand, stopped waking at night around 6 weeks of age. At first, we wondered if everything was okay with her since we were used to Evan's schedule. Meghan has slept through the night on most nights with only the occasional waking. Evan, though, continued to wake on most nights well into his third year and woke up several nights a week through the fourth year of his life. They are two different children with two different personalities.

The unspoken deal I have with Jennifer is that while she nursed the children, she would get up with them. However, once they were weaned from their nightly nursings, I would get up with them, take care of their needs, and get them back to sleep.

Most times, Evan is able to take care of himself at night now and does not call us for help. Last night, however, he woke needing to go to the bathroom. I went in and took him to the bathroom so that he could relieve himself. After he washed his hands, we headed back to his room to get him settled in bed. He asked me to rub his back to help him feel comforted. After spending about a minute doing that, I told Evan that I was going to go back to bed. As I was leaving his room, he said "Daddy, thank you for taking care of me." That melted my heart. It was so sincere, so spontaneous, and yet so simple. And it made such a difference in my eagerness to help him again.

As I got back into bed, I began thinking about all of the awesome things this church has done for my family and me. I began to wonder if I had done the simplest of things by thanking those who have helped us in various ways. If you have ministered to my family and me, I want to say thank you for what you have done. Thank you for being there, for taking care of us, for being so thoughtful and giving, for sacrificing and showing us your wonderful love.

- Pastor Scott

# church ministries

## Community Services needs your donations

Community Services needs soups, crackers, and cereals. Please leave these items in the basket in the foyer.

## Walk Through Bethlehem 2010 Dates Confirmed

The church in business session voted to conduct Walk Through Bethlehem on December 3,4,5,10,11 of 2010.

## Breadshoppe Café

*Good Food, Good Music,  
Good Fellowship, Good Times*

**Feb. 6 - James Kipple  
A Valentine Special**

## Was It Worth It? - continued from page 1

don't have rooms and may have had to sleep in cars. Thoughts of how really fortunate we are to have a facility that can be used to assist those who don't have a home flooded over me.

We were impressed with how appreciative the families were for anything we did for them and how they cooperated with bed time and meal times. That was the first evening and morning.

Some of the other evening and overnight hosts shared their thoughts about the week and their experiences as well. Aloma and Dan McDowell felt that they received the greater blessing as they served as overnight hosts and cooked for several meals. "May God be praised in giving us the strength to help these dear ones," Aloma said. Nancy and Gerald deFluiter said things were pretty quiet during their night, with the families retiring to their rooms. Nancy did notice that the teen was doing some pretty cross-stitch.

Janice and Don Williams said that Tuesday evening was quiet as well with the atmosphere heavy for the mothers who expressed hopelessness and despair. By Thursday evening, however the tone had changed. There was joy and success shared as one of the mothers had found suitable daycare and another of the mothers had been approved for an apartment. "We played with the children who were starved for attention," reported Janice.

Kathy and Jeff Raible were impressed with how much these folk who are down on their luck need this service. Jeff said this experience helped him realize that we take so much for granted. "This gave me a good opportunity to reflect on life and how we are so blessed," he said.

Christine and Floyd Knight not knowing what to expect before their evening of hosting feel this is an excellent ministry. They said, "The families paid attention and were interested in doing what they were supposed to do. They helped set the tables and clean up. We found them to be nice people."

Judy and Jerry Lowe said it was a good experience for them. They enjoyed interacting with the children too and being able to help provide a safe and nice place to eat, play and sleep. Jerry remarked that, "Missing a few hours of sleep was a small price to pay to help these folks get on their feet. It made us think of how fortunate we are to be able to raise our kids in a stable home atmosphere."

Both Joan Raible and Peggy Winsted said that it was a little awkward at first not knowing what to expect but it ended up being a good experience for our first time. As the week wore on things became more comfortable and more light-hearted. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening things were on a lighter note and much happier. The 14-year-old had enrolled in school, one mother got into a work program, and another one was approved for an apartment and one found childcare.

Bailey Winsted summed it up when he said he felt this was a wonderful ministry for these families while they try to get their lives together. "We were not just marking time this week, we were providing food, a bed, shelter and friendship in a safe place while they worked on securing housing, jobs and child care and didn't have to worry about the basics. These people are now our friends."

All those polled, to a person, were so appreciative for the hard work that both Joan Raible and Peggy Winsted did for the week. Joan said that she was just one of many who helped but as the project manager received the praise humbly giving God all the glory for the success. Our next opportunity for housing families with the Family Promise ministry comes in March 21-28. To offer your help please call Joan Raible at 817-2614.

**Written by Irene Tise**

# Church Happenings

## Upcoming Mission Trips

Please remember Cheyenne Henson and Lauren and Judy Lowe as they prepare for their mission trips to Mexico and Kenya in March. Anyone wishing to give a tax-deductible donation towards the expense of their trips can send money directly to Mt. Pisgah Academy in their name. Please remember them in prayer as they prepare to serve others.

## Adventist Counselors

Looking for a trained Adventist counselor? There are now two Adventist counselors within driving distance of Kernersville. Pastor Andres Sequera in Haw River, NC (ph: 693-0890 and Lisa Paden (daughter of Duane & Barbara Peterson) in Charlotte, NC (ph: 704-776-0220

## Christian CD's & DVD's

The Library Committee would like to make audio and music CD's as well as DVD's available to be checked out to church members. We are in the process of collecting items for this purpose. If you have any appropriate Adventist/Christian CD's or DVD's that you would like to donate, please see Rick Tilbury or bring them to the church office. Please no tape media.

## Marriage & Family Seminar

Mark your calendar for a special marriage & family seminar with Dr. Philip Samaan entitled *Christ's Way to Restoration* on Sabbath, February 13. Learn how to strengthen and restore the relationships in your life. Plans include a soup & sandwich luncheon, an afternoon question and answer session and an evening Valentines banquet for the entire church family. Watch the bulletin for more details.

## Pastor Scott to be Ordained

Pastor Scott will be ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, February 20. This recognition of his call to pastoral ministry will take place during the morning worship service. Dr. Joseph Kidder, Associate Professor of Christian Ministry at the Andrews University Theological Seminary will be the guest speaker. The service will be followed by a full fellowship dinner in the Family Life Center.

## Piano Available for Donation

The church has a piano available for a donation and safe removal. It is located in the hallway by the Kindergarten and Primary Rooms. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 996-3777.



## Calendar FEBRUARY

- 01 - No School
- 02 - Gymnastics Practice 3:30pm
- 04 - No Basketball Practice
- 05 - No School
- 08 - No School
- 09 - No School
- 10 - School Resumes
- 11 - Basketball Practice 3:30pm
- 12 - Chapel w/ Pastor Behm
- 16 - Gymnastics Practice 3:30pm
- 18 - No Basketball Practice
- 23 - Gymnastics Practice 3:30pm
- 25 - Basketball Practice 3:30pm
- 26 - Community Service Day
- 26 - Noon Dismissal

[www.tricityschool.com](http://www.tricityschool.com)

## February

This Month's Birthdays



- |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 05 - Wendell Smith    | 12 - Karyn Davis      | 24 - Abby Andrews     |
| 05 - Melinda Jenkins  | 13 - Rylan Walker     | 24 - Bob Crook        |
| 05 - Melissa Banks    | 13 - Robb Hosier      | 24 - Pat Gregson      |
| 05 - Gloria Kiger     | 14 - Anne Binkley     | 25 - Jay Frericks     |
| 06 - Gloria Hurni     | 14 - Sam Johnson      | 25 - Donna Hendrix    |
| 09 - Whitney Hodges   | 15 - Cheri Drab       | 25 - Amanda Gregson   |
| 09 - Michael Knight   | 16 - Esther Conze     | 25 - Caroline Gregson |
| 09 - Phil Pender      | 17 - Jamie Gallant    | 25 - Penny King       |
| 09 - Brian Robbins    | 17 - Tyler Kidd       | 25 - Tracy Clodfelter |
| 10 - Jared Coston     | 17 - Kathy Rogers     | 26 - Ben Conze        |
| 10 - John Hodgkin     | 19 - Doris Linville   | 26 - Brenda Welch     |
| 11 - Angela Wall      | 19 - Jim Collins      | 27 - Gray Moser       |
| 11 - Jonathan Robbins | 20 - Christine Knight |                       |
| 12 - Pearl Hudgins    | 20 - Jean Carey       |                       |
| 12 - Jim Wilburn      | 21 - Andrea Andrews   |                       |

Is your birthday not listed or is it incorrect? If so, please call the Church Office at 996-3777.



# Kids Korner

**Just for KIDS**

*Our first love*

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

## Adventurer Report

By Irene Tise

In January Adventurers, Eager Beavers and our only Little Lamb worked on class work and practiced for Adventurer Sabbath. Adventurer Sabbath was a great day when all but one member was present to greet and hand out bulletins at the door, lead the praise music, have prayer, read the scripture reading, take up the offering and sing special music. The church service for the day was special as well. It was directed to children and was about nature and how we can learn about God through nature. Karen Finch with Creature Teacher, Inc. brought some unique animals to show and tell about. Seeing and hearing about the animals will help us to complete our Wild Animal award.

One of our Sunbeams was baptized at Christmas time, Alyssa Sampson. She was wearing her baptismal pin on her sash for Adventurer Sabbath.

We gave up our meeting room to be used for a dormitory for a week mid January for the Family Promise ministry. This is a ministry where parents and children who don't have homes can come and stay in our church for a week. We're glad we can do this because this is what Jesus would have done when He walked among men and what Adventurers do as well.

## Pathfinder Report

By Terry Sampson

For the month of December, the Kernersville Pathfinders squeezed a lot into a short month. During our regular meeting times we completed the cooking honor which included the club taking over the kitchen in the Family Life Center. We prepared an entire meal together to include entrees, snacks, staple foods and desserts. Everyone was able to eat at the end of the meeting and we had enough left over to share with some of the family members as well.

We also continued with our classwork to stay on schedule as well as continued our participation and support of our church "Walk Through Bethlehem" outreach. Everyone played a part, helped with set-up and helped with take down.

We finished out the year with our annual Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange. We hope everyone had a great Christmas season and wish you all a wonderful New Year."

Answer: "...fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

# Minutes of the Church Board Meeting November 17, 2009

## COMMISSION FOR HEALTH FOOD PANTRY

VOTED to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to pay a commission to the Health Food Pantry Manager based on 5% of sales in any given month. The prices of all health food items will be increased by 5% and that increase will be passed on to the Health Food Pantry Manager effective January 1, 2010.

## YOUNG ADULT ADDITION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

VOTED to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that Bradley Strother be elected to serve on the Finance Committee.

## TCA SCHOOL REPORT

- ⇒ Enrollment remains at 74 students.
- ⇒ The Adventist EDGE school of excellence process is underway and will take two years for completion.

## UPDATES

- ⇒ NAD – Women’s Ministries is partnering with ADRA in presenting a seminar entitled, End It Now. The goal is to help bring an end to violence against women.
- ⇒ Women’s Ministries has a set of SDA Bible Studies available now.
- ⇒ Col. Gary Council made the statement that “There will never be another Desmond Doss”. With a voluntary military, there is neither a Sabbath exemption nor a conscientious objector exemption.
- ⇒ Andrews University Press is getting ready to release the new Andrews Study Bible using the New King James Version.
- ⇒ Want the church leaders to read the book “Natural Church Development” by Russell Burrow.
- ⇒ For 2010 the NAD evangelism theme for the year is “Shane the Hope, Again!”
- ⇒ 2010 – The theme song for General Conference is “Proclaim His Grace” written by Bruce Ashton. General Conference will be held in Atlanta, Ga.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2010

The General Conference Session will be held in Atlanta this year. Looking for interests in getting a group together from Kernersville to attend.

VOTED to recommend to the church the transfer of Bradley and Amber Strother from the Crosswalk SDA Church in Redlands, California to the Kernersville SDA Church in Kernersville, North Carolina.

VOTED to recommend to the church the transfer of Ramses Vega and Melanie Rivera from the Anasco SDA Church in Anasco, Puerto Rico to the Kernersville SDA Church in Kernersville, North Carolina.

# January 5, 2010

## DISCUSSION

Don Williams, Finance Committee Chairman, noted that following our “Budget Stewardship Campaign”, which was conducted during the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) quarter, the church members responded generously by giving more than enough funds to offset the Budget Deficit for the first six months of our Fiscal Year.

## ALLOCATION OF DONATIONS

VOTED to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and first apply the surplus Budget donations to pay off the accumulated Budget Deficit through December 2009; then set aside the remaining funds in a Budget Reserve account for later use as needed This item is to be revisited at the upcoming Church Board / Business Meeting on January 19, 2010



# TCA Spotlight

Dear TCA Constituents, Alumni, Staff, Parents, and Students:

On this date, one that recalls deep meaning for the Adventists of the world, it is with great pleasure that we announce an exciting undertaking at Tri-City Christian Academy! A little history lesson is in order as we continue:

Seven years ago the North American Division challenged its grade schools, academies, and universities to think about what was working well in our schools, what needed to be improved or eliminated, and what needed to be completely rethought and renovated.

These challenges were categorically presented as the 21<sup>st</sup> century's *Journey to*

*Excellence*. Greater detail about the purposes, plans, and practices of this initiative can be researched at: I strongly encourage you to take a moment to find this site and see what is unique and powerful in Adventist Education.

Part of this Journey includes taking a look at what we already have accomplished and are currently doing right. So the *Cognitive Genesis* studies were implemented over the past three years to see how Adventist schools and our students are performing compared to national standardized testing. The website is very encouraging, demonstrating that our Adventist students score above the national norms in all subject categories, irrespective of the size of the classrooms or population of the school. But scholastics are not the only area where the Journey to Excellence (J2E) offered challenges. Aspects of spiritual environment, unique mission, enrollment trends, the effects of post-modernism, etc, have been addressed in both J2E as well as in Pastor Shane Anderson's wonderful book, *How to Kill Adventist Education...and How to Give It a Fighting Chance*. In response to these challenges the Southern Union organized the Adventist EDGE initiative six years ago, with the capitalized acronym standing for "Educators Delivering GREAT Education." More can be learned about Adventist EDGE at the website: . The second all-caps acronym GREAT also stands for five specific school content areas:

God-Centered  
Results-Oriented  
Environment That Nurtures  
Aligned with Adventist and National Standards  
Team Effort

So we have the J2E issued from the **Division**, EDGE from the **Union**, and now the Carolina **Conference** is making these grand ideals into practical, measurable action plans with the *School of Excellence* initiative begun three years ago, and which was finally approved by the Union this past summer. By fulfilling the criteria to become a Carolina Conference School of Excellence the schools who strive for this recognition are proving their dedication to meeting the challenges of a changing world. In building something akin to the Biblical Schools of the Prophets--in which we: 1) offer an environment where young people come to find a saving relationship with Jesus; 2) learn how to share Him with others in order to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) in taking the Good News to the world; and, 3) are spiritually and scholastically educating students in order to avoid deception during Earth's final days in keeping with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel's message (Revelation 14:9-12)--we at TCA are dedicating ourselves to achieve the School of Excellence recognition by the spring of 2012. This correlates with our next scheduled accreditation evaluation.

The basics of how to apply for this process, including some Conference funding assistance, action plans, and scoring rubrics, were all presented to us by the conference associate superintendent at our last school board meeting. We hope to conclude the application process by Christmas break, and then begin working earnestly in sub-committees to attend to the five GREAT content areas between January of 2010 and spring of 2012. This is a serious process that takes dedication and commitment, yet the final result will be a school that has not only attained a high degree of accomplishment, but also one that will maintain those expectations and continue to improve through annual reviews, utilizing cutting-edge teaching methods like 4MAT, and better understanding the science of the brain and the wonderfully diverse ways in which God has created us.

The best news, perhaps, is that we're not asking anything of you other than your acknowledgment of our intentions, your memorization of what the acronyms EDGE and GREAT stand for, and your positive word of mouth that your local Adventist school is not only currently out-performing national public schools' standardized test averages, but is working to address a whole-institution upgrade to the highest quality attainable. Please join and support us with your own excitement as we take this journey to become a school of excellence by 2012!

