

# REACHING OUT

A biannual publication of the School of Religion  
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## General Conference Vice President Speaks for R. H. Pierson Weekend



*Michael Ryan*

What would happen if every church member saw him- or herself as a missionary? That was the question posed by Dr. Michael Ryan as the guest speaker for a combined event between the R. H. Pierson Institute of Evangelism and World Missions and Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI).

Through powerful stories, relevant biblical passages, and compelling appeals, Ryan called for the church to be a missionary movement which cares passionately about both the Advent message and the plight of lost people. Not only has

Ryan served as a general vice president for the Adventist Church for the last 11 years, but he also spent 19 active years promoting and leading missions in places such as Singapore, the Philippines, and other locations in Asia.

This year the annual weekend focusing on evangelism and world missions was combined with the ASI Southern Union Conference fall event and hosted in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. On Friday evening, the weekend began with an online panel discussion on missions and evangelism in the marketplace. The School of Religion was represented by Professors Carlos Martin and Douglas Jacobs, along with Andrew Ashley, a junior theology major.

During the Friday vespers service, the audience listened to a powerful duet by Keren Pagán and Sebastian Lopez, who sang "The Prayer." Ryan's talk began with Jesus' question to the disciples in Matthew 24:45, "Who then is that faithful and wise servant?" Weaving together story and Scripture, he spoke about the importance of each person being a faithful witness for God. He related the story of George Riffel, a German farmer from Kansas, who helped open up the work in South America.

(Continued on page 2)



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## Mike Ryan (Continued from page 1)

“He never came home,” Ryan told the audience of over one thousand students. “Was it worth it? There are over two million SDA members in South America today! I think he would say it was worth it!”

On Sabbath morning, the theme of missions continued to be emphasized. During the first morning presentation, Ryan talked about the importance of Christians knowing what they believe and how to share it with others. He mentioned that there are many cities in the 10/40 window where there are more than one million people without a single Adventist. He told an inspiring story from Mexico about an 11-year-old boy who gave Bible studies to seven people in his town and led them to baptism, even though he himself was not yet baptized! Ryan stated, “Some will say, ‘I’m too old or too young,’ but God can use anyone if they are willing to believe!”

In the second morning presentation, the audience was blessed to hear Cody Harmon play his banjo for the children’s story and Rodney Balmes sing an

excellent rendition of “My Redeemer Is Faithful and True.” Pastor Ryan followed with a powerful sermon on the word “nevertheless” in the Bible. No matter what happens to us, we will *nevertheless* be faithful to the Bible and in our witness to others. Once again he told amazing stories of faithful missionaries and inspired each of his listeners to a life committed to missions.

In the afternoon, Dr. Jack Blanco spoke on the need for missions and then joined a panel discussion on the role of missions in the church and marketplace. Greg Wilson, program director for Soul-winning And Leadership Training (SALT); and Casey Vaughn, a sophomore theology major, also sat on the panel, which was streamed live via the internet. The day’s events wrapped up with amazing music from the University choral group *I Cantori* and a final devotional message from Ryan. Beautiful music, inspiring messages, and a renewed determination to faithfully serve Christ were the results of a wonderful weekend.

## Ministerial Candidate Recognition 2014

This year’s guest speaker for the ministerial candidate recognition weekend was Pastor Tony Anobile Sr., president of the Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, located in Scottsdale, Arizona. A graduate of Montemorelos University in Mexico, Anobile has served as a pastor, youth pastor, and conference youth director.



*Tony Anobile Sr.*

For his Friday evening sermon, “How to Get to Heaven,” he was introduced by his son, Tony Anobile Jr., who was one of the ministerial candidates being recognized. Anobile Sr. then reminded his hearers of their ultimate destination, which is heaven, and how to keep focused on Jesus. It was a message that fit well with his passion for evangelism. His key text was John 3:16. Though it may be the best-known Bible text in the world, yet there should be freshness whenever it is read or preached. Pastor Anobile brought it to life again in his passionate presentation. On Sabbath morning, Anobile addressed the topic “Choleric and Melancholy,” referring to the different temperaments that may describe ministers and God’s power to use them. His text was the Lazarus story and Christ’s discussion with Martha. Anobile inspired the group by giving illustrations from his personal experiences as a student that were interesting, humorous, and very enlightening.

# Faculty News

**Michael Hasel**, Professor of Archaeology and Biblical Languages, co-directed The Fourth Expedition to Lachish excavation this summer with 62 participants from Southern. He has also published the 704-page *Khirbet Qeiyafa Vol. 2, 2009-2013: Stratigraphy and Architecture (Areas B, C, D, and E)* (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2014). This volume reports on the excavations Hasel co-directed with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and provides new evidence for the major garrison city from the time of David.



**Greg King**, Dean and Professor of Biblical Studies, recently gave a plenary presentation at the 11th Annual Seminary Scholarship Symposium at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. His presentation was titled "Is Jesus Against the Old Testament Law? Another Look at the Antitheses." He also attended the meetings of the Biblical Research Institute Ethics Committee and spoke at a retreat for the elders of the Fletcher, North Carolina, Church.



**John Nixon**, Professor of Theology and Spirituality, together with his wife, Januwoina Nixon, conducted two weekend marriage seminars in the fall. The seminars were held on behalf of the Berean Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and Chattanooga's Orchard Park Church at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia.



**Alan Parker**, Professor of Evangelism and Missiology, preached a prophecy series in Greenville, North Carolina, last summer, and participated in two intensive evangelism training programs, one at Southern and one in Edmonton, Canada. In the fall he directed the SALT program, where 21 students engaged in outreach in Dalton, Georgia. He has spoken for GYC Southeast and the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Men's Retreat. Alan and his wife, Nicole, spoke in Cape Town, South Africa, for a youth convention over the Christmas holiday break.



**Edwin Reynolds**, Professor of New Testament Studies, has been the president this year of the Southeastern U.S. chapter of the Adventist Theological Society. *The Journal of the Adventist Theological Society* published in its latest issue his article entitled "Away from the Body and at Home with the Lord: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 in Context." An edited edition of the article is also being prepared for publication in *Perspective Digest*, an online magazine of theological articles written for a general audience and sponsored by the Adventist Theological Society. He has been developing an online course in Studies in Revelation, which should be available by Fall 2015.



**Philip Samaan**, Professor of Religion, Spirituality, and Adventist History, was the featured speaker at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference workers' meetings. He was also the presenter at both the South Atlantic Conference and the Georgia-Cumberland Conference teachers' conventions. Moreover, he conducted numerous seminars on discipleship, evangelism, and empowering church members in various churches in the Southern Union Conference and elsewhere.



## 2014-15 Ministerial Candidates



*Tony Anobile Jr., Dec. '14*  
Texas Conference



*Rodney Balmes, May '15*  
SAU Chaplain's Office



*Christian Bull, Dec. '14*  
New York Conference



*Edgar De Leon, May '15*  
New York Conference



*Matthew Durante, May '15*  
Ga.-Cumb. Conference



*Edgar Gutierrez, May '15*



*Cody Harmon, May '15*  
Ky.-Tenn. Conference



*Valerie Hernandez, May '15*



*Christopher Hufnagel, May '15*  
New York Conference



*Daniel Jeon, Dec. '14*  
Ga.-Cumb. Conference



*Ruben Joseph, Dec. '14*  
Florida Conference



*Jenny Kim, May '15*



*Richard Maskelony, May '15*  
Carolina Conference



*Russell Meier, May '15*

*“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.” 1 Timothy 1:12, NKJV*



*Pascal Mellé, May '15*



*Carlton Mouzon, May '15*



*Mark O'Dala, May '15*



*Keren Pagán, May '15*



*Takuma Shinasue, May '15*  
Saniku-Gakuin College



*Steven Sigamani, May '15*  
Florida Conference



*Eric Suarez, Dec. '14*



*Joel Sutherland, Dec. '14*  
Ky.-Tenn. Conference



*Aubrey Toup, May '15*  
Ga.-Cumb. Conference



*Luis Tuñón, May '15*



*Katie Verrill, May '15*



*Anthony Whitlow, May '15*

Dates reflect the time of graduation.  
Employment location is listed for students who have accepted positions as of February 2015.

## Pastor Edgar Alquinta Joins Pierson Institute

Pastor Edgar Alquinta is the newest addition to the School of Religion team. He brings a pastoral and evangelistic background that has already proved to be a blessing in his ministry on the Southern campus.

Before accepting the position as coordinator of Summer Evangelism Abroad (SEA) trips, he was serving as the senior pastor of the Knoxville SDA Church in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. As a pastor, he mobilized his church to offer evangelistic ministries to the community, and, as a result, many people were added to the church and trained as disciples.

As SEA coordinator, Alquinta will work directly with the Robert H. Pierson Institute of Evangelism and World Missions, with offices at the Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC), located in the School of Religion. As part of his responsibilities, he has already visited many classrooms and has recruited and interviewed dozens of students who will conduct evangelistic series this coming summer. He has also made pre-evangelism trips to all of the destinations where evangelistic teams will be sent abroad in 2015: Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico.

The SEA program aims to involve students in short-term evangelistic missions. Students are challenged to preach 19 evangelistic sermons in two weeks.

Because of generous donors, the Pierson Institute is able to subsidize the student evangelists, and they only need to raise a modest amount to cover all of their expenses. Students also receive many hours of training in order to serve as effective evangelists in places where they may have never been.

This evangelistic involvement helps the students in a variety of ways: They develop a greater understanding of the Adventist message, acquire a greater appreciation of the worldwide nature of the Adventist Church, and experience a deeper relationship with God. Alquinta knows all this, as he has already conducted evangelistic series himself in Ghana, Chile, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic.

Alquinta is married to Pamela, and they have two children, both of whom are attending Adventist schools. The School of Religion warmly welcomes the Alquinta family.



*Edgar Alquinta, Coordinator  
Summer Evangelism Abroad*

## Alberto Timm Speaks for the Institute for the Study of Ellen White and Adventist Heritage Series

The Lectureship for the Institute for the Study of Ellen White and Adventist Heritage took place in October, with Dr. Alberto R. Timm as the featured speaker. Associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate in Silver Spring, Maryland, and a member of the Biblical Research Institute Committee, Timm received his Ph.D. from Andrews University with an emphasis in the development of SDA doctrines and theology. He has lectured extensively all over the world and has published widely in the area of Adventist studies. At the banquet lecture on October 1, he spoke about the theology of Ellen White, emphasizing the centrality of the Bible to her thinking. At the convocation presentation for Southern's student

body the following day, his message focused on the relevance of Ellen White in today's world. The next day he taught two Adventist Heritage classes and answered questions from the students on the work of the Ellen G. White Estate and its preparations for the 2015 centennial of Ellen White's death. On Sabbath afternoon, Timm spoke to the Adventist Theological Society on the "Dilemma of the Delay" and fielded questions on why Christ's coming appears to be delayed. All in all, Timm inspired the students and intellectually stimulated his audiences on the prophetic ministry of Ellen G. White. It was a blessing to have this respected scholar on the Southern campus.

## The Ultimate Homecoming

Every school year Southern Adventist University has an Alumni Homecoming Weekend, which takes place the last weekend in October. Special programs are planned, a delicious banquet is prepared, and the entire campus is spiffed up to welcome back those who studied here in years past. It is a time for joyful fellowship, as old classmates, including some who have not met one another for what seems like aeons, reconnect and converse about what has happened in the intervening years. It is a time for remembrance, as graduates reminisce and share their cherished memories of what happened in the past. It is a time for homecoming, as those who spent several formative years of their lives on the SAU campus return to their alma mater.

But as enjoyable as these alumni homecomings are, and as much as the campus anticipates them, they pale into insignificance compared to another homecoming. I am referring to the homecoming of which Jesus speaks in John 14:1-3, a passage which is one of the crown jewels of all Scripture. Let us briefly consider several assurances Jesus gives to His children in this widely cherished passage:

First, in vs. 2 Jesus declares, "I go to prepare a place for you."\* In connection with this promise of our Lord to get a place ready for His children, it is worth considering the occupation at which He labored while on this earth. The fact that He served as a carpenter makes this promise extra special. Jesus, who spent many years of His earthly life building various items for people to use in their homes, is now personally involved in preparing a heavenly home for each of His followers. This personal engagement bespeaks His love for us. Think of it: Jesus, the Carpenter, is preparing a place for us.

A second assurance is also in vs. 2, where Jesus states, "In My Father's house are many mansions." Some Bible students have discussed whether "mansions" or "rooms" is the translation of the last word of this phrase, but I want

to focus on what immediately precedes it, the word "many." This adjective emphasizes that there is unlimited capacity in the New Earth and suggests that Jesus' invitation to be part of His Kingdom is extended to everyone. Heaven's marquee will never have a "No Vacancy" sign, for our Lord has prepared "many" dwelling places for His children to inhabit.

A third assurance is in vs. 3 and consists of these four simple words: "I will come again." This brief promise—direct, uncomplicated, and easy to understand—has nourished and sustained believers through the ages. As the early apostles suffered martyrdom for their faith, sacrificing their lives for the Lord who had given so much for them, this promise gave them hope. As people down through the centuries were ridiculed and scorned or, even worse, tortured or burned at the stake for believing in Jesus, this promise gave them hope. And as we face challenges and concerns in the contemporary world, when we worry about the future, we should know that this simple promise is still the last, best hope for the world today.

A fourth and final assurance is also in vs. 4 and is found in the words, "Where I am, there you may be also." Herein we see the goal of the ultimate homecoming: Reunion. Togetherness. The focus is not on the cosmic dimensions of the Second Coming or the signs that precede it. Rather, the emphasis is on Jesus' intense desire to be with His people.

When we are away from someone we love, we count the days until we are together again. Sometimes we literally cross the days off on the calendar. Even so, Jesus is numbering the days until He is reunited with His people. What a homecoming that will be!

\*All Bible verses are taken from the New King James Version.



*Greg King, Dean*



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## Summer 2015 Graduate Courses Offered

*Tuition: \$1,800 (one 3-credit class) Audit: \$900 (one 3-credit class) Contact Edwin Reynolds: [reynolds@southern.edu](mailto:reynolds@southern.edu)*

**RELB 530 Archaeological Fieldwork.** (Professor: Martin Klingbeil) July 7-27

**RELB 546 Pauline Epistles.** A study of Paul's epistles, including Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. (Professor: Edwin Reynolds) June 15-25

**RELG 600 Research Methods and Writing.** A course dealing with techniques and tools, including library and online sources available for theological research for the construction and practice of writing research papers. (Professor: Donn Leatherman) June 1-19

**RELP 513 Effective Church Leadership.** Church leadership viewed from the perspective of character and effectiveness. Issues covered include visioning, local mission development, mentoring, effective administration, and decision-making. Case studies and group interaction are used for learning purposes. (Professor: John Nixon) June 1-12

**RELP 532 Principles and Strategies of Church Growth.** This course focuses on the application of biblical principles of church growth to the North American church, as well as practical evangelistic strategies for the local Adventist congregation. (Professor: Alan Parker) June 15-25

**RELP 542 Urban Ministry and Evangelism.** A study of the city as the locus of mission and ministry. The course considers the forces which create cities, their development, and their ethos, with emphasis on the process of secularization and the church's holistic approach to the urban setting. Special attention is given to evangelism and church planting in the urban context. (Professor: Carlos Martin) July 13-24

**RELP 591 Evangelistic Preaching Practicum.** This course is offered in connection with a field school of evangelism. (Prerequisites: At least one introductory course in biblical preaching and official acceptance into a School of Religion graduate program.) May 12-31

*On-campus housing is available upon request.*