

# HERO OF HACKSAW RIDGE

## The Story of Desmond Doss

Many churches across North America are seizing the opportunity to distribute the new sharing book, *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge*, in conjunction with the release of the new movie of the same title. In 2016 over one million books were distributed! Surely, there are thousands of experiences of God working in miraculous ways. The most exciting stories are yet to come when "more than one thousand will...be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications." CM 151. Pastor Richard Pinero (Georgia-Cumberland Conference) submitted the following account:



"After much prayer and discussion, members of the Chestatee and Cleveland churches decided to approach the local theaters to request permission to place kiosks offering free copies of the book, *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge*. During the first three days, over 3,000 books were distributed. Theater employees were so impressed that they offered to replenish the kiosks themselves. Other church members shared the books at local high school band competitions, Veteran's Day celebrations, car dealerships, medical offices, emergency room waiting areas, local drug stores, even at a McDonald's fast-food restaurant. We have distributed more than 10,000 books. Two people have asked to become part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a direct result of reading *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge*."

If you have a story, please send it to us through [www.blastofhope.com](http://www.blastofhope.com). If you do not have a story, it is not too late. You can go to [www.familyhomechristianbooks.com](http://www.familyhomechristianbooks.com), or your local ABC to purchase books for your special outreach project.

## HGES YEAR END MEETING

### "If Not Now, When? Serving in the Time of the End"

Literature Evangelists gathered for the annual Literature Evangelist Retreat at Kentucky-Tennessee Conference's Indian Creek Camp in Liberty, TN. Old and new faces brightened the halls as LEs poured in from all parts of the southeast. Messages of consecration, hope, and purpose invited each individual to walk a closer walk with Jesus, and witness His promises fulfilled and His Mighty hand lead!

During the year 2016, new books were published and distributed, and new technologies were developed and implemented. Thousands now have in their homes the message of Salvation!



One of the greatest joys of the retreat was to witness the numbers of children that have joined the family as younger couples have felt the calling to this ministry and have joined the LE ranks.

Let us press on brethren, as we are reminded by the prophet Habakkuk, "And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2. **If not now, when?**

Adapted from *Fine Print*



## GLOW TRACT MINISTRY

### How to GLOW in the Rain!

"Last Sabbath our kids badly wanted to go GLOW-ing, but it was raining, and we weren't sure what to do. Well, you can't say no if your kids want to do outreach, so we got some friends and jumped into two cars and drove off to see what we could find that was under cover. There were no covered parking structures nearby. We thought about walking into the mall, but weren't sure there would be many people there. Even a 'dollar store' would be workable, we thought, if we could stand at the entrance, but there were not enough people entering and exiting, and we wanted to distribute a lot of GLOW. Usually the kids do parking lots and put the tracts on car door handles. Finally, one of the kids said, "We could go to apartments and put tracts on the cars as they are parked under shelters." That was it! We easily found a long stretch of apartments and my husband drove along slowly as the kids ran from car to car (mostly under shelter) and stuffed GLOW tracts into the handles of car doors. We distributed over 300 tracts in under an hour, and everyone felt glad God led us and helped us find a way to GLOW in the rain!"



# BLAST

A Ministry of SOUTHERN UNION PUBLISHING

BOOKS & TRACTS | LINKING DEPARTMENTS | ALL INVOLVED | SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS | TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME 4, NO. 1

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 1  
BLAST CONFERENCE  
BLAST REPORT

Page 2  
ADVENTIST HERITAGE  
TOUR  
PHENIX CITY  
EC3

Page 3  
SOUTHERN HERITAGE  
CLASSIC  
MAGIC CITY CLASSIC

Page 4  
HACKSAW RIDGE  
HGES YEAR END  
GLOW MINISTRY

## SECOND ANNUAL BLAST CONFERENCE

*Psalm 68:11 The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it.*

A Holy Spirit filled group of literature distribution enthusiasts descended upon the Southern Union Conference office in Norcross, Georgia for the Second Annual BLAST Conference. There was an excitement in the air in anticipation of the great things God was going to do that special weekend. The emphasis was the

experiences of literature ministers who chose to share truth-filled literature in a number of unique ways that God had placed upon their hearts. Some testified how they used Prison Ministry as the venue to reach thousands of incarcerated individuals with hope. Other venues where literature was dispersed was through motorcycle events, Sabbath afternoon church outreach, State Fairs, TV, seminars, store parking Lots, clothing distribution centers, door to door visitation, and mass-mailings.

One local Pastor, Lloyd Johnson, emphasized the power of seed sowing literature distribution as a very effective means of preparing the field to reap a wonderful harvest of souls.

*Continued on page 2*



### YEAR END REPORT 2016 Southern Union Territory

	TOTAL
Books & Tracts	4,407,121
Distributed	5,538
Bible Studies	120,389
Prayers Offered	133
Baptisms (resulting from LE contacts)	



Newsletter

*Our purpose: To expand our reach to the Southern Union territory utilizing total member involvement through one-on-one evangelism and personalized mass distribution.*

## BLAST Conference *continued*

Dr. Philip Samaan, Southern Adventist University Professor, gave his personal testimony about reaching thousands through books he has personally written. Dr. Samaan also emphasized the need for us to continue to write to reach our generation. During the two-day BLAST Gospel explosion, two explosive preachers and presidents shared the good news of Jesus Christ with fervor, fire, and faith: Dr. Ron Smith, Southern Union President, and Dr. Owolabi Oyeleke, Nigerian Union President. Our hearts were charged with determination to press on in literature distribution no matter what.

***"God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us." GC 598***

## ADVENTIST HERITAGE TOUR

When the new *Children's Century Classics* set was launched, the literature evangelists (LEs) from Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland, Gulf States and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences were each challenged to sell 54 sets in 27 weeks! The reward? A trip to Michigan to learn more about our Adventist roots. With the blessing of the Lord and hard work, several LEs qualified. Some sold well over the minimum requirement. Tammy Mapes led out with 236 sets and led the Southern Union in big book sales for the year. Her approach is simple, "Have you seen the new Bible Story set?" For three days the LEs and their families visited places like Historic Adventist Village, Battle Creek Sanitarium (which now serves as a government building), gravesites of several SDA pioneers, Harvey Kellogg Museum, and several other historical landmarks. One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to Remnant Publications where the LEs witnessed the printing of the *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge* sharing book.

The LEs left Michigan with a new appreciation for how God has led in the past and renewed faith in His plans for their future and for the future of His church. They were motivated with a new zeal to "Tell the World" of their soon coming Savior and friend.



When the word "BLAST" was chanted, the audience chanted back, "Total Member Involvement." When "Total Member Involvement" was chanted, the audience fired back with, "BLAST."

Special honor was given to a few lifetime warriors who dedicated their lives to sharing literature, and preparing people for Jesus' return. Elder Theodore Smith, Elder Bill Beckworth, and Elder Isadore DeSouza were present to receive their tokens of thanks. Elder Robert Smith Sr., Elder Joe Holloway, and Elder Eugene Juhl were unable to attend and would receive their emblems at a later date.

***"God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us." GC 598***

## TEARING DOWN WALLS

### Phenix City



After a brief training session, Pastor Christopher Atkinson led the charge for the afternoon outreach effort in a subdivision a short distance from the church. Mostly military personnel, these individuals were very receptive and many gave the church members permission to return for follow-up.

Outreach is not a new activity for this evangelistic minded church that already has several ministries going on. Pastor Chris had just completed an evangelistic meeting, and plans were being made to tear down some walls to expand the sanctuary in order to accommodate the growing membership. By the looks of things, these are not the only walls that are coming down in Phenix City. *"For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."* Eph. 2:14.



## EC3—SOUTHERN UNION EVANGELISM COUNCIL

The Southern Union Evangelism Conference (EC3), is an annual event, which provides time for training, networking and inspiration for hundreds of evangelists, pastors, lay pastors, Bible workers, and church administrators involved in Evangelism. The conference was held on the campus of Southern Adventist University, offering theology students exposure to the conference and its resources. Participating speakers included Carlton Byrd, John Bradshaw, Ty Gibson, Westley Knight, Alex McFarland, James Emory White, and many others. The Southern Union Publishing Ministries team conducted a workshop on how pastors

can train members to reach people in the nearby community using literature, which, with proper follow up, can eventually lead to Bible studies and baptisms.



## TEACHING, PREACHING,

## MEMPHIS, TN

### Southern Heritage Classic College Football



The 27<sup>th</sup> Southern Heritage Classic College Football game took place in Memphis, Tennessee. The theme was, "The Fun Never Stops." For the more than 50 "die hard" SDA members who filled their hands with the best news on the planet, the theme fit their mission as well. With the joy of Jesus in their hearts, these literature soldiers blitzed the crowds attending with over 4,000 *Victory Assured* booklets highlighting the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Under the leadership and direction of Pastor Mark Hyde, four local churches came together with vans full of members who saw this game

***"In...centers of tourist traffic, crowded with many thousands of seekers after...pleasure, there should be stationed ministers and canvassers capable of arresting the attention of the multitudes. Let these workers watch their chance to present the message for this time... Let them be quick to seize opportunities to speak to the people." CM 40:1***

## BIRMINGHAM Magic City Classic

**"Carpé Diem"** Every year thousands of people gather in Birmingham, AL from all across North America to attend the Magic City Classic football game between Alabama A&M and Alabama State. The streets buzz with activity as fans and football players prepare for the big game. However, there is another group of people who await their marching orders. "Coach" Compton Ross, Pastor of the Ephesus church, and its members seized the opportunity to distribute 4,500 copies of *Victory Assured*, along with edible treats which had church contact information affixed to it for follow-up.

The Mass Distribution Event was organized and sponsored by the publishing departments of South Central, Gulf States and Southern Union Conferences. Pastor Java Mattison preached a spirit-filled message entitled, "There is Something about the Name of Jesus," which gave the members a clear vision of their mission.



### PUBLISHING LEADERS IN THE SOUTHERN UNION:

- ◆ Carolina—Lance Morrison, Rubi Pimentel
- ◆ Florida—Les McCoy, Alfredo Gonzalez, Tim Merryman, Anwar Bowes
- ◆ Georgia Cumberland—Tim Leffew, Peter Marzano, Brandon Tygret, Demilson Reis, ReNeita Samuel
- ◆ Gulf States—David Sigamani
- ◆ Kentucky-Tennessee—Rocky Davis
- ◆ South Atlantic—Carl McRoy
- ◆ South Central—Java Mattison
- ◆ Southeastern—Theus Young