

# COMPASS

SPIRIT-LED • MISSION-DRIVEN

South Central  
Conference  
Church Ministries  
& Mission  
Development  
Department

NOV | DEC 2025

**W**e believe that the South Central Conference Office exists to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of the churches in the South Central Conference. Therefore, the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department exists to assist pastors and their church leaders in leading their churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven. We do this by providing pastors and their church leaders with ministry coaching and support in five fundamental areas of Church Development: 1) **Prayer**, 2) **Mission**, 3) **Spiritual Gifts**, 4) **Small Groups**, and 5) **Ministries**. When engaged sequentially, these become one fivefold strategy for leading churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven.

## SIT THEN SERVE

**E**very believer in our conference is responsible for answering three calls from God. The first call is the call to SALVATION. This call is answered when we accept Christ's free grace gift. The second call is the call to SANCTIFICATION.

Once we are saved Christ invites us to grow in His grace and the knowledge of His Word.

Today, I want to focus on that third call, which is the call to SERVE. In so many ways, we are saved to serve.

Using the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-41, Martha is concerned about service while Mary is sitting at Jesus feet. Martha wants Jesus to use His influence to get Mary to join her in serving. But Jesus gently says to Martha in verse 41: "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath

chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

In the Church Ministries and Mission Development department of our conference we believe that we must be Spirit-led then mission driven. In other words, there must be some sitting then there can be some serving. Here are 3 reasons for this:

### 1. **Sitting Cultivates Intimacy with Christ**

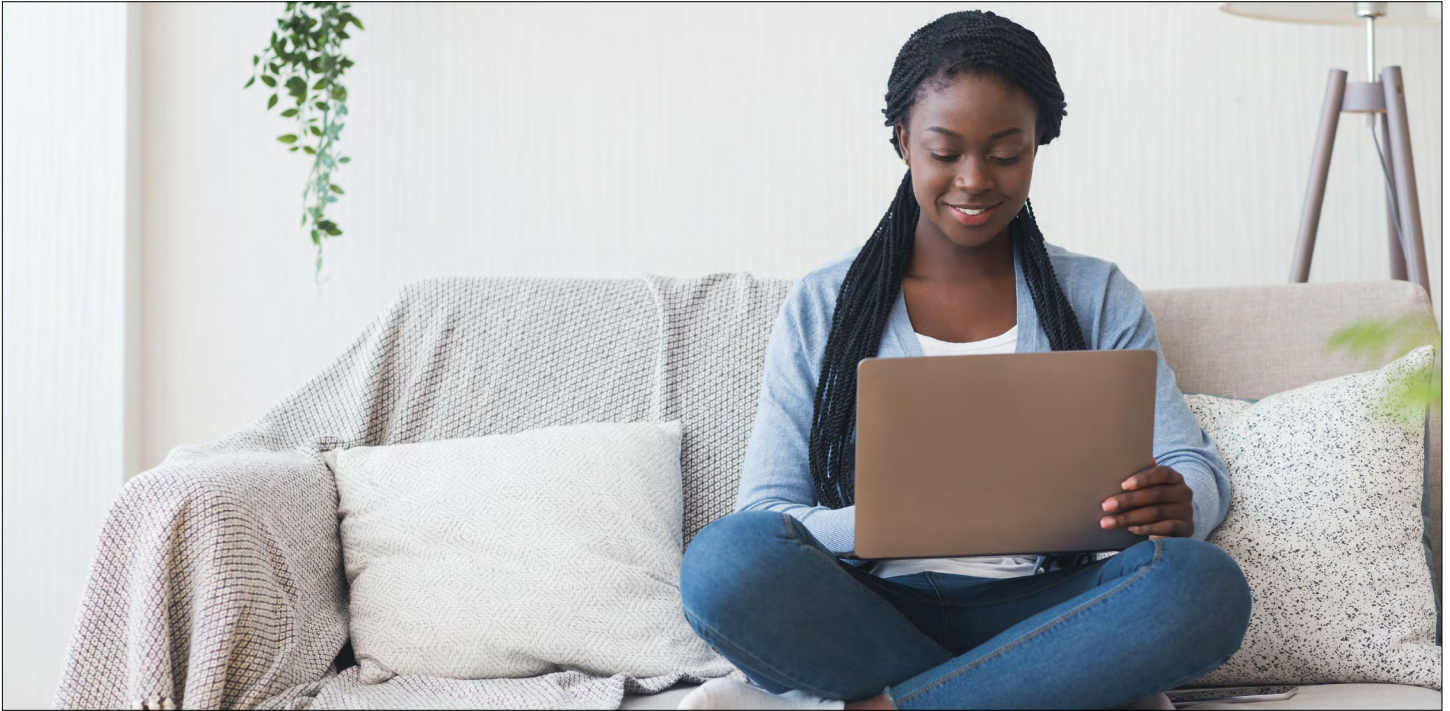
Before we can effectively serve others, we must first spend time with Jesus. Just as Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His words, we too must prioritize our relationship with Him. This time of sitting allows

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# THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES &

*SIT Then SERVE, Continued from page 1*



us to know His heart, understand His will, and be filled with His presence. Intimacy with Christ fuels our service with love rather than obligation. Without this connection, our service can become mechanical, burdensome, or even self-centered.

## **2. Sitting Prepares Us Spiritually for Service**

When we sit at the feet of Jesus, we are being sanctified — shaped, taught, and empowered by His Word and Spirit. This preparation is essential for fruitful ministry. Martha was distracted by her service, while Mary was being equipped by the Teacher. Sitting allows us to receive divine instruction, wisdom, and discernment, which makes our service more productive and aligned with God's purposes. It ensures that we are not just busy, but effective.

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*Intimacy with Christ fuels our service with love rather than obligation.*

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## **3. Sitting Protects Us from Burnout and Misplaced Priorities**

Service without sitting leads to stress, frustration, and spiritual dryness. Martha, though well-intentioned, became anxious and overwhelmed because she neglected the better part — time with Jesus. Sitting helps us recalibrate our priorities

and keeps our hearts centered on Christ. It reminds us that our identity is found in being with Him before doing for Him. This rhythm of sitting then serving creates a sustainable and Spirit-led ministry life.

In summary, sitting at Jesus' feet is not a passive act, but a powerful foundation for passionate, productive, and powerful service.

When we sit first, we serve from a place of fullness, not emptiness. We serve with clarity, not confusion. And most importantly, we serve with Christ, not just for Him. ■



**Pastor  
Jeffery L. Watson, MDiv.**  
*Assoc. Director, Church Ministries  
and Mission Development*



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## MISSION DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

# MISSION IMPACT

**M**y grandmother, on my mother's side, is the closest family member that I have to being famous. All my life, she was a stay-at-home grandmother. I had never known her to work anywhere. She was not a community activist. She was not a part of any neighborhood associations. She was a faithful church member and a good person. In the early 2000s, however, I came to realize her impact on our neighborhood when an artist went door to door in the neighborhood asking folk, which people in the neighborhood had impacted them such that they deserved to be honored as a part of a mural on a wall in the community. My grandmother was named among those chosen. Because she raised eight children there were lots of people who came in and out of her home. She fed them all. She was kind to them all. Some stayed nights. However it happened, she was kind enough to those around her such that they thought she should be on that wall.

I get the feeling that Dorcas from the book of Acts, chapter nine, was probably such a person and if those she blessed were asked, she certainly would have appeared in a mural on a wall. Dorcas was a woman of mission. She was a woman of service. Acts 9:36 *"At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did."* What is said of Dorcas, or something similar should be said of every true worker for the Lord. Faithfulness in mission produces reputation. The account of Dorcas



in Acts chapter 9 yields three questions for self-reflection as it relates to faithfulness in mission.

First, what impact does your faithful service have? Of Dorcas, Ellen White wrote, *her good deeds had made her greatly beloved. She was a worthy disciple of Jesus, and her life was filled with acts of kindness. She*

*knew who needed comfortable clothing and who needed sympathy, and she freely ministered to the poor and the sorrowful. Her skillful fingers were more active than her tongue.*<sup>1</sup>

It is faithful service that yields an impact. You don't have to be famous, nor do you have to possess exceptional talent and skill. All that is required is for you to be willing to serve and to be faithful to the task. Says the Servant of the Lord: *The real character of the church is measured, not by the high profession she makes, not by the names enrolled upon the church book, but by what she is actually doing for the Master, by the number of her persevering, faithful workers. Personal interest, and vigilant, individual effort will accomplish more for the cause of Christ than can be wrought by sermons or creeds.*<sup>2</sup>

The second question for self-reflection is, "what evidence of faithful service will you leave behind." In Acts 9:37-39, the weeping widows were so blessed by the ministry of Dorcas that in the midst of their grief, they showed Peter the garments that Dorcas made for them. The impact of her ministry was evident. What about the ministry that you do? What evidence is there that you have served faithfully and selflessly and beneficially? What evidence is there that you have impacted someone's life for the kingdom? What evidence of faithful service will you leave behind?

Some scholars suggest that where the believers laid Dorcas's body was non-traditional (in an upper room), which indicates that they expected

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Peter to perform a miracle and resurrect Dorcas. Her ministry was such a blessing that the believers in Jappa did not want it to come to an end to the point where they, by faith, prepared her body for a miracle. They did not want to lose such a kind and caring servant in the faith. The third question for self-reflection is, “Are you and your contributions valuable enough to warrant resurrection? For Dorcas, the answer was yes (Acts 9:40–41).

There are many of you who served in South Central Conference doing good work for the Lord, and though you yourselves are not dead, your desire to serve in ministry is dead. But I believe the spirit with which you served in the past is valuable enough to warrant resurrection. Ministry might not look like it used to, and ministry might require you to learn something new and different, but your contributions were valuable in the past and your faithful service

is worthy of resurrection. *Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability.*—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.

God performs the saving of men primarily through the vehicle of the church. *Hence faith is the human reaction to God’s primary action.*<sup>3</sup> The church is what presents the good news of Jesus Christ. The church is what preaches the good news of Jesus Christ. The church is what celebrates and defends the good news of Jesus Christ. It stands as symbols of hope in a world that is being ravaged by sin. It stands as a beacon of light in the midst of the darkness of drugs and violence and despair. It stands as a place of refuge from the stress and strain of trying to make it in this dog-eat-dog world where the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. The church represents the place where the very present presence of God is and where the people of God can most effectively tap into the power of

that very present God. But the church is more than a building. The Church is people. The Church represents the active body of believers in whose midst Christ dwells. The Church represents individual believers in a risen Savior who have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light, believers who have determined to be different in the world; believers who have determined to embrace difference in this world; believers who have determined to make a difference in this world. ■

<sup>1</sup> White, E. G. (1911). *The Acts of the Apostles in the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ* (Vol. 4, p. 131). Pacific Press Publishing Association.

<sup>2</sup> EGW. Review and Herald, Sept. 6, 1881. {ChS 12.1}

<sup>3</sup> Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 849). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.



**Pastor  
Troy Brand, Co-Leader,  
Community Engagement  
Ministry**





**SPOTLIGHT**

# ANTIBODIES

During the holiday season,  
viruses and foreign substances  
become quite prevalent.  
With adequate sleep and good  
nutrition, learn how antibodies  
can protect us from harm!



**Curtis and Paula Eakins**  
SCC Health Evangelism Ministries

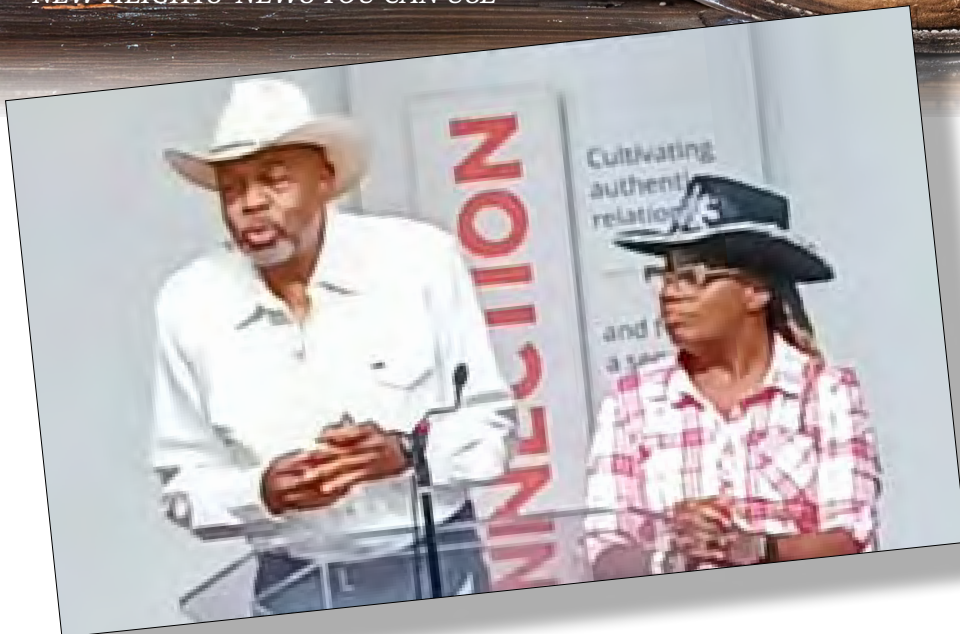
**WATCH NOW**



# Boots On the Ground:

Jackson, Mississippi New Heights Church Mobilizes Members for Life-Changing Ministry

Featured in  
NEW HEIGHTS' NEWS YOU CAN USE



With broad-brimmed hats, flannel shirts, and boots laced for purpose, the members of New Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered on Saturday, November 8, for an event designed to spark renewed passion for service and strengthen the church's commitment to discipleship. The Life-Changing Contributions Ministry, led by Judge James Graves and Mrs. LaTonda Watson, hosted the church's reimagined Ministry Fair, an energetic, spirit-filled afternoon aimed at helping every member discover their God-given gifts and put them to work for the Kingdom.

The theme, "Boots on the Ground," captured the day's mission: moving from intention to action. Through uplifting singing, heartfelt testimonies, and rich conversations, church leaders shared the vision behind New Heights' three core pillars, Life-Changing Compassion, Life-Changing Connections, and Life-Changing Contributions, and introduced ministries designed to bring those pillars to life.

Members traveled throughout the church campus, meeting ministry leaders, learning about service opportunities, and signing up to join teams. The church's compassion-focused ministries highlighted two

vital outreach efforts: the Unhoused Ministry, which serves individuals experiencing homelessness with dignity and care, and the Grief Ministry, which walks with families through seasons of loss and transition.

In the area of Life-Changing Connections, members explored the Friendship Ministry, dedicated to creating a warm and welcoming worship environment; the Worship Production Team, responsible for the sound, media, and music that shape meaningful worship; and future plans for small groups to deepen fellowship and spiritual growth.

What made the day even more special was the enthusiasm of New



Heights' young people. Inspired by the movement around them, the youth grabbed microphones and phones, interviewing members about their ministry passions and creating a buzz of excitement throughout the building.

To close the day, participants enjoyed a fellowship dinner and received door prizes, adding joy and

laughter to a gathering already rich with purpose.

The church has set a bold goal: 100%-member engagement, believing wholeheartedly that every individual has a talent God intends to use for impact. And on this Saturday afternoon in Jackson, those boots, hats, and flannel shirts became more than a theme, they became a symbol

of a church ready to serve, ready to grow, and ready to make life-changing contributions in the name of Christ. ■

**Dr. Colibri Jenkins**  
Adventist Youth Leader,  
New Heights SDA Church, MS



moving *from*  
intention  
*to* action

# Annual Women's Day

The annual Women's Day was celebrated on Thursday, June 19, 2025, during South Central Conference 2025 Camp Meeting. The day began with Sabbath School Lesson Review taught by Chaplain Freddie Jenkins outside under the portico. This first-time experience was exciting and exhilarating to those who attended the traditional 6:00 am Sabbath School Lesson Review. The morning worship speaker was Mrs. April Watlington-Smith, South Atlantic Conference Women's Ministries Director.

The colors for Women's Ministries have been changed by the NADWM to Turquoise. To offset the cost of this change and allow time to transition to this change, each woman was given a turquoise corsage to wear with the traditional purple color.

SCC Woman's Saturday Nite Live Food, Fun, and Fellowship was held on June 14, 2025, in the Bradford-Cleveland conference room. The attendance was outstanding, the food was delicious (Prepared by Mrs. Paula Eakins, Health Ministries), and the fellowship was absolutely amazing! Mrs. Alyce Hendricks-Hoglan was the MC for the event and Door Prizes were given by Elder Shirley Scott, Southern Union Women's Ministries Director.

We had a Great time at SCC Camp Meeting 2025!

*Don't be left out, plan now to attend Camp Meeting 2026!*  
Until we meet again, Blessings!



Dr. Freddie Williams Jenkins  
SCC Women's  
Ministries Leader





# PRAYER MINISTRY

In one of the most emotionally charged moments of Jesus' life, He offers His disciples—and us—a profound spiritual directive. Spoken in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before His arrest, this verse is more than a warning; it's a blueprint for spiritual resilience.

Jesus had asked Peter, James, and John to stay awake and pray with Him. But they fell asleep, overcome by exhaustion and unaware of the spiritual battle unfolding. His words, "Watch and pray," were not just about staying physically awake. They were a call to spiritual alertness, to remain connected to God in moments of vulnerability.

Temptation often strikes when we're least prepared. Jesus knew this. His command to "watch and pray" is a strategy for spiritual survival. Prayer is not just a ritual, it's a life-line. It keeps us grounded, reminds us of God's presence, and equips us to resist the pull of sin.

Jesus acknowledges a universal truth: our spirit may desire righteousness, but our flesh often falters. This isn't condemnation—it's compassion. He understands our frailty. Prayers bridge the gap between our good intentions and our human limitations. Jesus' words, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation"—reveal that prayer is not just a spiritual discipline; it's a defense mechanism. It's how we stay spiritually awake in a world that constantly lulls us into complacency.

Temptation doesn't always come as a dramatic moral crisis. Often, it's subtle—distraction, discouragement, pride, or fear. Prayer sharpens our awareness and strengthens our resolve. It's like spiritual training: the more we pray, the more resilient we become. Jesus didn't teach prayer as a performance. He modeled it as intimate conversation with the Father. In Gethsemane, His prayer was raw and honest: "My soul is exceeding



*Prayers bridge  
the gap between  
our good  
intentions and  
our human  
limitations*

sorrowful... take this cup from me." That vulnerability shows us that prayer isn't about perfect words—it's about real connection.

When Jesus prayed, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt," He demonstrated the ultimate purpose of prayer: surrender. Prayer isn't just asking

for what we want—it's aligning our desires with God's. It transforms our hearts, not just our circumstances. Jesus' command to "watch and pray" is a call to spiritual alertness. In a world filled with distractions, prayer is how we stay tuned to God's voice. It's not just a spiritual exercise, it's our connection to divine wisdom, strength, and peace.

When we pray, we invite God into our choices. Whether facing temptation, making a tough decision, or navigating uncertainty, prayer helps us discern what aligns with God's will. It's like spiritual GPS—keeping us on course when the path isn't clear.

In Gethsemane, Jesus didn't demand His way—He surrendered. Prayers remind us that we're not in

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control, and that's okay. It teaches us to trust, to yield, and to let go of pride. In prayer, we learn to say, "Not my will, but Yours."

Prayer isn't just about changing circumstances—it's about changing us. It softens our hearts, renews our minds, and strengthens our spirits. As we pray, we become more like Christ—more patient, more loving, more courageous. Jesus didn't just pray in crisis—He prayed constantly. His life was marked by communion with the Father. For us, prayer should be more than a reaction; it should be a rhythm. When we make prayer a daily discipline, we cultivate spiritual endurance.

In a chaotic world, prayer is our anchor. It calms the storm within, even when the storm outside rages

on. Philippians 4:6–7 reminds us that when we present our requests to God, His peace guards our hearts and minds. Prayer doesn't always change our situation immediately—but it always changes our posture. When we neglect prayer, our spiritual fire dims. But when we pray, we fan the flame. We become more sensitive to God's presence, more aware of His purpose, and more passionate about His mission. Prayer is the oxygen of our faith—it keeps it alive and burning.

Jesus didn't say "watch and pray" casually. He said it in the shadow of betrayal, suffering, and death. He knew what was coming—and He knew His disciples weren't ready. Prayer is how we prepare for the unseen battles ahead. It's our spiritual armor, our training ground, our lifeline. "The spirit is willing, but the

flesh is weak." This isn't just a diagnosis; it's a reality check. We want to do what's right, but we're often tired, distracted, or afraid. Prayer doesn't eliminate weakness, but it invites God's strength into it. It's where we say, "I can't do this alone," and God responds, "You don't have to."

Jesus prayed in the garden because the moment demanded it. But He also prayed regularly—early in the morning, late at night, before miracles, after teaching. Prayer is both timeless (always relevant) and timely (always needed). Whether in crisis or calm, prayer keeps us connected to the source of life. ■



**Pastor  
Curtis Hall**  
SCC Prayer Ministry  
Leader

# Happy Holidays

*from all of us at*

