You've heard of a week of prayer but what about “month of prayer”? That's what happened at Southern Adventist University during October, when three weeks of prayer took place on campus—a break from the usual routine of one week of prayer per semester.

It started with Fall at the Wall, an yearly outdoor tradition, which featured Kris Eckenroth, a pastor at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. This was followed by a residence hall week of prayer, shared between Talge and Thatcher halls. During that week, different students spoke each night.

Both of these events were coordinated by Campus Ministries. As a bonus, the Latin American Club (LAC) hosted an additional week of prayer as an introduction to Hispanic Heritage Month and LAC night—a cultural event that closed out the end of the week. Although the overlap of additional spiritual opportunities was unintentional, the extra weeks of prayer exemplify how campus culture is being pulled together in prayer.

“What’s beautiful is that different demographics in charge, and each week of prayer drew a different crowd,” said Anna Bennett, Campus Ministries associate chaplain. “It shows how Southern as a whole is wanting to cultivate a campus of prayer.”

Sierra Wendt, junior film production major and Thatcher Hall chaplain, believes these various weeks of prayer were powerful because of how many different student groups were reached.

“This ‘Month of Prayer’ changes what the traditional week of prayer looks like,” Wendt said. “With different speakers, we include different voices. It shows that Southern cares about your spirituality.”

~Gelissa Leveille, senior film major
Meet the Dean of Women: An Interview with Lisa Hall

Q: How long have you worked at Southern?
A: I’ve been here for more than 13 years.

Q: What is your favorite part of being a residence hall dean?
A: My favorite part is interacting with students; that is the only reason I became a dean. Previously, I came from the business world, but then I felt God leading in a different direction. My duties are pretty varied: I manage the budget for the dorm, manage discipline for the whole campus, and do a lot of paperwork and administrative tasks. But interacting with students who just wander in to talk is the highlight of my day.

Q: What would you like others to know about you?
A: Some students may be intimidated by me, probably because of my title as dean. But once they get in here they realize, “Oh, she’s not so bad.” I just want them to be comfortable to talk with me, pray with me, and see that I am not intimidating.

Q: What makes Southern different from other schools?
A: The students seeking to have a daily relationship with Christ—that’s what makes us different from many schools. Besides that, our students have so many opportunities that the university offers, such as intramurals, concerts, tutoring, and other support services. Students are here for academics and that should be a major focus, but it’s important to relax and enjoy Southern as well.

What is your favorite part of being a residence hall dean?

I believe there is no greater satisfaction in life than the satisfaction that comes from doing what God asks you to do. Prayer is the key to doing God’s will. Pray for God to reveal to them His will for their lives. Commit to it. Whatever you do, know that you pray daily for your children. Please pray for God to reveal to them His will for their lives. I believe there is no greater satisfaction in life than the satisfaction that comes from doing what God asks you to do. Commit to it. Whatever you do, know that you pray daily for your children. Please pray for God to reveal to them His will for their lives.

What is your favorite part of being a residence hall dean?

The McKee Library has many easily accessible resources to help students get the most from their study time and succeed in their classes:

The Writing Center
The Writing Center is a resource where students skilled in writing help their peers fine-tune papers, speeches, and other writing projects. These students are College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) certified, meaning they have excellent writing and citation skills.

The Writing Center workers are good at helping students clarify their thought processes, while making them feel confident about the final product,” said Katie McGrath, associate library director.

Peer Tutoring Center
At the Tutoring Center, students seeking help are matched with individuals who have already successfully taken the classes they are struggling in. This peer-driven tutoring style has proven to be beneficial for not only those seeking assistance but for the tutors as well.

“Just like being able to help people with a subject that they find challenging,” said Sarah Wu, junior mathematics major and tutor. “I think it is great that Southern offers this for free, and I’m so happy to be part of the it.”

Research Coaches
Professional librarians are dedicated to helping students with any research-based class. Coaches are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to aid in the process of navigating through library resources.

Therapy Dogs
Twice a month, therapy dogs visit the library to provide emotional relief and support. Getting to play with a well-behaved dog gives students a fun study break and helps them manage stress.

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