

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

# VISITOR

AN OFFICE OF CHANGING THE WORLD

## Celebrating A Century

1907



A Look At  
Columbia Union  
Conference  
Beginnings



2007



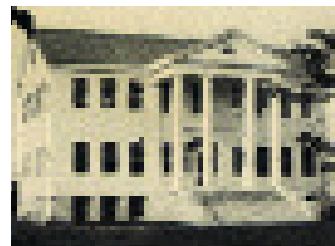
8

News & Features

8 | Celebrating a Century: A Look at Columbia Union Conference Beginnings

Alan Hecht and Monte Sahlin

The Columbia Union Conference was formed a century ago, in 1907. This was also a time of major transition for the entire Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was undergoing a physical shift from Battle Creek, Mich., to Takoma Park, Md. Discover how the union's beginning is woven into these events.



Shenandoah Valley Academy, 1937

14 | ASI Members Balance Business and Mission

Judy Thomsen

Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) members are involved in various professions, industry, education, and/or services. See how four members balance business and mission. Plus, learn how you can get involved.

18 | Glen Burnie Church: 100 Years of Growth, Service, and Ministry

Rhondra R. Thomas

The Glen Burnie church recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Read about their century of evangelism and service and their impact on the community.

In Every Issue

3 | Editorial

4 | Newslines

6 | Potluck

18 | Church Profile

21 | Healing Ministry

Newsletters

- 25 Allegheny East
- 27 Allegheny West
- 29 Blue Mountain Academy
- 31 Chesapeake
- 33 Columbia Union College
- 35 El Telescopio
- 37 Mountain View
- 39 New Jersey
- 41 Ohio
- 43 Pennsylvania
- 45 Potomac
- 47 Shenandoah Valley Academy
- 48 Takoma Academy

51 | Bulletin Board

55 | Last Words

On the Web:

- Visit our newly redesigned website

[www.columbiaunion.org](http://www.columbiaunion.org)

Happy Anniversary Columbia Union Conference

That's right, it's our anniversary! It was 100 years ago that Adventist pioneers established the Columbia Union Conference. And it would be appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate such a milestone.

Conference, church, or school anniversaries are somewhat like wedding anniversaries—you celebrate the years together and renew your commitment. This year my wife, Becky, and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. I'm certain we will have a wonderful time reviewing our many years together, reflecting on God's blessings, renewing our vows, and anticipating more happy years ahead.



The same goes for our Columbia Union family. As our great and diverse union marks 100 years of existence, we should also pause and celebrate what the Lord has done for us. We should review how He has executed the mission of His church through dedicated members. We should recognize how through our churches, schools, healthcare, and other institutions people have experienced Christ-like service. And most of all, we should reflect upon how our Lord has mobilized His church through the agency of His Holy Spirit to affect evangelism in and beyond the borders of our union territory.

BITTERSWEET

But there is a marked difference in celebrating a Seventh-day Adventist church, conference, or school milestone from that of a marriage anniversary. It is a bittersweet experience. For as we gather to celebrate what God has done for us during the ensuing years, there is a disturbing thought protruding

our consciousness. It is the penetrating words of an Adventist pioneer: "... We should have been in the kingdom ere this."

What Adventist pioneer would have ever thought we would experience the year 2007 on this present Earth? For that matter, which of our grandparents or parents would have thought such a thing? As we reflect on the past 100 years, shouldn't we be asking, How long, O Lord? How long will You tarry 'til You return to take Your people home?

And perhaps we would hear the Lord answer from His Word: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

Therefore a Seventh-day Adventist anniversary should always spark the following question: What should we be doing to complete the mission given to this movement?

I am encouraged by the servant of the Lord's counsel, and I challenge each of us to be accountable to it: "... Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. ... They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 19).

So happy anniversary Columbia Union Conference! Now, as we embark on this yearlong celebration with banners, a centennial calendar, a series of *Visitor* articles, and several commemorative events, let's not plan to celebrate another 100-year anniversary on this Earth.

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, would like to hear from you. Email [dweigley@columbiaunion.net](mailto:dweigley@columbiaunion.net).

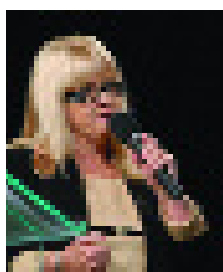


*In the Mail: Our centennial celebration begins with this 2007 Centennial Calendar, that chronicles the history of the conferences, colleges, and healthcare networks within the Columbia Union.*

LAVERNE HENDERSON

**Union ASI Chapter Plans Mission Trip**

The Columbia Union Conference chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI), in conjunction with MissionServ International, is sponsoring a mission trip to Iguape, Brazil, February 22-March 5. This fishing village on the northeast coast has had little exposure to the Adventist message. In 2005 MissionServ missionaries conducted evangelism seminars in two towns and began construction of a community center/medical clinic in Iguape. The effort resulted in over 150 baptisms, and there is now an urgent need to build churches in this area. One church is almost complete, and this group will begin construction on another.



"It's a blessing to see God at work, benefiting the people and impacting the lives of those doing the work," says **Dirci Marquart**, a union ASI member and president of MissionServ International.

This trip is ideal for first-time missionaries and families (all ages are invited). Accommodations will be at a local inn a short walk from the ocean. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Marquart at (240) 315-2112 or Carina Franca at (301) 748-4571. (Learn more about ASI in the feature on pp. 14-17.)  
—*Danny Kwon*

**New Website Connects Adventist Lawyers**

The Office of General Counsel at the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters has launched a website to connect Adventist lawyers worldwide. The new site, [www.adventistlawyer.org](http://www.adventistlawyer.org), will also make it easier for members to locate Adventist lawyers and allow the church to share pertinent updates with the legal community.



"This is a great, user-friendly website," says **Walter Carson**, Columbia Union Conference vice president and general counsel. "It's an excellent service provided by the Office of General Counsel and a useful resource regarding current legal issues facing the church. If you're looking for a local Adventist lawyer, you can find one here."

The site currently has the names and areas of practice for about 1,000 lawyers. It will also include articles, news releases, case updates, and a roster of law students.—*Adventist News Network Staff*

**2007 Healthy Lifestyle Contest Targets Youth**

It's time for the North American Division's (NAD) Healthy Lifestyle Contest, which is open to all Adventist youth, including those not attending an Adventist school. The purpose of the contest is to encourage participants to submit creative health-themed projects in vari-

ous categories, to sign a temperance pledge, and to strengthen their commitment to a healthy lifestyle free from harmful substances. For contest rules and information, visit [www.healthylifestylecontest.com](http://www.healthylifestylecontest.com).

Individual entries must be sent to the local conference's Department of Education, post-marked by March 9. Each conference will then send the winning materials to the NAD's Health



Ministries Department, post-marked by April 6. Prize money will be available in four contest groups and three grade levels.

The Healthy Lifestyle Contest is sponsored by the Education Department along with Women's, Health, Youth, Sabbath School, and Children's ministries.

**Visitor Readers Help Fund Pitcairn Project**

Hundreds of *Visitor* readers gave contributions in the mid-to-late 1990s to help build an all-weather-surface road on remote Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific Ocean. That complex construction project is now complete.

One of the world's most remote islands, Pitcairn, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, served as the pioneer base for sending Seventh-day Adventist missionaries to scores of other islands in the Pacific Ocean. One mile wide by two miles long, the island is a rugged, volcanic outcropping that is located some 5,000 miles south of California.

"The new road surmounting

Pitcairn's steep 'Hill of Difficulty,' leading from the island's boat landing at Bounty Bay up to the little village of Adamstown, has finally been completed," says **Herbert Ford**, director of the



Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif.

Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists, including school children, throughout the world gave funds to complete the new concrete road. And a number of world notables, including the late King Hussein of Jordan, contributed funds to the project.

**Pastors Confident in Ministry, Struggling with Relationships**

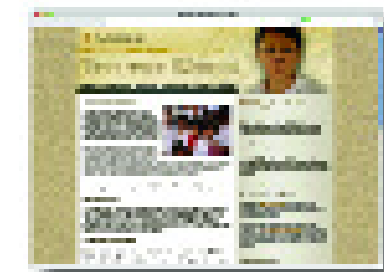
Pastors have one of society's most demanding professions with many churchgoers placing unrealistic expectations on their leaders. While pastors brim with self-confidence in ministry areas, some admit it is a challenge to maintain genuine relationships with others. A new study conducted by the Barna Group among a nationwide sample of Protestant pastors shows that a majority (61%) admit that they "have few close friends." Even more important is that one in five are "dealing with a very difficult family situation." Also, despite the interpersonal demands of congregational ministry, nearly one-quarter (24%) of the nation's senior pastors, compared to 25 percent of the adult population, describe

themselves as shy or introverted. Those attending seminary, non-white pastors, mainline leaders, those in the Northeast, and leaders in their 20s and 30s were more likely than average to self-identify as introverts.

The Barna Group is an independent cultural analysis and strategic consulting firm.

**Church Promotes "Tell the World" Initiative**

"Tell the World" is a broad vision, a bold challenge undertaken by the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 2005-2010. The ultimate goal of "Tell the World" is to provide every person on Earth with the chance to know Jesus Christ and respond to the good news of His soon coming. It focuses the church on its commission to



proclaim the gospel to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6).

With seven key components—Spiritual Growth, Community Involvement, Personal Witness, City Outreach, Church Planting, Evangelistic Programming, and Media Ministry—there's something that each member can do. For more information, visit [www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org), click on "World Church," and then "Initiatives and Projects."

**ACS Crisis Care Coordinator Appointed**

**Steve Willsey**, recently retired senior associate pastor of Chesapeake's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., has been appointed ACS (Adventist Community Services) Crisis Care Coordinator for the North American Division.



After spending six months becoming qualified as a NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) trainer, Willsey, is now qualified to conduct group crisis intervention at disaster sites. In conjunction with his training, Willsey will be mentored by NOVA's chief trainer at a crisis response team training event at the nearby Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters January 23-25.

"I will be training Adventist volunteers to participate in group crisis intervention teams in response to national and local community disasters," says Willsey of his new role.

NOVA's protocol has proven effective in scores of situations including the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina disasters. Similar to psychological first aid, it allows victims to have their experience validated by others in a group setting, thus normalizing the trauma and dissipating some of the pain.

For more information on the crisis response training event, visit [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org).  
—*Sung Kwon*

## Potluck

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

### What's New

#### Books > *Dusty Angels and Old Diaries*

Through her memoir, first-time author Linda J. Meikle, LPN, of the Worthington (Ohio) church pulls readers into a time-

line of life events packed with trials and triumphs. Through diary entries she started at a young age, Meikle recounts times of desperation, i.e., when her mother mysteri-

ously left Meikle and her three siblings in the care of the state of New York; severe physical abuse by the grandmother who "kid-

napped" and raised her and one sister; and a 21-year draining marriage that eventually failed. Many will relate to Meikle's story, which does have a happy ending filled with accomplishments and proud moments.

"Women who have read [my story] said it helped them make changes and move forward in their lives," she says. "I hope it will help women to feel strong." The book is available through major bookstores, from book publisher AuthorHouse.com, or at Meikle's website [www.lindasbookshelf.com](http://www.lindasbookshelf.com).

—Beth Michaels

#### What We Believe

When people ask about our faith or what it means to be an Adventist, what do you say? If you have a hard time explaining our beliefs, imagine how our kids feel. Jerry Thomas, author of over 25 books (including a number of popular children's books), offers help through *What We Believe*. In it he

explains all 28 fundamentals through a short summary of each belief, practical stories, corresponding Bible texts, discussion questions, and suggested activities. "By attaching church beliefs to experiences that children can identify with,



we make them a part of their identity," he notes. "We also make the church a part of their identity." Thus kids age 5 and up can better understand what their church teaches and what it means to be an Adventist. A kid-friendly design makes this book easy to use for Bible study, Sabbath School, or baptismal classes. Find it at your local Adventist Book Center or [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com).

#### Technology > Mission Podcast

Adventist Mission's free video podcast shows how the Seventh-day Adventist Church is sharing Jesus with the world. Each video brings viewers to the frontlines of mission and face-to-face with people telling the world about Christ. Many of the stories, which vary in length from 1 to 10 minutes, are included on the quarterly produced Adventist Mission DVD. Subscribe at [www.adventistmission.org](http://www.adventistmission.org).

—Hans Olson



### WholeHealth

#### "No Pain, No Gain?"

When it comes to exercise, "no pain, no gain" is a myth. With interval training, you can actually increase the "gain" and decrease the "pain" of exercise significantly.



Interval training incorporates intense exercise with short bouts of rest. Here's how to do it: Find the exercising heart rate—beats per minute—that's right for you. Then exercise at a level that raises your heart rate five beats per minute *above* that comfort level. At that point, slow down to let your heart rate *drop* 10 beats per minute.



When that happens,

exercise more intensively so that your heart rate goes back up 10 beats per minute. As you repeat this up-and-down cycle, you will keep your muscles burning



oxygen while reducing the risk of overworking them. Overworked muscles build up lactic acid, which tires you more quickly and causes muscles to feel sore. Lactic acid buildup may also reduce the amount of fat your body burns during exercise. Exercise physiologist Harold Mayer discovered

that when individuals adopt an interval training exercise program, they lose *more* weight and body fat than do those who exercise using continuous training.

For a good start to your new year of more "gain" and less "pain," try interval training.

—Tim Arnott, MD, Adventist WholeHealth Network, Reprinted from Dr. Arnott's 24 Realistic Ways to Improve Your Health, Pacific Press Pub. Assn.

## What You Bring to the Table

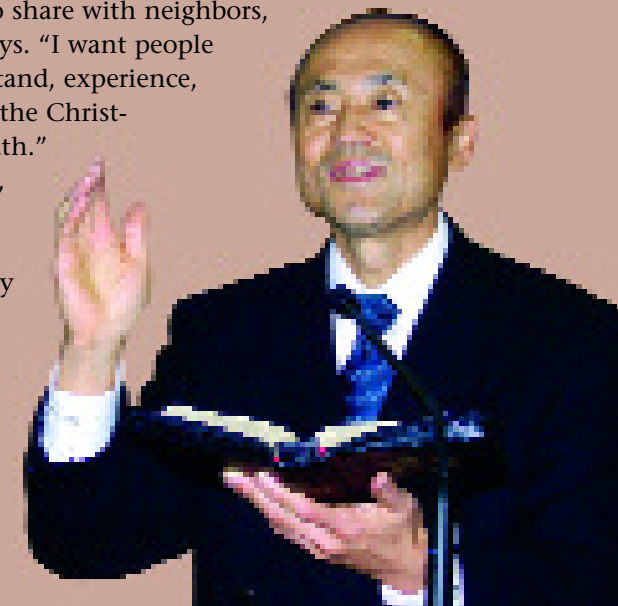
### Ministry Spotlight > Ronald Myung Soo Cho

We all saw the major events that occurred last year—the papal funeral, the establishment of 10 Commandments Day, increasing acts of terrorism, and the creation of a national ID. But what did we do about it?

Ronald Myung Soo Cho, PhD, pastor of Allegheny East's Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, took action. He wrote and published a 56-page evangelism magazine titled "The Biblical Lord's Day and its Purpose."

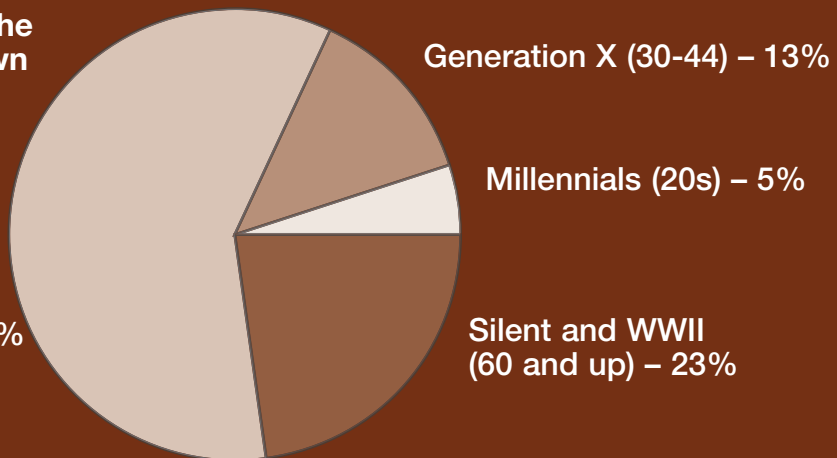
"I want to help our members prepare for what's coming and give them something to share with neighbors, friends, and family," Cho says. "I want people around the world to understand, experience, and receive the blessings of the Christ-centered, seventh-day Sabbath."

The 10-chapter magazine, which has been sent to all 5,700 churches in North America, explains the history of the Sabbath, its significance, Sabbathkeepers in each century, answers to frequently asked questions, and more. To get your copy or order in bulk, call (888) 210-2022.



### Keeping Score

This pie chart shows the generational breakdown of pastors currently serving Adventist churches in the United States:



Source: FACT 2005 Study ([www.creativeministry.org](http://www.creativeministry.org))

# Celebrating A Century

1907-2007

A LOOK AT  
COLUMBIA UNION  
CONFERENCE  
BEGINNINGS

ALAN HECHT AND MONTE SAHLIN

A lot was going on in the world a century ago, in 1907, when the Columbia Union Conference was established. Imperial Russia instituted representative government with mixed results, electing both the second and third Duma (parliament). Neighboring Finland held its first parliamentary elections and the first elections anywhere in which universal suffrage was guaranteed. Women not only voted, but also ran for office. New Zealand and Newfoundland became self-governing dominions of the British Crown. Korea became a protectorate of Japan, leading eventually to outright occupation.

The United States succeeded in averting a major financial crisis, such as what took place in the mid-1890s and in 1929, thanks to the foresight of such industrialists as J.P. Morgan. And the Indian and Oklahoma territories united and became the state of Oklahoma. There were also cultural and social milestones: Robert Baden-Powell opened the first Boy Scout camp on Brownsea Island, England; Maria Montessori started her first school and day-care center in Rome, Italy.

While not a year for major inventions such as the light bulb and telephone, 1907 witnessed the advent of technologies still in use today. Among them are the Hoover vacuum cleaner, the first steps toward color photography, Lee De Forest's triode thermionic amplifier that made electronics feasible on a large scale, and metered taxicabs (London).

## A TIME OF TRANSITION

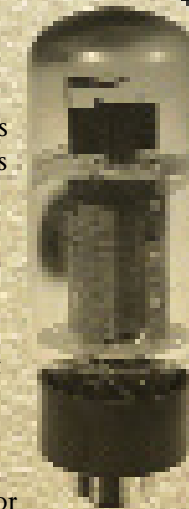
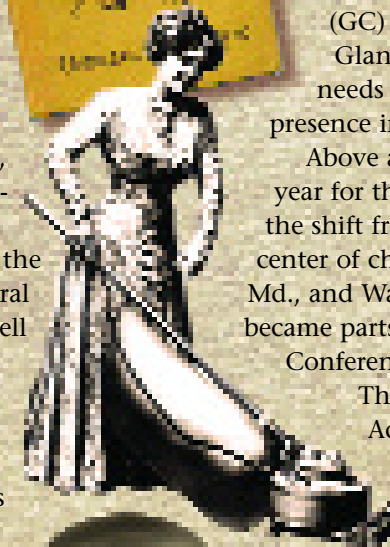
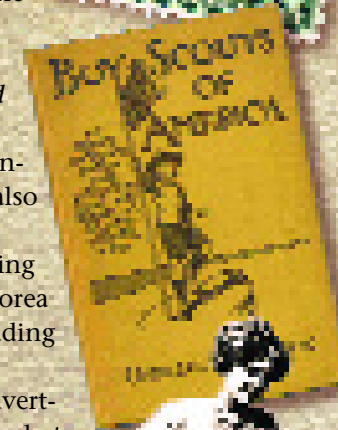
At this time the Seventh-day Adventist Church was still recovering from the upheavals of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Co-founder Ellen White was alive and providing prophetic guidance for

the church's activities. John Harvey Kellogg was formally dropped from membership at the Battle Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, bringing that phase of church history to a conclusion. Alonzo T. Jones, a major figure in the 1888 controversies, had his ministerial credentials revoked. Louis Sheafe, an African-American pastor in the Washington, D.C., area, temporarily removed his congregation—the Peoples Church—from conference organization in protest against certain church policies. And a special session of the General Conference (GC) Committee was held in Gland, Switzerland, to address the needs of the expanding Adventist presence in Europe.

Above all, 1907 was a transitional year for the church. Much of it involved the shift from Battle Creek, the official center of church activity, to Takoma Park, Md., and Washington, D.C.—which became parts of the Columbia Union Conference that same year.

The decision to move the main Adventist institutions to the eastern United States had been made as early as the 1903 GC Session in Oakland, Calif. White pointed out and wrote that, "The advantages of Washington, D.C., should be closely investigated." Church officials began to relocate to the Washington area, initially working from rented properties. By 1907 White's vision for Washington as an urban center for Adventist activity began to take shape.

Washington Sanitarium—now Washington Adventist Hospital—admitted its first patients in the summer of 1907. The Washington Training College—founded in 1904—expanded and became





Washington Sanitarium, 1937

Washington Foreign Missionary Seminary, then Washington Missionary College, and, still later, Columbia Union College.

The Columbia Union Conference was voted in the spring of 1907, as part of an ongoing reorganization of the church into "union conferences." (It was based on the successful model of the Australian Union Conference.) Prior to this, all church matters that couldn't be handled at the local or conference level were managed—or micromanaged—by the General Conference Committee. This was satisfactory to no one. GC officials felt that local matters were too much of a drain on their time and attention. And others—including Ellen White, who warned about "kingly power" and "Jerusalem centers"—felt that too few people had too much authority.

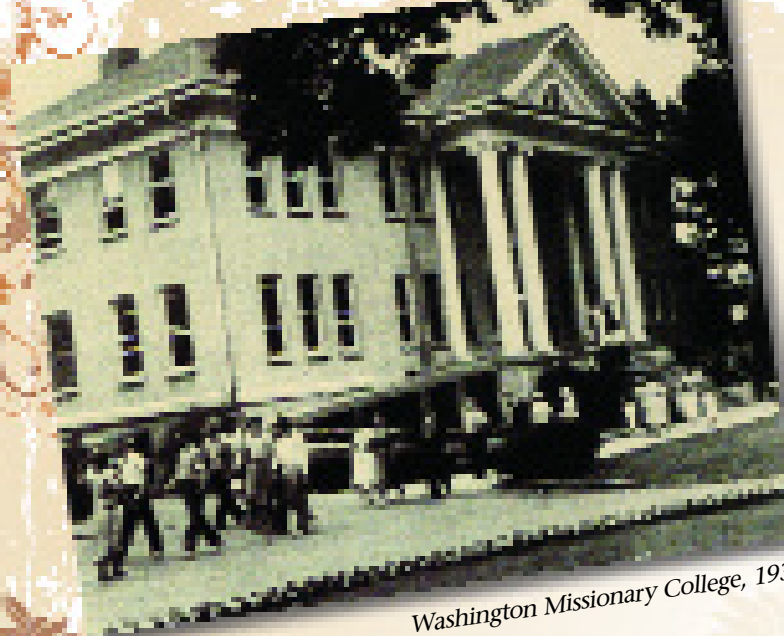
#### A NEW FRONTIER

Several union conferences had already been organized by 1907 when the GC Committee,

while meeting in Gland, Switzerland, on May 15, voted "that the Atlantic Union Conference be requested to ... reorganize ... to form two union conferences." The new territory was to be named "the Columbia Union Conference" and "composed of the conferences in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia." Also, "the Lake Union Conference" was "requested to release the Ohio Conference, to become a part of" the new union conference (*GC Committee Minutes, 1906-1908, pp. 151-152*).

The major reason for a new union conference was to focus more missionary activity and resources within the large cities of the mid-Atlantic region. Up to this point, the Washington metropolitan area was not included in any conference; it was attached directly to the General Conference and administered through a special evangelism committee. And there were only small, struggling city missions in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Newark, N. J.

After the Atlantic and Lake union conferences executive committees assented to this



Washington Missionary College, 1937

recommendation, an organizing session for the new union conference was convened in Philadelphia at 3 p.m., November 17. There were less than 50 delegates, but all seven conferences were represented, including members of the Washington evangelism committee.

The voted resolutions presented a number of goals, several of which are still a central focus for the Columbia Union Conference today. "The people of the great cities in this field," was the first priority mentioned, with a "call for the consecration of every resource to service" and the objective to "press our work into unentered portions of our field ... in the great centers of population." Special attention was pledged to "mission work among the Jews and Italians," the major

immigrants in these cities at the time.

The delegates voted that "full departmental organization of our work" be implemented as quickly as possible with people to be assigned to oversee "publishing, educational, medical missionary, religious liberty, and young people's missionary volunteer departments." Also, "a general missionary secretary" was to be funded jointly by the Review & Herald Publishing Association and the new union conference.

The conferences were urged "to hold institutes for church elders and deacons" to provide training for local church outreach and nurture. Youth Ministries, which came into existence earlier in 1907, was to be given special attention. Efforts were underway "to encourage all of our young people to obtain a preparation in our schools for some branch of the work." Mount Vernon College was designated as



### COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

1907-1908

W.J. FITZGERALD



While president of the East Pennsylvania Conference, he was encouraged by Ellen White to purchase a Philadelphia sanitarium

1909

G.B. THOMPSON



Went on to become secretary of the North American Division

1909-1918

B.G. WILKINSON



One of the first Adventist leaders to receive a doctorate from a secular university, George Washington University, in 1908

1918-1932 & 1941-1946

F.H. ROBBINS



The longest-serving Columbia Union president

1932-1941

H.J. DETWILER



Presided over the Columbia Union during the difficult years of the Great Depression

1946-1957

D.A. OCHS



Authored several devotional books

1957-1958

V.G. ANDERSON



Previously served as president of the Southern Union for nine years

1958-1962

L.E. LENHEIM



Also served as president of the Florida Conference

the union college since Columbia Union College then belonged to the GC as a seminary to train missionaries going overseas.

A goal was set to seek "better patronage" for "our sanitariums" (hospitals) through greater marketing efforts. Another goal was to raise "an amount equal to 10 cents a member each week" (about \$10 today) for world missions. The group also voted that the *Ohio Welcome Visitor*, the weekly Ohio Conference newsletter, become the new union publication.

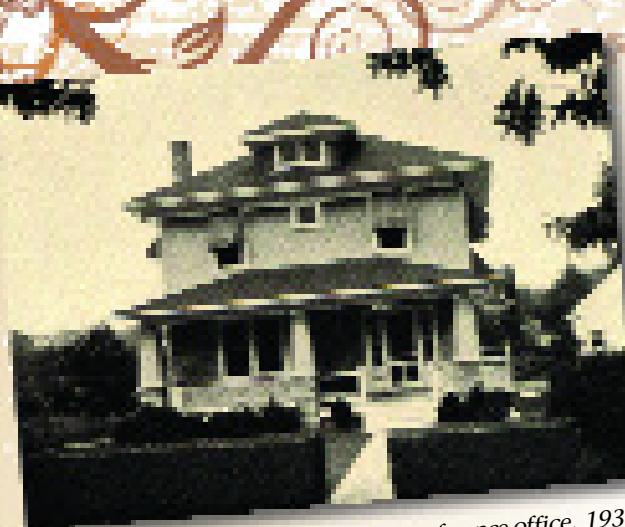
The delegates elected three officers: president,



W. J. Fitzgerald; vice president, H. H. Burkholder; and secretary/treasurer, E. R. Brown. Three pastors and a physician were elected to the executive committee, with an additional slot to be filled by the committee.

Official operations for the Columbia Union Conference began a few weeks later. In the intervening period, the Atlantic Union Conference put the newly elected officers on its payroll (*Review & Herald*, January 9, 1908, p. 18). On January 23, 1908, the *Review* reported that, "the new Columbia Union Conference has decided to make Cumberland, Md., its headquarters."

The *1908 Yearbook* was the first to record information about the Columbia Union Conference. At the time, it consisted of seven conferences: Chesapeake, East Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia,



Columbia Union Conference office, 1937

West Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Total membership was 5,320 attending 187 churches. Paid employees included 43 ordained ministers, 23 licensed ministers, and 59 licensed missionaries.

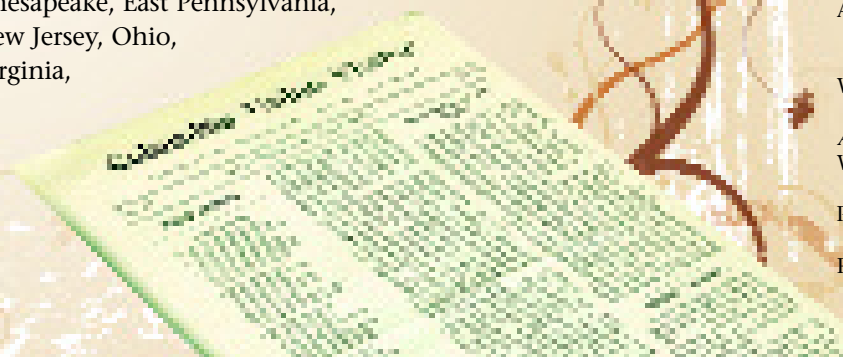
In 1924 the Potomac Conference was formed from the Virginia and District of Columbia conferences. A regional conference, Allegheny (East), was formed in 1945. A second, Allegheny West, was voted in 1966. Then in 1971, the West Virginia Conference was restructured as the

Mountain View Conference.

From those beginnings, the Columbia Union Conference has increased its membership exponentially, now claiming nearly 125,000 members worshipping in nearly 700 churches, served by about 300 pastors. There are 106 educational institutions, plus two colleges and two health-care networks.

*Alan Hecht is the librarian at the Rebok Memorial Library at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.*

*Monte Sahlin is vice president for Creative Ministries at the Columbia Union Conference.*



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COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

1962-1966

NEAL C. WILSON



The only Columbia Union president elected president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church

1966-1973

CREE SANDEFUR



Presided over the first ordination of a woman, Josephine Benton, as a church elder in 1972

1973-1978

W.B. QUIGLEY



Co-presided with Sandefur during the Benton ordination

1978-1985

WALLACE O. COE



Spearheaded the relocation of the Columbia Union headquarters from Takoma Park, Md., to Columbia, Md.

1985-1994

RON M. WISBEY



Implemented "Vision 2000" which positioned the local church as the driving force and central focus of the denomination

1994-1997

RALPH MARTIN



Trained and developed future leaders while fostering a united, gospel-oriented atmosphere

1998-2006

HAROLD L. LEE



Established a global mission service initiative and worked to enhance ministry in major metropolitan areas

2006-

DAVE WEIGLEY



Passionate about bringing people to Christ, the former literature evangelist often conducts evangelism efforts

# ASI Members Balance Business AND Mission

Judy Thomsen

Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) is an organization whose members are involved in various professions, industry, education, and/or services. In addition to practicing their trades, their collective mission is "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace" and supporting the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Meet six ASI members who balance business and mission:

## Ron and Jo Ann Vozar Bible Games Company, Fredericktown, Ohio

Ron and Jo Ann Vozar and their two daughters love to play family games. So it made sense for Ron to purchase Bible Games Company when the business became available in 1987. As assistant manager of the Ohio Adventist Book Center, he was acquainted with the company as a source for games. Since Jo Ann was home schooling daughters Kristine and Kelly, Bible Games provided her with part-time work that she could do from home.

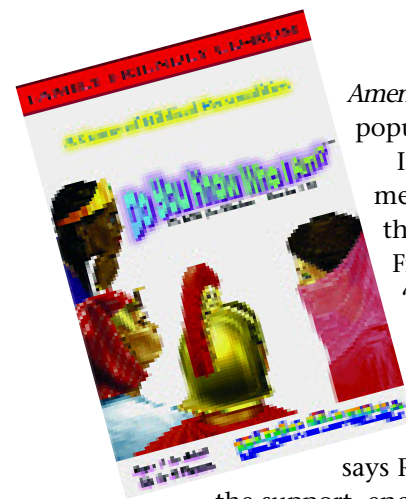
What started as a kitchen-table



operation has become a full-time job for the couple and their staff, which consists of family members working from a remodeled barn, complete with an Internet "bargain loft."

Bible Games Company furnishes games, puzzles, coloring books, cards, videos, DVDs, and other "fantastic faith-based products with heavenly prices!" for Christian bookstores in the United States and around the world.

Their website, [www.faithoutlet.com](http://www.faithoutlet.com), is a one-stop source for Bible games like *Bible Trivia*, *Missionary Conquest*, and the bestseller



*Amen*, a game much like the popular *Uno*.

In addition to being ASI members, the Vozars attend the Ohio Conference's Fredericktown church.

"Being a part of ASI puts us in contact with fellow believers,"

says Ron. "We enjoy the support, encouragement, and family atmosphere at conventions. And the credibility of ASI membership is like an extra endorsement!"

Ron recognizes the obvious impact of each product. "When you play a game which outlines the



Christian walk, you can't help but see yourself," he says. "Many people tell us how these games change their lives." It's evident he enjoys sharing Christ and doing something he truly enjoys.

## Amocetia Beckford-Tabanar Beckford Rentals, Reading, Pa.

There should be a photo of Amocetia Beckford-Tabanar in the dictionary under the word *energetic*. This Jamaican-born woman seems to be unstoppable. Beckford Rentals, a real estate company operated by Amocetia and her husband, Albert, near Reading, Pa., has been the perfect fit for this "people person" who loves to share the good news of salvation.

Many of the Tabanars' properties are used as places of shelter. "Our inner city program for women and children has been running for more than 10 years," she explains. "We teach sewing and knitting and conduct Bible studies. On Sabbath we have Sabbath School, church, and lunch! We call it Kid's Café and Emmanuel's Place."

Before finding this current location, it was not uncommon for the couple to have between 80 and 90 children in their home on the weekend. "I loved it," says Tabanar. "If you can take



one child and teach him about Jesus, that child can teach his parents."

Tabanar is equally energetic about ASI. "I first read about ASI in the *Columbia Union Visitor*," she said. The 2002 convention was held in Columbus, Ohio, which is near one of my daughters. I was so excited! When you go to ASI, you feel like you really belong to the Lord. And it was just thrilling to see the youth on fire for Him."

Though a member of the Pennsylvania Conference's Reading Kenhorst Boulevard church, Tabanar is also involved with new Spanish-speaking congregations. She is also helping to sponsor the Eden Garden Orphanage in Haiti. And if that weren't enough, she

would like to open a center for health lectures in conjunction with Adventist WholeHealth Network. "I want to continue to be close to the Lord; not just for myself, but for others," she says.





## Damian "Chip" Dizard

Absolute Presence, Baltimore

Damian "Chip" Dizard is a Web designer. In 1999 he "started playing around on the Web" as a hobby. Soon afterward, he and a friend launched Absolute Presence, a business providing Web design services to churches, ministries, political candidates, and businesses. His philosophy is to create a Web "presence" that uniquely reflects the client. The business has grown and now provides services nationwide and globally.

A diverse clientele affords Dizard opportunities to share Christ. "Many of my clients do not know the Lord," he says. "I have invited some individuals to prayer meeting at my church (Allegheny East's Miracle Temple in Baltimore), and they have enjoyed it." If he receives a call to conduct business, or an invitation to play golf, on Sabbath, Dizard doesn't waver. "My clients know that I am firm in my beliefs."

Absolute Presence was started on faith. Dizard quit his job to open his business during a critical time. He had been married only a year and had just purchased a home. "Everybody dreams of working independently, yet many businesses fail within the first three years. I feel blessed to be starting my fifth year," he states. "The best marketing comes from word of mouth. You do a good job for someone, and they'll pass your name on to someone else."

Dizard, his wife Ros, and new baby Sydney have adopted a three-part formula: Be obedient to God's Word; eliminate known sins from your life; walk humbly with the Lord.

In 2005 he attended his first ASI convention in Sacramento, Calif. "ASI has impacted me positively," he says. "I want people to know that I'm a Christian by the things I do and the work I produce—ASI nurtures the opportunity to do that."

## Dirci Marquart

GranTops, Frederick, Md.

When Dirci Marquart wanted to start her own granite business, she was told, "If you keep the Sabbath, you won't succeed. Saturday is our busiest day." But she had God as her partner. Almost immediately those same people became competitors of GranTops, Marquart's company.

However, the competition hasn't impeded her success in the least, and the family business is prospering. She imports exotic granite for designing, fabricating, and installing stone countertops. GranTops currently outfits more than 150 kitchens a month in the Baltimore/Washington area.

While home base for GranTops is Frederick, Md., home base for her real passion—MissionServ International—is Codo, Brazil, Marquart's native country. Aside from the fact that its needs—physical, medical, spiritual—are great, the decision to minister there was an easy one because GranTops quarries its granite from that region.

Since 1996 MissionServ has facilitated humanitarian missions, coordinating groups of medical personnel and organizing building projects. "We are carrying on a social/spiritual project, taking workers to build churches and assist in poor communities," says Marquart. "Hundreds of volun-

teers have made a real difference. It's a blessing to see God at work, benefiting the people and impacting the lives of those doing the work. It's a win-win situation—for the giver and the receiver!" MissionServ's next mission trip to Brazil begins February 22. (For information or to get involved, visit [www.missionserv.org](http://www.missionserv.org).)

A member of the Chesapeake Conference's Frederick (Md.) church, Marquart has been an ASI member since 2004. She describes herself as inspired, impressed, and fascinated with the whole program. "I love to associate with people who are doing evangelistic work," she says. "It builds my desire to help."



## ASI: Sharing Christ in the Marketplace

**Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries** (ASI) casts a vision that helps lay people see themselves as active participants in the gospel commission. Its mission is to inspire and train professionals and private sector business people to integrate their vocations with the gospel and ministry. With the motto, "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace," ASI members are leaders in evangelism at home and abroad.

From its inception in 1947 in Grand Rapids, Mich., members have recognized the stewardship of the time, talents, and treasures given them by God. Currently the membership totals nearly 1,000 individuals from businesses, professions, and supporting ministries, all working together to "tell the world."

**National Convention** ASI sponsors an annual convention each year. This year, its 60th, is themed "Tell the world, Tell them now!" It will be held in Louisville, Ky., August 1-4. This interna-

tional convention is the highlight of the year for many members. Offerings and pledges last year were in excess of \$1.8 million and funded 39 projects in many parts of the world.

For up-to-date information about this year's convention, or to register, visit [www.asiministries.org](http://www.asiministries.org). There are also complete details regarding the membership application process.

**Chapter Convention** The Columbia Union chapter of ASI will meet March 9-10 at the Columbia Union Conference office at 5427 Twin Knolls Road in Columbia, Md. Plan to attend and partner with others to spread the good news of salvation! For additional information, contact Gayle Clark, union ASI president, at (304) 266-7794.

*Judy Thomsen, ASI communication director and editor of ASI Magazine, writes from the North American Division headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.*

# Glen Burnie Church: 100 Years of Growth, Service, and Ministry

Since biblical times, God used young people to accomplish His work. Jesus tapped young Galilean fishermen to be fishers of men, He used the Waldesees to keep the gospel alive during the Dark Ages, and chose Ellen G. White to help establish the Seventh-day Adventist Church. God also inspired young people from the Baltimore First church to hold a youth rally in 1906. From this rally, the Glen Burnie (Md.) church, now located at 508 Aquahart Road, was formed.

During Glen Burnie's recent 100th anniversary celebration, members adopted the theme "Come Home" as they welcomed visitors, friends, neighbors, and former pastors to their community center open house, memorial service, and Sabbath celebration. They recalled how former Chesapeake Conference president Morris Lukins held an evangelistic series after that 1906 youth rally, which led to the baptism of Mrs. John Pumphrey and Bertha Watts. A branch Sabbath School in a home



*The Glen Burnie congregation invited members and friends to "Come Home" for their recent 100th anniversary celebration.*

on Crain Highway led to several more baptisms and, in 1918, the Glen Burnie congregation was officially organized.

Members met in a hall on First Avenue for a year, and then worshiped with the Baltimore First church. "People told me that when I was about a year old, I used to sing loudly with the Baltimore First congregation," recalls 82-year-old Lou Bohles, who was one of those members.

In 1932 Malhon Watts opened his Glen Burnie home for another branch Sabbath School, conducted by Edward Rehmert. Members then started a building fund and constructed a church on Fifth Avenue, which was completed and dedicated on September 20, 1941. The Glen Burnie Adventist School, for grades 1-8, opened in the church's basement.

Membership increased and they quickly outgrew their new sanctuary before selecting the present site. This time they built a school on the back of the property first. Wayne Cherrier, former teacher, remembers those early days well: "We had 31 students when I was there [1958-60]. I will never forget them; each Tuesday I pray for each one."

On December 20, 1958, the present sanctuary was dedicated. "Others see a nearly 50-year-old building, but I see a vibrant, active, evangelistic congregation," says Jerry Scherer, a member since 1988.

## MEETING NEEDS, SHARING CHRIST

Glen Burnie continues to share the gospel through Discover Bible School courses and evangelistic meetings. Church patriarch Ethel Funk provides regular updates about her extensive Discover card distribution. And Elder Ewell Harmon offered a "Jesus is Coming Prophecy Seminar" at the nearby elementary school last fall, where 10 people expressed interest in baptism.

This dedication to evangelism led to the establishment of two "daughter" churches: Linticum



*Adanesh Scherer (left) and Libbie Hendrix renew their friendship during lunch.*

in November 1969, and Pasadena, formerly Magothy, in July 1971.

Glen Burnie constantly seeks innovative ways to minister to its neighbors. Rather than being discouraged when low enrollment forced the closure of their church school, members transformed the building into a community services center that has become a vital outreach vehicle for nearly 50 years. On Tuesdays the staff serves a hot lunch for 75 to 125 individuals. Donated food, clothing, and furniture are also distributed to the needy. Harriet Goss, center director for the past 15 years, says that the number of visitors has steadily increased, with over 3,500 people served last year. There are also vegetarian/vegan cooking and Bible study classes, along with smoking cessation, financial planning, and stress management seminars. Some clients have even accepted invitations to attend Sabbath services.

Scherer reports that the center also serves as the registration headquarters during the annual Healthy Choices Run and Health Fair, which has brought recognition from the community, governor's office, and U.S. Congress. Last spring 30 runners participated, raising more than \$200 for the center.

Volunteer Barbara Ogle, who operates a satellite van ministry, distributes soup and sandwiches to the homeless in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, expanding the center's ministry.

## SPIRITUAL HOME

Although Glen Burnie is a small church, its 40 active members keep busy with Children's Sabbath, Spirit of Prophecy studies, home visitation, spiritual

growth and health classes, praise team and greeters' ministry, Wednesday night prayer meetings, and Sabbath vespers. "I enjoy being involved in so many areas of church life," says Sunny Stradling. "There are just enough people so that no one is solely responsible for everything."

Salome Nelson Datsa, who was baptized in August 2006, appreciates the church's supportive, friendly atmosphere. "The Glen Burnie church proved to me that Christianity is not just a concept but a mission and a lifestyle. I was converted and baptized because of the love that the members showed me in the days of my ignorance."

Lisa Clayton, who was baptized last month, feels welcomed and loved at Glen Burnie. "I thank this church for giving me a spiritual home of worship and friends. [I look forward to raising] my children to be Christians and examples to others."

Even now, 100 years later, Glen Burnie members continue to exude a warm friendliness that makes visitors feel welcomed, meet the needs of the less fortunate, and empower everyone to grow in truth and grace through evangelism, outreach, and ministry. "We believe God's vision for our church is to create a safe place where love and the gospel of Jesus are shared," says Pastor Ray Nelson. For more information, visit their website at [www.tagnet.org/glenburnie](http://www.tagnet.org/glenburnie).

*Rhondda R. Thomas writes from Hanover, Md.*



*Recently baptized Lisa Clayton is grateful to be raising her children (clockwise), Harry, Carrie, and Crissy, as Christians.*

# Healing Ministry

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE IN THE COLUMBIA UNION

## Envisioning Our Future

Frank Perez

**B**ut when Jesus heard this, He answered him, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well" (Luke 8:50, NKJV).

A lot of positive changes will take place at Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) in 2007. We find ourselves moving at a faster pace with each passing moment, and as I look to our future, I see a very real need to prepare for this exciting time.

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has always been dedicated to treating the needs of each person who comes to us. It is part of our legacy and the reason we exist. To continue serving the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of our communities, KAHC is beginning the process of transforming itself to maintain its proactive position in the healthcare industry. We are continuing our movement toward a cutting-edge position.

In the upcoming year, and following years, I see KAHC positioning itself to be the first choice for people looking for a leader in healthcare. Kettering Adventist HealthCare will continue as a leader with the best quality care possible for patients, as a leader in technology and innovation, and, most importantly, as a leader in values. By transforming the healthcare experience of patients, providers, and purchasers, KAHC will be recognized and recommended as the best place to receive and give care in southwest Ohio.

### STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Our aim is to establish the KAHC Center for Innovation to coordinate and further develop the organization's research and development initiatives. We are also working to be the leader in electronic initiatives. These goals include a move toward computerized physician order entry,

electronic individual health records, and improved family communications for patients via Internet CarePages. Along with this, we are looking at emerging trends in consumerism and the growth of consumer-driven healthcare.

Even as this is being done, Kettering Adventist HealthCare is also looking to establish a Performance Improvement Team to review, redesign, and standardize key organizational processes as a means of reducing errors, improving quality, and more efficiently managing costs. Our desire is to become the acknowledged leader in delivering efficient, high-quality healthcare services in southwest Ohio.

KAHC is also developing a coordinated strategy to increase the number of locations throughout our region for better patient access. This would allow Kettering Adventist HealthCare to better meet medical needs, while expanding into new communities that will also benefit from our services.

Throughout this time of positive change, our spiritual distinctiveness will continue to be the bedrock on which everything else is built. I often say, and truly believe, as E.G. White said, "... there is nothing to fear in the future, as long as we don't forget how God has led us in the past."

Our vision is to become a guardian and advocate for improving the quality of life for the people in our community. The pieces are coming together even now, and it's very exciting!

*Frank Perez is CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio.*





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# Until I Met Jesus

## How One Kettering Chaplain Found Christ

Amanda Sauder Maggard

**B**asharat Masih's journey to Christianity was not a particularly smooth one, but the destination was well worth the trip. Born into the orthodox Muslim Pashtun tribe as Mohammed Iqbal Ali Khan Masih, a senior manager and chaplain at Dayton's Grandview Medical Center, remembers "a very bad childhood." His mother died from complications during childbirth when he was 4 years old. Despite his young age, he remembers her love—and never feeling that love from his father. "I hungered for love; I hungered for affection ... until I met Jesus," he says.

His father remarried and his stepmother turned their home into a prison. One night Masih, then

15, and his 17-year-old brother stole some of her jewelry and ran away. He headed northwest to Bombay while his brother fled to Pakistan. He never saw or heard from his brother again. "I had a homeless, tough life as a teenager in Bombay," said Masih.

He eventually ended up back in his hometown of Hyderabad, washing dishes in a restaurant until he could attend pharmaceutical school.

At age 18 Masih was working as a pharmacist in a hospital and struck up a friendship with a nurse named Sheila. "I was trying to tell her what I believed as a Muslim, and she was trying to explain her Methodist faith to me," he said. "It came to a point where we liked each other and wanted to be life partners. But how could we? She was a Christian and I was a Muslim."

Masih thought he had the answer. "I made some evil plans to force Sheila to become a Muslim," he explained. "I'd make her read a *kalma*—a Muslim creed that, when read, makes the reader a Muslim. I was planning to trap her, to force her to read the *kalma* and follow my religion."

But God intervened. "I didn't want to hurt her because I loved her very much," says Masih. He and Sheila were married in 1959, although he remained skeptical of Christian doctrine. Then, one day, after running some errands, he came across a Seventh-day Adventist church. The pastor welcomed him inside and introduced him to the Bible.

### CONVICTED AND CONVERTED

Hungry for this new knowledge, Masih delved deeply into biblical study. "I would read a passage, stop and think about it, and absorb that passage into myself. It was not like reading a novel; I was really trying to understand the gospel message." But when his Muslim friends would drop by, Masih would hide the Bible under his Quran.

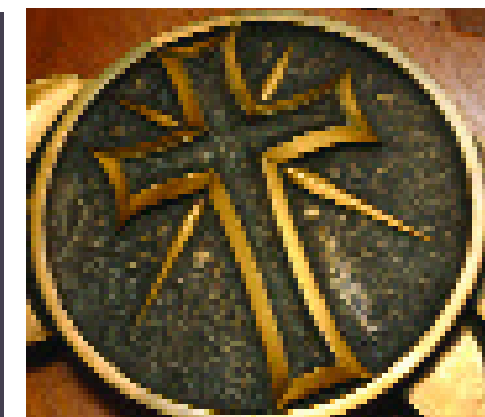


The more he read, the more absorbed he became until his convictions turned to conversion. "I came to a point where I decided in my heart to follow Jesus. I stopped praying to Allah and started praying, five times a day, to Jesus. I still do."

Masih asked Pastor Shinde to baptize him but, being in such a heavily Muslim area, Shinde hesi-

I came to a point where I decided in my heart to follow Jesus. I stopped praying to Allah and started praying, five times a day, to Jesus. I still do.

they were mistaken for another couple, fed breakfast, and offered good jobs. Later, when Masih started asking about the couple they had been mistaken for, he learned that there was no



such couple. "They had to be angels, and not flesh and blood, because they never existed," says Masih.

"God had made a place for both of us long before we took that train."

There are other miraculous stories about God's abundant blessings, including Masih's 14 years as a literature evangelist and the financial opportunity to attend the Adventist-owned Spicer Memorial College in India. "When I think about God lifting a homeless person from the streets of Bombay, I know that He is a good chess player who knows how to move people around," he says with a smile.

Masih and Sheila came to America in 1983. They have three grown children and six grandchildren. While his life has changed and expanded in many ways, it has remained the same. "My life is a life of prayer," he says. "Talking to God is my life—it's my breath. I cannot live without breath, and I cannot live without God. I still pray five times a day."

Amanda Sauder Maggard wrote this article for the December 11, 2003, issue of the Adventist Review. It is updated, edited for space, and reprinted with permission.



**Kettering Makes Mission Possible**

Recently Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) administrators paused from their labor to participate in the annual Governance and Mission conferences. Keynote speakers Ronald Heifetz of Harvard University and Adventist pastor, singer, and U.S. Dream Academy founder Wintley Phipps talked about leadership and how to move from “success to significance.” Following a Sabbath School program, themed “Heroes Creating Legends,” where employees testified about being a part of *and* benefiting from Kettering’s mission-driven legacy, Phipps also spoke for the Sabbath worship service.

Though a round of golf, delicious meals, inspiring speakers, good music, and good weather abounded during the conferences, the annual awards dinner aptly crowned the event. Hosted by **Mario Ceballos**, D Min, KAHC’s director for spiritual services and mis-



sions, the program celebrated the mission work of Kettering physicians, students, and staff around the world and at home. “What sets us apart from others is the spiritual tone of our institutions,” Ceballos announced. He talked about the medical equipment Kettering has donated to hospitals and health clinics in need. He also showed a video, titled “Mission Possible,” that captured KAHC employees and students from Kettering College of Medical Arts providing health and healing for people in Guyana, Lesotho, and Peru. In Peru, for example, they served



1,000 people and performed 65 surgeries in four-and-a-half days.

There were also testimonies. Linda Farley, manager for the Center for Whole Person Care at Kettering Medical Center, introduced attendees to Peggy Longstreth, an employee who recently lost her husband and her arm in a terrible car accident. Due to their care and concern for her, and their intent to “take pastoral care to the next level,” KAHC sent Farley to the hospital near the accident site where Longstreth was recuperating. “Spiritual care doesn’t begin and end with patients,” Farley explained. She and Ceballos announced a new program that will add “staff nurture and research” to the services offered at the center. This means increasing the spiritual presence in KAHC hospitals, serving as “spiritual ambassadors” to employees, and offering them grief support.

Presentations of five “Living Waters Awards for Excellence in Mission Service” capped the evening. Created in 2002, this award honors the outstanding contributions of people in the Dayton, Ohio, area where KAHC is based. This year’s honorees included (above, left to right):

**Maureen Patterson**, a local volunteer, generously gives her time and talents to the city of

Kettering, KAHC, the local YWCA, and several other organizations. Recently she gave a kidney to a co-worker.

**Dean Johnson, MD**, practiced anesthesiology at Kettering from 1964 until his retirement in 1998. He spent many vacations working in mission hospitals in Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, Mexico, Curacao, and Peru, etc.

**Terri Snide-Kennedy**, a member of KAHC’s clinical healthcare team, “exemplifies the healing ministry of Christ to those she humbly serves.” She participated in mission trips to Guatemala, Belize, and Peru.

**Roy Chew, PhD**, president of Grandview Medical Center, worked tirelessly to obtain the resources necessary to design, build, and staff the Victor J. Cassano Health Center, which provides medical care to underserved people. Chew has received numerous awards for his leadership.

**Dixie Kirkland**, a 40-year nursing veteran, “channels her love for people through volunteer work and educational programs in the community.” She currently coordinates KAHC’s Family Safety Program, teaching firearm safety and providing car seats to families in need.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden

**Conference Media Produces First Webcast**

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently held its first departmental training Webcast, and the first known department-specific training Webcast in the Columbia Union. Utilizing the skills and passions of the Health Ministries director, A. Leah Scott, and the technical skills of the conference media team, three hours of training for Health Ministries leaders was beamed via Internet to every corner of the conference.

Six to eight locations throughout the conference were set up to receive the Webcast so that local groups could come together, view, listen, and exchange ideas and information about the presentations. This groundwork was done by Ron Reeves, conference media specialist for video streaming and Webcasting. The event was then placed in the hands of Charles Williams (left), conference media manager. Technicians from the different areas were chosen and placed on standby to check systems.



Scott served as the Webcast host. She, along with the six Health Ministries Network coordinators, spent hours putting together the training agenda. The coordinators were Faye Gregory of the Bay area, Cathy Wilson of the Delaware Valley, Louvenia Anderson of the Baltimore Extended area, Betsy Johnson of the D.C. Metro area, Shelly Patton-Lionel of the New Jersey area, and Lynnette A. Moore, MD, of the Virginia area.

Webcast highlights included interviews with pastors Errol Stoddart, DMin, and Frank Leggette. Stoddart, pastor of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., talked about the 40-day fast that his church family participated in to jumpstart lifestyle changes. He spoke of the many victories that the members were experiencing. Pastor Leggette gave a similar portrait of his Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J. Each spoke of how health evangelism is aiding the church in making inroads into the communities.



Lynnette Moore, MD, a general practitioner from Norfolk, Va., gave a personal account of her triumph in a battle with weight. Cheryl Thorpe, MD, an alternative medicine physician from Richmond, spoke of the different ways a person can adjust their diet to compensate for poor dietary choices.

Pastor Pete Palmer of the Berean Fellowship church in Philadelphia presented a short seminar on leadership skills. Conference president Charles L. Cheatham (pictured, right) and assistant to the president Robert L. Booker (left), were also interviewed.

Perhaps one of the most interesting Webcast interviews was with Elvin Adams, MD, MPH, medical director for the Department of Tarrant County Public Health Department in Ft. Worth, Texas. Dr. Adams is the author of the book *The Handbook of Health Evangelism*.

According to Scott, “It was the greatest experience—tiring, but thrilling. Webcasting is definitely the way to go.”

The AEC department directors are gearing up for additional Webcasts this spring.



Webcast host Leah Scott (far right), Health Ministries director, interviews (left to right) Lynette A. Moore, MD, and Cheryl Thorpe, MD, about important health issues.



Pastors Frank Leggette (left) and Errol Stoddart, DMin, both reported about healthy lifestyle changes their church members have made.

## Prison Ministries Organizations Host Unity Convocation

Prison Ministries members from four conferences within the Columbia Union met recently for the first Unity Day Convocation. The one-day event was hosted by the Allegheny East Conference Federation of Prison Ministries and the Potomac Adventist Prison Ministry Organization (PAPMO).

More than 100 representatives from the host conferences, as well as the Chesapeake and the Allegheny West conferences, were present. The convocation was planned to encourage prison ministry workers to continue carrying the message behind bars; networking; developing partnerships with our churches, conferences, unions, and other organizations; and expanding training opportunities.



After welcoming remarks by Edith Tucker, AEC federation president, and Hector Cruz (right), PAPMO president, Marcus Harris (pictured left),



senior pastor of the Breath of Life church in Washington, D.C., blessed attendees with his sermon about God's grace. Harris has a rich background in criminal justice as a professional counselor and probation officer in Chicago.

J. Alfred Johnson II, North American Division (NAD) Adult Ministries director, reported on some exciting initiatives being coordinated by the NAD. The Prison Fellowship area director, Ronald Nix, shared how Adventists can—and do—work

with them through the Angel Tree Christmas, Angel Tree Camping, and the mentoring programs.

Daniel McManus, vice president for growth and development of the Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates, reported on that organization's plans. One plan includes considering graduates of Adventist seminaries, who do not receive a call to pastoral ministry, for positions as full-time contract correctional chaplains or re-entry and family ministry workers in North America and overseas. Experienced lay people will also be considered.

For additional information about any of the organizations or their upcoming events, please contact McManus at (804) 389-1538 or Tucker at (410) 730-7735.

—Edith E. Tucker, Hector Cruz, and Daniel G. McManus

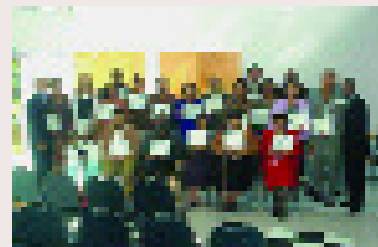
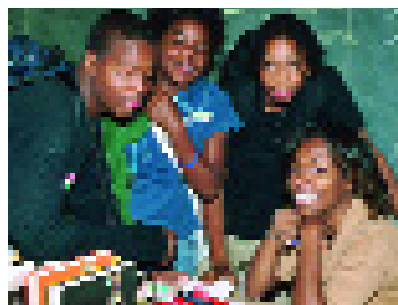
## On the Front Lines of Urban Mission

Guards watch every hall, metal detectors guard every entrance, video cameras maintain constant surveillance, but there are few books. This is where Rasheena Harris (seated), Esq., works every day—William L. Sayer High School in West Philadelphia. It is one of the poorest and lowest performing schools in the nation. Only 12 percent of students are at math proficiency, and less than 15 percent are at reading proficiency. Why would a Yale University and University of Pennsylvania law graduate decide

to leave the presituous world of corporate law for an inner-city school? "I want to help them as God helped me," says Harris.

Weighing little more than 100 pounds, she demands and gets respect from the biggest boys. But, the discipline is matched with love as she cries real tears praying for more books for her class. For 120 students, she has only 33 books. And Harris teaches high school while the outdated books are for middle school.

Raised in the historic Ebenezer church in South Philadelphia, Harris speaks fluent Spanish, Portuguese, and is an expert in corporate law. She maintains strong contacts with her home church and works with the young people at Ebenezer. It is safe to say that Harris is among the rarest species on Earth, a beautiful, highly educated young woman with a heart full and overflowing with the love of Jesus.—Major G. Coleman



### Columbia Community Center Hosts Revelation Seminar

The "cozy" Columbia (Md.) Community Center recently hosted a Revelation Seminar. Approximately 25 students successfully completed the five-week seminar—including 12 visitors. The event was led by Pastor Patrick Graham and its success was largely due to the faithful prayers of the members.—Vanessa Waite

**Allegheny East Conference**  
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www.myalleghenyeast.com  
President, Charles L. Cheatham  
Communication Director, Robert Booker

## Fall Retreat Unites Women of Faith

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) fall Women's Ministries retreat was held recently at the beautiful Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, W.Va. With the theme "Women United—Preparing for the Kingdom," the event was led by dynamic speaker Josephine Anassi, an attorney from Houston.

Anassi blessed attendees with her powerful delivery of the Word and challenged them not be bewildered, bitter, or bound by circumstances, but to trust God completely. She also compared praising God with making deposits in the "Bank of Miracles." When we need a miracle, it will already be available for withdrawal, she said.

Other presentations included an icebreaker led by Teresa Britt, member of the Melrose church in Roanoke, Va. There were also workshops on abuse, how to give effective Bible studies, and other meaningful topics. The inspiring Friday vespers was led by Minnie McNeil, Allegheny East Women's Ministries and Adventist Community Services director. The thoughtful speakers came from Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia.

Barbara Benson, Women's Ministries leader for the Beacon Light church in Phoenix, Ariz., and 17 ladies from her church came and brought the Sabbath evening vespers thought, along with music and a comedy routine for the banquet.

There was a black-and-white themed banquet, with a "bean raffle" as the high point of laughter. The music, presented throughout the weekend by the Women of Worship from Cleveland's Glenville church and others, was inspiring and uplifting.

The event concluded with a holy consecration service on Sunday. Two hundred-fifty women came dressed in white, while 16 female, AWC elders prayed and anointed them. As they committed themselves into the hands of the heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit truly fell upon the group.—Shirley Benton



These Allegheny West elders prayed and anointed the Women's Ministries retreat attendees.

## Bethel Pathfinders Serve in Mississippi

The Bethel church in Cleveland recently sponsored a mission trip for their Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs. The mission was to help people rebuild their community in Waveland, Miss. Also accompanying the group were club members from the Park Street church in Oberlin, Ohio, and the Present Truth church in Cleveland.

While in Waveland, the club members cleaned, tore down ceilings and walls in an apartment complex, rebuilt a damaged room in a home, cleaned a lady's yard of debris, and did many other chores around the neighborhood.

While in Mississippi, the youth stayed in tents and used outdoor showers and toilets. On Saturday they held Sabbath School at the campsite, and afterward attended the community church for the main worship service. The Praise God Ministries dance group and two of the Pathfinders performed musical solos.

The clubs appreciated the people of Waveland for



Pathfinder and Adventurer club members from Bethel and other Cleveland area churches helped clean a woman's yard of debris left from the hurricanes.

their hospitality and the valuable and memorable lessons they learned. Although the flood victims did not have the luxuries of a home, they still praised the Lord for what they had.

## Eighth Annual Care Ministries Convention Well Attended

More than 100 local elders, deacons, and deaconesses from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia recently gathered at the beautiful Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio, for the eighth annual Care Ministries Convention.

Initially organized by executive secretary Carl R. Rogers for local elders, these meetings have expanded during the past three years to include the deacons and deaconesses. Seeking to mold these three officers into a caring team for both the church members and the community, each convention has an ongoing goal of providing training and instruction, as well as inspiration and bonding.

The theme this year was, "It is Time to Fight! Are You Dressed for Battle?" The special guest speaker was Major Milton Johnson, an Adventist military chaplain. Johnson preached a most challenging sermon for the worship hour based on the theme. Johnson's wife, Naomi, also inspired the attendees with the story of her miraculous healing.

The following workshops were also conducted:

- "The Local Elder Care Team Leader" by William Cox, pastor at Ephesus church in Columbus
- "The Work of the Deacon" by S. T. Lewis, pastor at the Zanesville (Ohio) church
- "The Work of the Deaconess" by Pastor Andre Saunders of the Danville/South Boston, Va. district
- "Health Issues in the African-American Community" by Tecora Rogers, PhD, member of the Hilltop church in Columbus
- "When God Doesn't Seem to Answer" by Pastor Harcourt King of the Ethan Temple church in Dayton
- "The Ministry of Bereavement" by Madalyn Boddie, member of the Central church in Columbus

Rogers challenged the elders to broaden their ministry beyond preaching; to include receiving the tithe and offering and announcing the worship hour hymn. Attendees were pleased by a report from two elders



Left to right: President James L. Lewis, military chaplain Milton Johnson, and executive secretary Carl R. Rogers were all participants in making the convention a success.

who conducted evangelistic meetings and reported baptisms. Everyone left aglow and with one echoing refrain: "I can hardly wait until next year!"

## Conference to Celebrate 40 Years

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Allegheny West Conference: 1967 to 2007. AWC will celebrate this accomplishment through praise in planned programs throughout the year.

During this time, it is the conference administration's goal to raise \$100,000 to be used for education, and campground and general conference development.

The conference will celebrate by remembering its

beginnings, praising God for its accomplishments, and by renewing its mission.

Members, keep your eyes tuned for further updates.

Catch the Vision is published in the Visitor by the Allegheny West Conference  
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Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ President, James L. Lewis  
Editor, Bryant Taylor ■ www.awconf.org

## Praise God, I Belong

The first days of any school year are stressful and anxious, especially for new students who are seeking their place in a new environment. The need to belong is basic to all humanity. Roommates, classes, jobs, cute guys, and gorgeous girls—everything is new and exciting, but also intimidating and scary. After a few days or weeks, the students begin to feel as though they belong and that Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) is their school.

The same is true when people come to Christ and experience newness of life. It is an exciting, yet scary time. Our approach at work, relationships with family and friends, new experiences at church—our whole attitude changes as we learn about Jesus Christ and our place in His family. We begin to feel that we belong to Him, and His church becomes our family.

I am so glad I belong to a worldwide Christian family. Whether in South America on a mission trip, attending alumni weekend at my alma mater, visiting my daughter at college, mingling with Adventist educators at the convention in Nashville, or sitting in my office, I am overwhelmed by a sense of belonging to a wonderful family. As with any family, we have different perspectives on many issues. But we have the same God, the same hope, the same destination. I praise Him that I belong—that we *all* belong!



Spencer Hannah  
Principal

## BMA Students Teach RJA About Mission: Possible

Lee Stahl, principal of Reading Junior Academy (RJA), called recently and asked if BMA would be willing to put on a week of prayer for their students. BMA obliged and named the theme of their message, "Mission: Possible, God's Love for Us." Each day BMA students led the RJA students in prayer, vigorous praise, and more importantly, a focus on how they have been saved through the wonderful sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The unique part of this story is that each day there was a completely different group of students presenting

at RJA. All participants who led the special week were organized by the student workers of the recruiter's office. The only thing that BMA recruiter and vice principal Dave Morgan did was drive the students to and from RJA.

The week was capped off by a student-led gospel choir performing at two of the churches that RJA serves. They sang several songs and finished with a sermonette. This day was additionally special as the

gospel choir, under the direction of Demarlo Weeks, asked to stop the bus in downtown Reading on the way back to BMA so they could sing right on the street corner. What a blessing this week was, not only to RJA students, but BMA also discovered how great God's love is for each one of us.



The student-led gospel choir sings for Reading shoppers.



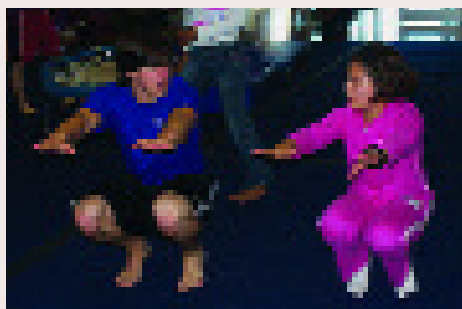
## SportsFest Energizes Elementary Students

Today's youth face a crisis of obesity. Fat-rich foods, sedentary lifestyles, and a deterioration of family values have placed young people at a greater risk of developing a myriad of diseases at a young age. This was one of the driving themes behind SportsFest 2006. Students in grades 5-8 from Pennsylvania and New Jersey were invited to participate in this event, aimed at helping to build strong bodies, increase knowledge of healthy living, and bond students from Adventist schools.

Ninety-two students registered for basketball, gymnastics, flag football, soccer, and volleyball, as well as a writer's conference. Event organizer Dave Morgan, vice principal, commented, "This event was much needed for our elementary students. Many of them get little formal guidance in developing their motor skills and learning the principles of 'NEW START' (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God) in a way that is fun and inspiring. This activity may be just the ticket to help our kids steer clear of a life of poor health."

Students who helped coordinate the festival were Brianna McAuliffe ('07), Katie Paris ('09), Carolyn Davis ('08), and Maya Rutledge ('08). Students participated in seven sessions that taught them a variety of skills in their chosen discipline. Each discipline was supervised by an adult and led by BMA students. Morgan, referred to as "Professor Whopper," and his wife Rose, an RN, gave a special presentation. Participants learned about Pennsylvania history while visiting Roadside America, Inc., an indoor miniature village museum located a few miles from the academy.

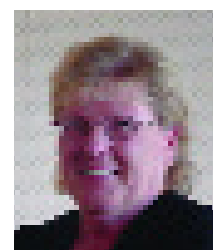
Students left exhausted, but smiling. SportsFest is just another way BMA is trying to make a difference in the lives of our young people.



Senior Chad Reed takes a moment to teach one of the weekend's participants in the gymnastics class.

## Contributors Receive Special Recognition

Through the years BMA faculty have sought meaningful ways to say "thank you" to people who faithfully support the school. We wish there was a way to discover who the early supporters were, since there wouldn't be this wonderful school without their sacrifices. Our hearts are filled with praise to God for leading so many to support Christian education financially, as well as with volunteer efforts. Thanking and recognizing the impact supporters have on furthering God's work is a vital part of giving and receiving.



During the recent annual recognition dinner, JoAnn Campbell-Berke was awarded the Leader in Philanthropy award.

As part of the school's annual recognition program, candidates are considered and recognized for their contributions in five categories. During the recent annual recognition dinner, the following recipients were recognized: JoAnn Campbell-Berke for Leader in Philanthropy; Jeffrey McAuliffe, DDS, for Outstanding Alumnus; Frank Nagle for Outstanding Volunteer; Karyl Kramer for Outstanding Employee; and Tracy-Ann Dawes for Outstanding Contribution.

"Let us not become weary in doing good. For at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of

believers" (Gal. 6:9,10).

Consider prayerfully how your gift can impact a young life for eternity as you support Christian education.—Kathleen A. Sutton

## Coming EVENTS

### January

- 4-5 Staff Inservice
- 8 Second Semester Begins
- 12-14 Community Tour Weekend
- 19-20 Tour Weekend
- 23-27 Student F.O.C.U.S. Week
- 28 Sunday School
- 28 SAT's
- 31 Mid-Term
- 31-Feb 4 Home Leave

### February

- 10 Youth Church
- 17 Junior Presentation
- 18-21 Phone-a-Thon
- 23-24 Tour Weekend

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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JANUARY 2007

## What's on Your Calendar This Year?

I recently opened my 2007 appointment book, the kind I use every year—a black, leather cover wrapped around spiral-bound pages. The pages have blank squares with a number to indicate the day of the month. Each square is a frame for one episode of my life. Before I am finished with the book, I will fill the squares with board meetings I will chair, committee meetings I will sit through, interviews I will conduct, people I will eat lunch with, churches I will preach at, and deadlines I will try to meet. So much gets crammed into some squares that it takes another spiral book to write down the specific details of the day.

Something that is never written in my book of squares, yet is the most important appointment of my day, is my time spent with God. Beginning each square with God has a way of putting everything else into perspective. Seldom do I get done everything I have planned for a particular day, and with many things, it is of little consequence if it is carried over to the next day. But that is not true about time spent with God. It is a real challenge on some days, but I don't know what I would do without it. How goes this challenge with you?



Rob Vandeman  
President

## Chesapeake Churches Unite in Prayer

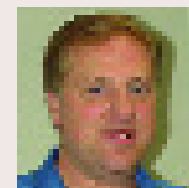
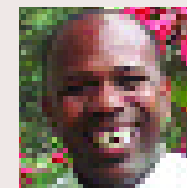
"Kneeling for Victory" was the theme of the Chesapeake Prayer Conference held recently at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md. Sedley Johnson, conference prayer coordinator and pastor of the Aberdeen (Md.) and Dundalk (Baltimore) churches, was the visionary for this seminar for all local church prayer coordinators.

The featured speaker was Samuel Telemaque (right), prayer coordinator and Personal Ministries director for the Caribbean Union Conference.

Ruthie Jacobson, prayer coordinator for the North American Division, provided Scripture reading and directed small group prayers. She also led the group on a prayer walk through the church and school building, praying for church attendees, church office staff, and for those planning to be baptized there.

Other event speakers included Rick Remmers (below), pastor of the Hagerstown (Md.) church, and Tim Roosenberg, pastor of the Blythedale church in Perryville, Md., and the Wilna church in Joppa, Md. Both pastors gave practical presentations on how to implement prayer ministry—both personally and in the local church.

This conference was preceded by a local pastors prayer rally held at the Chesapeake Conference. It is hoped that this emphasis on prayer will be reproduced in local churches, resulting in a conference-wide transformation.—Dan Herzel



## Maryland Men of Faith Hold First Event

The Maryland Men of Faith (MMOF) ministry held their inaugural event recently at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Thirty men attended the one-day gathering to hear keynote speakers and four seminars focused on the theme "Restoring the Image of God."

Retired Adventist minister Samuel Thomas, Sr., spoke on what it means to be a godly man in these last days. Other seminar speakers were Beverley Miles, first elder of the Miracle Temple church in Baltimore; Nathan Renner, pastor of the Troy (Mich.) church; and Byron Greenberg, ThD, MPH, a psychologist and member of the Patterson Avenue church in Richmond, Va.

MMOF was organized by three men from the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., and the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md. The next MMOF retreat will be held in October 2007. For more information, visit [www.mmof.org](http://www.mmof.org).—Tony Williams



Pastors Nathan Renner (left) and Samuel Thomas, Sr., were speakers for the inaugural men's retreat.



## Adventist Singles Get Inspired at Fall Retreat

Chesapeake and Potomac singles held their annual fall retreat recently at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. The theme for the weekend was "Natural Health." Featured speaker Jim Sharps, ND (pictured), a privately licensed naturopathic physician in Columbia, Md., and president of the International Institute of Original Medicine, focused on health empowerment for singles. It included a biblically based perspective on diet, nutrition, and lifestyle principles. Dr. Sharps also focused on Christ-centered relationships, pointing out that the first relationship was not between Adam and his wife but between Adam and his Creator. His primary lesson was that intimacy with Christ is the essential preparation for marriage.



PHOTO BY JOHN HITTLE

Other speakers included Homer Trecartin, a former missionary and the director of planning for Adventist Missions at the Adventist World Headquarters. Trecartin's message focused on the challenges Christians face in sharing the gospel in hostile, non-Christian lands. Dirci Marquart, Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) mission coordinator, spoke to the group about the upcoming singles mission trip to Brazil. Barbara Babcock, ASAM director, dialogued with the group about future events. Retreat attendees also spent time hiking, singing around a bonfire, and fellowshiping. To keep current on all Chesapeake ASAM events and activities, visit [www.asamchesapeake.com](http://www.asamchesapeake.com).—Annabelle Randall

## Pathfinder Clubs Find Common Ground

Over 1,000 Pathfinders from the Chesapeake and Potomac conferences recently converged at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., for a joint camporee. The theme was "Friendship of Faith." Chesapeake had 19 of its 22 clubs represented.

Pathfinders spent the weekend earning honors, drill team marching, and making friends through joint activities like driving go-karts, mountain biking, and canoeing. In spite of intense thunderstorms earlier in the weekend, campers maintained a positive spirit and enthusiastic involvement.

A union-wide camporee is being planned for 2007.



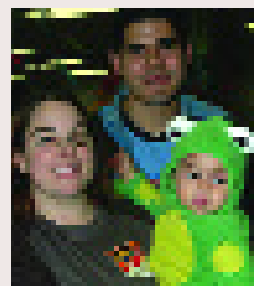
Above: The New Hope church Night Hawks from Fulton, Md., display their drilling and marching awards. Right: The Seabrook (Md.) church club presents the flag.



## Halloween Wasn't Scary in Hagerstown

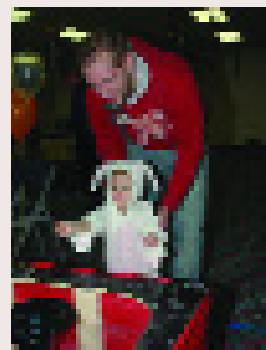
What happens when the church's fellowship hall is decorated with streamers and over 200 balloons, filled with 13 fun-filled game booths and prizes, and neighborhood children of all ages invited to attend? It's a creative evangelistic outreach event.

The Hagerstown (Md.) church recently hosted "Heroes Unmasked," an outreach event geared toward providing the community with an alternative to Halloween. Approximately 150 children and their parents attended the event, of which, over 20 were not Adventist. Prizes for the games—such as Moses' Red Sea Putt Putt—included Bible heroes collector cards. The children could also visit two craft stations to decorate sugar cookies or make a crown, get their faces painted, and get refreshments.



Follow-up communication and visits with the guests is being planned. The event was a success and is expected to be repeated next year.

—Kalie Kelch



The Challenge is published in the Visitor by the Chesapeake Conference ■ 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ President, Rob Vandeman Editor, Frank Bondurant

# THE GATEWAY

JANUARY 2007

# Columbia Union College

## CUC Pioneers Prepare for Season

Columbia Union College's (CUC) baseball team, the Pioneers, recently participated in a three-day "Live the Lifestyle" clinic hosted by Dana Cavalea, the spring training assistant strength and conditioning coach for the New York Yankees. Cavalea's camp focused on weight training, speed development, nutrition, sleep, academics, and offered the team a comprehensive approach to preventing injury and maximizing performance.



CUC's Pioneers baseball team plays hard.

"We need to provide our players with every opportunity to get better, and having a Yankees instructor pass along this knowledge and training regimen provides that opportunity," said second-year head coach Michael Ricucci. The Pioneers were given a year-round strength and conditioning plan to target muscles and

movements used in baseball games. "I couldn't be more excited about starting this new program," said Adam Melis, a senior physical education major. "To know that we worked with a guy who works with Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter is a great feeling."

CUC's team ended the 2006 season with a 34-22 record and a second-place finish in the United States Collegiate Athletics Association tournament.

"This is just the beginning for our program and we need to approach the off-season differently than we did last year," said Ricucci ('05). "We are not going to sneak up on anyone this season. We need to be better prepared." The 2007 Pioneers baseball season begins in February and ends in May.—Wayne Stewart

## Leitma Heads Department of Psychology

As the Department of Psychology's new chair, Grant Leitma (pictured), PhD, is on a mission to show students the biblical principals found in psychology and get them excited about the field. "Nationwide, psychology ranks third in the number of degrees received by college graduates," said Leitma, who is focused on implementing new strategies to benefit CUC and its students. "It's a very popular major."

Currently there are 120 students in CUC's psychology program—now in its 50th year—and Leitma hopes the Christian curriculum will provide them with deeper insights into themselves. He considers *The Ministry of Healing* by Ellen G. White, the "basic foundation for psych majors," and has begun to issue the well-known paperback to students.

Leitma became chair in June 2006 when long-time professor James Hammond, PhD, retired. As a graduate of the college, he received his master's degree from Central Michigan University and doctorate from Illinois Institute of Technology. "I have a real passion for the students and want them to get excited about the field," said Leitma, who began teaching at CUC in 1982. "Psychology can help restore the moral image of God and man."

Leitma and wife, Terry, a part-time health education teacher, have three children and attend the Frederick (Md.) church.—PR Staff



## Holiday Festivities Bring Campus Together

The annual Christmas tree lighting drew more than 45 students, faculty, and staff to mark the first holiday event celebrated on campus.

"It is with great joy that we welcome the holiday season as the campus community gathers to celebrate the birth of the Christ child," said Jean Warden, vice president of the Office of Student Life and Retention.

After a brief countdown, president Randal Wisbey lit the tree. Men's dean Tim Nelson led the group in Christmas carols.

"I really enjoyed this creative, heartfelt event," said Alexis Goring, a senior journalism major. "I especially enjoyed the a cappella music and the fellowship with my classmates."

Later that week, the Columbia Collegiate Chorale, New England Youth Ensemble, and Pro Musica performed a holiday concert at the campus' Sligo church. It welcomed community residents along with faculty, staff, and students and featured Christmas favorites.

For the last chapel of the year, the Columbia Concert Winds, under the direction of Bruce Wilson, performed traditional Christmas carols with modern arrangements.

"This lighter concert is a good way for us to get into the Christmas spirit," said Wilson, who has directed the band for the last eight years.

Euphonium player Andrew Mason and sophomore political science major Henry Johnson performed solos.

The Columbia Concert Winds received a standing ovation from the audience. "I was very pleased with the way the students performed," said Wilson.—PR Staff



The annual Christmas tree lighting ushered in CUC's holiday season.



CUC's Department of Music featured sacred music during their holiday concert.

## Christmas Banquet Creates Laughs

The Office of Student Life and Retention hosted the annual student Christmas banquet, while CUC's faculty and staff greeted and served the students. "The faculty and staff really did their best to serve the student body," said communications senior Victoria Sanders.

Students posed for pictures in Wilkinson Hall lobby, listened to a student-led band, and watched others perform. Brothers Brandon and Jason Dehaney performed "Silent Night" on guitar and piano,

and seniors Kennecia

These CUC students participated as three French hens in the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Grant and Audrey Moise sang a smooth duet of "What Child is This?"

The play "Nativity on the Square," brought tons of laughs and a few tears from the audience.

The night concluded when Lloyd Yutuc, CUC Bookstore manager—dressed as a partridge in a pear tree—hopped on stage to lead out in "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

"It was a lot of fun going with friends and seeing people dressed up nice," said Desiree Dixon, a freshman social work major. "The band was really good and the play was creative."—Josef Kruger



Duane Reid, assistant men's dean, played one of the wisemen in the Christmas play.



## CALENDAR

### January

- 8 General Registration Success Night, School of Graduate and Professional Studies, Takoma Park
- 9 Classes Resume Success Night, School of Graduate and Professional Studies, Gaithersburg
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—Campus Closed
- 22-26 Week in Spiritual Emphasis
- 27 CUC Movie Night

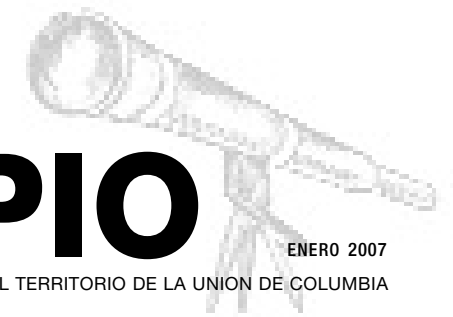
### February

- 25 CUC Open House

Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ www.cuc.edu Randal Wisbey, President ■ Exec. Dir. of Marketing and Communication, Scott Steward ■ Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

# TELESCOPIO

OFRECE UNA PANORÁMICA DEL ACONTECER DEL PUEBLO HISPANO QUE VIVE EN EL TERRITORIO DE LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA



## Tres maneras de recibir noticias en español

Los feligreses de la Unión de Columbia ahora pueden recibir noticias en español de tres maneras: A través de un boletín impreso llamado *El NotiVisitor* que aparecerá en la revista *Visitor*, cada dos meses, comenzando con el número de marzo. A través de un nuevo boletín enviado por correo electrónico llamado *El Boletín NotiVisitor* que se publicará periódicamente. A través de una página Web en español llamada [www.pcjovenes.com](http://www.pcjovenes.com).

Cada medio de noticias—el boletín impreso o enviado por correo electrónico, y la página Web—incluye informes, historias, información y adelantos de los próximos eventos de interés para los feligreses e iglesias hispanos.

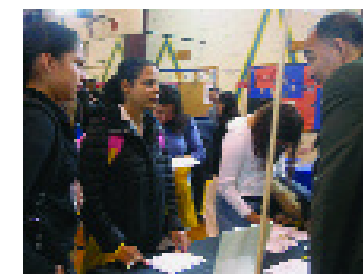
"Nuestra meta es conectar a los feligreses de habla hispana a través de la Unión de Columbia," dice Celeste Ryan Blyden, editora de la revista *Visitor*. Ella señala que hay alrededor de 15,000 adventistas hispanos en el territorio de la Unión de Columbia, que incluye a Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia y Washington, D.C.

Si usted vive en uno de estos estados y le gustaría ser un corresponsal o compartir una historia acerca de su iglesia o ministerio, por favor comuníquese con Ryan Blyden por correo electrónico a [cryan@columbiaunion.net](mailto:cryan@columbiaunion.net), o con Beth Michaels, coordinadora del boletín, a [bmichaels@columbiaunion.net](mailto:bmichaels@columbiaunion.net), o con el coordinador de la página Web, William Armendaris a [news@pcjovenes.com](mailto:news@pcjovenes.com). También se puede comunicar con el coordinador de Ministerios Hispanos de su conferencia. Las historias pueden ser enviadas en inglés o en español y serán consideradas para su uso en una o todas las publicaciones de noticias.

Próximo número:  
Marzo de 2006  
Envíe sus historias a Beth Michaels a la dirección [bmichaels@columbiaunion.net](mailto:bmichaels@columbiaunion.net) o llamando al (410) 997-3414, ext. 282.  
Fecha límite: 20 de enero

## CUC auspicia Feria Nacional de Colegios Hispanos

Recientemente, el Colegio de la Unión de Columbia (CUC) auspició a más de 1,500 estudiantes de escuela superior durante una feria colegial auspiciada por *National Hispanic College Fairs, Inc.*



(Ferias Colegiales Hispanas Nacionales) y *Career Council, Inc.* (Consejo de Profesiones). Esta feria es el evento más grande de su clase en el área de Washington, D.C., e incluyó representantes de 50 colegios a través de la nación.

"Queremos que los estudiantes de nuestra comunidad sepan que estamos aquí y que pueden recibir una educación cristiana de primera clase en un colegio cercano a su casa," dijo el director de la Oficina de Ingreso y Matrícula en CUC.

Ferias Colegiales Hispanas Nacionales se asoció con CUC porque es el único colegio con cursos de cuatro años en el condado de Montgomery y está muy cerca de las comunidades hispanas en el área, incluyendo el condado de Prince George.

Cientos de estudiantes de las escuelas públicas superiores de los tres condados locales y la capital fueron transportados en autobús hasta CUC. También se estimuló la asistencia de estudiantes de otras partes del área metropolitana de Washington, D.C. —Oficina de Ingreso de CUC

## La Red 2007 se acerca

La Red 2007 viene pronto y aquellos que estén interesados podrán escucharla en español. El pastor José H. Cortes (en la foto), secretario ejecutivo, será el orador principal con el tema "Dilo a tu mundo: el Rey viene." Este evento se llevará a cabo del 30 de marzo al 8 de abril, de 7:30PM a 9:00PM (EST) Se presentará desde el sur de New Jersey y se transmitirá a través de EsperanzaTV y 3ABN Latino. Para más información visite [www.diloatumundo.org](http://www.diloatumundo.org).



## Las damas de la Iglesia de Langley Park extienden su mano

Ellas [las mujeres] pueden ocupar sus lugares en la obra de Dios en esta crisis y él trabajará por medio de ellas... Pueden hacer en las familias una obra que los hombres no pueden hacer..."

(Ministerio de la Bondad, Pág. 151)

Estas palabras han servido de inspiración al Ministerio de la Mujer en la Iglesia Hispana de Langley Park, Maryland. Esta inspiración ha sido demostrada a través de varias actividades que

ellas han ayudado a organizar.

Estas actividades incluyen una semana de oración que se llevó a cabo junto a una campaña evangelística para alcanzar a la comunidad local. Junto a estas actividades se celebró un programa evangelístico especial sólo para niños.

Al finalizar estos eventos, 12 niños y 14 adultos conocieron y fueron dedicados al Señor en un hermoso y alegre bautismo.

—Ana L. Barrientos



Las participantes del Ministerio de la Mujer han estado ocupadas alcanzando a su comunidad.

## Jóvenes de Potomac prestan ayuda a los necesitados

Recientemente, en un sábado de tarde, más de 30 jóvenes hispanos de 10 diferentes iglesias de la Conferencia de Potomac se lanzaron a las calles de Langley Park, Maryland para ayudar a los necesitados.

Los representantes de las diferentes iglesias distribuyeron más de 200 copias de la revista *El Centinela* al igual que otros folletos de la iglesia. Cada iglesia trajo cajas de ropa, y algunas trajeron emparedados. También invitaron a los residentes del área a formar parte de la familia Adventista y le ofrecieron información para comunicarse con la Iglesia Adventista Hispana local.

Había jóvenes representando las siguientes iglesias:



Hispana de Alexandria (Virginia), Hispana de Aspen Hill en Silver Spring (Maryland), Hispana de la Capital en Washington, D.C., Hispana de Bristow (Maryland), Hispana de Langley Park (Maryland), Hispana de Manassas (Virginia), Hispana de Rockville (Maryland), Hispana de Península en Hampton (Virginia), Hispana de Washington en Silver Spring (Maryland), e Hispana de Woodbridge (Virginia).

Fue durante este esfuerzo de alcance cuando estos jóvenes experimentaron que "es mejor dar que recibir". Aprendieron que hay mucha necesidad, y están decididos a continuar participando de estos eventos para ayudar a nuestras comunidades.



## Se planifica el segundo Congreso Juvenil Hispano de Chesapeake

La Conferencia de Chesapeake auspiciará su segundo Congreso Juvenil Hispano. El evento se llevará a cabo del 25 al 27 de mayo en el Campamento y Centro de Retiro Mt. Aetna en Hagerstown, Maryland. El orador invitado será Manny Cruz (en la foto), quien es el Director de Jóvenes de la División Norteamericana. La inscripción está limitada a 300 jóvenes. Para más información o para inscribirse, comuníquese con su iglesia local.



El Telescopio es publicado por el *Visitor* cada mes por los coordinadores hispanos de las Asociaciones. Coordinador de Boletín, Beth Michaels ■ Phone: (410) 997-3414

## Sister Conferences to Support Evangelistic Efforts

The Bible says that God spoke through men and women down through the centuries to convey His desires to His people and to mankind. He used visions, dreams, and other avenues to explain His actions and will. The God we serve today is the same. Could we not expect this same God to speak and work in the same manner today? Since God never changes, the answer to that question is a resounding, "Yes!"

I believe God is speaking to us today in light of recent events. I believe God is at work preparing His church for that long-anticipated, glorious Holy Spirit-empowered revival that is going to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in every corner of the world, including Mountain View. *Gospel Workers* states, "When the men and women comprising our membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers" (p. 352), the work of the gospel will be finished and Jesus will come.



God has spoken once again and He has given the members of Mountain View Conference a window of opportunity to touch the lives of every community within its territory. I believe that if we listen, we will not only hear God speaking, but we will also see Him at work.

At the recent Columbia Union Conference President's Council, the union administration and the presidents of our seven sister conferences unanimously voted to unite with Mountain View members and work together to impact every community in our territory. They pledged to send and financially support their pastor/evangelists to conduct reaping evangelistic meetings in our territory. This cooperative initiative will launch on March 23, 2007, with union president, Dave Weigley, holding the first full message crusade in Lewisburg, W.Va.

In addition to each conference sponsoring an evangelistic meeting in Mountain View, the Columbia Union Executive Committee voted to grant additional funds to support 15 or more campaigns. The *big* question that God is now placing before us is, will you, with your church family, unite with your pastor and church officers and allow God to use you in touching the lives around you so Jesus can return? May we all awaken to the glorious opportunity set before us and wholeheartedly engage in the cooperative labors necessary to make it all happen.

—Larry Boggess, President



"Praise God for our sister conferences and for their vision in helping Mountain View reap souls for the Lord," said Robert "Doc" Michael, pastor of the Summersville and Webster Springs churches in West Virginia.



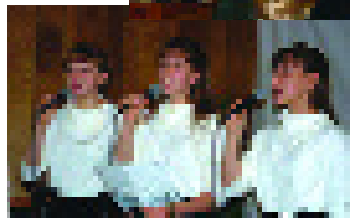
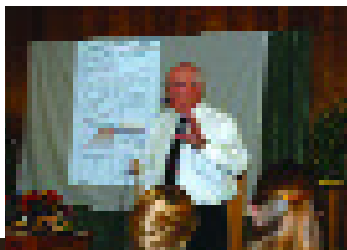
## “You Can Survive!” Seminar Generates Revival

When the announcement of Jere Franklin’s “You Can Survive!” seminar appeared in the *Viewpoint* several issues ago, it stirred considerable interest across the conference and from neighboring states. Families from distant places called to inquire about it and to make arrangements for staying with local church members, who graciously opened their doors.

Franklin (pictured), president of Sanctuary Ranch in British Columbia, Canada, presented richly inspirational material. His talks were based on a highly practical study about preparation for the time spoken of in Revelation 13:17, when Sabbathkeeping Christians will be deprived of all rights to buy and sell. Franklin’s approach gave due predominance to spiritual preparation. Especially helpful was his emphasis on the healing, reconciling love of God, and appeal to reform-minded believers to overcome the critical spirit and the temptation to separate from the organized body.

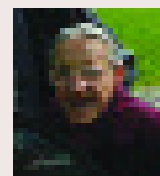
At the same time, Franklin affirmed the importance of coming onto progressively higher ground spiritually and in the practice of our faith. Franklin gave insights on: intercession, the miracle of sanctified unity in the church, and restoration, which he terms, “God’s answers for hopeless problems.” In this highly compressed series, he also discussed the principles and objectives of true Christian education and evangelism in these end times.

A more complete presentation of these compelling themes is found in his book *You Can Survive!* sold at Adventist Book Centers and by *Amazing Facts*. This rich weekend of inspiration was further enhanced by the beautiful music of the Birnell sisters (pictured), also from British Columbia, and Stan and Piper Ivins from Moorefield, W.Va. Franklin climaxed his series with a call to rededication to the Lord. Nearly all the 80-plus persons in attendance responded, at least one of whom made a commitment for rebaptism.



## Local Pillar of Loving Care Commemorated

Ruth Meyer (82, pictured) succumbed to injuries from a moving vehicle that accidentally struck her while she was walking near her home recently. But her influence lives on in the hearts and lives of thousands of people who have benefited from her spiritual counsel and knowledge of health principles that she freely shared. David H.



Corcoran, publisher and editor of *The Glenville Democrat*, the West Virginia town’s only newspaper, wrote this sensitive testimony of appreciation for Meyer’s life:

“Over the past 20-plus years, this popular local lady, who was thin and fit (thus living what she preached) was noted for helping people get a handle on their health problems, via the use of natural foods, diet, and vitamins. She and her late husband, Ira, owned the Country Life Natural Foods Store in Glenville, which was a haven for people seeking good health.

“In Ruth Meyer’s

passing, Glenville has lost a genteel, smart, and grand lady whose concern for the good health and welfare of others [made her] sought out by customers from all over this entire central West Virginia region. We will miss her!” (Used by permission—*The Glenville Democrat*, November 16, 2006.)

Meyer served as a deaconess and Sabbath School secretary at the Glenville church, which she and her family were instrumental in establishing over 25 years ago. Her memorial service drew over 150 visitors from this college town. Meyer’s children and grandchildren bore moving testimonies about her wise, loving, and sometimes creative methods of child rearing that reflected her deep assimilation of Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy counsel.

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During her memorial service, Ruth Meyer’s family recalled loving memories of her Spirit-led lifestyle.

JANUARY 2007

## Fulfilling God’s Mission, Growing Churches

The extraordinary year of 2006 has slipped into history. Ten new companies were organized and consecrated to finishing the task of proclaiming the compelling gospel of Jesus to all people in New Jersey. The members rejoiced as they recited their history and reflected on the wonderful way God blessed as they started their service for Him.

The conference witnessed its largest camp meeting attendance, with over 6,000 people on the grounds during the Sabbath services. It was the first time we got 3ABN TV coverage.

It also marked the most significant lay member participation in the small group ministry of “Disciples Making Disciples.” Over 300 people went through the training to become lay evangelists. We are praying that an even greater number will participate in 2007, the year when *NET 2007* will be uplinked from southern New Jersey.

This year begins with disciples preparing hundreds of people to participate in the reaping meetings, March 30-April 8, through satellite evangelism during the week preceding Easter. Pastors and lay evangelists will hold meetings in their respective churches and neighborhoods prior to the *NET 2007* meetings.

We are praying, and invite you to join us, for God to pour out His Spirit enabling us to bring into the fold those He has been preparing to enter into His eternal kingdom. I can only imagine what God will do when all of His disciples commit themselves to making disciples for Him.



LeRoy Finck  
President

## In Remembrance: Brian Robert Stevenson (1942-2006)

On September 27, 1942, a beautiful, brown-eyed, dark-haired baby boy was born in the little town of Barberton, South Africa, to Ernest J. and Thora G. Stevenson. Brian Stevenson (pictured) was the fourth son of a family of six boys. At an early age it was clearly evident that this child experienced a passion for music!

Stevenson graduated from Helderberg College with a four-year diploma in English Literature and Biblical Studies in 1964. He completed his bachelor’s degree at the University of South Africa soon after. He married Eunice Hahn from Rhodesia in December 1964. Bethel Mission in Transki, South Africa, was their destination, where he taught English to foreign students, history, and agriculture. He enjoyed the music made by the students, and in the evening could be found at the old church organ! Stevenson’s first son, Robert Bruce, was born during this time.

The family of three moved on to Solusi Mission in Rhodesia, now known as Zimbabwe. He taught English and history and directed the high school and college choirs. During their stay, daughter Brendalee was born.

After completing a master’s degree in English Literature at Andrews University (Mich.), the family joined the Illinois Conference where Stevenson became the principal of North Shore Junior Academy in Chicago. While there, Brian Andrew was born.

The family next went to Garden State Academy in Tranquility. Stevenson taught English, and Eunice worked at the Hackettstown Hospital. He adopted his precious senior class as “his kids.” He had the pleasure of singing in Carnegie Hall in New York as well as other major choral works in the area.

The family then returned to the Trans-Africa Division to fulfill a promise. They spent five years at Helderberg College where he served as head of the English Department and dean of the College of Arts and Science. After their term ended they were delighted to join the Michigan Conference pastoral family.

Stevenson’s next call was to the Chesapeake Conference, where he enjoyed the friendship of his members at several churches in Maryland and West Virginia. It was during this time that Stevenson and Eunice adopted four young people to join their family: Julia, Melinda, Lee, and Jessica.

The Stevensons next received a call to join the New Jersey Conference pastoral family. Stevenson loved his New Jersey church members. One night this past August, he received the long-awaited call from Jefferson University Hospital informing him that a liver had become available.

Stevenson’s greatest desire was to soon sing again and minister for his Lord in this green pasture where God had planted him! At 6:20 a.m. on August 10, 2006, he “fell asleep” on the operating table, and is waiting to be awakened on that resurrection morning.

## Browns Mills Church Hosts Seminars

Browns Mills church pastor Bob Hoyt and member Horace DeLisser, MD, an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania in the cell biology and physiology program (left), recently teamed up to do their second Creation Vs. Evolution seminar at the church. The three-night event brought a total of



120 people, including visitors, and was designed as a springboard for the succeeding Revelation Seminar conducted by Pastor Hoyt.

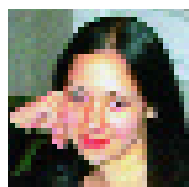
There were initially eight very interested visitors attending each night, in addition to the regular church members. The Browns Mills church family is happy to see a minimal budget seminar with such wonderful results.



Many members and visitors attended the creation and Revelation seminars at the Browns Mills church recently.

## Student Awarded National Honor Roll

Stephanie Molina (pictured), a member of the Passaic Spanish II church and a student at Passaic High School, recently competed for the National Honor Roll. She had to maintain high grades and pass all her classes in order to win. There were 25 winners



chosen from amongst the nation's very best students who qualified, of whom she was one. Molina worked hard, participating in clubs, sports, volunteer efforts, community services, and Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. She received her National Honor Roll award because of her perseverance and determination. She and her

family are very proud of her achievements, and the conference adds its congratulations.

## dates NEW JERSEY

### January

- 1 ABC/Office Closed
- 2,3 Pastors Annual Review
- 4 ABC Open  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 5-7 AY Leadership Training
- 7-11 Adventists Ministries Convention  
Tucson, Ariz.
- 14 ABC Closed  
AY Leadership Training
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Office  
ABC/Closed
- 16 ADCOM, 9 a.m.-Noon  
TVRC Board  
10 a.m.-Noon
- 17 HSH Board, 3-5 p.m.
- 23 ADCOM
- 25 K-12 BOE Executive Committee  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 26-28 Adventurer/Pathfinder Leadership Training
- 28 ACS/ACSDR Advisor,  
10 a.m.-Noon

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## ABC Retirees Recognized

The conference administration, Executive Committee, and staff recently held a dinner of appreciation and recognition for several staff members of the conference Adventist Book Center (ABC), to thank them for their many years of faithful service.

Jeannette Shiroma most recently served as secretary for the ABC. She has also served in various capacities at the Oregon Conference, Portland (Ore.) Adventist Medical Center, Kettering (Ohio) Medical Center, and

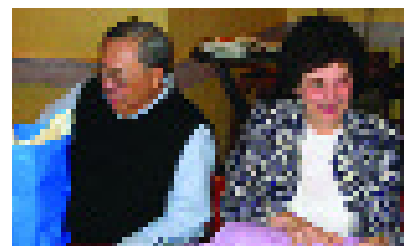
the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md.

Herb Shiroma also served at Portland Adventist Medical Center, Kettering Medical Center, and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md. He most recently served as Adventist Health System/EMA and manager of the ABC.

For Gwen Simon (pictured) it is an amazing thing to have had only one place of employment for over 30 years, especially in our mobile organization. But such is the case for this very dedicated servant who has been with the New Jersey Conference ABC as a secretary since 1973.



Though now retired, all three will continue working part-time for the store.



Herb and Jeannette Shiroma open their gifts at the recent recognition dinner for ABC retirees.

## Pastors Covenant to be Missional Leaders

It was an altar call of sorts, directed at Ohio Conference pastors. It came at the end of a presentation by president Raj Attiken at the Pastors Conference held at the Worthington church recently. Attiken spoke about the opportunity for Adventism to be an incarnational and transformational presence in Ohio.

"If God has placed a yearning in your heart to take your leadership capacities and influence to a level that you have not experienced before, we want to know who you are," Attiken told the leaders. "If God is creating a stirring in your heart to be a 'mission mover,' a leader in a missional movement that seeks to transform people and communities through the power of the gospel, I invite you to declare yourself."

The affirmative response from 96 percent of the pastors was another important and defining step in the Ohio Conference's journey toward creating an uncompromisingly missional movement in Ohio.

The Pastors Conference was just one of several venues in which the conference leaders' desire to intensify their emphasis and efforts regarding missions was to be presented. A presentation was also made to the K-12 Board of Education. The conference Executive Committee, at its weekend retreat recently, also deliberated on various elements of this missional strategy.

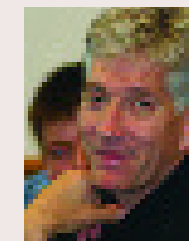
One of the key elements of this "journey" was the identification of a set of qualitative and quantitative metrics to assess progress. "If we are to achieve superior results relative to our mission and make a distinctive impact on our communities, we must be clear on how we will measure progress," Attiken observed. The conference's leadership efforts and conversations will be largely built around these indicators, which have been provided to all pastors.



Ohio church pastors (left to right) Chester Hitchcock, Rick Szilagyi, and Richard Rechichar agreed to be "mission movers."

## Pastoral Transitions Announced

Mike Barnett is the new pastor of the Reynoldsburg-Westerville church district. Pastor Barnett, his wife, Nancy, and their daughter, Maria, previously served at the Defiance-Bryan-Hicksville district in northwest Ohio for seven years.



Hal Ward transitions into a bi-vocational pastoral role as he continues to serve the Beavercreek church as its pastor.

Mike Fortune is the new pastor of the Toledo First church. Pastor Fortune, his wife, Jackie, and children Joshua and Lydia, most recently served at the Canton-Wooster district for eight years.



David VanDenburgh left his position as senior pastor of the Kettering church, for the past 11 years, to assume the position of associate professor of theology at the Kettering College of Medical Arts (Ohio) beginning January 1.

## Clifton Open House Educates Community

The Clifton church was one of six in the Clifton area of Cincinnati that hosted a community open house for local residents and friends. The tour started with displays from the Adventurer Club and the Quilting Hands Ministry. The greeters introduced the guests to their tour guide, who took them into the sanctuary to view a DVD presenting a short overview of Adventism.

Each guide took their guests on a tour of the church, beginning at the sanctuary and ending at the school, where the guests received refreshments pre-

pared by the hospitality committee. During the tour, the guides presented a brief overview of the church's history and ministries. Many of the guests expressed positive impressions.

Some of the Clifton church tour guides, greeters, and hospitality committee members wore costumes from their native countries. The church is home to at least 28 different nationalities, from Antigua to Zimbabwe. Jerry Bonner, outreach coordinator, and Lynne Bonner, communications leader, coordinated the open house.—*Lynn Bonner*

## Reynoldsburg Highlights New Members

The last day of Pastor Tom Hughes' ministry with the Reynoldsburg church was a high one: He had the privilege of bringing three new members into fellowship. Crystal Wolcott is active in the Pathfinder Club and loves to lead the praise singing for worship and special programs. Heather Claine is a Pathfinder Club counselor, completing her Master Guide, and is an accomplished violinist. Claine leads out in VBS, Sabbath School, and teaches Pathfinder classes and honors. Kathy Justice is another Pathfinder counselor and works wherever she's asked, but has a special talent in the kitchen and other social events.

—*Pam Anderson*



Pastor Tom Hughes (far right) stands with new members (left to right) Heather Claine, Crystal Wolcott, and Kathy Justice.

## Innovative Pastoral Services Initiated



An exciting new collaboration between Kettering Medical Center (KMC), the Ohio Conference, and the Miamisburg church has instituted a first-of-its-kind approach to providing pastoral care to an Adventist congregation. The Miamisburg church, located just south of Dayton, is now being pastored by a team of chaplains from the Spiritual Care Department of KMC. The team, comprising of five chaplains, is being headed by Larry Kositsin (pictured), manager/chaplain of Spiritual Care. Each of the chaplains is responsible for one primary area of pastoral leadership in the church, in addition to their roles and responsibilities in the hospitals. Fred Manchur, president and CEO of KMC and the leadership team in the Spiritual Care Department, and the elders of the Miamisburg church worked together to design the plan, in consultation with the Ohio Conference.

## mark your calendars

### January

- 13, 14 Ohio Ministry University
- 19-21 Pathfinder Ski Weekend
- 19-21 Hispanic Small Group Convention, Columbus

### February

- 3 Pathfinder Area Bible Bowl
- 17 Area Youth Rally, Cincinnati

### March

- 9-11 Conference-wide School Music Festival, Mt. Vernon Academy
- 17 Area Youth Rally, Dayton
- 23-25 Collegiate Retreat, Camp Mohaven
- 26 Town Hall Meeting, Columbus
- 28 Town Hall Meeting, Lakewood

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Editor, Bette Toscano ■ [www.ohioadventist.org](http://www.ohioadventist.org)

## Equipping University Adds Lay Pastor Opportunities

Have you felt drawn to a more intentional and meaningful ministry but weren't sure what you could do or how you could do it? Have you ever wanted to have more joy in your service for the Lord? Have you been impressed to be a lay pastor but weren't sure if you should or how to go about it? Have you wanted to serve God but felt unprepared and unqualified?

As a conference, we believe God has called us to prepare lay pastors to become a part of the work across Pennsylvania. God needs leaders for His work here. We are prayerfully answering God's call by partnering with Equipping University from Andrews University Theological Seminary as a way of assisting pastors and church planters in developing lay pastors.

Equipping University will be offered twice a year, with the first event being held March 2-3 at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg. Top presenters, experienced in local church ministry, from Andrews University and the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), will teach practical skills and help develop a vision for vibrant, growing churches.

Pastors and church planters will be attending and are already praying for God to reveal those from their churches who should come with them. We are calling all in our conference—men, women, and young adults who sense God's invitation—to talk with their pastor about attending.

The first NADEI event, "Church Works Weekend," will feature Russell Burrill, NADEI director, Eduard Schmidt, NADEI associate director, and others. Each person attending will be immediately placed into a ministry setting by their pastor. Many of those attending the university

will soon be leading a high impact local ministry, a church plant or a mission church as a lay pastor. Those completing the six courses of classes and fieldwork will be certified as lay pastors through the Pennsylvania Conference and Equipping University.

It is exciting to see pastors and lay people from Pennsylvania join together to treat the state as a mission field as we build effective ministry and bring souls to Christ and His last-day church.

Will you join me in praying that God will continue rising up lay pastors for Pennsylvania? And will you open your heart to God's leading? You may be one of the many lay pastors He is calling. God may want to fulfill the exciting promise of *Desire of Ages* (page 297), which states that, with almost impatient eagerness, the angels wait for our cooperation; for man must be the channel to communicate with man. And when we give ourselves to Christ, in wholehearted devotion, angels rejoice that they may speak through our voices to reveal God's love.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Matt. 9:37-38).

—*Ray Hartwell, President*



Men, women, and young adults from Pennsylvania are encouraged to prayerfully consider joining Equipping University. Each person has the possibility of becoming lay pastors in Pennsylvania.



**NEWS**

**Youth Rally Scheduled**

Young people are invited to attend the conference youth rally on February 10 at Blue Mountain Academy. Youth leaders are encouraged to bring their youth groups. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the academy gym, the day will feature great music, speakers, outreach, and food. For more information, go to [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org), or contact the youth department at (610) 374-8331.

**Couples to Find Love**

Bring your partner and attend the conference marriage retreat themed "Love in the Old West" at the Mountain View Inn in

Greensburg. It will be held February 23-25. Guest speakers will be Pastor Dwight and Janita Herod of the Bowman Hills church in Cleveland, Tenn. For registration and further information, call Jeanne Hartwell, Family Ministries director, at (610) 374-8331, ext. 218.

**Women to Host Winter Retreat**

Imagine sitting around a fire, scrap booking pictures of loved ones and favorite memories while being drawn closer to Jesus. Women are invited to experience just that at Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter, February 16-18. The cost is \$85 per person to stay in the cabins, or \$100 per person to stay at the lodge.

There will be a light supper Friday night, brunch and dinner on Sabbath, Sunday brunch, snacks, worship, hikes, naps, and door prizes. Materials will be available for purchase. For more information, contact Denise Moran at (814) 938-9300 or at [laurellake@pennswoods.net](mailto:laurellake@pennswoods.net).

*What's happening*

**January**

**12-14** Pathfinder Executive Council  
*Camp Lakawana*

**19-21** Hispanic Elders Retreat, *Blue Mountain Academy*

**26-28** Pathfinder Winter Retreat, *Laurel Lake Camp*

**February**

**10** Conference Youth Rally, *Blue Mountain Academy*

**16-18** Scrap Booking Retreat, *Laurel Lake Camp*

**23-25** Marriage Retreat  
*Greensburg*

**March**

**2-4** Pathfinders & Adventurers Retreat  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

**2-3** Equipping University  
*Harrisburg*

**10-11** Cool Camp Team Training

**16-18** Women's Retreat  
*Gettysburg*

**Pennsylvania Pen** is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamyra Horst ■ [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org)

**Spiritual Retreat Calls for Rest**

The conference invites women to "Come to the Table," a weekend spiritual retreat to be held March 16-18 at the Eisenhower Inn in Gettysburg. Attendees will have the opportunity to worship, pray, sing, laugh, rest, and be reminded of how very much God loves them.

Featured speaker Ginny Allen (right), a much-loved and popular retreat speaker from the Oregon Conference, is known for her ability to make God real in people's daily lives. The weekend also includes recording artists Message of Mercy (below). Seminar speakers include: president Ray Hartwell and his wife, Jeanne; Message of Mercy members Heather Neal and Paula Woodruff; Tina Bennett, a member of the Lancaster church; Kathleen Sutton, director of development at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg; and Lilly Tryon, BSN, RN, lifestyle coach for Adventist WholeHealth Network. There will also be presentations by Judy Butler and Denise Reinwald, both members of the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading.



Churches and individuals are invited to send in nominations for the "Amazing Woman" recognition at the retreat. Last year 12 women were recognized for the differences they are making in their churches and communities. To nominate a woman, write and tell how she is impacting others and making a difference. Send to Amazing Women, Pennsylvania Conference, 720 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611, or [thorst@paconference.org](mailto:thorst@paconference.org).

For more information about the spring retreat or Amazing Woman nominations, contact Tamyra Horst, communication director, at (610) 374-8331, ext. 236, or [thorst@paconference.org](mailto:thorst@paconference.org).



# Potomac People

JANUARY 2007

**Is God Interested in Us Being Productive?**

In the technology field there has been a mindset that an increase in technology will lead to more productivity. Most would agree that this hasn't happened, but why? I suggest that a major reason is due to a lack of training. You didn't learn to become a good driver when you received your license. You had to study, practice, and improve with time. Our economy loves to sell the latest and greatest gadgets touted to make people more productive, but without proper training and purpose, the goal of productivity is largely diminished and lacks significant benefit other than the entertainment value.

In Scripture we see that God calls each of us to be productive for Him. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Col. 3:23, NIV). The question that begs an answer is how does my Christian faith intersect with my day-to-day work? God is interested in how we spend our time; He desires to engage us and for us to engage others. Our faith and daily living can be made compatible with Christ's work on Earth. Let's not allow the world to give us false gratification and distract us from what's really important. Instead, we need to learn to manage our daily activities so as to be outward and inward expressions of Him.

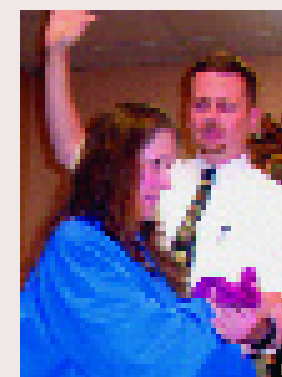


**Todd Mace**

*Information Systems Director*

**NEWS**

**North Valley Celebrates Baptisms, Successful VBS**



*Associate Pastor Michael Hewitt prays as he prepares to baptize Linda Oliver.*

Six people were recently baptized into the North Valley church. The converts were brought into the church through the joint efforts of an earlier evangelistic crusade by Dave Weigley, then Potomac Conference president—and now Columbia Union president, area pastors, Bible workers, and church members. Praise the Lord for these precious souls.

Fiesta was the theme for this year's VBS at North Valley church. Children could be heard shouting a response of celebration, "Viva! Viva!" Each night a different personality of Jesus was presented—friend, helper, savior, and leader. It was thrilling to see the children's eagerness to learn about Jesus. There was an average of 30 attendees, and several children returned to church the following Sabbath.—*Ruth Wyrick and Justin Shelor*

- The Bealton (Va.) Spanish company is led by Pastor Luis Begle.
- Chirilagua Spanish company, located in Alexandria, Va., is guided by Pastor Luis Tenorio.
- Oxon Hill (Md.) Spanish company is currently pastored by Jose Menendez.
- The Damascus (Md.) Spanish company is pastored by Otis Coutsoumpos, Sr.
- Redeeming Grace Fellowship company, located in Chesapeake, Va., is delighted to have Lee Grady serve them as interim pastor.
- The Culmore Spanish company, located in Falls Church, Va., is being shepherded by Pastor Willie Benzaquen.
- The Hopewell (Va.) Spanish company is being led by Pastor Jonas Baca.



*Members of the newly formed Damascus (Md.) Spanish company rejoiced with Roger Weiss (back row, second from left), vice president for administration, during their church dedication.*

**Potomac Adds Seven Companies**

Potomac Conference officers are happy to report that seven new companies were added to its list of congregations during the first 10 months of 2006. Congratulations to these new bodies of believers:

## NEWS

### Joint Pathfinder Camporee a Success

Pathfinder clubs from Potomac and Chesapeake conferences recently braved cold, rainy weather to attend a joint camporee. Hosted by Potomac Pathfinders, the clubs met at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va.



Despite the weather, Denny Grady, Youth Ministries director, reported that more than 1,000 people attended this year's event, with the theme "Friendship of Faith." The featured speaker, Jamal Franklyn (pictured), a 16-year-old Adventist evangelist from Barbados, inspired attendees with his powerful preaching.

Weekend activities included drill downs, canoeing, mountain boarding, mountain biking, and, of course, acquiring honors. But most importantly, the friends and memories made will hopefully last a lifetime.



### Rockville Church Hosts First Health Fair

The Rockville (Md.) church recently hosted their first community health fair, where they educated the community on healthy living. The fair offered attendees the opportunity to receive free screenings for diabetes, cholesterol, and glaucoma, as well as free dental care and relaxation therapy. Several attendees were alerted to medical conditions that had gone undetected.



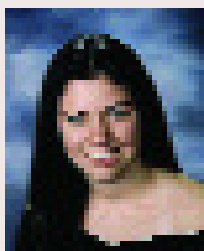
Health fair participants included (left to right) Norman Brooks, Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program director and sponsor of the health fair; Cassandre Cadet, Sabbath School secretary; Carolyn Granderson, head elder/lay pastor; Gina Rao, health ministries leader; and Melissa Gottlieb, Sabbath School superintendent.

Information and pamphlets were available on stress management, vegetarian diets, and total healing through spiritual well-being. Healthy food was provided for all to enjoy and prize drawings held. The church plans to hold their next bi-annual health fair in March. —Carolyn Granderson

### Spiritual Retreat, Work Bee Planned

Members of Valley district churches should now reserve August 24-28 to take part in a spiritual retreat and work bee at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va. Several meal and lodging packages are available. Early registration discounts end April 30. For more information, contact Ed Manspeaker at (540) 778-1352. Don't miss this opportunity for spiritual nurture and service.

## Spotlight on Jessica Peck



Potomac Conference has many young adults who serve as a vital witness for Him as they share their unique God-given talents in area churches and schools. One such young person is Jessica Peck (pictured) from New Market, Va. By seventh grade Peck played violin with the Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) String Ensemble and Orchestra. In high school she was named concertmaster of the Shenandoah Youth Symphony Orchestra, a regional orchestra for high school students. Each summer while at SVA, Peck was selected to play in the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival at Eastern Mennonite University.

Peck received various musical awards, including one from the Valley Education Center for the Creative Arts. During the final concert of her senior year, a piece of music she composed, Adagio in A Minor for String Quartet, was performed.

While attending SVA, Peck worked diligently to help pay her tuition. She served as music director of a local Protestant church and taught violin to other students. Peck also formed the Shenandoah String Quartet, which played for weddings and other events. Peck still prioritized her scholastic endeavors resulting in her selection as salutatorian of her graduating class in 2006 and a member of the National Honor Society.

Now a freshman at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), Peck has refocused her musical and scholastic talent in a venue where she will continue to share with others majoring in music education.

Potomac People is published in the Visitor by the Potomac Conference ■ 606 Greenville Ave., Staunton, VA 24401  
Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ www.pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Comm. Asst., Jeanie Allen

## New Objectives Set for Campus Life

We would like to introduce to you the new Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), with newly established objectives (listed below). If this kind of program interests you, please join us at one of our open houses in January and February. Our first two will be January 7 and 14, starting at 10 a.m. with brunch in the cafeteria. Come and learn more about our Baccalaureate program—providing up to a full year of college credit—and the Partial-Dorm program, in which we will offer free transportation for freshmen and sophomores to the larger metro areas. Also, learn about our scholarship programs.

**SVA Mission:** SVA is a community of Christians who are committed to the Lordship of Jesus for the purpose of academic, personal, and spiritual growth.

**SVA Philosophy of Education:** We are all created in the image of God. For this reason, the primary purpose of SVA is to develop Creator-like powers in our students that are God-given to all humans: creativity, individuality, and the power to think, to choose, and to do. We exist to provide a quality education in an environment where students and staff are in the process of continuously improving their love, trust, and relationships with Jesus Christ and each other.

We value this environment and recognize that it must be protected and nurtured in order to achieve our objectives. Accordingly, we select and welcome students and staff who thrive in a family where trust is fairly and safely embedded in love and relationships.

We believe students benefit and develop by being trusted. They have a high sense of honor and want to be treated with confidence and respect, which is their right.

We highly value academic discipline and rigor. We also place value on becoming a balanced person through music, athletics, art, culture, and involvement with the welfare of others.

We pledge to have sufficient work and justified financial aid to assist any Seventh-day Adventist applicant who truly wants to combine quality education and a Christian lifestyle at SVA.

### SVA Priority Objectives:

**Spirituality**—SVA students will develop a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Relationships**—SVA students will develop strong Christian relationships that will guide their behavior.

**Academics**—SVA students will be recognized for academic excellence.

**Health and Wellness**—SVA students will be given

health risk assessments, training, and resources to follow action plans to positively impact their health and their personal wellness

**Work Ethics**—SVA students will learn the value, rewards, and dignity of work.

**Character Development**—SVA students will progress in developing their Christian character.

**Fun**—SVA students will have fun and be noticeably happy.



During "outdoor church," students play a game of good versus evil. This deception game requires them to decide whether to follow heaven's or hell's angels. This is just one way SVA helps positively develop its students' characters.

## calendar of events

### January

7 SVA Open House  
14 SVA Open House  
15-19 Week of Prayer

### February

11 SVA Open House

### March

25 SVA Open House

Happenings is published in the Visitor by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844  
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ Principal, Dale Twomley, PhD  
E-mail: nafiej@sva-va.org ■ Editor, Tim LaPierre  
www.youracademy.org



**Let's Resolve to Be Closer to Christ**

Happy New Year to each of you! It seems almost surreal that we are in 2007! I can remember the angst about 2000 and thinking that we certainly wouldn't still be here on this Earth at the millennium, and, yet, we are still here. For many of us, we wouldn't have been in the kingdom if the Lord had come in 2000. Once again, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise," but He does not want any of us to be lost (2 Pet. 3:9).

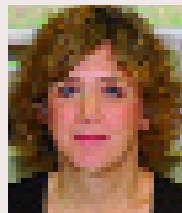
God has allowed us to see a new year, and the question we must ask is, "What will we do with the year that God has given to us?" My constant resolution is to become closer to Christ. That is what it is all about. God has given us the privilege of representing Him and bringing others to Christ. With God's help I will be more kind, patient, and understanding. I will not, with God's help, let the stresses that Satan throws my way affect my relationship with others. Let's pray for each other so that we can all represent Christ in a positive way.



C. Dunbar Henri  
Principal

**NEWS**

**Alumna Angie Paris Returns to TA**



Angie Paris ('87, pictured) has returned to Takoma Academy (TA) to assist principal Dunbar Henri. She has been on campus tutoring students, and will now work 20 hours a week taking care of attendance and keeping track of discipline. This will greatly assist Henri—who has been doing this work—in making more visible appearances in the classrooms. A special thanks to Paris for returning to her alma mater to assist.

**Sligo School Gives Worship**

Yolande Melbourne, another TA graduate ('91) and a teacher at Sligo Elementary in Silver Spring, Md., brought her fifth grade students to the academy recently to provide a worship service to TA students. Melbourne (pictured with her class) comes at least once a year to bless TA.



Alumni and former students who have returned to their alma mater to teach include (front row, left to right): Tom Ballard, Todd Nelson, Derek Boyce, (second row, left to right) Linda McLaughlin, Althea Ramsammy, Erica Chavez, (back row, left to right) Vashon Williams, and Melvyn Hayden III.

**Alumni Teachers Bless TA**

It really is a testament to a school when alumni are committed to returning and supporting their alma mater. This year we have the following graduates teaching at TA: history teacher Tom Ballard ('66), science teacher Derek Boyce ('99), history and Spanish teacher Erica Chavez ('96), religion teacher Melvyn Hayden ('89), math teacher Todd Nelson ('80), technology teacher Althea Ramsammy ('89), physical education teacher Vashon Williams ('94), and math teacher Daniel Yirenkyi ('93). The newspaper and graphics teacher, Linda McLaughlin, also attended TA from 1978-80, but is not a graduate. McLaughlin also works with development and alumni. We are blessed to have their support.

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (301) 434-4700 Principal, C. Dunbar Henri ■ www.ta.edu

**TALKING ABOUT FREEDOM**

Did you know that the Columbia Union Conference has a religious liberty radio program?

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**For more information, please contact: (408) 285-4224 x2118**

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**Rates** for classified advertising are calculated on a per insertion basis in our 12 issues. Minimum charge is \$45 for 50 words or less for ads originating within the Columbia Union Conference, and \$50 for all others. Additional words: 60 cents each. A 15 percent discount is given for 12 insertions, a 10 percent discount for six insertions, and a five percent discount for three insertions. A column ad (classified ad in a box) is \$110 inside the union and \$125 outside the union, with a maximum word count of 75. Ads must be placed a minimum of four weeks before the issue date, which is the first of every month.

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**IF YOU ARE AN ADVENTIST LEGAL PROFESSIONAL—** lawyer, judge, or law student, check out and register at the website provided for you by the General Conference Office of General Counsel. Looking for an Adventist lawyer? This site may also be helpful for you. [www.AdventistLawyer.com](http://www.AdventistLawyer.com).

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**TRAVEL/VACATION**

**OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS:** Russian River Cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow, June 20-July 5; pre-cruise options Helsinki, June 10-15; Baltics, June 14-21. Japan Tour, Oct.14-Nov. 2, will include Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Japan Alps, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Contact Merlene Ogden, (269) 471-3781, email [ogden@andrews.edu](mailto:ogden@andrews.edu); or Judy Zimmerman, (269) 471-7004, email [zim41634@aol.com](mailto:zim41634@aol.com).

**CARIBBEAN CRUISE,** April 18-29, San Juan, St. Maarten, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, Tortola, Cayo Levantado. Alaska cruise/tour, August 30-September 11. Seattle, Vancouver, Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Hubbard Glacier, Anchorage, Denali wildlife tour, Fairbanks, paddlewheel cruise. Contact Bob and Kathie Foll ASAP. (863) 453-7196.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING:** Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to "Meet Me at the Rock Pile," April 5-8. Honor classes are 1937, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1982, 1987, and 1997. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

**WIN! WELLNESS SEMINAR AT ORLANDO HEALTH SUMMIT.** A new total wellness approach will make its debut January 28-February 3, in Orlando. Drs. John, Millie and Wes Youngberg will present WIN! Wellness integrating instruction on physical, spiritual, and relational health within a gospel setting. WIN! gives a gentle introduction to Adventist doctrines and is evangelistic. There will be hands-on training in English and Spanish using the 21 factors and dynamic PowerPoint graphics. An Instructor's Certificate will be given. WIN! is recommended for health educators, evangelists, family ministry leaders, women's ministries, community service, and qualified lay persons. For further information, contact [www.plusline.org/events](http://www.plusline.org/events) or call (800) 732-7587.

**LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING,** "A Time to Remember." March 9-11. Special invitation to the honor classes: 1927, 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1982. The Sabbath church guest speaker will be Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Preregister for all of the Homecoming Weekend activities at <http://www.lasierraconnect.net/NetCommunity/>.

	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	Feb. 2	Feb. 9
Baltimore	5:04	5:12	5:20	5:28	5:36
Cincinnati	5:36	5:44	5:52	6:00	6:08
Cleveland	5:18	5:26	5:35	5:44	5:52
Columbus	5:28	5:35	5:44	5:52	6:00
Jersey City	4:50	4:58	5:06	5:15	5:23
Norfolk	5:09	5:16	5:24	5:31	5:39
Parkersburg	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:56
Philadelphia	4:56	5:04	5:12	5:21	5:29
Pittsburgh	5:14	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:48
Reading	4:58	5:06	5:15	5:23	5:32
Richmond	5:12	5:19	5:27	5:35	5:42
Roanoke	5:23	5:30	5:38	5:45	5:53
Toledo	5:25	5:33	5:42	5:51	6:00
Trenton	4:54	5:02	5:10	5:19	5:27
Wash., D.C.	5:07	5:14	5:22	5:30	5:38

**SUNSET CALENDAR**

**OBITUARIES**

**GARDNER, Lois J.,** born November 11, 1925, in Berryville, Ark.; died August 5, 2006, in Dayton, Md. She was a member of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Lois served with her husband at the Africa Herald Publishing House in Kenya, East Africa and at the Review and Herald Publishing Assn., when it was located in Takoma Park, Md. Lois is survived by her husband of 59 years, Eugene; daughter Susan Whitsett of Fort Myers, Fla.; son David of Jacksonville, Fla.; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**HILL (Bowman), Lois Jeanne,** born March 13, 1929; died October 4, 2006, in Pittsburgh, Pa. Although she was a member of the Seabrook (Md.) church for only a short time, her passion of service was to minister to the sick and shut-ins of her church family. She is survived by her husband, James R. Hill, Sr., of Upper Marlboro, Md.; her sons, Dwight R. Hill of Dayton, Ohio, and Stewart Elliott Hill of Bowie, Md.; her daughter, Lisa Lynette (Hill) Lux of Miami Beach, Fla.; a sister, Alyce Hartzler of Sacramento, Calif., and three grandchildren.

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**HUTTING, Arlene Elise,** born March 22, 1943, in Elkton, Md.; died October 14, 2006, at University Hospital, Baltimore, Md. She was member of the Blythedale (Md.) church. Arlene graduated from Madison Academy in Madison, Tenn., and Florida Sans School of Nursing in Orlando, Fla. She worked for many years for Gunther Hirsch, MD, in Havre de Grace, Md., and most recently for the Perry Point Veterans Administration. In addition to her mother, survivors include her husband of 41 years, Richard A. Hutting; children, Christopher Hutting of Rising Sun, Md., Stacy Hutting Crabtree and her husband, Danny, of Goodview, Va., and Rachael Hutting of Perryville, Md.; brothers, Willard "Toby" Blackburn of Culpepper, Va., and Allan Blackburn of North East, Md.; grandchildren, Christopher and Corrine Hutting, Sean, Megan and Mason Crabtree, and Jacob Henley; and many nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by a sister, Lorraine Blackburn Jacobs.

**ISING, Konrad V.,** born October 2, 1926, in Basil, Switzerland; died October 4, 2006, in Richmond, Va. He was a member of the Orange (Va.) church. His father, Walter, served as the first Adventist missionary to Iraq, and Konrad's continental perspective was a byproduct of living in multiple cultures and countries such as Jerusalem, Beirut, Haifa, Amman, and Cairo, with his missionary parents. During his retirement in Louisa, Va., Konrad enjoyed reading, gardening, and working with the Discover and Focus on Prophecy Bible students for the Orange church. He is survived by his wife, Merlene, six children, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Konrad's love for people was exhibited in gracious thoughtfulness to all he came in contact with. He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched.

**Redmond, Ruth V.,** born September 9, 1917, in Frederick, Md.; died August 29, 2006, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Ruth is survived by her son, Larry Redmond, and his wife, Diane; grandchildren, Leah Redmond McClure and Joan R. Standish; and great-granddaughter, Georgia Standish.

**OBITUARY SUBMISSION**  
Phone toll-free:  
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or e-mail:  
**sjones@columbiaunion.net**  
A form will be sent to you for completion. Obituaries are printed in the order they are received on a space-available basis.

**Calling All Centenarians!**

The Columbia Union will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007, and the *Visitor* would like to recognize members who are 100 years or older. To be included in this spotlight, please do the following:

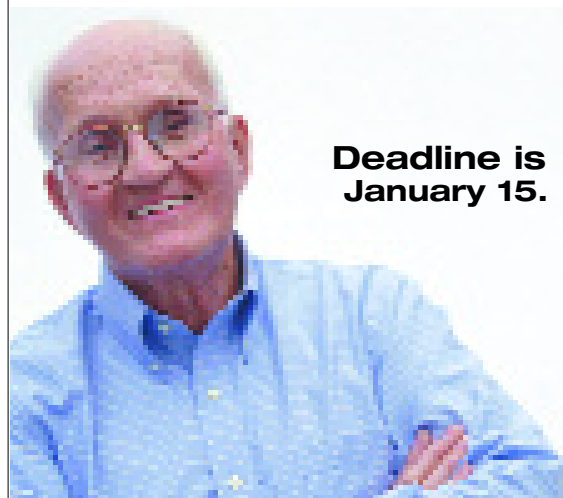
- **Send** a photo (headshots only) of each centenarian in your family or church.
- **Write** a short biography including their name and age; spouse's name; number of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren; name of their church and conference; and any interesting historical information.
- **Get** a quote from them on what factors contributed to their longevity and a quote from their pastor or a member at their church on what makes them special to the church.
- **Include** a contact phone number.

Please email photos and biographies to:

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The *Visitor* provides news and information, resources for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help people celebrate God's transforming grace in preparation for His return.

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**A Virtual Church is Born**

One of the unentered mission fields for the Seventh-day Adventist Church today is the world of young, urban professionals who live and work in large metropolitan areas. Some, for example, reside in neighborhoods just a few blocks south of Philadelphia's City Hall. One neighborhood has been the traditional center of the Italian-American community for generations. Next door is a 150-year-old, African-American community. Other ethnic communities can be found within a 15-minute walk.



A lot of young adults are moving into the area. They work in major corporations, hospitals, arts organizations, and government agencies in downtown Philadelphia. They come from many places and present a very diverse ethnic and cultural mix. Interestingly, they tend to have one thing in common—they don't go to church. They know almost nothing about the Bible and are cynical about organized religion. But, they have strong spiritual curiosity and needs, and they respect altruistic and artistic efforts.

**URBAN MISSION FIELD**

I'm happy to say that a new missionary team is launching a ministry in this urban mission field. The leader is Major Coleman, PhD, a professor at Pennsylvania State University. His two partners are Tony Andrews, an ordained minister in the Allegheny East Conference with expertise in cross-cultural communication and contemporary culture, and Christopher Daley, an engineer specializing in computers, marketing, and technology.

The concept is to make friends and establish a presence in the community by developing a program in which young professionals are recruited to teach low-income, inner-city residents basic computer skills and help them get jobs. A "virtual church" on the Internet will provide opportunities for worship, study, and fellowship.

They already have volunteers from two secular campus ministry groups. PAN (Philadelphia Adventist Network) Ministries is an organization run by Adventist young adults attending universities in the city. PSALM (Penn State Adventist Leadership Ministry) is the Adventist student organization at Penn State's main campus.

*But more volunteers are needed!* And thanks to the Internet, you can get involved no matter where you are located. If you want to get involved or simply get progress reports, email [msahlin@creativeministry.org](mailto:msahlin@creativeministry.org) or call (800) 272-4664. I will send you a fact sheet and put you in touch with the missionary team. Please join me in praying for this important effort.

*Monte Sahlin is vice president for Creative Ministries for the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

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