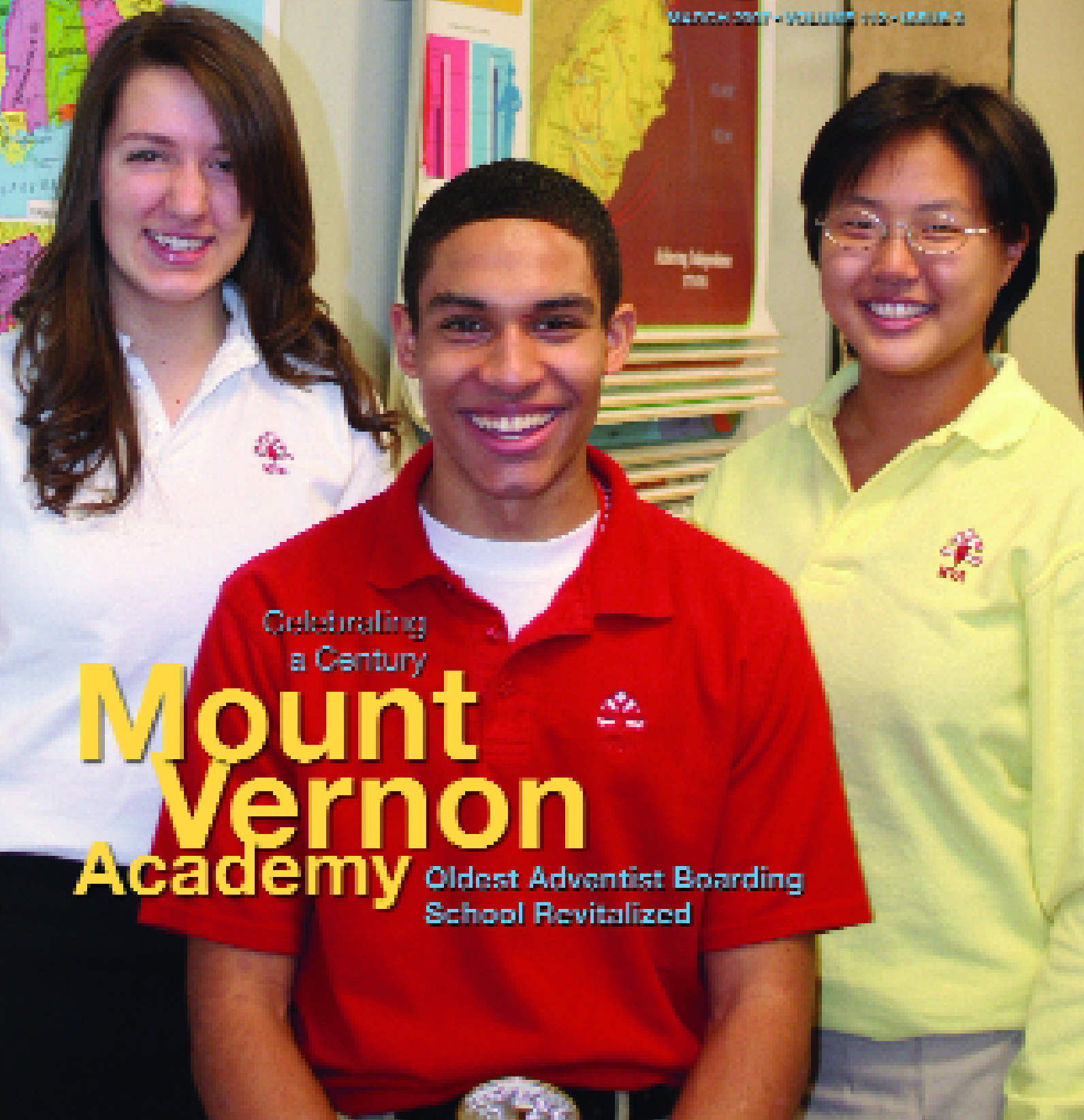


CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

MARCH 2007 • VOLUME 110 • ISSUE 3



Celebrating
a Century

Mount Vernon Academy

Oldest Adventist Boarding
School Revitalized



18

News & Features

8 | Mount Vernon Academy: Oldest Adventist Boarding School Revitalized

Jeanie Haldeman

Mount Vernon Academy opened its doors in Ohio in 1893. Read about the evolution of the Columbia Union's oldest boarding school during the past 114 years.

12 | Alumni Remember: How My Academy Experience Shaped My Life

What do you remember most about your academy experience? Your favorite teacher, class, or the lifelong friends you made? Read what alumni from 10 union academies had to say.

15 | We Found Christ at an Adventist School

Adventist schools do more than educate, they also minister to students, parents, and the community. Meet three people whose lives were changed through contact with an Adventist school.

18 | Takoma Park Serves Early Adventists With Christian Education

Beth Michaels

From 1907 to the present, Adventist education has become a staple in Takoma Park, Md. See how one school filled a void and continues to thrive 100 years later.

In Every Issue

3 | Editorial

4 | Newslines

6 | Potluck

16 | Church Profile

Newsletters

23 Allegheny East

25 Allegheny West

27 Blue Mountain Academy

29 Chesapeake

31 Columbia Union College

33 El Noti Visitor

35 Mountain View

37 New Jersey

39 Ohio

41 Pennsylvania

43 Potomac

45 Shenandoah Valley Academy

46 Takoma Academy

51 | Bulletin Board

55 | Last Words

About the Cover: Sophomore Caroline Dengel, Junior Jeremiah Jemison, and Junior Soogie Choi are current Mount Vernon Academy students. Photo by Marcellus de Oliveira.

Navigating the Teenager's Journey

Fascinating research at the University of Pittsburgh and National Institutes of Health is revealing much more than has ever been known about adolescent brain functions. Using magnetic resonance imaging, researchers are tracking the effect of dopamine (a neurotransmitter molecule) on the nucleus accumbens, the deeply embedded region of the brain that responds to various types of rewards. Currently they are in the early stages of unlocking crucial understanding of why many teenagers have a greater penchant for rewards and risk-taking.



According to Richard Monastery, preliminary findings indicate that, "The adolescent brain seems hard-wired to seek out exciting and potentially dangerous situations. While the control centers linked to the prefrontal cortex take time to mature, the pleasure-seeking systems of other regions get a kick-start in puberty and go into overdrive ..." He goes on to say that, "Neural systems that respond to thrills, novelty, and rewards develop well before the regulatory systems that rein in questionable actions. The teenage brain, in essence, is a turbocharged car with a set of brakes still under construction."¹

Wow! I no longer have teenagers at home or in a classroom I can call my own. But my sincere, abiding appreciation for parents and teachers—roles that are not mutually exclusive I might add—continues to grow. Navigating the "stop and go" whirlwinds that are our teenagers, really is a *full-time* job and clearly not an easy one. Yet, as complicated as they are, our teens are precious to the Adventist Church and us.



TOP 10 TEEN PROBLEMS

Notwithstanding the thrills and novelty associated with adolescence, as suggested by research, each day's journey for our teens is—more often than not—a difficult one. Andrews University recently published a study that surveyed 2,240 adolescents, ages 13-19, in over a dozen Adventist academies (day, boarding, and self-supporting) across the North American Division. The top 10 personal problems identified by these youth were (1) poor study habits; (2) worrying about future jobs or college; (3) not enough money; (4) not enough exercise; (5) feeling tired and having no energy; (6) no time to relax; (7) poor sleeping habits; (8) bored in school; (9) having trouble

concentrating; and (10) being shy.² With our youth facing such challenges, no one should wonder why "great" teachers are often characterized as those who create and maintain dynamic, constructive relationships with students, consistently seeking to "lift them up" through the power of the indwelling Spirit.

For those of us who have moved beyond teenage years of which we can, at best, only reminisce *and* who think of today's teens as more challenging than what we ourselves were years ago, thank God for *each* of them. Let it be our joy to "lift them up" in every way, every day. "... and the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13, NLT).

Hamlet Canosa, EdD, is vice president for education for the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

1. Monastery, R. (2007). "Who's Minding the Teenage Brain?" *Journal of Higher Education*, 19, A14, A16.

2. Freed, S. & Gabriel, E. (2006). "Personal Problems of Seventh-day Adventist Academy Students." *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 15, 77-93.

8 Ministry Leaders Honored at Ministries Convention

Eight Columbia Union members were among the more than 30 honorees for "Excellence in Ministries" during the recent 2007 North American Division (NAD) Adventist Ministries Convention in Tucson, Ariz. They are:

Catherine Burks - Disabilities Ministries director for the Allegheny



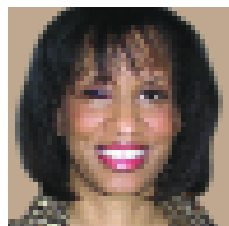
West Conference. Burks, the author of five books, has served on the NAD Commission for People with Disabilities since 1996. She's listed among the Midwest's "Who's Who" and recently started an adult community support group.

Ray Nelson - Chesapeake Conference Health Ministries



director, pastor, and NAD Regeneration Ministries coordinator. Nelson promotes the Adventist Church's 12-step, Christ-centered addiction recovery ministry throughout the union and division.

Leah Scott - Allegheny East Conference Health Ministries director.



Scott is currently the executive director of FIT 4 YOU, the conference's 30-year-old health and wellness summer camp that incorporates Christian principles while witnessing to attendees and the community.

Marwood Hallett - Ohio Conference ministerial director.



Hallett developed an outstanding training model for pastors and others in supervisory capacities, which has been used extensively.

Carol Barron - NAD Adult Ministries newsletter editor and



certified lay minister of evangelism. Barron is a trilingual Bible instructor, evangelist, prayer ministry facilitator, foreign missionary, and author.

Oswald Goulding - Prison Ministries coordinator at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Teaneck, N.J.



Goulding, a local elder, has been active in Prison Ministries for 17 years. He has also organized Angel Tree, which brings Christmas cheer to families of the incarcerated, and Keeping in Touch, a follow-up program for recently paroled men and women.

Cesar Gonzalez - NAD young adult initiative coordinator.

Gonzalez has facilitated two "Seven Signs" discipleship evangelism series and chaired the NAD's CONNECT Network, which empowers young adults. He has published numerous articles on young adult ministry needs and opportunities.



Claude Harris - Allegheny East Conference Youth Ministries director. Harris chairs the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association, which is the parent organization of the



30-year-old United Youth Congress. He has planned and led mission trips to Thailand, Burkina-Faso, Ghana, and London.

Allegheny West Member to Head Ohio Health Department

Ohio governor-elect Ted Strickland has appointed an Adventist, **Alvin D. Jackson, MD**, to serve as director of the Ohio Department of Health. Dr. Jackson, a member of Allegheny West Conference's Central church in Columbus, is the first Adventist and second African-American to join the administration's cabinet.

"Quality healthcare, patient education, and disease prevention will be my priorities at the

Ohio Department of Health," says 56-year-old Dr. Jackson, who will commence his appointment April 1. He also serves as medical director of Community Health Services and is on staff at nearby Memorial Hospital in Fremont, Ohio.



Probably most impressive about his appointment is that he was offered the position over 500 other qualified applicants, and never even applied. (Read more of this story on page 25).

—Beth Michaels

Adventist Heritage Ministries Celebration Culminates in Columbia Union

Adventist Heritage Ministry (AHM) has planned six exciting, spirit-filled heritage weekends to celebrate its 25th anniversary and share Adventist heritage. To that end, AHM leaders are traveling the country presenting special two-day retreats that are designed to be spiritually moving, inspiring, and educational.

The final heritage program will be held at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., May 4-5.



Program guests include **Thomas R. Neslund** (left), AHM president; **Jim Nix**, AHM Board chair and director of the Adventist Church's Ellen G. White Estate; and the Takoma Academy Drama Troupe. As part of its

centennial celebration, leaders from the Columbia Union will also participate in the program.

On Friday evening Nix presents "Singing Their Way to Zion," a compilation of stories and songs about Adventist pioneers and how the Adventist Church was founded. Sabbath afternoon, Neslund will share the history of AHM and testimonies of volunteers. The drama team will present a special skit titled



"Playing our Past," and Nix (pictured above) will conclude with "Stories of Sacrifice and Commitment."

"It's important to review experiences out of the life and times of pioneers so we don't forget their sacrifices," Neslund says. In addition, each heritage weekend offers individuals an opportunity to invite Jesus into their heart, highlight Christ's soon return, and confirm confidence in the biblically based beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.—Dawna Baker

Volunteers Needed for Mission Trip

Hogar de Niños (Children's Home), the Adventist-operated orphanage in Santa Barbara, Honduras, is the destination for both of this year's Columbia Union mission trips July 12-22 (for high school students) and July 29-August 5 (for college students and young adults).

Currently there are 70 young people living in the orphanage. There's also an elementary

school, a high school, a college for students who want to specialize in the medical field, and a day-care center on the campus. Mission trip volunteers are needed to repair electrical wires in the orphanage and roofs in the complex, cement new sidewalks, build two more housing facilities for staff and dormitories for the high school, and paint all of the buildings.

For additional information, and an application, contact the Chesapeake Conference Youth Department at (410) 995-1910 or (301) 596-5600. A completed application and \$200 deposit will reserve one of the 34 available spots. The cost is \$1,100.



Columbia Union volunteers went to Belize last summer to complete construction on a school to benefit local children.

Correction

Josephine Benton became the Columbia Union's first ordained female elder in 1973 (not 1972 as printed in the January 2007 issue). The *Visitor* regrets the error.

What's New

Music > Face to Face

Independent gospel recording artist Ramond Yzer recently released his third album, a collection of popular hymns. Yzer is primarily a self-taught alto, soprano, and tenor saxo-



phone player who fell in love with the instrument at a young age. Born in Suriname, South America, he now resides in Clifton, Va. He is

a member and deacon at Potomac's Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C.

Yzer, who owns a business-consulting firm, sincerely enjoys blessing others through his classic

renditions, especially the "older generation." "My prayer is that when people hear what God has given to me in song, they will be blessed," he says.

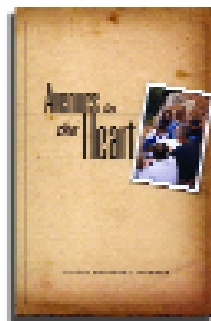
Yzer shares his music passion with his children, who assisted him on several of the album's songs. Rendelle, CEO and founder of Dynasty Financial Group in Washington, D.C., also plays tenor saxophone. Natalie, a fourth-year medical student in Chicago, plays flute. For Yzer's next album—*A Shelter in a Storm*, which is due out later this year, his wife, Lorraine, a financial manager, plans to lend her hand at co-producing. Yzer's albums can be purchased through several venues, including Amazon.com, iTunes, or cdbaby.com/cd/zyzer3.

Books > Avenues to the Heart

Next to parents, teachers have the most influence on children. This book, about teachers who made a difference, celebrates real stories of students who were—and remain—positively influenced by one of the 52 educators highlighted. Two of the authors are Columbia Union members, including Kathy-ann Hernandez, PhD, assistant professor of educational psychology and assessment at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa. "The work that educators do is greatly underappreciated in our society," says the North Philadelphia church member. "However, stories like these provide credible evidence of how caring teachers have been instrumental in shaping lives

and molding characters."

If you ever had a "favorite" teacher, or if you are a teacher who prays to have a similar influence on those you teach, this book will warm your heart. The book, recently published by the North American Division Office of Education, is available at your local Adventist Book Center.



Technology > Podcasts, Blogs, and Videos

Got your iPods ready? It's time to move over NPR, *The New York Times*, Audible.com, and all the ranting, raving arm-chair producers who fill your cue with sound. Your church (yes!) has a few megabytes we want to share. Introducing *AudioVisitor*, *President's Blog*, and *Visitor News Video*.

AudioVisitor is our twice-monthly podcast featuring news, interviews, and a spiritual message from president Dave Weigley. Subscribe free at our website or on iTunes. Through photos and commentary on the *President's Blog*, Weigley provides an inside look at what he does, where he travels, and who he meets along the way. Other blogs will be added soon. And each month, watch online or download to your video iPod the latest news video featuring some member, event, church, or initiative in the Columbia Union. See you online.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

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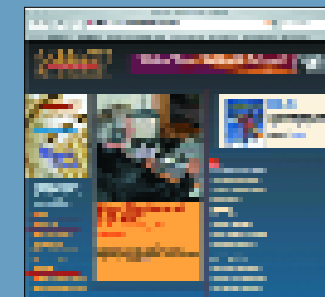
Web Watch > Improve Your Sabbath School Experience

www.sabbathschool.com - *Sabbath School Leadership*, a monthly magazine and online resource, provides program ideas, training, and encouragement to class leaders.

www.ssnet.org - The Sabbath School Network and Bible Study Center provides links to weekly Bible study lessons, email discussion lists, online searches of the Bible, and more.

<http://ssu.adventist.org> - Class members and leaders can download video from the Hope Channel-based TV program *Sabbath School University*. Hear the discussions and get ideas.

<http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/history> - Quiz yourself, or your entire class, about the history of Sabbath School Ministries with a PowerPoint presentation; plus other great resources.



In the Spotlight > Norma Nashed

While working for the Youth Department at the Adventist World Headquarters, Allegheny East's Norma Nashed felt called to expand her ministry, and decided to start in her own backyard. What started as a ministry to feed hungry children in her own neighborhood, became Reaching Hearts for Kids (RHK), a nonprofit, humanitarian outreach organization supported by Nashed's home church, Reaching Hearts International (RHI) in Spencerville, Md. Five years later, RHK helps more than 600 needy children in eight countries with food, clean water, shelter, medical care, and basic education. Nashed serves as the founder/director of RHK and receives assistance from full- and part-time volunteers.

"I am a living testimony of how one person can make a difference for Christ," says Nashed, who was born in Palestine and raised in Jordan. After her father died when she was 15, Nashed's mother struggled to provide for her and six siblings. A missionary family took Norma into their home and provided her with a Christian education. As a result, she was able to help her family and many others. "If you just show love to one child, you'll make him a better person, and then he can help other people," explains Nashed, who's also a cancer-survivor.

Passionate about her calling, Nashed has a large list of projects she hopes to complete through RHK. One upcoming venture is a two-week mission trip, in June, to build a home for street children in Ambo, Ethiopia. For information about this opportunity, or about RHK, visit www.reachinghearts4kids.org.





CELEBRATING A CENTURY

JEANIE HALDEMAN

Mount Vernon Academy

Oldest Adventist Boarding School Revitalized

The year was 1885. Visionary church leaders representing five newly organized Ohio churches dismounted their horses to examine a property north of Mount Vernon, Ohio. Transportation to and from this site would be vital. Horse and buggy access would be easy with the main highway that connected Ohio's three major cities close by. And trains could bring those from out of state to a local B&O Railroad. "As the last gleams ushered in the twilight, the men turned homeward, their souls thrilled by what they had seen. The very ground they trod seemed sacred. Beautiful, historic, yea, even prophetic seemed the landscape, for in that hour of dusk they had caught a new vision. Immediately, they sought to materialize their vision, and thus it was that in the year 1885, 10 men formed a little corporation—with a capital of \$10,000—and purchased this site," stated William Ellis in a special article

written for the school newsletter (*Spirit of MVA*) in 1928. They did not waste time in building and establishing a large health sanitarium that opened in 1887. The primary brick and wood frame facility featured the latest conveniences of the time, including steam heat and electricity.

In the spring of 1893, Ellen White advised Adventist leader J.N. Loughborough, "Let the building be converted into a seminary to educate our youth. ... I have been shown that there should be ... located school buildings in Ohio which would give character to the work" (Letter K35). Quick action on the part of church leaders prompted the opening of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), in August 1893, with 32 students in grades 1-12. By the following spring, over 100 were in attendance.

In the early years, Adventist Christian education was seen as crucial for the development of

the youth. Parents sacrificed greatly to enroll their children, who came from near and far to attend. Centurion Kathryn Richardson, an MVA graduate of 1924, was one of them. "My father brought me to Mount Vernon Academy by train," recalls the Mount Vernon Hill church member (pictured). "We lived in Harrisburg, Pa., but MVA was the only place I could go at that time."



Several practical trades were taught as the students involved themselves in the required work-study program. Work opportunities that also provided training included construction, farming (chicken hatchery, dairy, and gardening); food service; general office assistance; grounds (lawn care); healthcare/physiology; janitorial service; laundry service; maintenance; printing; and teacher assistance. As in most academies, these work opportunities taught students responsibility and work ethic, and helped them pay for tuition, room, and board.

A CENTURY OF GROWTH

From 1905-1915, MVA became Mount Vernon College, offering BS and BA degrees and two-year specialty programs. "But when in 1914, the Washington Foreign Mission Seminary (now Columbia Union College) resumed the status of a college ... Mount Vernon College was reduced to an academy (grades 9-12), except that it continued to conduct an additional two-year teacher training course until 1915" (*Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, p. 933).

A tragic fire in 1926 destroyed most of the institution but not the spirits of the staff, students, and Ohio Conference members. Eager to help, those invested in the mission of the school rallied to rebuild. Homes were provided in the community in the interim. The construction of each new building provided student employment. Soon a new girls' dormitory was built, followed by a boys' dormitory, and later a gymnasium. Rather than decreasing during these years of rebuilding, enrollment increased.



During that time, Harry Miller, an MVA graduate of 1898, moved to the area and pioneered the formulation of the soy protein business. His careful and persistent efforts resulted in the establishment of Miller Food Company, later Loma Linda Foods, which provided jobs for students. The further development of the plant into the East Coast factory of Loma Linda Foods, in the 1950s, expanded the Adventist population in Mount Vernon. This also contributed to the growing enrollment at the school, which peaked at 375 students.

DECLINE AND REVITALIZATION

But beginning in the 1970s, several factors contributed to a decline in attendance at MVA. The development of several junior academies and a senior day academy in Ohio increased opportunities for parents to keep students closer to home. Some Adventists decided to enroll their children in public schools. And a growing interest in home-schooling offered parents another possible option for Christian education. The increasingly challenging economy and the rising cost of Adventist Christian education at the boarding school level also led parents to consider other options.

By the spring of 2000, closing enrollment at MVA had declined to 78 students, scarcely enough to maintain the quality education and learning environment expected by parents. "Managing decline is not what we're called to do," declared Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, as he challenged the MVA board and constituents to explore alternative futures for the school. In 2001 after careful and serious examination of their options, the MVA Board took an action that would drastically alter the future of Mount Vernon Academy. Dale E. Twomley, former president of Worthington Foods (another Adventist soy food company), accepted the call to lead. He quickly organized a strategic effort to revitalize the school.

No stone was left unturned as Twomley enlisted the approval, support, and input of the conference leadership, pastors, parents, staff, and students. A mission statement and new objectives were developed as the premise of all actions. Twomley used the school mascot and the scripture reference

("They shall mount up with wings like eagles" Isa. 41:31) to express to the staff and board his vision of excellence for MVA. He often reminded board and staff members of this as he drew a parallel between the school mascot and the school condition: "The eagle is unable to fly on its own at present," he said. "It needs to be propped up. By your efforts, my efforts, and the efforts of alumni and friends, we can prop it up together. We must get it into flight! It must fly on its own!"

Once again the staff, students, Ohio church members, friends of Adventist Christian education, and especially the alumni rallied. Eager to help make this dream a reality, they stepped up to the plate and gave of their time, effort, and funds.

In addition, four key areas were addressed and continue to be championed by current school leadership (Twomley is now principal at another academy):

Academic Development—Academic rigor is a definite determining factor as new students consider enrollment. In addition to promoting high academic standards, students are held accountable for doing their best. As a result, overall ACT scores by seniors increased last year. In addition, the school established dual credit programming that gives advanced students the option of completing their entire first year of college while attending MVA.

Spiritual Development—Perhaps the most significant of improvements is the continuing quest for spirituality on campus. Principal David Daniels recently led the staff in studying the core ideology of Adventist Christian education as outlined in

*The eagle is unable to fly on its own at present.
We must get it into flight! It must fly on its own!*

—Dale Twomley

Ellen White's book *Education*. "Our primary focus must be to direct the minds of students to develop a greater understanding of the character of Christ. We must teach them to pursue selfless lives of service," he says. To that end, students participate in three weeks of prayer annually and daily meet with "campus families" for worship, prayer, and Bible study. Plans are also underway to have each student



complete a spiritual gifts and love language assessment, and each will be asked to develop and implement a personal spiritual growth plan.

Personal Development—Extracurricular programming including music, athletics, and physical fitness assists students in their personal development. In addition, English instructor Amy Soper requires students to develop a personal portfolio that will help them consider, plan, and transition to their chosen career. Next year the work program will be enhanced with a mentoring component designed to better prepare students for the workplace.

Campus Development—Almost every facility on the 114-year-old campus has now been updated. With the help of Maranatha International volunteers, both dorms were gutted and renovated. Three exercise facilities have been added, and a new computer lab allows for classes in video editing and graphic design. Teachers also use iPacs, iPods, and

MVA Through the Years: Students and staff pose for the 1909-10 school photo (top), when the school was Mount Vernon College. Above, left: The College Press was the first to print the *Columbia Union Visitor* and other early church papers for distribution. Above, right: Current students make their way to class on the campus of Mount Vernon Academy.

SMART boards to enhance the learning experience.

Today, two years beyond the three-year revitalization initiative, Mount Vernon Academy is thriving and parents are once again anxious to enroll their youth. Opening enrollment for the fall term of 2006-07 was 168, more than double the closing enrollment of the 1999-2000 school year.

Revitalizing the school for the new century proved to be the right decision. Those who witnessed and participated in its turnaround rejoice that the eagle is once again in flight!

Jeanie Haldeman is alumni relations and development director at Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio.

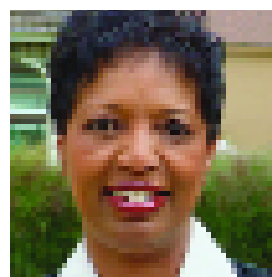
Alumni Remember

How My Academy Experience Shaped My Life

Back then you were concerned with what the cafe was serving for supper, the location of the annual mission trip, what you would wear to the banquet, and what should be your class motto and song. But now, years later, what you remember most is your favorite teacher, class, or week of prayer speaker, the lifelong friends you made, and the experiences—good and bad—that shaped your life and made you who you are today. How did attending an Adventist school impact your life? Alumni from 10 Columbia Union academies remember:

SHELTERED FROM AN URBAN STORM

I grew up in a large urban center in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended public schools. As a teenager, I had classmates who were hooked on drugs, alcohol, involved in gangs, injured, or mortally wounded. Then the Pine Forge Academy (PFA) choir came to Cleveland, and I was hooked. Although I don't know how, my mom stepped out on faith and managed to send me to PFA.



My life was forever changed by the spiritual growth and fellowship I experienced. Pine Forge was my refuge in a big urban storm. I had wonderful teachers, such as Robert Booker, Paul R. Jones, Frankie Fordham, and Mildred Jones, who served as mentors and coaches. My professional growth can be attributed to the life skills—such as leadership, conflict resolution, negotiation, perseverance, teamwork, politics, time management, communication, and a strong work ethic—that PFA helped develop.

I have returned to my hometown, as the city's first chief technology officer, and am helping to move our city into the 21st century. But it all started with taking a risk. PFA offered me more

experiences to shape my future than any other school I've attended—before or since.—*Melodie Mayberry Stewart ('66), Pine Forge Academy, Pine Forge, Pa.*

FROM HEAD KNOWLEDGE TO HEART KNOWLEDGE

I was born an Adventist and had all the "head knowledge." But Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) allowed me to *own* my spirituality and beliefs. It was no longer something that my parents taught me. God went from being something in my head to something in my heart. Now I *know* Him for myself.

The BMA staff showed the unconditional love of Jesus. Parents should know that these teachers want your child to be the best and to love the Lord. BMA supplied that spiritual, nurturing community.

Today I'm a junior at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. My major is Spanish and intercultural communications. I spent one year studying abroad

in Argentina and was a student missionary in the Galapagos Islands. When I finish graduate school, I want to work for Maranatha or in



research. Either way, my number one priority is to serve the Lord.—*Reneé Baumgartner ('04), Blue Mountain Academy, Hamburg, Pa.*



FOUND A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

I am originally from Colombia, South America. I came to Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) as a senior, in 2005, when my dad was

called to pastor the Woodbridge, Mount Vernon, and Fredericksburg Spanish churches.

God's presence is real at SVA. Everyone was very open and helpful. I didn't know English very well, so the ESL (English as a Second Language) program made it easier. The teachers are very spiritual, and they always prayed before classes.

There were also lots of opportunities for outreach and to serve God. I felt so involved with the community, the students, and teachers. It just felt like home.

I am now a freshman communication major at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md.—*Jecsy Villamizar ('06), Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Va.*

TAUGHT TO TEACH, TRAINED TO LEAD

I am currently the director of nursing at Hillhaven Assisted Living Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, an Adventist-owned and -operated healthcare center in Adelphi, Md. I graduated from Takoma Academy (TA) in 1983, and CUC in 1987.

My academy experience readily prepared me for college. It also fostered Christian leadership skills through my involvement in various extracurricular activities. This inspired me to consider serving others in the nursing profession. And my experience as chair of TA's Tutoring Committee heightened my love for teaching others. This led me to make teaching a part of my nursing profession. So, in addition to working in the nursing field, I am also



an instructor for Health Facilities Association of Maryland where I teach other registered nurses about case management and delegation.

The music program at TA was another great benefit. It gave me a foundation to continue singing in choral groups. I also remain in contact with friends I met while at TA and continue supporting the school as a board member.—*Kimberly Malin, RN ('83), Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, Md.*

HEARD GOD'S CALL

I lived in the dormitory at Highland View Academy (HVA) during all four years and graduated in 1994. From the first day, I loved it.

The atmosphere was open, accepting, friendly, and spiritual. I quickly found many friends who shared my values and interests, and they are friends whom I still value today. From academics to music to spiritual programs, I became heavily involved on campus.

It was at HVA that I heard God's call to become an academy English teacher. In 2000, when I learned that a teaching position was open, I knew that this was where God wanted me. I love that I can help students experience that same sense of family that I encountered. HVA has always been home to me.—*Jennifer Payne, ('94), Highland View Academy, Hagerstown, Md.*



TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE

The thing I value most about my education is the Christian atmosphere it provided.

My teachers taught by example, not just by textbook. I have no doubt that learning in that environment helped me to grow mentally as well as spiritually.

Today I'm a multimedia developer with Hilton Grand Vacations Company in Orlando, Fla.—*Andy Shaw, ('96), Richmond Academy, Richmond, Va.*

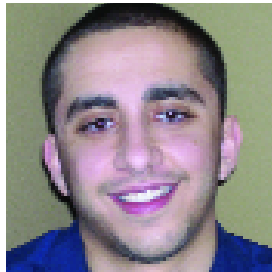


We Found Christ at an Adventist School

Adventist schools do more than educate—they educate for eternity. Ministering to students, parents, and the community is at the forefront of every Adventist school's mission. And every school year, a number of people find new life in Christ. Here are three testimonies:

MENTORED—PROFESSIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

I started attending Spencerville Adventist Academy as a sixth-grader and graduated in 2002. Jim Zeisler, the academy Bible teacher who baptized me in 2005, still continues to mentor me spiritually. I try to meet with him a couple times a month for guidance.



In addition, Jonathan Scriven, who taught at Spencerville and is now the enrollment director at CUC, provides me with professional development and career guidance.

Professionally, Spencerville gave me a strong foundation and strengthened my writing and English skills, which is what I need as a senior journalism major at CUC. So far, I've been able to write for *Slam* magazine, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*.

It's true that you can learn the same information at any high school, but the added bonus at Spencerville is that you are [encouraged] to establish a personal relationship with God—something you won't find at other schools.—*Bobak Esfarjani, ('02), Spencerville Adventist Academy, Silver Spring, Md.*

SET ON THE RIGHT PATH

I had a problem with anger in public school and was always getting into fights. Then my mom sent me to Tidewater. That's where I met the Lord.

Tidewater put me on the right path professionally and spiritually. My anger was taken away and joy was put into my life. It was all because of the hands-on Christian atmosphere. Before graduating [from the 10th grade] in 1980 and going to a senior academy, I was baptized.

Since then I've spent 20 years in construction, seven in my own business. One construction company that I worked for actually built the addition that upgraded Tidewater Jr. Academy to a senior academy. Now I'm a project manager for Dollar Tree stores in Chesapeake.



On the spiritual side, I recently started a new Adventist church company called Redeeming Grace Fellowship, which is geared toward young people.—*Charles Gomez, ('80), Tidewater Academy, Chesapeake, Va.*

CALLED TO SERVE

Even though my academy experience affirmed the Christian teachings of home, I still found myself floundering to find direction in life. Then, during my sophomore year, the school treasurer—Eugene Cowling—invited me to take his bookkeeping class and to later work in the business office. That personal interest made all the difference in the world and gave me the focus I needed. After 44 years of service to the church, I retired in 2002 as General Conference treasurer.—*Robert Rawson, ('55), Mount Vernon Academy, Mt. Vernon, Ohio*



PREPPED FOR SUCCESS

I graduated from Spring Valley Academy (SVA) in 1999 and currently work as an auditor for Deloitte. SVA really gave me a spiritual foundation that I incorporate into every part of my life. The teachers set good examples and got personally involved. I also have many friends, some I've known from kindergarten through 12th grade. They enrich my life spiritually and personally.

I started working in the business office during my sophomore year and found that I really liked accounting. My education really prepared me for college at Wright State University. I couldn't believe how easy my first year of college was—my accounting courses were like a review!

Today as an SVA school board member, I serve on the financial ministry subcommittee and use my auditing skills to assist the school.—*Cathy Herdman, ('99), Spring Valley Academy, Centerville, Ohio*



AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

This has been a whole new beginning for me! We were looking for a private school for our children, Rachel and Mary, and found the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist School in Maryland. My husband was raised in the Church of Christ and I was raised Jewish. But we wanted them in a Christian school.

Each week the girls came home with a memory verse. I didn't know anything about the Bible, or Jesus, and felt bad. So I took Bible studies with a Frederick church member. It was an incredible, eye-opening experience. That led to my baptism in June 2006.

Rachel, who's in the seventh grade, has also been baptized and Mary, our third-grader, is now taking Bible studies.—*Reena Lentz, parent*

NOT LEFT BEHIND



I was homeschooling my children, Nicole, Grace, and Kenneth, in Virginia before we moved to West Virginia. Then we enrolled them in the Highland Adventist School in Elkins.

Nicole would come home from school and compare what she was learning with the *Left Behind* book series that my dad had sent us. She would say things like, "Mom, this isn't what the Bible says." Even with her Bible projects, she would seek my opinion just to draw me in. She was very kind and gentle, but I'm pretty sure she knew what she was doing!

After attending some cooking classes and a seminar on *The Great Controversy* at the Highland church, I decided to be baptized in April 2004.—*Tane Hardy, parent*

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Five-year-old Wyan Snell told his mom, Suzanne, that he wanted to go to Christian school and learn about Jesus. She asked Wyan to wait until after she started her salon business. But Wyan wanted to be a Christian "now and not later." Suzanne, who decided to do both, took her father's advice and sent Wyan to Reading Junior Academy in Pennsylvania.

After learning more about Jesus, Wyan asked Suzanne to close her salon on Sabbath and take him to church. His persistence paid off and soon they were attending the Kenhorst Boulevard church located next to the school. When the church offered an evangelistic series in 2005, Wyan's grandmother, Gloria, also started attending. Soon the three were taking Bible studies and becoming involved in church life. Shortly thereafter, three generations of Snells were baptized into God's family.

"When we got up that Sabbath morning and saw it was raining, we decided that Satan was crying because he lost three people," recalls young Wyan. He sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain" following his baptism and told the congregation that he wants to be a pastor and missionary when he grows up.—*Tamyra Horst, communication director, Pennsylvania Conference*



First Filipino Church

Nurturing Congregation *and* Community

This congregation glows with warmth. The brothers and sisters were happy and excited to see me, and the “family-like” atmosphere continued throughout the service and during the fellowship lunch. Their handshakes and greetings were perpetual from the moment I walked in until I left.

New Jersey Conference’s First Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church has been at 18 different locations since its inception in 1988, averaging one move a year. On April 29, 2006, the members finally found a permanent home at 712 West 3rd Street in Plainfield, N.J. Although they’ve sometimes lost members due to the moves, the challenges of relocation have had little effect on this church. They’ve proven time and again that the body of Christ is in the congregation and not the building.



Members of the First Filipino church enjoy worshipping as a family.

Their growth rate is steady at 10 persons a year, and the average Sabbath attendance is a healthy 120. “We implemented a two-year plan after moving here,” says first elder Ulysses Negrillo. “This year, we focused on nurturing our congregation.”

Because of this about 50 members attend Wednesday prayer meetings and Friday vespers. True to familial form, they meet at the home of a different member each Wednesday so that by year’s end, nearly everyone has visited all the families’ homes.

“Everybody here is close-knit, going to church feels like coming home,” says twentysomething Marissa Perez, a member since childhood.

“Being a member of this church has made me feel closer to God,” says Allan Rubila, who was baptized six years ago. “I live in Westchester, N.Y., which is about an hour-and-a-half away, but I keep coming because it’s worth it.” Coming to service used to be a chore before members encouraged Rubila to become a more active participant.

MAKING MINISTRY A PRIORITY

First Filipino’s second-year plan consists of public evangelism programs. “Some of the surrounding areas are plagued with drug-abuse problems, which means people are hungry for Christ,” says Negrillo. “We can reach out and lead them to a better life; I see many opportunities for ministry here,” he adds.

Pastor Rudney Bartolome echoes this philosophy by spearheading the church’s activities for visiting their neighbors who may be sick and feeding the homeless. “If coming over is not possible, I’ll reach out on the phone to talk and pray with them,” he says. “I tell people that I’m always available.”

Bartolome’s passion is evident. “We have visited practically all the homes in the area and invited them to our social events. Some of our neighbors supported our fruit sale fundraising efforts,” he added. “We’re planning a health ministries program with free blood pressure screenings by the



After moving 18 times, the First Filipino church finally has a home of its own in Plainfield, N.J.

doctors and nurses in our congregation. We want to let the community know we care.”

It’s obvious that First Filipino is fulfilling its mission to *let the whole world know about Jesus Christ through our way of living and following in His steps by preaching, teaching, and healing.*

The church has also physically influenced the surrounding community and is being regarded as a point of interest and attention. Homes that were previously unkempt are looking tidier. “We’ve noticed that their front lawns or porches are in better shape,” says the pastor. “They see us cleaning the church every Sunday and I guess it’s affecting them in a positive way.

“Soon we’ll have our parking lot cemented and put in a basketball court,” he continues. “That’s a great way for our youth to start friendships with the young people here.” In the meantime, the AY (youth) group walks around the neighborhood on Sabbaths just to say “Hi!” and get acquainted.

PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM

With 75 percent of its membership between ages 1 and 30 (a good portion in their teens and 20s), young people play a vital role in the congregation. The church calendar includes a monthly “Youth Sabbath,” which allows them to take charge of the service and sermon. “This is a good way for our youth to participate and learn,” says Bartolome.

Pastor Rudney Bartolome and his wife, Susan, are passionate about nurturing their congregation and the community.

In 2005 the First Filipino church was awarded the “Best Adventurers Club” in the conference. This special achievement is a testament to the dedication of the director, assistants, and children. The AY, Pathfinders, and Adventurers leaders regularly attend conference-sponsored training courses to get certifications. They in turn train emerging young leaders in each group.

“Our youth leaders put a lot of effort in creating new programs that are exciting, while still teaching about God,” says deacon Mark Cornago. “They follow up with the kids to teach them accountability and show them skills to lead more people to Christ. Our target is to get the neighborhood’s young people to come to church,” he states.

“I’ve only been here for two years,” says 16-year-old Don Magbanua. “But I enjoy our youth Sabbath School and the AY trips because I always meet new friends.” When asked about the congregation’s latest move, Magbanua says, “It doesn’t really matter where our church is as long as we’re all together. That’s what counts.”

For more information about the First Filipino church, visit www.ffsdanj.org.

Ron Tayam, a freelance writer and photographer from Ledgewood, N.J., is member of the Jersey City Heights English church.



Centennial Story

BETH MICHAELS

Takoma Park Serves Early Adventists With Christian Education



It was shortly after the Seventh-day Adventist Church moved its headquarters from Battle Creek, Mich., to Takoma Park, Md., in 1903, that the newly bustling area of Adventist believers required a church school for their children. Just four years later, the two-story Takoma Park Church School was erected at 8 Columbia Avenue. It consisted of two classrooms with a large upstairs room where the members of the Takoma Park church met each Sabbath until they built a facility in 1913.

Original Building Still Standing

Architect and carpenter Edward C. Wood constructed the original building that John Nevins Andrews School occupied, at 8 Columbia Avenue in Takoma Park, Md., in 1907. In the 1950s, the building became home to the town's city hall and municipal building, including the police station and local jail. In



the 1970s, the structure was transformed again into an elegant private residence, which it remains today.

Wood is also known to have built many of the town's homes, as well as the science building on Columbia Union College's campus.

The first year there were 50 students including a few ninth- and 10th-graders. But more Adventists continued to pour into the area, which now included the Washington Sanitarium (Washington Adventist Hospital) and the growing Washington Training College (Columbia Union College) established in 1904.

A couple of years and a few additions later, a larger building was needed. Joining their plight was the Capital Memorial Church School in Northwest Washington, D.C., whose attendance was beyond the available space at their church building. Together the two schools agreed to fund the construction of a new school for their students. In addition, the newly built Hyattsville church requested to join this school group.

This "new school,"

John Nevins Andrews (JNA), opened its doors on November 9, 1938—around the corner at 117 Elm Avenue—with 112 children and six teachers walking its halls. Betty (Bender) Clucas (pictured), a fourth-grade student at Capital Memorial school who transferred to the new JNA school in 1939, fondly recalls a memory of that event. "We were all so excited about having green boards instead of black boards," she laughs. Clucas, a Rockville (Md.) church member, graduated from JNA in 1943.



In 1948 the new Silver Spring church also joined the constituent group of sponsoring churches. Still located at its Elm Avenue location, JNA now has 13 constituent churches.

From 1907 to the present, the school has been identified by three different names: the Takoma Park Church School, the unofficial "union" school, and John Nevins Andrews School.

JNA will formally celebrate its centennial October 26-28. For more information, visit the school's website at www.jna.org.

(The late Miriam G. Tymeson, first JNA principal, provided much of the above data.)



YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

MARCH 2007

A Place of Healing

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him ... Mark 1:41

The beginning of any new year is a time for reflection. It is a time for looking back—and a time for looking forward. As I review the achievements of 2006 here at Kettering Medical Center, I am filled with a sense of deep pride and gratitude for the goals attained, as well as for the outstanding staff whose efforts made them a reality.



The philosophy of providing "Excellence for Life," of doing the right thing for the right reason, permeates the hospital. Our mission clearly states that we are to improve the quality of life for those who live in the communities we serve.

Everyday, throughout our great facility, there is evidence of fidelity to our mission. We believe that we are called to accomplish the sacred work that continues directly from the example of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ. It is our sincere hope to convey His love to everyone who enters our doors.

Now 2007 is underway and we must continue our noble work of providing a refuge for our patients and their families, a place where they can find peace and the love of Jesus in a world of chaos. A place where healing, solace, and comfort are available to them. We are greatly blessed to be able to provide such a place for our fellow human beings.

This year will find us continuing to strive for excellence, providing the best professional staff, state-of-the-art equipment, along with an environment dedicated to the art of healing. This has been the hallmark of Kettering Medical Center in years past. I ask God's blessing on our efforts to serve Him throughout the year.



Fred Manchur is president of Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio.

We believe that we are called to accomplish the sacred work that continues directly from the example of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ.



Mission in the Maluti Mountains

Xoliswa Makola

It was a cold, moonlit night as my cousin, Luyanda, and I hurriedly made our way to the pediatric ward at Maluti Adventist Hospital in Mapoteng, Lesotho. Upon arrival the nurse on duty took us to the room where a baby was sleeping. Luyanda immediately took the child into her arms and whispered, "You are coming home with us tonight, little one."

Seven-week-old Lebo had been dropped off at the hospital a few weeks earlier by her 70-year-old father. He was too old to take care of Lebo, and her HIV-positive mother passed away during childbirth. What was going to be Lebo's fate? Was she HIV positive? Who was going to raise her?

It was my first week in Lesotho, and already I was starting to see how HIV/AIDS affected the daily lives of the Basotho people. In a country of about 2 million, almost 30 percent of adults are living with HIV/AIDS, with new cases being added everyday. And over 100,000 children have lost one or two parents to AIDS.

A Promise to Return

I bid goodbye to my childhood friends 10 years ago and vowed to one day return to the little mission com-

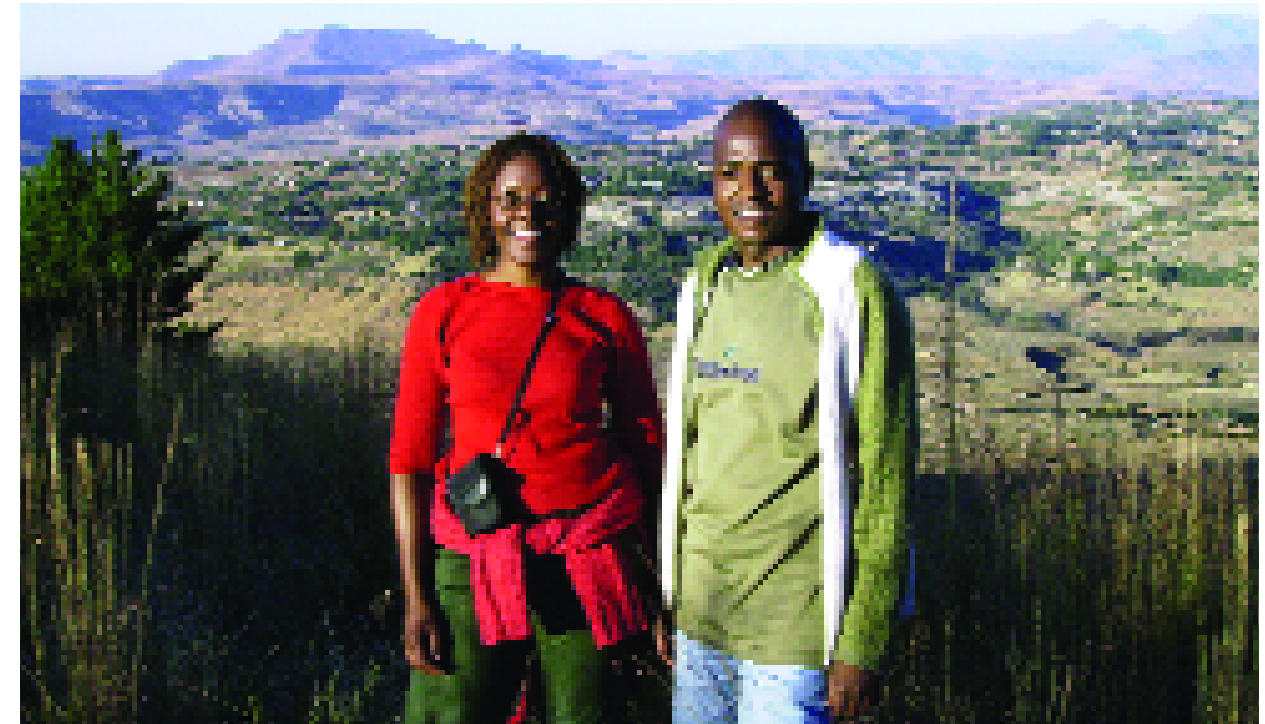


pound where I spent most of my elementary school years. As I made progress in my nurse's training program at Kettering College of Medical Arts, I developed an interest in community health and was reminded of my heart's dream to return to Lesotho. With much prayer, the conviction became stronger. Each year I eagerly waited to see if that would be the year to go, but each year God had me wait. Finally in November 2005, I notified the Maluti Hospital superintendent that I would like to volunteer at the hospital's HIV/AIDS and TB Wellness Center. I was confident that God would make it possible. I made all the arrangements and by early 2006 everything was in place.

However, a few weeks before I was to purchase the ticket to South Africa, the funds fell through. What was I to do? So much had gone into the planning of the trip, and I was sure that God had been leading the whole time.

Then, during the summer of 2006, the Kettering Medical Center Department of Spiritual Service and Missions sponsored my travel to Lesotho. God had kept His promise!

Once there I spent most of my time working in the hospital's wellness center. This department provides counseling and treatment to HIV/AIDS and TB patients, assists orphans and vulnerable children, and offers food security programs to people living with HIV/AIDS. I



helped with patient assessments, HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, and treatment. At the clinic's pharmacy, I assisted nurse practitioners in administering "cocktail" drugs to the HIV/AIDS patients.

Some days I traveled up to two hours along rough mountainous terrain, with a hospital nurse practitioner, to reach clinical sites within the hospital's service area. These visits often required taking public transportation and then hiking 45-minutes to reach our destination. We provided immunizations, prenatal, antenatal, health-care and health education to attendees.

My most memorable times were spent in "Pitsos" or community outreach meetings. We conducted HIV/AIDS presentations and counseled local volunteers. On the weekends, my cousin and I interacted with young people. We went for hikes along the mountainous countryside that bordered the hospital. During church services, I was able to share Christ and the good news of the gospel through music.

Moving Mountains

As my visit drew to an end, I envisioned one day walking through the campus and seeing an improved hospital building with the necessary equipment to better serve its clientele. The small 150-bed hospital serves over 100,000 people. But the number of homeless and orphaned children is rising, and some have to be turned away. After many years of service, the hospital's infrastructure has started to deteriorate. The floors need retil-

ing and the walls need repainting. There is a great need for new bed linens and blankets because Lesotho winters are very cold and central heating is not available.

Maluti Hospital is no longer a distant childhood memory. It has become near and dear to my heart. With the Lord's help, I plan to continue working with the Wellness Center staff and be involved in activities aimed at the preservation of a beautiful country and its wonderful people whose culture and existence are being threatened by the AIDS epidemic.

God has called each one of us to be his disciples. Regardless of our backgrounds or our current circumstances, He can use us to complete His work. Will you take the step of faith and allow Him to move mountains through you?

Xoliswa Makola (pictured above, left) earned an associate's degree in nursing from Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio in December 2006.



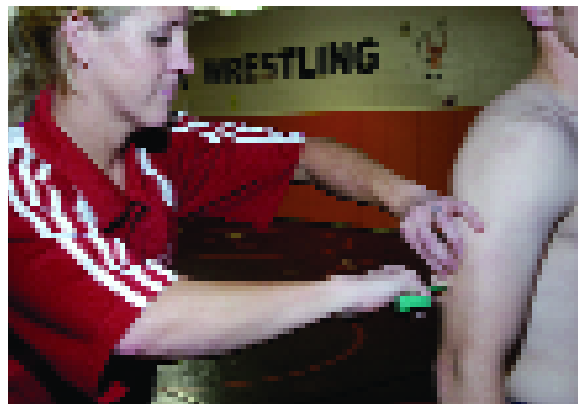
Dance and Nutrition Class Combats Childhood Obesity

Children and parents can do little to combat childhood obesity without the proper tools. Grandview Medical Center's new Diabetes and Obesity Wellness Opportunities Program (DOWOP) is aimed at providing those tools.

Made possible by a \$17,000 grant from the CareSource Foundation, DOWOP classes are being offered Monday evenings, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Victor J. Cassano Center, 165 S. Edwin Moses Blvd., in Dayton. The program, which is free to qualifying families, is dedicated to improving the health, self-image, and well-being of overweight children.

The first hour is dedicated to nutrition education. In the second hour, children and parents have the chance to learn the meringue, hip-hop, swing, salsa, and other dances.

"This is a great way for parents to show their children that they are wonderful and loved, and to just interact with them in a fun way that benefits the health of both parent and child," says Connie McCarroll, DO. She, along with Jonadab Uzoho, DO, provides medical services for the program. Alberta Scruggs, RD, is coordinating the nutrition portion of the program, while Shonna Matlock gets them moving in the dance portion.

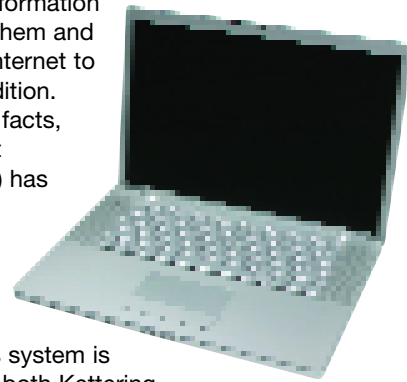


The program is open to children ages 9-12 in grades 4-6. "We are asking a parent or guardian to participate with the child," said Kelly Fackel, vice president of development for the Grandview Foundation, which secured the grant. "Because parents are usually responsible for providing meals, it is important for them to be involved and to follow the advice of the dietitians and physicians."

As a bonus, those who complete at least 75 percent of the program will get an MP3 player. For more information, call the Grandview Foundation at (937) 723-3358.

Kettering Hospitals Offer Wireless Access for Patients, Visitors

Whether they are in the hospital or not, most people want the ability to always stay informed and connected to family, friends, and work. Patients want to take the information their doctor gives them and quickly go to the Internet to research their condition. Recognizing these facts, Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) has become the first in Dayton to provide wireless Internet access throughout a hospital.



A Wi-Fi wireless system is now operational in both Kettering Medical Center and Southview Hospital. This means that virtually anywhere in the hospitals, people can fire up their laptops and zoom away on the information superhighway. The same system is expected to be up and running in Grandview Hospital and Kettering Medical Center-Sycamore by July.

"We created an Internet ring for our guests, patients, visitors, and basically anybody in the hospital," said Nyle Morgan, director of Information Systems for KAHC. "Any wireless device can connect to the public network, for free."

When the project is complete, KAHC will have spent about \$4 million to create the wireless Internet system within its four acute care hospitals. It is made possible with hundreds of transmitters, positioned within the ceilings on every unit and waiting area. Offering this service is a natural evolution of healthcare.

"It is a big investment, but we feel it will distinguish us further in the eyes of our patients and significantly enhance the patient experience," said Frank Perez, chief executive officer. "This is the type of development our namesake, the great inventor Charles F. Kettering, would have wanted. It is forward thinking, and it also involves the patients, to a greater degree, in their own care. Soon patients will be able to give loved ones around the country access to their daily diaries, documenting the progress of their health condition."

"Forty-plus years ago they decided to put telephones in patient rooms, then a decade later they realized every room should have a TV," Morgan said. "This is just the next step of the patient experience."



Emmanuel-Brinklow Member Makes History at U.S. Capitol



Allegheny East Conference member Christina Anderson Smith (pictured) recently became the first African-American woman and first Seventh-day Adventist to take the official record for a State of the Union speech by the President of the United States.

Smith, a member of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., is an official court reporter for the U.S. House of Representatives, a position she has held since June 2001. "I am the only African-American, as well as the only Adventist to ever serve in this position," she reports.

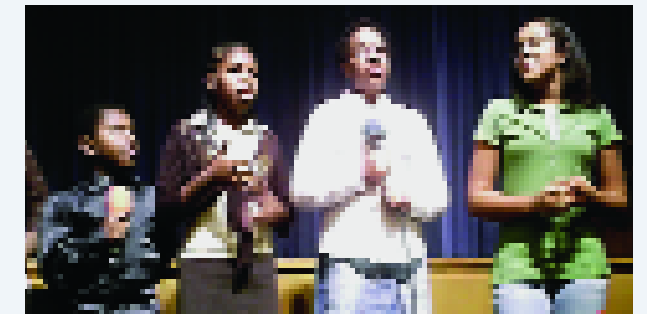
"I am both humbled and honored to have played a part in this history-making event," said Smith, a graduate of Oakwood College ('82) in Alabama. She added, "I know that I have been placed in this position at this time for God's glory."

Although her job can sometimes challenge her beliefs, Smith reports that she gets many opportunities to witness to her colleagues. "Actually it seems some people within my workplace are very aware of the doctrines and practices of Adventists and are quick to remind me that my Sabbath is approaching and that I should be on my way home," she quipped.—Beth Michaels

Sharon Church AYS Sponsors Play

Baltimore's Sharon church AYS team recently sponsored a play titled "Hush, Somebody's Calling Your Name." It was a story about the restoration of a converted soul. Attendees watched as a young man named Aaron, played by member Richard Thomas Jr., struggled with being a new creation. The play followed Aaron's tests and trials dealing with gossiping family members, temptation through his best friend, and his immoral relationship with Lexus.

The play was organized by two cell groups of the church that recently merged into one, calling themselves New Covenant. This cell is planning other events for the church.—Marcia Omondi



Young people from the Sharon church in Baltimore help make the play "Hush, Somebody's Calling Your Name" a blessing to others.

Dupont Park Church News

The Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., is buzzing with news. Below are two highlights:

Recently the internationally famous Duke Ellington Concert Choir (below) gave a memorable concert at the Dupont Park church. The Duke Ellington School of Arts is the most prestigious public school in the nation's capital. The Concert Choir, currently directed by



Samuel L.E. Bonds, is the largest choral group in the school composed of gifted students selected from area public schools. Always in demand to perform at public events, church members were honored to have them.

Kindergarten class students recently made Christmas cards for military church members stationed in Iraq. In their own words, the children (above) encouraged and blessed Lt. Col. Ronald Coleman and SPC Kimberly Hammond.—Jerri McLean



Mt. Olivet Member Earns Prestigious Internships

Sydney Freeman Jr. (pictured), a member of the Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J., was recently awarded the opportunity to participate in two prestigious internships. Freeman, a senior at Oakwood College (Ala.), is also president and



founder of the school's Progressive Black Caucus.

The first internship took place last summer, following a tip from Jacqueline B. Gates, former vice president of advancement and development at Oakwood, and one of Freeman's mentors. After hearing Freeman's future career ideas, Gates pointed him to Nathaniel Irvin II, DMA, assistant dean of the Wake

Forest University business school and leading black futurist thinker. Dr. Irvin in turn encouraged Freeman to apply to a summer pre-graduate business program at Wake Forest called "It's All About Business." Wake Forest is a private university in Winston-Salem, N.C.

After pressing from his aunt, Freeman sent in the required three essays and application during his spring break. Just one month later, he learned of his acceptance into the prestigious program. During his six weeks there, Freeman was afforded many opportunities to positively represent his church and school. "Many of the skills taught at Oakwood were reinforced in a great way at Wake Forest," Freeman said.

It was during one of the program's numerous fieldtrips, this one to the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), that Freeman was given the opportunity to make contacts for his most recent internship. CCL, located in Greensboro, N.C., is the leading center in qualitative and quantitative research in leadership and management. During the intermission of an interactive presentation by CCL executive vice president Lily Kelly-Radford, PhD, Freeman introduced himself to her.

When Freeman mentioned that he was from Oakwood, Dr. Radford provided many positive compliments of the school and of Adventist believers. Overjoyed, Freeman proceeded to mention his goal of being a leadership and management theorist, and his interest in an internship with CCL. She concurred and handed him a business card.

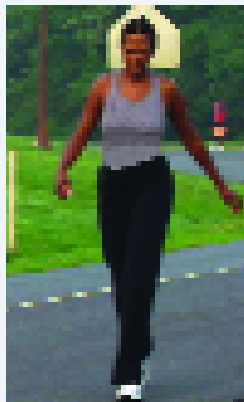
Remaining persistent and communicating regularly with Dr. Radford, Freeman finally received word that he was welcome to do an internship in the Research and Innovation Division of the center during his Christmas break. He was specifically asked to be a part of the preparation team responsible for a Katrina Crisis Forum.

"During the internship I gained invaluable insight in the study of leadership," explained Freeman. "I also served as an advisor to the youth development committee, helping them develop strategies to attract young professionals to the center. I also was blessed to be part of a project called the GVOL (Global Voice of Leadership), which deals with identifying areas across the globe that may be ripe for leadership development, like East Africa and India."—Beth Michaels

30th FIT 4 YOU Health Retreat Planned

If you think a healthy lifestyle is a "Mission: Impossible," then you need to come to the FIT 4 YOU Retreat, July 15-30. This gem of a wellness retreat is located on 500 acres of rolling green hills, situated in the beautiful piney woods on the campus of Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

The mission of the FIT 4 YOU Retreat is to make



visible the life-changing rewards of good health. The camp combines this natural setting with a menu of healthy activities, health education, and inspiration taught by a team of expert physicians, licensed dietitians, fitness trainers, massage therapists, and healthy-living chefs.

Your mission—should you choose to accept it—is to choose life. Learn to control heart disease, Type II diabetes, and hypertension. Help the FIT 4 YOU Retreat in celebrating its 30th anniversary. Call (800) 830-0224, ext. 260, for more information.

Allegheny East Conference
PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548
Phone: (610) 326-4610
www.myalleghenyeast.com
President, Charles L. Cheatham
Communication Director, Robert Booker

Columbus Member Elected to State Position

Governor-elect Ted Strickland recently appointed Allegheny West Conference member Alvin D. Jackson, MD (pictured), to serve as director of the Ohio Department of Health. Dr. Jackson is the second resident of northwest Ohio and the second African-American chosen to join the cabinet of the Democratic administration.

Dr. Jackson, a member of the Central church in Columbus, is the medical director of Community Health Services and member of the staff of Memorial Hospital, both in Fremont, Ohio. He will start his new four-year appointment on April 1. Probably most impressive about his appointment is the fact that Dr. Jackson was offered the position over 500 other qualified applicants. He never even applied.

The Department of Health has some 1,300 employees and oversees a budget of \$575 million in federal and state dollars. In the state position, Dr. Jackson will be responsible, among other things, for the improvement and immunization of newborns, newborn health screening, monitoring and preventing sexually transmitted diseases, and overseeing all areas of health in the state of Ohio.

"Quality healthcare, patient education, and disease prevention will be my priorities at the Ohio Department of Health," says 56-year-old Jackson.

Dr. Jackson is married to Gayle M. Jackson, PhD, the director and co-founder of the African-American College Club, an outreach program the couple started in the mid-1990s. Through the club, students of color are tutored and encouraged to go to college. The Jacksons have four children, two of which also hold doctorates, and two grandchildren.—Beth Michaels



NEWS

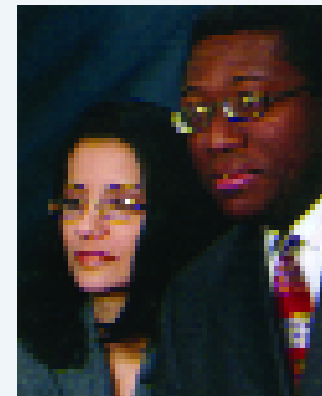
Conference Hispanic Work Growing

For the past two years, the work among Hispanics inside the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) territory has continued to grow. The goal of the conference leadership is to plant churches in the largest cities. In Ohio these cities include Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Youngstown, and Columbus. Other cities include Pittsburgh; Charleston, W.Va.; Christiansburg, Va.; and Cumberland, Md.

"We also have the vision and goal to plant churches for the Romanian, Russian, Somalian, and Brazilian communities," said Libny H. Dubreuze, Sr., conference Multicultural Ministries director.

Over the next few years, the Multicultural Ministries Department would like to realize their goal of 100 baptisms, 300 Bible studies, and the planting of five new groups.

Sara Aguilar-Dubreuze (pictured with



husband Libny), administrative assistant for the Multicultural Ministries and treasury departments, reported that multicultural pastors, lay pastors, and Bible workers recently met to plan their evangelistic work for 2007 and 2008. "We want to reach people of all ethnic backgrounds for the Lord, and to motivate inactive members into missionary work," she stated.

Ephesus Awards Bible Study Certificates

The Ephesus church in Martinsville, Va., recently awarded Johnsie P. Finney (pictured) certificates for her completion of several Bible studies. Member Arlene Swanson, Finney's Bible study teacher, presented the awards during a special graduation ceremony conducted by Pastor Danny R. Milton. Finney completed the *Amazing Facts Study Guide*, a 26-lesson set of advanced Bible studies, and stated that she enjoyed each one.—Alexis C. Lee



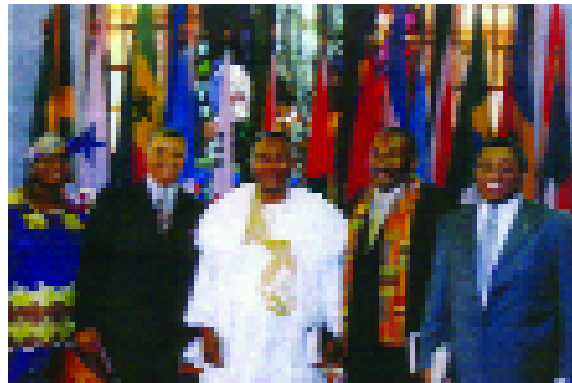
Temple Emmanuel Hosts International Day

The Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, had a day of high praise recently when the membership celebrated their first International Day. It was an extraordinary worship service accented by flags from numerous countries: Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, Ghana, Gambia, Hawaii, Haiti, Italy, Canada, and the United States.

Pastor Joseph Harris Sr. was the host for the special day and provided the call to worship. Libney H. Dubreuze, Sr., AWC Multicultural Ministries director, placed emphasis on the growing cultural diversity of the conference in his remarks. Carl R. Rogers, conference executive secretary, gave the official greeting. Martha Givens, Temple Emmanuel's head deaconess and organizer of the event—originally from Trinidad—shared enthusiastic words as she witnessed the fulfillment of her own dream.

The highlight of the service was the eloquent sermon by Matthew A. Bediako, executive secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide. Dressed in his native Ghanaian attire, he delivered a most challenging message titled "Staying Together." His sermon proposed that "through a growing unity in Jesus we make an emphasis in cultural diversity." Bediako also told of the progress of the Adventist presence across the world, and highlighted areas where the church membership is fast growing, such as Africa, Brazil, Peru, and Jamaica.

After the worship service, fellowship continued with



Joining the pulpit for the first International Day of AWC's Temple Emmanuel church are (left to right) head deaconess and event planner Martha Givens; conference executive secretary Carl R. Rogers; Matthew Bediako, executive secretary for the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide; church pastor Joseph Harris Sr.; and Multicultural Ministries director Libney H. Dubreuze, Sr.

a wonderful multicultural dinner, followed by an afternoon concert. Special thanks to all of the musicians.

"It was so nice to be together: white, black, Hispanic, and Asian, under the flag of Jesus Christ," Dubreuze stated. "This gathering is the realistic view from our church across the world of how the world could be, and we hope, with patience, that with the soon coming of Jesus, we will be together in heaven."

Ramah Girls Basketball Team Undefeated

Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland has been part of a basketball league for the past three years. At the time of this writing, the boys and girls teams have both played 12 games, with three games left in the regular season, as well as tournaments.

first year when nearly everyone was just learning the game," states Palmer.

The girls team (pictured) started out with 14 players, but the high demand for time, good grades, and positive attitude, was too much for some. The 10 remaining players are committed, hard working, and energetic. Coach Palmer states that these fifth- through eighth-graders give their best at each game, all while maintaining their Christian characters.

The time, energy, and commitment of the parents, teachers, and students all help to make sure the players are present and accounted for on game nights. The service of Dan Conwell, coach of the boys team, and his wife, Mary, the school principal, is also greatly appreciated.

Catch the Vision is published in the Visitor by the Allegheny West Conference 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205 Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ President, James L. Lewis Editor, Robert C. Lewis ■ www.awconf.org



Girls team coach JoAnn Palmer reports that this has been their best year. The boys have a respectable record of seven wins and five losses. The girls, however, are dominating with a record of 12 wins, zero losses. "What a change from the

The Value of Education

When purchasing a product, we are usually influenced substantially by the price. We know we can't afford a luxury car, so we don't bother to look. Instead we focus on vehicles in our price range and decide which one best meets our needs. We are looking for the best value for our investment.



When choosing our children's education, we need to do the same. Some consider private education something they cannot afford, so instead they focus on other options to meet the educational needs of their children. Far too many times they do not get the best value for their investment.

The investment is our children, of course. The value we wish for our investment is to give them the best education possible. At Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) we are committed to delivering an education that goes far beyond words and pictures in a book.

Character Development: At BMA, we consider it our calling to embrace every child who enrolls. We recognize their individuality, and it is our mission to help them grow. We are committed to reaching beyond modifying behavior to growing character.

Spiritual Growth: Christian education is more valuable than a public school education because we get the opportunity to address spiritual values. The staff considers this opportunity man's greatest responsibility, and seeks to challenge our students to grow. We want to take them to where they can lead others in spiritual decisions.

Academic Achievement: Core to any educational experience is academic achievement. In addition to the core curriculum, students have the opportunity to take a wide variety of classes including art, photography, music, auto tech, aviation, cooking, Web design, and French or Spanish. Beyond that, we have several honors and advanced placement classes. Our learning specialist works to meet students' individual needs and to enhance their educational experience. In our leadership program, students learn how to add value to others.

What is the value of an education at BMA? From my perspective, it is priceless!



Spencer Hannah
Principal

Invitation From Alumni President

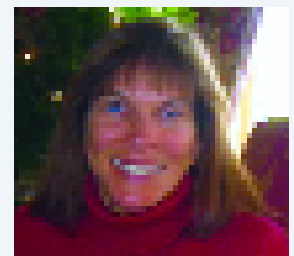
Save the dates April 27-29 on your calendars for alumni weekend! You won't want to miss this opportunity to reconnect with old friends and faculty. Relive those fun years at boarding school, or rekindle that spark and passion for Christ first ignited in Bible classes, vespers, and candlelight communion services.

Whether you are part of an honor-year class, parents of former or present BMA students, or a valued supporter, BMA leaders want you to come because this weekend honors you!

Join friends on Friday at 11:30 a.m. for a round of golf. You just might get that hole-in-one and win a brand new car! Friday evening the BMA class of '87 and Philadelphia Academy (now BMA) alumni will be hosting vespers. Sabbath morning you can attend Sabbath School in the gym with the class of '97, or in the chapel with the class of '77. The class of '82 will present the church service, with Columbia Union

president Dave Weigley ('70) as the guest speaker. A "by-donation" lunch will follow in the gym.

The class of '67 will present Sabbath vespers, followed by a choice of the alumni-student basketball games or the "BMA Memory Lane, 1957 Style" in the cafeteria. Don't go away hungry and plan to stay for a "by-donation" brunch Sunday morning at 9:30 in the cafeteria. Your input during the short alumni business meeting afterward would be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you!—Karen Newhart Holland



Alumni president Karen Newhart Holland ('75) encourages all past and present students, parents, and representatives to attend the upcoming alumni weekend.

Remembering the Life of Grace Higgins Wetzel

Long-time supporter of the Adventist Church and its educational institutions, Grace Higgins Wetzel (pictured), of lower Gwynedd, Pa., passed away recently at the age of 91.

Grace was born June 5, 1915, the daughter of John J. and Beatrice A. Higgins (nee—Thomas). Her father worked as a chauffeur, in the trucking business, and as a contractor during the Great Depression. Grace's mother, Beatrice, was a homemaker, and during tough times would clean homes, earning just \$2.50 each! Wetzel learned early to be frugal.

Grace met her husband, the late Alvin J. Wetzel, at a church social. She was impressed that Alvin was a hard worker, and that he shared her deep passion for the Lord. They were married in the Montgomery Seventh-day Adventist Church (now closed) on June 16, 1934. The couple started their married life living above the Wetzel and Son Funeral Home in Philadelphia.

In 1940 the Wetzels bought a funeral home in Willow Grove. While building their business, the Wetzel Funeral Home, the couple supplemented their income in a variety of ways. World War II was raging, so they took in boarders from Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base. They also had an orchard on the property, and raised chickens in the garage. Grace cared for the daughter of a friend who worked in the war factory and took in two foster children.

Over the years the Lord blessed the Wetzels in many ways. They never considered their wealth as a

means to live extravagantly, but as an opportunity to help others live well through their partnership with God. Among the countless ways they helped the Adventist Church over the years, the Wetzels were instrumental in establishing Blue Mountain Academy, Greater Philadelphia Junior Academy (now Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy), and the HealthSouth Reading Rehabilitation Hospital. The Wetzel/Foulke Endowment fund has helped hundreds of students attend BMA over the years, and continues to assist students who require financial assistance.

After Alvin's death in August 2000, Grace kept busy with her growing family and being involved in the family business. She always wanted to know about current ventures, and seemed to know more about what was going on than anybody else!

Grace enjoyed her life, her family, and her many blessings. Just out of the hospital and knowing her health was failing, at Thanksgiving she wondered aloud about why God had allowed her to live such a long life. Grace said it had been a good life, and that she was thankful for all that God had given her. By Christmas Eve, Grace was gone.

Grace is survived by her daughter, Joan, wife of James Foulke; her grandchildren, James and Ellen Foulke, Douglas and Debbie Foulke, and Glen and Carrie Foulke; her sister, Florence LaMond; her brother, John Higgins; and six great-grandchildren. —Taken from a life sketch by Carrie Foulke, Grace's granddaughter-in-law.



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2007

Watchword of the New Testament

On every page of the New Testament, there is a wonderful sense of energy and vitality. These ancient believers were almost uncannily efficient and adequate to meet life's most difficult demands. It is very important to notice their explanation of this. They never attribute it to anything in themselves. The constant watchword of the New Testament is not, "We are able." Instead what you find over and over again is, "He is able." They are looking away from themselves to God. They are looking straight at Christ. And on this basis they make the most staggering claims. A thousand difficulties may lie across the path, but they claim, "He is able to bring us through!" Temptation may threaten ruin, but they say, "He is able to give the victory!" The whole world may seem to be going headlong to destruction, but they believe, "He is able to bring it to God!"

Take a concordance and look up the varied texts that use this little phrase, "He is able." He is able to help the tempted, to save to the uttermost, to support and keep you from falling, to secure you in death's decisive hour, and to do more than you can even imagine. You will discover that beyond our futile striving shines His sufficiency, and beyond our perplexities, His peace. Whatever the challenge, we can be certain that He is able!



Rob Vandeman
President

Josué Sánchez Ordained at Hagerstown

Conference administrators along with Hagerstown (Md.) church members gathered recently to witness a special afternoon ordination service for Josué Sánchez. Sánchez now serves as the Hagerstown church associate pastor for youth and assists Senior Pastor Rick Remmers. Prior to coming to Hagerstown, Sánchez served in the Canadian Union, pastoring a Hispanic district in Vancouver. Before that he was the campus chaplain at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ontario, and a youth pastor of the nearby College Park church. Sánchez is supported by his wife, Jelena, and daughter, Maya (all pictured). Chesapeake is delighted to have this



Conference administrators and Hagerstown (Md.) church leaders lay hands on Josué Sánchez during his recent ordination.

fine young family as part of its conference team and expects the impact of their ministry to be widespread.



Coming EVENTS

March

4 Career Day
6 Third Quarter Ends
7-19 Spring Break
7-20 Mission Trips
23, 24 Elementary Music Festival
25 Junior/Senior Reception
30-31 Tour Weekend

April

7 National Honor Society Induction
9-14 FOCUS Week
14 Concerto Night
15 SATs
18-22 Home Leave
27-29 Alumni Weekend

May

6-7 Academy Days
25-26 Graduation Weekend

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Camp Meeting Reservation Time Nearing

Every year the demand for housing at camp meeting exceeds the available supply. Every effort is made to accommodate the wishes of constituents while maintaining as fair a process as possible. The process involves a first-come, first-served approach according to the postmark on the envelope of the application. Hand-delivered applications will be stamped with the date of delivery, but no applications will be accepted before the April 2 starting date. Should applications arrive before April 2, they will be marked as arriving on the 3rd. An application form is printed on the next page.

The conference staff is pleased to have Randy Roberts (top), senior pastor of the Loma Linda (Calif.) church, as the speaker for Friday and Sabbath. The speaker for evening meetings, Tuesday through Thursday, will be Mike Tucker, the speaker/director of Faith For Today media ministry and senior pastor of the Arlington (Texas) church. The remaining details will be published in the May issue of The Challenge.



PREPARATION FORM

COLUMBIAN COLLEGE CAMP MEETING

June 12-18, 2007

QUANTITY	ITEM	REMARKS	TOTAL
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DRESSING ROOMS

CHEST ROOMS ADULTS ONLY (18 years of age)

120	Men's Dressing (2" floor - men's entrance)	120-0001 styles	120
120	Men's Dressing (2" floor - ladies' entrance)	(same as for 2 people)	120
120	Men's Dressing (2" floor - ladies' entrance)		120

WOMEN'S ROOMS ADULTS & JUNIORS

120	Men's Dressing (2" floor - ladies' entrance)		
120	Men's Dressing (2" floor - men's entrance)		
120	Men's Dressing (2" floor - ladies' entrance)		

NO PAYMENTS TO BE MADE AT THE TIME OF ORDERING No holding inventories are permitted. Items must be for actual service full time. Thousands for non-personal use items. Total and fourth persons will be \$2.00 per style per person.

TABLES

(Tables available in either area only)

120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0001 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0002 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0003 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0004 styles	120

TABLES (20' x 40')

(Full View of Storage Room)

120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0005 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0006 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0007 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0008 styles	120

TABLES

Length of table

120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0009 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0010 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0011 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0012 styles	120

TABLES

120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0013 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (men's entrance area)	120-0014 styles	120
120	Tables - 20' x 40' (ladies' entrance area)	120-0015 styles	120

MEMBERSHIP FULL MEETING ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID BY APRIL 15, 2007. Reservations received by postmarked before April 15, 2007, and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. See us, mark tables. Form 1, 2007.

MUST BE PAID TO THE CONTACT PERSONNEL OF THE

MAILING	CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE	AMOUNT PAID	
NAME	6600 Martin Road		
ADDRESS	Columbia, MD 21044		
TELEPHONE (Home)	(410)		
	(Office)		

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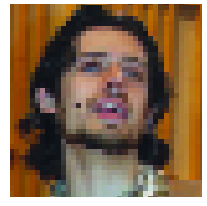
Week of Prayer Delivers Unique Blessings

A "New Season" was the theme for the recent biannual student Week In Spiritual Emphasis (WISE) on the Columbia Union College (CUC) campus. Below are a few memorable quotes and thoughts from the student speakers as they shared personal stories during the spiritual week:

"God looks at us and, for some reason, He cannot stop loving us. Satan wants you to believe that you are not going to heaven, but God has not left you. When Satan whispers in your ear that God does not love you, know that it's a lie," said



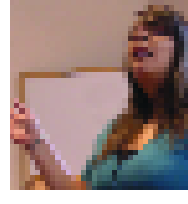
Anthony Hackett (right), senior theology major. Senior Joey Kruger (left), a theology and Intercultural Communications major, told of a time in eighth grade when he and some friends conspired to burglarize their school store. "I was 14, handcuffed, and tried to blame anyone and anything I could think of ... except myself," he said. Then he quoted Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"



The same way NFL players train to win the Super Bowl, Christians need to maintain a daily relationship with the Lord to reach heaven, said Sara-May Colón (right), a junior theology major. She encouraged students to take time each day to prepare for a lifetime with God.



"Nothing can be done to receive salvation, all you have to do is accept it. People don't realize that God is the bread of life who will prevent you from hungering or thirsting again," said Jackie Sanchez (right), a sophomore theology major.

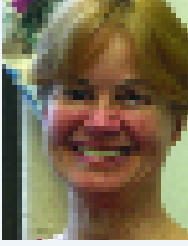


"I came to CUC with the biggest chip on my shoulder," said Eric Thompson (below), senior history major. He admitted that he was preoccupied with talking to girls and his outward appearance during his first few years on campus. "But one day I realized that I was still empty inside." Thompson says he is a new man and determined to encourage other students to live for Christ.

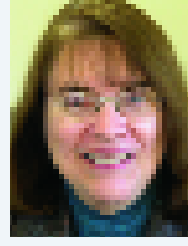


New Employees Welcomed

Marilyn Riley (right) is the new executive assistant to CUC president Randal Wisbey. Before joining the school's administrative staff, Riley worked as an exam coordinator at Griggs University and International Academy at the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. Riley is a CUC graduate ('74) and mother of two adult sons, Chandler and Philip. She attends the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.



As part of the Office of Academic Administration, Komalam Moss (left) assists faculty and staff in developing curriculum for academic programs, assists with institutional research, and creates surveys. Moss attends the Cornerstone church in Herndon, Va.



Lahna Farver (right, above) works in the Office of Advancement where she maintains the alumni database and facilitates alumni relations. Prior to her current position, Farver worked at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., as the office manager. She attended Andrews University and is a certified teacher. Farver is a member of the campus' Sligo church.



Pioneer Player Reaches 1,000 Points

Jada Richardson (pictured), junior guard for CUC's Pioneer women's basketball team, reached 1,000 points during a recent women's basketball game against Davis & Elkins College from Elkins, W.Va. According to the coaching staff, Richardson has been a standout player since her arrival three years ago.

"She's the first female basketball player at CUC to reach a thousand in a couple of years," said Lorian Anderson, assistant coach of CUC's women's basketball program.

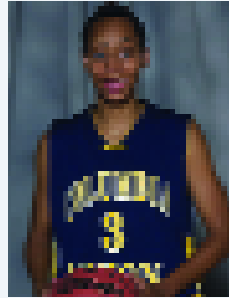
As a freshman, Richardson aver-

aged 15.1 points per game (ppg). She was then elected to the First Team of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) All-American team and nominated for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II All-Independent Freshman Team.

During her sophomore year, Richardson averaged 15.2 ppg and was nominated three times for USCAA player of the week. This year Richardson's scoring dropped slightly, however, her assist totals

are up and her decision-making skills have improved from last year. These skills aided Richardson in her recent accomplishment.

"I had no idea that I was even close," said Richardson, an elementary education major. "It just made all the hard work that I've been doing worth it."—Wayne Stewart



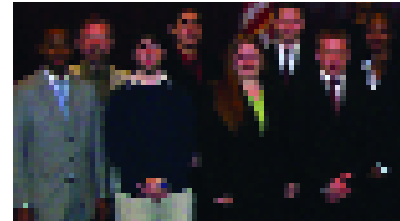
Mock Trial Team Starts Season With Win

CUC's Mock Trial team (pictured) successfully argued and won two mock cases in competitions recently. The team won against nationally recognized groups at the University of Central Florida and the University of Redlands in California.

During their trial, team members Ellie Barker, a junior, and freshman Martin Nestares were recognized as best witnesses, along with team captain Tyson Shaw, a senior, as best attorney.

"My favorite part of competition is hearing the verdict," said Barker, a political studies major. This is her second year on the team.

According to team sponsor and



history professor Roy Branson, junior Anthony Montalvo, senior Daniel MacKay, and senior Sheri Campbell gave outstanding efforts. During the trial in Florida, CUC scored the single widest margin of victory in the team's seven-year history.

"During the first competition, we learned about our strengths and weaknesses as a team," said

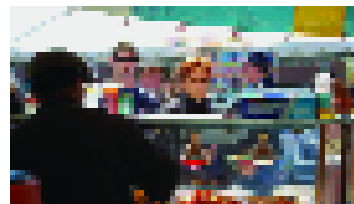
MacKay, a political studies major. He hopes that the team will continue their success through the last competition at the end of this month.

During their travels around the country, CUC's Mock Trial members visit local academies for Friday night vespers and Sabbath services. "We tell the academy students about CUC and all the exciting opportunities near the nation's capital," said Branson, director for the Center for Law and Public Policy, the team's sponsor.

—Rachel Ponder and PR staff

Annual Festival Builds Community

An estimated 4,000 people are expected to attend "Tastes of Takoma," an annual family-friendly event held on the campus of Columbia Union College. On Sunday, April 1, students, faculty, staff, and community residents can wander through the health and wellness tent; take a tour of the WGTS 91.9 FM radio station located on campus; and visit with community vendors and food retailers. "Tastes of Takoma" was created by CUC's communication and journal-



Attendees at last year's "Tastes of Takoma" enjoyed fresh-cooked, international fare.

ism students seven years ago to foster relations between the college and local community. To learn more, visit www.tasteoftakoma.com.

CALENDAR

March

- 1-11 Spring Break
- 12 Classes Resume
- 18 Mother/Daughter Luncheon
- 30-Apr. 1 College Days

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EL NOTI VISITOR

Ofrece Una Pueblo Hispano Que Vive en el Territorio de la Union de Columbia

El festival de evangelismo laico de Potomac celebra el crecimiento de la obra hispana

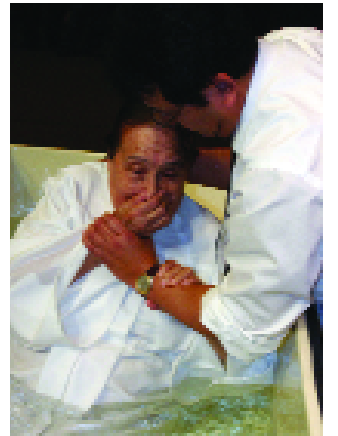
Mil cuatrocientos (1,400) feligreses de cincuenta (50) iglesias hispanas se reunieron recientemente en Ocean City, Maryland para realizar su décimo Festival de Evangelismo Laico. Durante cuatro días adoraron, asistieron a seminarios, celebraron sus éxitos del 2006, y fijaron blancos para el 2007.

El lema "Jesús: hazme un discípulo", ayudó y estimuló a los participantes a convertirse en discípulos de Jesús. Cada día se ofrecieron talleres nuevos que enseñó a los participantes cómo dirigir el ministerio de la radio, los infantiles, el de jóvenes, el discipulado, y otros más. También estudiaron los libros de Daniel y Apocalipsis, y acerca del apóstol Pablo. Uno de los talleres juveniles instruyó cómo enseñar a los jóvenes a predicar.

El comité de evangelismo hispano, dirigido por Rubén Ramos, coordinador hispano de la conferencia, planifica el festival anual. El segundo nivel del Centro de Convenciones de Ocean City, Maryland se llenó. Los participantes tenían mucho por qué celebrar. En primer lugar, están los muchos estudios bíblicos que han dado, las campañas de evangelismo realizadas, y las reuniones de grupos pequeños conducidas por pastores y feligreses dedicados. Estas actividades fueron fructíferas, resultando en 1,200 bautismos en el 2006.

Segundo, compartieron las nuevas de la apertura de un nuevo centro de evangelismo valorado en \$1.8 millones en el mismo Maryland.

La mayor participación recibida fue el sábado. Bill Miller, el nuevo presidente de la Conferencia de Potomac, expuso el sermón de la mañana. Todos gozaron del bautismo de 12 personas esa la tarde. Después de todo esto, llegó el momento cumbre del evento—iglesia tras iglesias y pastor tras pastor comunicó a los presentes por cuántas preciosas almas van a trabajar para ganarlas para Cristo en el 2007. El blanco total es 2,000 almas en el 2007. Los participantes aprobaron con alegría y entusiasmo.—Celeste Ryan Blyden



Rubén Ramos acepta su nueva posición en la Unión

Rubén Ramos (en la foto), ex coordinador de los ministerios hispanos en la Conferencia de Potomac, aceptó un llamado a servir como asistente al presidente para ministerios multilingües en la Unión de Columbia.

"Espero trabajar con el liderazgo de las conferencias locales para asesorar sus necesidades y buscar maneras de alcanzar a todas nuestras comunidades," dice Ramos, quien se unió al personal de la unión el 1ro de febrero.



Ramos comenzó su trabajo con la denominación como colportor en Pensilvania. En 1985 trabajó como pastor en la Conferencia de Potomac, y

en 1995 comenzó a servir como coordinador de los ministerios hispanos de la misma conferencia. Durante sus responsabilidades allí, el número de iglesias hispanas creció de 14 a casi 50.

"Sé que Rubén puede servir como catalizador para nuestra creciente población multilingüe. Estamos listos para el crecimiento y el evangelismo, y la experiencia y pasión que trae Rubén para difundir el evangelio nos ayudará a alcanzar a todos de una forma más dinámica," dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia.

Ramos está casado con Nora, una maestra de música en la Escuela John Nevins Andrews en Takoma Park, Maryland. Sus tres hijos, Carolina, Rubin, y Valeria, son estudiantes en la Universidad Adventista del Río Plata en Argentina.—LaVerne Henderson

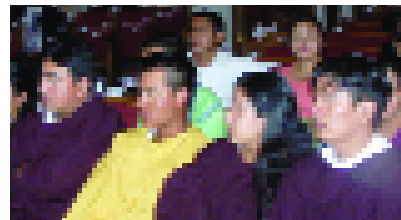
Chesapeake atrae a hispanos a su convocación para la costa del este

Actualmente hay tres congregaciones hispanas en la parte inferior de la península de la costa del este en la Conferencia Chesapeake. La participación en la segunda convocación en la costa del este indicó claramente que estas congregaciones están creciendo.

Más de 150 personas se unieron para celebrar el evento. Los oficiales de la conferencia dieron un reconocimiento especial a los laicos que se destacaron por su servicio. Cada congregación dio un informe especial de la obra misionera que realizó el año anterior.

Leonardo Grant, un evangelista de Costa Rica, fue el orador invitado. Su tema hizo énfasis sobre la "Misión y Visión". El Pastor Grant también realizó una cruzada de evangelismo para el grupo hispano de Salisbury, Maryland.

En la tarde, once (11) candidatos se bautizaron y dos más fueron aceptados por profesión de fe. Después de la ceremonia bautismal, Grant presentó su último seminario sobre relaciones y matrimonio. El seminario terminó debidamente con una ceremonia matrimonial.—*Pastor Raul Rivero*



Los candidatos se preparan para el bautismo durante la segunda convocación de la costa del este.

Retiro para Ancianos de Iglesia en la Academia Blue Mountain

Ochenta y tres personas (83) participaron en el retiro para ancianos de iglesia y sus cónyuges que se realizó el 19 y 20 de enero en la Academia Blue Mountain en Hamburg. El orador invitado fue el pastor José Cortés, secretario ejecutivo de la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey. El pastor Cortés presentó una valiosa instrucción de forma amena. Por unanimidad, los participantes pidieron que él vuelva el próximo año. Fue un retiro muy inspirador.

Se planifica un festival hispano para laicos en Pensilvania

El festival de laicos se llevará a cabo en Netherlands Inn and Spa ubicado en 1 Historic Drive, Strasburg, Pensilvania, 17579 (un suburbio de Lancaster), del 30 de marzo al 1ro de abril. Los oradores invitados son los pastores Rubén Ramos y Oscar Hernández. Se reconocerá a un laico de cada iglesia que más se ha destacado en el año, se presentarán temas de inspiración, y se ofrecerá entrenamiento para los participantes. El costo es de \$75 por persona, a cuatro personas por habitación. Los \$75 cubren dos noches de hotel, tres comidas el sábado, y el desayuno el domingo. Para mayor información comuníquense con el pastor Juan López al (484) 332-3725.

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El Notí Visitor es publicado por el Visitor cada mes por los coordinadores hispanos de las Asociaciones. Coordinador de Boletín, Beth Michaels ■ (301) 596-0800

Another Look at "Saving"

Think of all the money we could save if we didn't have to support the church school!" Has that thought ever crossed your mind as you wrote out your monthly tuition check? Has a board member ever dared suggest it as your church board struggled to make ends meet?

Maybe it would surprise you to hear that I agree with you. We would save dollars. Our church schools do cost us dollars, lots of them. But what would we lose without the schools?

We would lose people like Amanda and her family. Amanda's parents enrolled her in the local Seventh-day Adventist school, even though they didn't know too much about our beliefs. Over time, Amanda, her parents, and her two siblings started attending the local Adventist church—not just when Amanda was in a school program, but every week. Eventually they were all baptized.

We would lose students like Kurt. Although raised in an Adventist home, Kurt never made his own decision for Christ. Over the years, as a student in an Adventist school, his teachers and parents worked and prayed together for his salvation. Kurt responded and was baptized one week before his eighth-grade graduation.

The Adventist school system is a major contributor to the mission and work of our church. Our students mow the church lawn, collect offering, preach sermons, shovel snow for elderly neighbors, send get-well cards to shut-ins, visit nursing homes, collect food for the hungry, and conduct Bible studies. They also score well on their ACT and SAT tests, sometimes place as National Merit Scholarship finalists, and often rise to the top of their classes when they move on to college. We are all winners when we support Adventist Christian education.

Keep reading to find out about some fantastic things going on in our quality Mountain View Conference schools. For more information about any of our schools, contact the conference Office of Education at (304) 422-4581.



Cheryl Jacko
Acting Superintendent
of Schools

Valley View School Shines

At Valley View School in Bluefield, W.Va., students gather around God's Word each day, and delve into their academic work. Special programs in the church and elsewhere feature the students performing vocal and choral music, as well as string and woodwind ensembles, and a handbell choir. At a recent youth service, Valley View students presented the musical *The Runaway*, an intriguing new look at the prophet Jonah.

Academy students participate avidly in weekly public speaking classes. This gives the students a growing confidence to participate in Sabbath services. It also eases them in meeting people while witnessing during special programs like Campaign for Community and the General Youth Conference.

In addition to its rich American heritage, the school adds an international flavor and breadth of vision through its faculty and staff. Five of the teachers have served as missionaries in Africa; the highly qualified gym instructors, Manuel and Kristina Lopez, a husband-and-wife team, are Spanish and Russian; the innovative new art teacher, Tiffany Formato, is Jewish. Formato spends six hours each week with the different classes, teaching students advanced arts and crafts

techniques in a variety of mediums.

"To know Him and make Him known" is the school's goal in every endeavor.—*Kenneth Cronjé*



Schools Get Fieldtrip Learning

Every year Mountain View Conference students do hands-on learning through fieldtrips. During a recent fieldtrip, students from Greenbrier Adventist Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va., and Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., visit with W.Va. Senator Robert C. Byrd (far left) on the U.S. Capitol steps.

Highland School Integrates Project-Based Learning

Innovative, challenging Christian academic programming is a trademark of Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va. This school year, students in grades 5-12 are enjoying a new, project-based instructional approach in some of their classes. The program integrates the best in current learning research with the principles found in the book *Education* by Ellen G. White. It encourages students to become “thinkers, not mere reflectors of

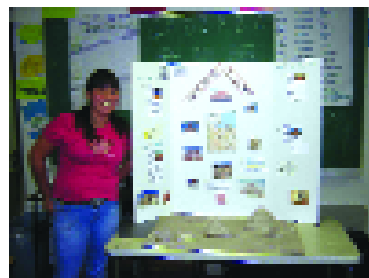
other men’s thoughts.” “Our students really get involved in their projects,” stated Cheryl Jacko, principal and grade 5-8 teacher. “They enjoy having a choice in how to complete their assignments, and have produced outstanding work. All projects begin with extensive research and end with a presentation to the class that may take the form of an audiovisual production, a speech, an ancient artifact replica, a report about a famous per-

son, or a poster display, all supported by the student’s research.”

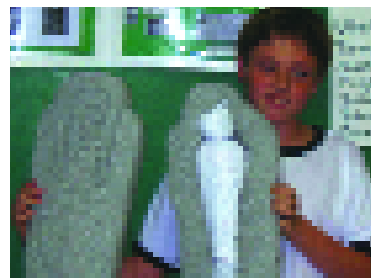
Students, parents, and teachers are excited about the program. “My daughter doesn’t want to go back to the old way of learning social studies,” one parent commented. That student enthusiasm, joined with the academic progress the students are making, ensure that project-based learning will continue as an important part of Highland’s academic program.



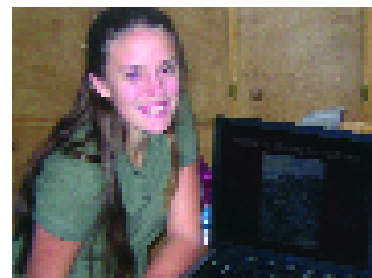
Sophomore Stacy Blanzly displays her solar heating project display.



Eighth-grader Brittney Thompson displays her report on ancient Egyptian pyramids.



Seventh-grader Joel Grey displays his report on mummification and ancient Egyptian embalming techniques.



Sophomore Rebekah Ruediger shows her audiovisual production about the Battle of Gettysburg.

Summersville Students Conduct Evangelistic Series

Summersville Seventh-day Adventist School, located in the heart of the Mountain View Conference, is dedicated to the educational journey of excellence as well as the gospel commission found in Matthew 28. Under the leadership of Robert Michael, pastor of the Summersville, Webster Springs, and Richwood churches;

Stewart Pepper, pastor of the Lewisburg and Rainelle churches; Bruce Greenberg, MD, Pathfinder director; and Donna Nicholas, principal, the Bible program for grades 5-8 is being enriched. The advanced program is helping the students to grow mentally, spiritually, socially, and technologically.

At the beginning of this school year, the students started studying the Book of Revelation. The young people also recently conducted a youth-led evangelistic series in Richwood, W.Va. The students were grouped into teams of two and given one leader. The leaders helped their team prepare three audiovisual presentations. Next they practiced skills in public speaking. During Sabbath afternoons, students took door-to-door community surveys, at which time they extended a personal invitation to the homeowners to attend the

meetings. Students conducted every aspect of the series from registration, greeting, ushering, special music, as well as the nightly message.—Donna Nicholas

Parkersburg Library Restored



Danielle Cowgill, a sophomore at Parkersburg Junior Academy in West Virginia, enjoys studying in the school’s newly refurbished library.

Mountain View EVENTS

- March**
- 10 Conference Level Pathfinder Bible Achievement
 - 19 Executive Committee, 10 a.m.
 - 25 Pathfinder Derby Day, Valley Vista
- April**
- 2 Ministers Meeting

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President, Larry Boggess
Editor, Brian Jones • www.mtviewconf.org

MARCH 2007

Our Shifting Spiritual Focus

Has there been a shift in our spiritual focus? Are some of our members losing the clear focus of the mission and vision we once had as a church? If you want to reclaim the vision of proclaiming the full and unique Adventist message with a sense of urgency, watch the NET 2007 programming “Tell It To Your World: The King is Coming.” It will be uplinked from Bridgeton, March 30 to April 8.

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to proclaim the unique and compelling message of Jesus to the world. If you are committed to being a part of telling this message to your world, invite your friends and

NET 2007

March 30-April 8

7:30-9 p.m. (EST)

Esperanza (Hope) Channel or 3ABN

Speaker: José Cortés

For more information:

www.diloatumundo.org



neighbors to join you in watching these Holy Spirit-empowered messages on the Esperanza (Hope) Channel or 3ABN. Be a part of calling Christians out of confused religious beliefs into a clearer understanding of God’s character.

God told us to reveal to our world what He did out of love and mercy to justify those who have broken His eternal law. Our call to repair the breach in the law means much more than helping people keep the right day holy.

At the heart of our unique message is Jesus in all His fullness. He came to this Earth to reveal the heavenly

Father, whose very character is described in His law of love, which must be obeyed in its entirety. Jesus revealed a Father who loves us with an everlasting love. Jesus also shared the promise that the Father will never leave nor forsake anyone who trusts in Him. This is our unique message, to reveal a Father who is a perfect blend of law and grace.

NET 2007 guest speaker José Cortés (pictured), conference executive secretary, will have us look into the Book of Daniel to see Jesus during the Passion Week like we have never seen Him before. We have an opportunity to reveal new dimensions of our wonderful God by inviting friends and neighbors to join us in watching the NET 2007 programs.



LeRoy Finck
President

What a Sign Can Do

The Browns Mills church recently installed a new sign in their front yard. The sign’s light was turned on for the first time on a Monday. On the following Wednesday night at prayer meeting, local resident Crystal Satchell appeared and remarked that she was able to find the church because of the new sign.



Satchell is extremely interested in the Seventh-day Adventist message and is attending the church regularly and taking Bible studies. She says that she intends to become an Adventist in the very near future.—Pastor Bob Hoyt



Citadel Group Becomes Company

The Citadel group in Belleville was recently promoted to company status. This body of believers started out in 1999 as the Citadel House of Prayer, a Pentecostal group of worshippers. With their Pastor Moses Smith Jr. (pictured), the



100-plus members worshipped together in a small storefront church for about seven years. As the Holy Spirit compelled the congregation, they started searching for something different, the gospel truth. The group followed God's leading and attended one of Leo Schriener's All Power Ministries seminars in 1999 at the Newark church. With the help of former Newark pastor Jeddy

Hooker, current pastor Leonel Pottinger, elder Edward Longmore, and many others, the group started learning more about the Sabbath truth. Soon afterward, most of them were baptized and became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "We are very pleased and praise the Lord that after several years, we reached the status of company," said Pastor Moses.

Conference Welcomes Pastor John Pifer

The New Jersey Conference is pleased to welcome John Pifer as the new pastor of the Atlantic County, Cape May Court House, and Parkway South district.



Pastor Pifer started his ministry in Ephrata, Pa., while pastoring the Leechburg/Butler district in Western Pennsylvania. From there he was moved to the Derrick City/Mt. Jewett district in Northern Pennsylvania. While there, he was called to teach Bible and history at Huntingdon Valley Christian

The new pastor of the Atlantic County, Cape May Court House, and Parkway South district, John Pifer (center), is supported by his family (left to right) Lona, his wife Shannon, Natalie, and John.

Mark Jagistch Joins Pastoral Roster

Pastor Mark Jagistch recently accepted the responsibility of pastoring the Burlington, Collingwood, and Mt. Holly churches. Jagistch was born and spent most of his life in Springfield, Ill. After graduating from Southwestern Adventist University in Texas in 1989, he spent his time working in various capacities for the church: as a literature evangelist, a Bible worker, and a pastor. He and his family recently relocated to New Jersey and proclaim to "love it," saying the people are nice. The state is rich with history, which they also enjoy.



The new pastoral family of the Burlington, Collingwood, and Mt. Holly churches includes Mark Jagistch, his wife, Cara, and their three children (left to right) baby Christian, Kean, and Anne Lise.

Academy in Philadelphia. Most recently he was serving as a youth pastor in Toledo, Ohio.

dates

March

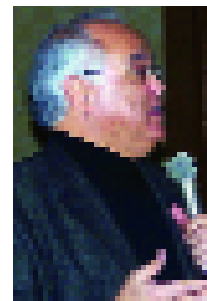
- 6 K-12 Board of Education Executive Committee Technology Committee
- 7 Directors Advisory Curriculum Committee
- 8 PUSH Retreat
- 9-11 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 12 Pastors and Teachers Meeting
- 18 VBS Training
- 20 Administrative Committee K-12 Board of Education
- 23-25 Women's Ministries Retreat, Camp May
- 24 Collingwood Park Education Rally
- 27 Administrative Committee
- 30-April 8 NET 2007, Bridgeton

New Jersey News is published in the Visitor by the New Jersey Conference 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ President, LeRoy Finck ■ Editor, Aura Garcia ■ www.njcsda.org

Ohio Ministry University Blesses Many

There is a song that declares, "Life is moving faster than it ever has before, what tomorrow brings us isn't certain anymore ..." How very appropriate for today, yet that song was written in the 1970s. If ever there was evidence that Jesus' coming needs to be soon, it's in the speed at which we're traveling through life these days. And it's in the sinking feeling of not being able to understand or relate to the rapid changes occurring all around us. Call it a momentary snapshot of clarity, but now and then we need to stop, take several large steps back, and see the bigger picture. For the attendees at this year's Ohio Ministry University, it was that kind of moment.

For about 175 people, the world rushed by outside the Embassy



Suites Hotel in Columbus while they sat quietly. Their complicated lives were held at bay while three men spoke Jesus' words. Caleb Rosado, PhD (left), challenged attendees to check the content of their communications with the world against the context of that same world. Dr. Rosado is an assistant professor of sociology at Southern Connecticut State



University in New Haven, and is president and founder of Rosado Consulting for Change in Human Systems (www.rosado.net). Albert Newball (left), lead design

engineer for interiors of the Honda Element and the Acura TL in Marysville, Ohio, simply explained the process Honda goes through to come up with a new car. He made it clear that there is a lot to learn from Honda's determination, its understanding of the market customer focus, and attention to detail.

Dan Savino (below) is a realtor in Phoenix, Ariz. Retired from Adventist ministry, Savino shared



from his experiences, many of which were sad examples of how people favor judgment over grace when dealing

with people. "God asked us to bear fruit. He didn't ask us to be fruit inspectors," Savino said.

Like any academic exercise, Ohio Ministry University sought to stir the pure minds of the attendees. This was not a how-to type meeting, with information on the latest techniques useful in leading Sabbath School, deaconing, or being an elder. This meeting offered moments of reflection and perspective adjustment. Many went away feeling they had met with God.—Mike Stevenson



Leading the inspiring song services was Nathan French, a recent college graduate who currently volunteers with conference churches to help bring meaning and inspiration to worship.



Ohio Ministry University participants enjoyed the various presentations, music, and fellowship.

Global Innovation Station Commences

A first-of-its-kind experiment in a global conversation among the Adventist community will occur April 10-12. Open to people in every continent, this online



experience will be an interactive and dynamic brainstorming session where people come together to propose innovations, discuss major trends, opportunities, and breakthrough initiatives in the Adventist Church's mission and ministry. People from every country and community will be free to post their best ideas, refine the ideas of others, and lend their own, unique perspective to the conversation.

Your thoughts and insights, combined with a little preparation, are all you need to engage in the *iStation's* four discussion areas: personal spirituality, church and mission, education, and health and wellbeing.

While it can never be predicted what exactly will happen once the *iStation* conversation begins, it is hoped that you will find the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the world interesting, informative, and most of all, inspiring.

To enroll, visit www.sdapartnersininnovation.org and link to "Innovation Station."

Millersburg Members Enter Watery Grave



The Millersburg church rejoiced recently as four members of the Fetzer family and two more members were baptized. The special day included (left to right) Jeremy Fetzer, Joshua Fetzer, Arlin and Pastor Samuel Abraham, Tracy and Kristy Fetzer, and Jason and Melissa McCourt.

mark your calendars

Lakeside Friendship Get-a-Way Planned

Plan to attend the second Lakeside Friendship Get-a-Way at Maumee Bay State Park on Lake Erie. This family-friendly event will be held June 28 to July 1. For more information, contact Bette Toscano at information@ohioadventist.org.

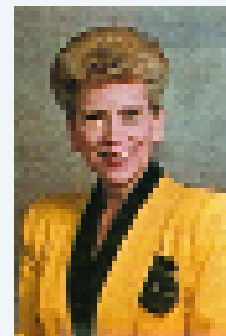


Hispanic Women's Retreat Scheduled

A retreat planned especially for Hispanic ladies is going to be held April 27-29 at the Holiday Inn Mansfield Conference Center.

The theme, "Called to Serve at Such a Time as This," will be addressed by well-known Adventist evangelist Adly Campos (pictured). Special music will be provided by Voices of Gratitude.

For more information, contact Jeannette Diaz at (216) 374-8289, or Carmen Espinoza at (216) 961-7833.



Mission Ohio is published in the *Visitor* by the Ohio Conference ■ P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ President, Raj Attiken
Editor, Bette Toscano ■ www.ohioadventist.org

Pennsylvania Pen

MARCH 2007

Conference Open House Attracts Crowd

Approximately 300 people from the community and surrounding Adventist churches toured the Pennsylvania Conference office building recently. The open house allowed guests to tour the 1920s building, complete with historic details.

This English-influenced mansion was built in 1926 at a cost of \$250,000. The home boasted 22 rooms and was designed around two black walnut trees that stood on the property, causing the structure to have interesting angles. The conference purchased the mansion, which had become a restaurant and tearoom, in 1951 for \$35,000.

Music filled the building as the Bel Canto choir from Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, the choir from Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy in Philadelphia, and the chimes choir from the Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School performed. CORE Youth Group members from the Reading Hampden Heights church, located in Temple, staged a nativity scene outside. Guests were greeted by conference president Ray Hartwell, his wife, Jeanne, and local church members Arlene and Wayne Johns—all dressed in Victorian era clothing—and treated to refreshments baked by staff and local church members. Each attendee also

received a Christmas pamphlet and a brochure about Seventh-day Adventists.

"This event was planned to give us an opportunity to meet our neighbors," shared president Hartwell, "and gave them an opportunity to meet us. More people came than we expected, but it was great getting to meet people who have lived in the neighborhoods around our office for years. We've made a first connection with people who won't be afraid to come back, and who may be curious to know a little more about us."



The Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School's bell choir was one of four groups of young people who helped provide entertainment for the Pennsylvania Conference office's Christmas Open House. More than 300 people toured the historic building in just two hours.

Capital Area Church Formally Organized

Six years ago, three families from the Harrisburg First church had a dream. They wanted to reach people "on the other side of the Susquehanna River." Their desire to share the gospel led them to a Methodist church where they started holding services. It wasn't long before the group found an old church for sale. It came with little more than the structure—not even pews—but member Judy Wert reports that God provided everything they needed through one miracle after another.

Members Paul Wert, John Hoch, and Harry Golden took care of planning worship services and leading the small congregation, which slowly grew. Visitors started attending—many after visiting the church's website. Recently member Bill Cave led an evangelistic series, which resulted in six baptisms.

At their triennial meeting in October, the conference constituency delegates voted to approve the Capital Area company to church status. On December 1, 2006,



People sign the charter membership of the Capital Area church as it becomes the newest conference congregation.

the congregation held their first official worship service as a church. Conference officers were on hand to commemorate the day.

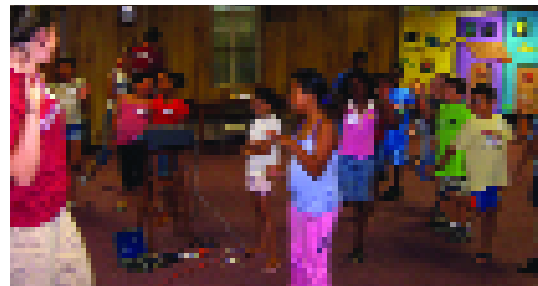
Cool Camp Coming

The conference will be hosting two Cool Camp sessions this summer. Cool Camp is a day camp program designed to involve conference senior youth in leading community children to Jesus. The primary target for campers is Reading community children.

The Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading hosted the conference's very first Cool Camp last July. More than 20 community children regularly attended the four-week program. It was great to see campers obtain a clearer picture of Jesus.

The camp not only affected the campers, but the staff, too, were given the opportunity to grow in their leadership skills and in their faith. Each day consisted of worship, crafts, games, sports, and swimming. The greatest aspect of the camp is the opportunity the staff and church are given to make an impact on the lives of children for eternity.

This summer one Cool Camp session will again be held at the Kenhorst church, and the other will soon be determined. If you are a senior youth, age 18 or older, and



More than 20 children attended Cool Camp each day for four weeks last year at Reading's Kenhorst Boulevard church.

would like more information, please contact Kris Eckenroth, Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, at (610) 374-8331, ext. 211, or keckenroth@paconference.org.

Evangelism Program Challenges Youth to Grow

Last summer youth literature evangelism returned to Pennsylvania. The Lansdale church and Pastor Jim Wibberding hosted a team of 10 young people for Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC). For six weeks these youth went throughout their community sharing materials



about Jesus. Being a part of the program not only helped the participants grow in their walk with the Lord, but also helped them earn scholarship money for school. The program only lasted six weeks, but the young people grew both in their work and faith.

Youth ages 14 and up are invited to be a part of

PYC '07. This summer could change your life. For more information contact Kris Eckenroth, at (610) 374-8331, ext. 211 or keckenroth@paconference.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Young Adult Weekend Offers Worship and Fun

Looking for a weekend filled with laughter, inspiring worship, Bible study on practical life topics, and a chance to get outside for hiking, canoeing, and mountain biking?

The Young Adult Retreat, April 13-15, will offer all of that and much more. Enjoy an old-fashioned campfire complete with s'mores and stories on Saturday night at the Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter. Connect with other young adults from across the area. Hear messages and enjoy worship planned just for young adults. For more information, contact Kris Eckenroth at (610) 374-8331, ext. 211, or thorst@paconference.org.

Women Invited to Come to the Table

The conference invites women to "Come to the Table," a weekend spiritual retreat, 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 is known for her ability to make God real in the daily happenings of life. The weekend also includes performances by recording artists Message of Mercy, as well as eight practical seminars. For more information, contact Tamyra Horst at (610) 374-8331, ext. 236, or thorst@paconference.org.

What's happening

March

2-4 Equipping University, Harrisburg
Pathfinder/Adventurer Spiritual Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp

10 Cool Camp
Team Training

16-18 Women's Retreat, Gettysburg

23-24 Elementary School Music Festival, Blue Mountain Academy
Hispanic Lay Festival, Lancaster

April

2-5 Outdoor School, Laurel Lake Camp

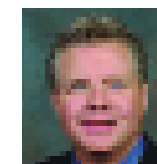
Pennsylvania Pen is published in the Visitor by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamyra Horst ■ www.paconference.org

Potomac People

MARCH 2007

Give the Gift of Time

One of the great themes in the biblical account of creation is the gift of time. God created the Sabbath on the seventh day as a commemoration of His creation. How rewarding it is to those who choose to carry on that tradition of giving the gift of time to each other; whether it's a vacation with the family or a parent-child date night. The staff at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., would like to provide its summer camp program as another option for that gift. It might be a venue for parents to spend time with their children at family camp. Or it might simply be the gift of an opportunity for a child to spend time at one of our fun-filled, adventure-packed weeks of camp. Whichever way works best for you and your loved ones, keep the tradition alive. Give the gift of time to someone close to you this coming summer.



Denny L. Grady

Director of Youth & Summer Camp Ministries

Come to Summer Camp!

Come and enjoy the natural beauty and exciting activities at Camp Blue Ridge this summer. Activities include archery, canoeing, ceramics, gymnastics, horseback riding, rodeo, lapidary, nature, crafts, rappelling, self defense, go-carts, ATV's, Christian drama, geocaching (treasure hunting), sports, and swimming.

Camps available for 2007, and their costs, are:

Adventure Camp (Ages 7-10)	June 24-July 1	\$255
Junior Camp (Ages 10-12)	July 1-8	\$255
Tween Camp (Ages 11-13)	July 8-15	\$255
Teen Outpost Camp (Ages 13-16)	July 15-22	\$295
Family Camp (up to 5 immediate family members)	July 22-29	\$575

Discounts ■ Seventh-day Adventist Church members will receive a \$35 discount off their registration fee as our way of saying thanks for their year-round support.

Mountaineer Fund ■ Camp Blue Ridge has a program to assist families that qualify for financial assistance in sending their young people to camp. For more information or to request an application form, call (540) 886-0771. Funds are limited, so apply early.
■ If you would like to financially contribute to this fund to help kids experience Christian camping, send your gift to: Mountaineer Scholarship Fund, 606 Greenville Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401. All donors will receive a tax receipt.

Registration Information ■ You can pre-register your camper by using the following methods (space is limited, so register early):

■ **ONLINE:** Visit www.cbrsda.com. Have your child's medical information, choice of classes, and credit card ready before beginning registration. Online registration enables you to know instantly which activity slots are available.

■ **MAIL:** Fill out the camp application and mail it to: Camp Blue Ridge, Attention: Cyndee Grady, 606 Greenville Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401.

■ **FAX:** Fax completed application forms to: (540) 886-5734, Attention: Cyndee (through June 7), or (540) 377-9800, Attention: Cyndee (after June 7).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation letter and orientation packet by mail with additional information and forms needed. If you do not receive confirmation at least two weeks before arrival, please contact the camp. *Deposits are non-refundable.

■ **WALK-IN:** We also accept walk-in registrations the Sunday of each camp week, from 3-5 p.m. during our check-in time. We recommend you phone first to confirm availability.



Manassas Church Welcomes New Members

Pastor Joey Pollom of the Manassas (Va.) church recently brought a six-week evangelistic series to a thrilling conclusion. There were baptisms of 25 new members, one profession of faith, and still others who are preparing for baptism. Nearly half of the visiting attendees decided to be baptized!

In preparation for the meetings, church members aggressively recruited new students for Bible studies. One hundred members answered Pastor Pollom's challenge to meet in organized prayer groups to pray for the Holy Spirit to bring seekers to the meetings.

Roy Shroud, one of those baptized, recently reflected on the importance of prayer and outreach. Many months ago, he attended the funeral of a Manassas church member. While there Pastor Pollom slipped his business card into Shroud's pocket and suggested that he call if he would like to talk. Shroud kept that card for nearly a year before contacting Pastor Pollom. When he finally placed the call, Shroud agreed to "try out" the Manassas church. The evangelistic meetings started shortly thereafter, and he faithfully attended. Shroud gave his heart to Jesus and was among the first 15 baptized.

Pastor Pollom looks forward to guiding the congregation as they partner with the Lord in their continued outreach to the Manassas community.—Bruce Cameron



Manassas (Va.) church pastor Joey Pollom rejoices as he prepares to baptize Roy Shroud.

Grottoes Celebrates 120th Anniversary

The Grottoes (Va.) church (formerly Port Republic) recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. In his celebratory sermon, Pastor Roger Mace made the analogy that just like Noah, 120 years have gone by since the Grottoes church was organized with eight members, and now it is time to "Come into the ark."



During the special Sabbath service, Pastor Mace shared how B.F. Purdham and A.C. Neff, the first Virginia Conference

Grottoes (Va.) church member Robert Yingst, great grandson of founding lay pastor John Henry Mace, shares how the original church members faced government displacement.

president, held evangelistic meetings in Port Republic, Va., in May 1885. This meeting gave not only Grottoes its beginning, but also the Marksville (Stanley) church. It also led to outreach that later expanded to Waynesboro. On June 27, 1886, the Port Republic (Grottoes) church was organized with eight members including lay pastor John Henry Mace, Pastor Mace's great grandfather.

Sadly the congregation eventually disbanded due to leadership loss from a series of setbacks and human tragedies. Members joined nearby churches. However in 1977 a company of believers was organized and a permanent structure erected. In 1988 the building was dedicated, debt-free, and organized as a church.

—Jeanie Allen

Camp Blue Ridge to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., will be celebrating 50 years of service to the youth and Seventh-day Adventist congregations of the Potomac Conference, June 1-3. During this weekend, camp staff wants to invite former campers and staff to return for a reunion weekend, and to recognize the ministry impact that the camp continues to have. Come for a day, or for the weekend, and visit with new and old friends. To register, call (540) 886-0771, or visit www.cbcrsda.com.



Todd Mace Participates in Microsoft Unveiling

Todd Mace (pictured), conference Information Systems director and a certified Microsoft trainer, was recently invited to participate in the Microsoft "Ready for a New Day Launch Tour 2007" held January 30 in Washington, D.C. He was one of four selected to serve as "Ask the Experts" staff, and to answer attendees' hot-topic questions for the unveiling of the new Windows Vista and Exchange Server 2007.



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

A Tough Decision Made Easy

Going to a boarding high school is not an easy decision for some students. Being away from family and old friends, and going into a new and unknown environment...well, it can be an emotional and challenging decision.

Here are five criteria we think you and your parents should consider when making a decision:

- Chose a school that is safe—physically, spiritually, and socially.
- Find a school where you can develop a loving, saving relationship with Jesus.
- Choose a school that will turn your academic abilities into academic accomplishments.
- Look for an environment that will grow your confidence and self-sufficiency.
- Select a school where you will enjoy wholesome fun with Christian friends.

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) has been providing quality education for nearly 100 years.

We believe our program meets these criteria, and more. We invite you to pay us a visit and discover the benefits SVA will pay you.



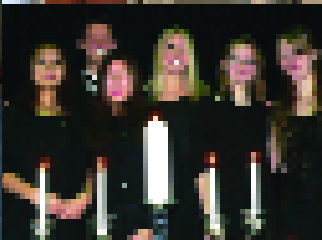
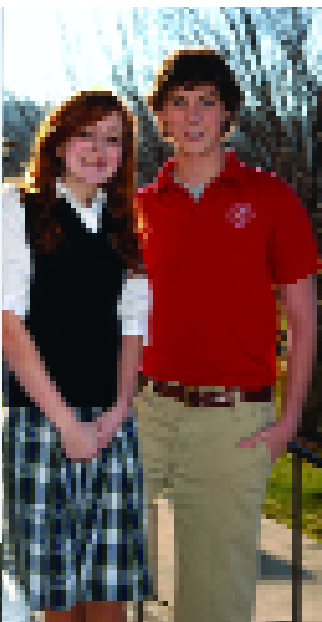
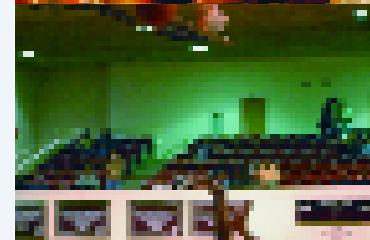
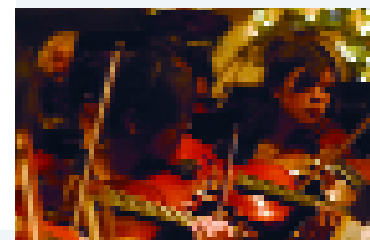
Dale Twomley, PhD
Principal

12 Reasons to Attend SVA

There are 12 very good reasons why high schoolers should attend SVA.

1. There are programs and activities to enhance students' love and relationship with Jesus, and with each other.
2. There are opportunities to share the gospel, and help relieve the suffering and hardships of others.
3. There are dual-credit classes enabling students to complete up to one year of college upon graduating.
4. No Adventist student will be turned away because of finances.
5. Merit scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year are offered to students with high academic abilities and performance.
6. There is friendship and security of a campus family that meet every day to bond and pray.

7. Counseling is available to understand abilities, interests, aptitudes, and accomplishments in selecting career options.
8. There is a wide range of music and sports organizations available.
9. There is a curriculum to develop Christian character traits.
10. There is a work-study program to help develop good work ethics.
11. There is a partial dorm program enabling freshmen and sophomores to be home on most weekends.
12. There is remedial help, tutoring, and supervised study periods when needed.



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

www.ta.edu TATODAY MARCH 2007

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Alumni Weekend to Feature Fundraising Concert

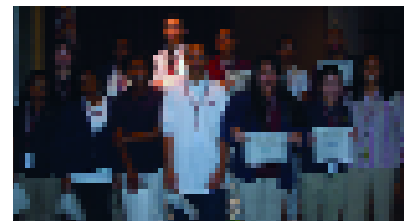
On Saturday evening, April 28, Takoma Academy will hold a special concert to raise money for student scholarships. This concert coincides with the school's alumni weekend, and faculty and staff are hoping for a good turnout. Much support is needed to provide scholarships for those students that need financial assistance in order to attend the school.

Recording artists the Garth Gabriel Singers are known for their tight harmony, musical excellence, and spirituality. The Singers recently expanded their ministry by teaming up with other very talented and spiritually gifted artists including Dana Reed of "The Reeding Room" ministries and a three-time Dove Award nominee; and another Dove Award nominee and dynamic vocalist Gale West, who also performs a Christian comedienne routine as "Ms. Puddin."

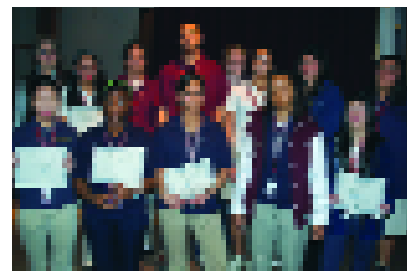
The concert will start at 8 p.m. in the JP Laurence Auditorium (gymnasium). The cost for each ticket will be \$10 and all proceeds, after expenses, will go directly to the JP Laurence Scholarship Fund. Tickets are available at the school and the Potomac Adventist Book Center. The night of the concert, tickets will be available after 8 p.m. Please come out and support this very special program.

Academic Awards Presented

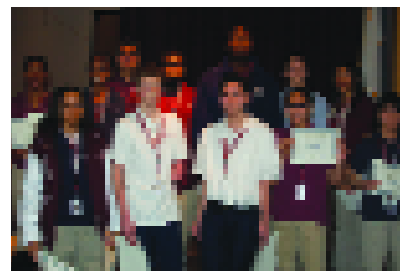
Takoma Academy (TA) recently celebrated the various achievements of its students during its special Academic Awards Assembly. Each teacher was asked to provide the name of their "best" student, and to provide other awards for "most improved," "outstanding effort," and other designations. The following photos provide a small demonstration of the 156 awards given.



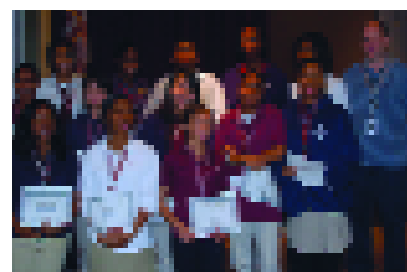
Karohn Young (front row, far right), Language Arts instructor, with her award recipients.



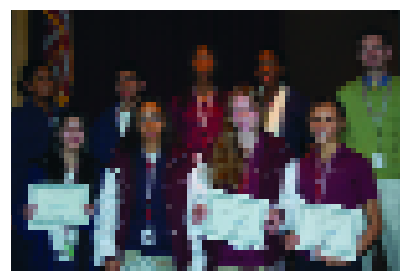
Art instructor Marquita Halstead (back row, far left) with her award winners.



David Hooker (back row, third from left), science instructor, proudly presents his award recipients.



Math instructor Todd Nelson (back row, far right) with his award recipients.



Music instructor Tim Vandeman (back row, far right) with his award winners.

TA Events

March

- 4 Tae Kwon Do Exhibition
- 9-19 Foreign Language Trip to Spain
- 19 TA Finance and Board Meeting
- 29, 30 Semester Exams
- 30, 31 Potomac Conference Music Festival at TA

April

- 27 Alumni Golf Tournament
- 27, 28 Alumni Weekend
- 28 Fundraising Concert, 8 p.m.

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

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Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background, or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies:

1. Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or application because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
2. Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution.
3. Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age, or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
4. Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered.
5. Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Adventist School, Calvary Adventist School, DuPont Park Junior Academy, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jesse R. Wagner Adventist School, Mount Olivet Adventist School, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Adventist School, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Adventist Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist School, Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School, Berkeley Springs Seventh-day Adventist School, Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School, Crossroads Seventh-day Adventist School, Eastern Shore Junior Academy, Frederick Seventh-day Adventist School, Friendship Seventh-day Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Martin Barr Seventh-day Adventist

School, Mount Aetna Seventh-day Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Seventh-day Adventist School, Wilmington Junior Academy

Mountain View—Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop Adventist School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Adventist School, Valley View Adventist School

New Jersey—Cohansey Adventist School, Collingwood Park Adventist School, Delaware Valley Jr. Academy, Lake Nelson Adventist School, Meadow View Jr. Academy, Parkway South Christian School, Tranquility Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Cincinnati Junior Academy, Clarksfield Seventh-day Adventist School, Eastwood Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Elyria Christian Academy (Satellite), Ham-Mid Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School, Lima Seventh-day Adventist School, Mansfield Seventh-day Adventist School, Mayfair Junior Academy, Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist School, Newark Seventh-day Adventist School, Piqua Seventh-day Adventist School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Junior Academy, Twin Oaks Seventh-day Adventist School, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville Seventh-day Adventist School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Elementary School, Fairview Village Adventist School, Gettysburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Irvin Comstock Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Lake Erie Seventh-day Adventist School, Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School, Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Reading Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Richland Christian School, Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, York Seventh-day Adventist School

Potomac—Appomattox Seventh-day Adventist School, Beltsville Adventist School, C. F. Richards Junior Academy, Danville Seventh-day Adventist School, Desmond T. Doss Seventh-day Adventist Jr. Academy, Echo Valley Christian School, J. N. Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Richmond Academy, Powell Valley Christian School, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, Robert A. Lewis Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley Seventh-day Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, Vienna Adventist Academy, Yale Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Shenandoah Valley Academy.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, April 22, 2007, in the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905. This meeting is held for the election of officers and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, March 11, 2007, at the conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

Robert T. Vandeman, *President*
Charles J. Griffin, *Secretary*

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20905, at 11 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Robert T. Vandeman, *President*
Charles J. Griffin, *Secretary*

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held

	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30	Apr 6
Baltimore	6:07	7:14	7:21	7:28	7:35
Cincinnati	6:39	7:46	7:53	8:00	8:06
Cleveland	6:26	7:34	7:42	7:49	7:57
Columbus	6:32	7:40	7:47	7:54	8:01
Jersey City	5:56	7:04	7:11	7:19	7:26
Norfolk	6:07	7:13	7:19	7:25	7:32
Parkersburg	6:27	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:55
Philadelphia	6:01	7:08	7:15	7:23	7:30
Pittsburgh	6:20	7:27	7:35	7:42	7:49
Reading	6:04	7:11	7:19	7:26	7:33
Richmond	6:11	7:18	7:24	7:31	7:37
Roanoke	6:21	7:28	7:34	7:40	7:47
Toledo	6:34	7:42	7:50	7:57	8:05
Trenton	5:59	7:07	7:14	7:21	7:28
Wash., D.C.	6:09	7:16	7:23	7:30	7:36

SUNSET CALENDAR

in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11:30 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact any other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Robert T. Vandeman, *President*
Sheri Tydings, *Secretary*

POTOMAC ADVENTIST PRISON MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MIDTERM REGULAR BUSINESS SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the Potomac Adventist Prison Ministry Organization (PAPMO) Midterm Regular Business Session will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Meadowbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7410 Pole Green Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

This meeting is held for the purpose of reviewing the affairs of PAPMO and transacting such other business as may properly

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be brought before the assembly. During the quadrennial business session, the PAPMO Personal and Household membership shall meet specifically for the purpose of electing officers and an executive committee.

Hector Cruz, President
Dell Peterkin, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

at the La Mesa Adventist Community Church, La Mesa, Calif., Sabbath, May 5. A full orchestra and choir presentation, "I Can Only Imagine," will lead the worship in two thrilling services, one at 9 a.m. and the second at 11:30 a.m. Seating is free—but reservations are required. Call (619) 461-5703 for service and seating information.

A REUNION IS PLANNED

for everyone who attended Nashville Junior Academy or Greater NJA in Nashville, Tenn. It is scheduled for April 21-22, at the Bordeaux Adventist Church. Please bring pictures and any memorabilia you have from your school days. For more information contact Barbara (Bailey) Pearce at (615) 868-6419 or Marie Christian at marielizab@juno.com.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION—

The Atholton Church, located in Columbia, Md., will be celebrating 50 years in God's service the weekend of April 27-29. All former members and friends are encouraged to join us. Needed: pictures, missionaries, and musicians that were former members. For more information, call (410) 997-8093 or visit our website at www.atholton.org.

COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI WEEKEND—

April 13-15—D.C. and campus tours, concerts, banquets, great memories. Honoring classes of 1997, 1987, 1982, 1977, 1967, 1957, 1947, 1937. Reserve your place: alumni@cuc.edu or (301) 891-4133.

STONECAVE HOMECOMING ASSOCIATION

is pleased to announce Homecoming 2007, July 11-15, in Chattanooga, Tenn. If you once attended the (former) Adventist academies: Stonecave, Castle Valley, Stoneybrook, or Beautiful Valley, we invite you to come to rebuild friendships, reconnect with classmates, and reunite with alumni. Featuring Penny Turner for our ladies' retreat and Bill Young for our homecoming special. For more information: (863) 385-1856 or www.beautiful-stonecavecastleassoc.org.

NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE SINGLES MINISTRY ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT, March 16-18, at The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort, 1 River Road, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356. Speakers: James and Rise Rafferty (and others). You must register by March 9 to attend, as space is limited. Contact Marshall Ann Grant, NJC Singles Ministry Leader, email marshellann.grant@gmail.com or cell (908) 672-5533.

OBITUARIES

AMBROSE, Dottie, born January 15, 1936; died December 23, 2006, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. She is survived by her husband, Fred Ambrose; her son, John Ambrose; her daughter, Anita Whitesides; and granddaughter Julie Quackenbush.

BOWMAN, Sharon, born May 15, 1915, in Ponds ville, Md.; died December 25, 2006, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Bowman; his two daughters, Shawna Taylor and Janice Bowman; and a granddaughter, Sherrie Manison.

REDMAN (Hoffman), Ruth V., born September 9, 1917, in Libertytown, Md.; died August 29, 2006, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. In the 1940's Ruth and her husband, Irving, were instrumental in building the Frederick church located on North Market Street in Frederick, Md. Ruth is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Lawrence I. and Diane L. Redman; granddaughters Leah D. McClure of Barre, Vt., and Joan L. Standish of Yucaipa, Calif.; and great-granddaughter, Georgia L. Standish of Yucaipa.

SPENCER, Bessie J., born April 7, 1922, in Williamsport, Pa.; died September 13, 2006, in Williamsport, Pa. She was a member of the Williamsport church. Survivors: her three sons—William, Raymond, and Roger Spencer; and her daughter, Yvonne Spencer.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION

For information on placing an obituary in the *Visitor*, please contact Sandra Jones by phone

(888) 4-VISITOR, or email

sjones@columbiaunion.net

and request a submission form. Obituaries are placed in the order they are received, on a

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MISSION TRIPS

The Adventist orphanage in Santa Barbara, Honduras, is the destination for both of this year's unionwide mission trips:

July 12-22 for high school students and July 29-August 5 for college students and young adults.

For additional information, and an application, contact the Chesapeake Conference Youth Department at (410) 995-1910 or (301) 596-5600.

A completed application and \$200 deposit will reserve one of the 34 available spots.

Total trip cost: \$1,100

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If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, visit our website at www.wjasda.org, complete an application, and forward it along with a current resume to the Chesapeake Conference Education Dept., 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

Feel free to call:

Tom Clark, board chairman, (302) 832-6832, Keith Acker, youth pastor, (302) 354-9050, or Geoff Hyde, principal, (302) 377-3135.

Application deadline: Friday, March 30.

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MISSION STATEMENT
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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PENNSYLVANIA: Ray Hartwell, President; Tamyra Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent; 720 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611. Tel. (610) 374-8331 • www.paconference.org

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ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO; Ray Tetz, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1801 Research Blvd., Suite 400, Rockville, MD 20850. Tel. (301) 315-3030 www.adventisthealthcare.com

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Heavenly-Minded But No Earthly Good!

There is a simple rule to determine if a town is a suburb within a metropolitan area or a small town out in the country. It is a suburb if the majority of the employed adults commute across the county line toward the nearest city.



What does this mean? Let me illustrate with a real-life story. We were preparing for a major metropolitan evangelism campaign a few years ago, and a letter went out to all of the churches in the metro area asking them to participate. One pastor wrote back, "We are not in said location so our church board decided not to help." I quickly checked the demographics with the U.S. Census website and found that more than two-thirds of that pastor's neighbors drive to jobs in the city every day. Remember, the average American spends more waking hours at work than home.

For our largest metro areas, the outer suburbs can be in the next state, literally. For example, Hackettstown, N.J., is an outer suburb of New York City. Most of the employed adults in that county drive or ride the train across the county line toward Manhattan to work. But it can easily take up to two hours to drive from Manhattan on the interstate to Hackettstown. Along the way, there are a number of farms and forests.

Urban systems, ultimately, are not about physical structures or how much cement has been laid down. They are about people and human relationships.

TRUE RELIGION

In order to accomplish the mission that Jesus has assigned to His remnant church, we cannot glide blissfully along and ignore significant relationships. If we become so wrapped up in our own spiritual life and learning the Bible for ourselves, that we lose touch with the realities of life around us, we become what my father calls "so heavenly-minded that we are no earthly good."

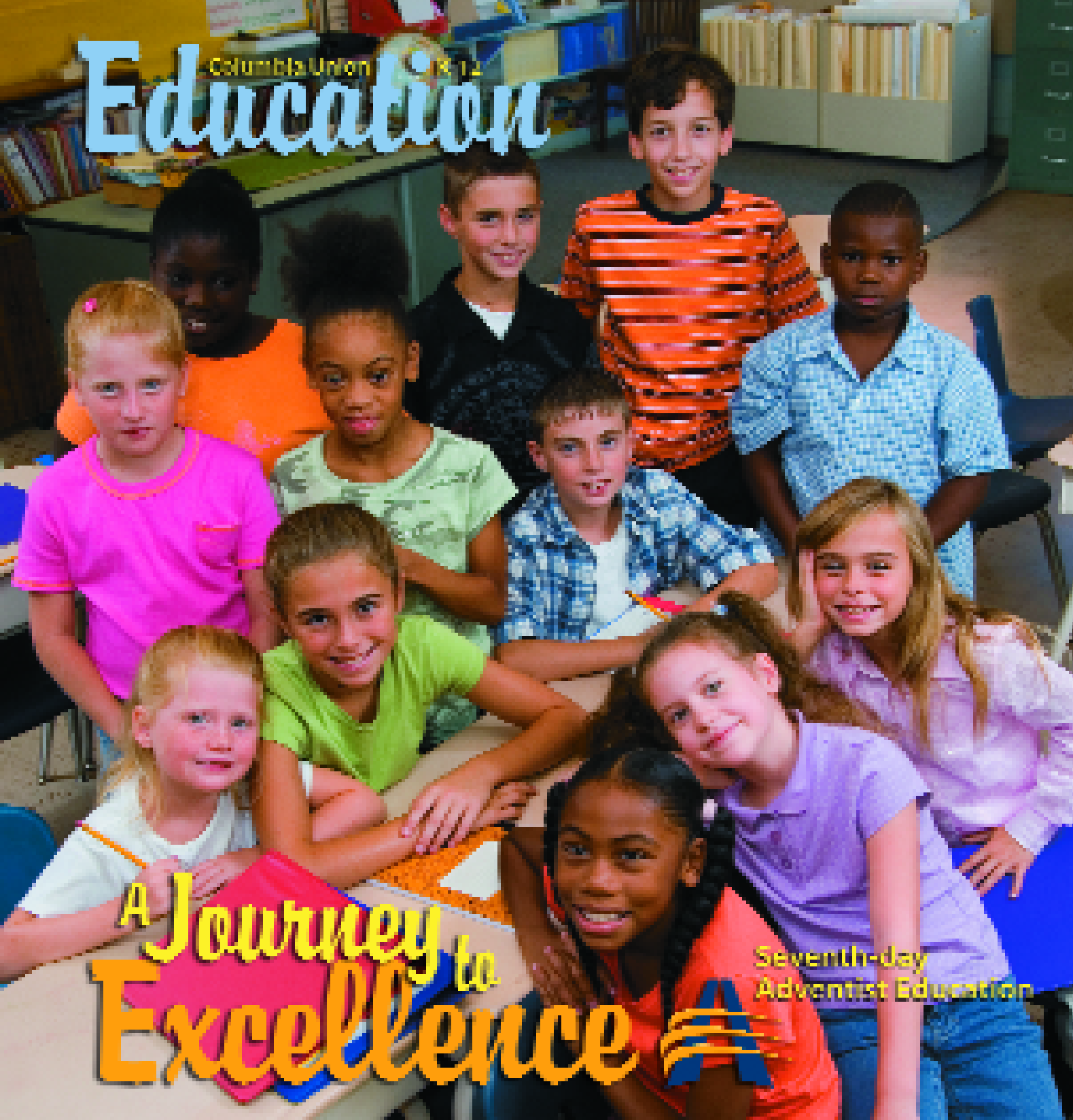
In fact it's not heavenly-mindedness at all. It is counterfeit religion. "True religion," according to James 1:27 is recognizing, paying attention to, and taking care of the needs of people around us—the "widows and orphans," symbols at the time of the most marginalized in contemporary society—and we cannot practice that "true religion" if we blind ourselves to the realities in the lives of our neighbors.

Open your eyes. Take a look at the community where you live through the eyes of Christ. Take a serious look at the realities and the needs. Then ask yourself—and while you're at it, your Sabbath School class and your church board—what would Jesus have us do?

Monte Sahlin (msahlin@columbiaunion.net) is vice president for Creative Ministries at the Columbia Union Conference.

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