

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

APRIL 2007 • VOLUME 117 • NUMBER 4

Focus on Evangelism

Richard Rajaramthinam
and the 10 Church Project

*Missions Thrive
Abroad and at Home*

PLUS
HOW TO WITNESS
WITHOUT
EMBARRASSING
GOD





8

News & Features

8 | Pastors Reap a Harvest in India

Celeste Ryan Blyden

India was the destination of a recent overseas evangelism trip for union administrators, pastors, and laypeople. Read about their fascinating experiences and the harvest reaped for Christ.

12 | Richard Rajarathinam: Taste for Evangelism

Celeste Ryan Blyden

Read about the work Richard Rajarathinam and his fellow Burnt Mills church members are doing in his native India.

14 | “Tell The World—Tell Them Now”

Larry G. Boggess

The Mountain View Conference’s new evangelism initiative involves each of the Columbia Union’s eight conferences. See how this joint venture will come together.

16 | Trust and Obey

There are many lay evangelists who speak, teach, and preach throughout the Columbia Union. Meet three.

18 | How to Witness Without Embarrassing God

Frank Bondurant

As Christians, we are commissioned to spread the gospel. Find out how you, too, can witness *and* evangelize.

In Every Issue

3 | Editorial

4 | Newslines

6 | Potluck

20 | Member Profile

Newsletters

27 Allegheny East

29 Allegheny West

31 Chesapeake

33 Columbia Union College

35 Highland View Academy

37 Mountain View

39 Mt. Vernon Academy

41 New Jersey

43 Ohio

45 Pennsylvania

47 Potomac

49 Shenandoah Valley Academy

51 Takoma Academy

55 | Bulletin Board

59 | Last Words

About the Cover: Columbia Union business owner and lay leader Richard Rajarathinam. Photo by Richard Herard.

Evangelism: What’s Standing in Our Way?

“Can this be true?” I asked. “Yes.”
 “Are you sure?” I pressed. “Yes, it is true,” came the reply.
 This was a truly puzzling and disheartening development. Here I had traveled some 12,000 miles to witness this very special event, and now something or someone was preventing it from happening.



For months Richard Rajarathinam, a member and lay leader at the Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md., had been inviting me to visit his home state in India, where he was engaged in a soul-winning and church-building effort (see story, page 12). Our plans finally came together during my trip on behalf of the Columbia Union Conference’s Missions Abroad initiative, and this was the day.

Dozens of people from remote villages—three vanloads—were expected to arrive at any minute to be baptized in the river. For 11 months they had taken Bible studies, and they’d just finished evangelistic meetings led by Burnt Mills pastor Wallace Frost, his wife Maryanne, and a recently baptized member, Solangé Delbeau, who was getting her first taste of frontline evangelism.

“Their way is blocked,” I was told. “Village leaders are preventing them from coming to the baptism.” *This can’t be happening.* I thought. *What should we do? Should we drive to their location and try to aid in their passage?* Somehow we knew that the only thing we could do was place the matter before our Ultimate Leader and Heavenly Commissioner, who had sent us to baptize (see Matthew 28:19, 20).



Circled under the shade of banana trees, our little group pleaded with God to see the people through this controversy. Within the hour our answer came; the villagers—undaunted—had found another route. Now, in groups of six, they proudly took their stand for Jesus Christ. When the baptism was finished, another group arrived, and more soon followed. People kept coming to be baptized, and we praised the Lord for His victory.

NOT JUST IN INDIA

Later as I reflected on this incident, I wondered if people in the Columbia Union have also been impeded from coming to Christ. Not a physical prevention, it might occur in other ways. Let me explain.

I’ve seen many, many people come to Christ, not just in India, but in Roanoke, Va., where I conducted meetings last year; in Lewisburg, W.Va., where I’m currently preaching a series; and in our local churches. It happens when lay members—working with dedicated pastors and Bible workers—effectively and unashamedly share their faith with friends, work associates, and family members. Invited to study the Bible and experience the preaching of God’s Word, the contact—influenced by the Holy Spirit—accepts God’s truth and becomes a disciple of Christ.

Amazingly, some people perceive this method to be ineffective and outdated in the 21st century, hence my concern about impediments keeping people in our communities from being baptized. It might well be our own perceptions or *misperceptions* at work, keeping us from realizing greater growth in our churches.

When Manassas (Va.) church members helped Pastor Joey Pollom conduct a series, using the method previously described, they were blessed with 25 baptisms! “Now the congregation is on fire for Christ!” says Pollom, which is equally exciting.

My prayer is that we’ll allow God to remove the cognitive impediments that are preventing us from reaping a plentiful harvest. “... The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matt. 9:37, NKJV).

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference. Watch video stories and read blogs about the India, Lewisburg, W.Va., and Manassas, Va., efforts at columbiaunion.org.

LAVERNE HENDERSON

Two CUC Administrators to Leave

Columbia Union College (CUC) president **Randal Wisbey, DMin**, has accepted



the invitation of La Sierra University (Calif.) to become their next

president, effective July 1.

Wisbey has served CUC for a combined 13 years—1985 to 1991 as chaplain and assistant professor of religion, and since 2000 as president. During his tenure, CUC has seen a net increase of students, faculty, and donations; developed and implemented an aggressive strategic plan; reorganized its School of Graduate and Professional Studies; renovated the women's residence hall; worked effectively with the Maryland Independent College and University Association and the state of Maryland; celebrated its centennial; and is successfully working toward funding the construction of a much-needed music education building—its first new building in nearly 40 years.

"I am deeply proud of the faculty and staff, along with the students who complete this campus and help fulfill its mission each year," Wisbey wrote in a letter to the campus family.

"Dr. Wisbey has such a deep commitment to Adventist higher education," said Columbia Union Conference president and CUC Board chair Dave Weigley. "The college, board, and Columbia Union have benefited

greatly from his forward-looking, forward-thinking leadership. This change provides a tremendous way for him to continue to serve the church and follow God's call on his life."

To fill this vacancy, a search committee, consisting of board members, faculty, staff, and students, will begin its work immediately.

Also, **Robert Young, PhD**, Columbia Union College vice president for Academic Administration, has accepted an invitation to serve as senior vice president for Academic Administration at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., beginning in June. Young has served CUC for 26 years—18 as a faculty member and eight as an administrator.

"We are all beneficiaries of his talent, hard work, and dedication; and as much as we will miss him, we also wish him God's blessings at Southern," says Wisbey.

"I am grateful that this calling has allowed me to work in a number of roles at Columbia Union College in service and ministry to students, faculty, staff, and the larger constituency of the Columbia Union," Young stated.

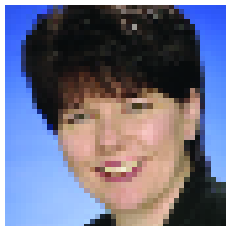
Young taught many hundreds of students in a variety of subjects, including immunohematology, immunology, clinical chemistry, renal physiology, mycology, parasitology, and more recently, research methods and statistics.—*Scott Steward*



Shady Grove President to Leave

Deborah Yancer, president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital

in Rockville, Md., since 2000, has accepted the chief executive officer position at



Enloe Medical Center in Chico, Calif., beginning this month.

"While I am very excited about the opportunity to provide healthcare services to the broader Chico community, I am sad to leave Shady Grove and Adventist HealthCare," Yancer said. "It has been my privilege to serve our community alongside such incredible medical personnel, leadership, staff, and volunteers. The hospital will always hold a special place in my heart."

Bill Robertson, president and chief executive officer of Adventist HealthCare, recruited Yancer seven years ago. "Debi has had numerous accomplishments including overseeing the opening of Maryland's first free-standing emergency medical facility in Germantown and leading the planning and design for the new patient tower, which opens in November at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital," he said. "The legacy of her leadership ... will live on."

Dennis Hansen, vice president and chief operating officer, will serve as interim president throughout the selection process.—*Jennifer Gilroy*

"We Have This Hope" Composer Dies

Wayne Hooper, composer of the hymn "We Have This

Hope," died recently at his home in Thousand Oaks, Calif., at age 86.

Hooper, who wrote both the words and music to the popular hymn, later said of the experience, "This is the one time in my life that I feel very certain that I was 'given' the musical ideas from the Lord." His best-known work, "We Have This Hope," was created as the theme song for the 1962 Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference



Session in San Francisco. It was again used for the 1966, 1975, 1995, and 2000 General Conference sessions.

Hooper worked with the Voice of Prophecy, a supporting media ministry of the Adventist Church, for some 65 years after initially joining the King's Heralds, as a baritone, in 1943. His prolific career included hundreds of compositions and arrangements for soloists, quartets, choirs, and orchestras.—*Voice of Prophecy/ANN Staff*

Delaware Valley Metro Ministries Hosts Constituency Meeting

The first constituency meeting of the Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center (AHRC) was held recently in Philadelphia. AHRC is the metro ministries agency of the Adventist Church in the Delaware Valley. It was set up in 2002 by pastors of the Allegheny East and Pennsylvania conferences and is comprised of 21 constituent churches and organizations.

The selection of an 11-member board, in addition to six pastors—three from each conference—was the main order of business. Currently



Minnie McNeil, Adventist Community Services, Prison and Women's Ministries director, and Inner City coordinator for the Allegheny East Conference, serves as chair of the board. Ron Wylie, executive director of Adventist Community Services Greater Washington, is serving part time as executive director.

In another highlight, **Monte Sahlin**, former Columbia Union Conference vice president for Creative Ministries, was given a humanitarian award by AHRC.

Symposium Reviews Affects of Prayer on Healing

A recent "Spirituality in Medicine" symposium, held at Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) in Takoma Park, Md., explored the healing power of prayer on patients. The event, which drew nearly 140 attendees, focused on studies incorporating faith and medicine. Results showed that patients who received prayer fared better than those receiving standard medical care.

Ismael Gama, director for Mission and Pastoral Care at WAH, helped organize the symposium; along with Mark Turco, MD, FACC, FSCAI, director of the Center for Cardiac & Vascular Research; and Harish Vaidya, CNMT-NCT.—*Alberto Valenzuela*

Youth Attend Worldwide Prayer Conference

Approximately 5,200 teens and young adults from all over the nation, and 42 countries, registered for the first "Just Claim It" world youth prayer conference last month. Delegates took advantage of the more than 225 workshops held throughout the Dallas Convention Center. One group learned more about homelessness as Columbia Union pastor Darriel Hoy, executive director of Baltimore Adventist Community Services, led them to a shelter where they distributed previously prepared care packages to residents. And the Sabbath crowd, estimated at 12,000, enjoyed an afternoon parade, which featured Genesis to Revelation floats designed by Pathfinder clubs and academies.—*Kristina Pascual*



Marcia Raglin, of the Dayton (Ohio) Eagles Pathfinder team, thoroughly enjoyed the "Just Claim It" parade and floats.

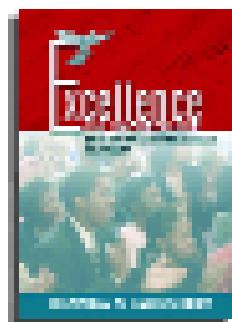
Web Watch: For more news, visit www.columbiaunion.org.

What's New?

Books > Excellence in Worship: Should Church Musicians Be Paid?

Should church musicians be paid a set salary from the tithes and offerings, or should they just accept whatever pay the church chooses to offer? Is this biblical?

Darrell R. Alexander, RN, demystifies the answers to these and many frequently asked



questions in his first published book.

Alexander, a database administrator consultant, is an active musician at Allegheny East's North Philadelphia church. The accomplished pianist and

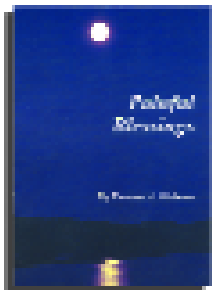
organist has more than 30 years' experience as a church music clinician and is founder and CEO of the Worldwide Registry of Church Musicians, LLC. A former director of Pine Forge Academy Choir (1997-1998) in Pine Forge, Pa., he has also accompanied numerous world-renowned artists such as Shirley Caesar and Bebe and Cece Winans. He has even produced three of his own CD projects.

Order Alexander's book or music at his website, www.werocm.com, and find out where he will be conducting several workshops in the near future. The book is also available at bookstores, including Adventist Book Centers.

Painful Blessings

"There are many people in, as well as out of, the church who

have been plagued by one of the things God hates the most—divorce and broken relationships," says Vernon A. Holman, first-time author and member of Allegheny West's Hillcrest Avenue church in Dayton, Ohio.



After experiencing such loss, Holman decided to help other sufferers journey through the healing process. This 30-page booklet is "about real-life personal experiences and discoveries, and how God has helped me cope on a daily basis," says the father and retired firefighter.

The booklet is filled with Christ's promises and Holman's inspirational photography. A semi-professional photographer, Holman's work has appeared in numerous publications, such as the *Visitor*, *Message*, *Ebony*, and *Jet* magazines. He has even toured with the Jacksons, Muhammad Ali, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu—to name a few—on photo assignment.

Order the booklet by sending a check directly to Holman at Painful Blessings, P.O. Box 60402, Dayton, OH 45406. The cost is \$5.95 each, plus \$1.25 S&H.

WholeHealth

Know Your Numbers

It's April again, and most of us have spent hours reviewing numbers—social security numbers, wages, tax deductions, and credits—in an effort to reduce that bottom-line number on our tax

return. But how many of us are paying attention to some other important numbers that can add, not just money to our bank account, but years to our lives?

Knowing what our cholesterol, blood pressure, waist circumference, and BMI (body mass index) are—and what they should be—is the first step to reducing our risk factors for diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

Ideally, total cholesterol should be less than 160 mg/dl, LDL (bad) cholesterol under 90 mg/dl, and HDL (good) cholesterol over 45 mg/dl. An optimal blood pressure is below 120/80 mmHg. Waist circumference (at your umbilicus) should be less than 35 inches if you are female and less than 40 inches if you are



male. Body mass index, a ratio of your height and weight, is determined with a BMI calculator you can find on the Internet. Each of these numbers can be personalized for you and your health goals, in partnership with your healthcare provider.

Now that the tax returns are filed, let's start keeping track of the numbers that can save our lives!—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Network

5 Minutes With > Elaine Graham-Kennedy



really hopes all of this will do for Adventist families:

Did dinosaurs really live and how do you know?

Yes! Dinosaurs really lived! We've found dinosaur bones, tracks, and eggs worldwide. The bones provide us with a sense of the variety of dinosaurs: theropods (the carnivores

or meat-eaters) like the T. rex; sauropods (the big ones) like Diplodocus; ornithopods ("bird"-like feet) like the hadrosaurs or duck-billed dinosaurs; and armored dinosaurs like the Triceratops and Stegosaurus. The bones by themselves are not enough evidence. The tracks assure us that these animals were alive and walking across the ground, while the eggs indicate they were breeding.

Why have you pursued a study of dinosaurs?

My expertise is in the sediments where the bones, tracks, and eggs are found. So naturally, as I worked the dirt, I learned quite a bit. I've always liked fossils, and dinosaurs are fascinating! Who wouldn't want to study them?

What's your goal?

I have a number of goals, but right now my number one goal is to write books about earth science and the Christian faith for the children of our church. I want to get our kids excited

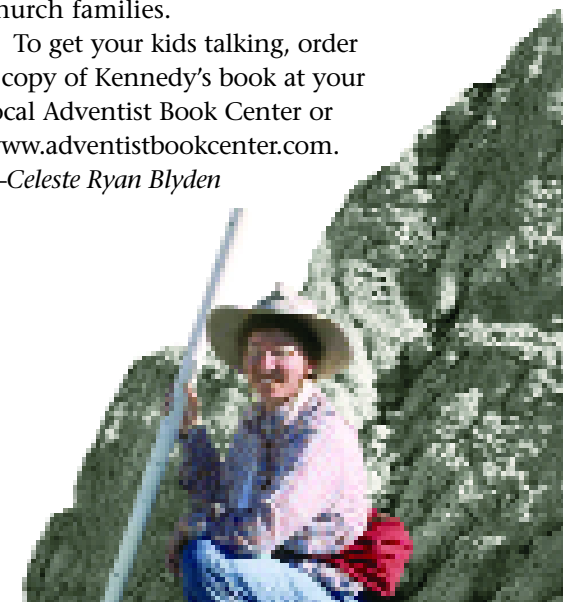
about digging in dirt for God! Seriously, they need to know that whatever they do in life needs to be done for Him. Most importantly, they need to learn to think for themselves. I've really worked hard to get that point across in the book.

What do you want Adventists to learn and understand about dinosaurs?

Hopefully, as they look at the bones of these animals, Adventists will come to see the majesty, power, creativity, and love of God. I also hope that the book will bring parents, teachers, and pastors together with their children. Perhaps they will better understand the development of their children's faith as they talk about the information in the book and their own views. I know that even with my kids, we read the Bible stories every evening and prayed together, but I don't recall listening to them talk about their faith and walk with God. I pray this book changes that for our church families.

To get your kids talking, order a copy of Kennedy's book at your local Adventist Book Center or www.adventistbookcenter.com.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden





MADURAI, INDIA — Bob Banks preached in a soccer field. Debbie Eisele preached in the village square, as did Clifford Wright. Kevin Kuehmichel preached in someone's back yard with goats gracing the audience (pictured).

They were among the two dozen Columbia Union pastors and lay members (pictured below) who recently traveled to India and conducted evangelism-reaping meetings that yielded 419 new disciples for Jesus Christ. The participants—from the Allegheny East, Mountain View, Ohio, and Potomac conferences—spent two weeks ministering in 13 villages outside the southern Indian city of Madurai.



Though local pastors and Bible workers had prepared the way—it wasn't easy. "There are hundreds of villages where Christianity has not been introduced and is not easily accepted," says Franklin David, pastor of Potomac's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., and coordinator of the effort.

Manassas, Va., pastor Joey Pollom, accompanied by his wife, Sarah, preached in one such village. "The last time anyone tried to do a meeting here was six years ago, and the people literally threw stones at the person," he says.

Henry Fordham, executive secretary of the Allegheny East Conference, ministering in India for the eighth time, preached in another. "Satan was angry!" he says. "Several of our meetings were closed down—mine on the first evening. The village leaders said the people didn't want us there and demanded that we leave. But the people said they *did* want us and demanded that the meetings resume."

And so they did. Each day the evangelists, some clothed in traditional Indian garb, made their way to the villages to conduct VBS-style meetings for the children. "Hundreds of kids would attend, and we'd teach them how to sing songs like 'Jesus Loves Me' and 'Wide, Wide is the Ocean,'" recalls Susy Solomon, a nurse and Bible worker, also from the Southern Asian church. "I just felt one with them because they also want to see Jesus come in the clouds of heaven."

Eisele, a pastor at Potomac's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., joined by her husband,



Columbia Union Pastors Reap a Harvest for Christ

Soccer Fields, Back Yards, and Village Squares

Celeste Ryan Blyden

India 2007

Through the Missions Abroad initiative, Columbia Union members can support and participate in evangelism work around the world. This year our focus is on India, where there are only 1 million Adventist believers among 1 billion people. There is great poverty, great need, and great opportunity to build up God's kingdom. We need your help to complete the following projects this year (see next page):

Herbert, also found her interaction with the children a rewarding entering wedge. “We went in and played with the children all afternoon, and by evening the parents said, ‘We love you because you love our children.’ As a result they came and listened and were hungry for more,” she says.

To feed them, each evangelist mingled with the people and visited their homes, prayed with them and for them, and presented spiritual truths. Robert Michael, pastor of three West Virginia

churches and director of Adventist Community Services for Mountain View, enjoyed fellowshiping and eating meals in the home of a 100-year-old man and his family. Kuehmichel, pastor of Ohio’s Walk of Faith Fellowship in Cleveland, made friends with the village chief. Rick Jordan, pastor of Potomac’s Woodbridge (Va.) church was amazed by a man who suffered from leprosy but always had a big smile on his face. “He was like a modern-day Andrew; he went around the village telling the people about the meetings and asking everyone to come,” he says. “I praise the Lord that, at the end, he asked for baptism.”

Hyattsville (Md.) church pastor Ebenezer Samuel, also of Potomac, pastored in the region more than 20 years ago and was glad to return: “It was such a humbling experience to go into the homes and pray with the people, and tell them about God,” he says.

“At the end of the meetings, our sound engineer said he wanted to be baptized and that he had 30 people from his village who also want to be baptized,” says Donna Holland, church planter of Potomac’s Living Water Fellowship in Virginia Beach, Va.

On the closing Sabbath, she joined her husband, Glenn Holland, pastor of the Norfolk (Va.) church, at a small Adventist church, where people from several villages gathered (pictured above). After the

Bob Banks, pastor of the Patterson Avenue and Far West End churches in Richmond, Va., prepares to deliver Bibles to new believers.



It was really something to see how, in such a short time, you could have an impact on the children, and they could have an impact on you.—Clifford Wright (left), Pastor of Ohio’s Lakewood church

worship service, they rejoiced as many of the people they had worked and prayed with were baptized in the stone tank outside the church.

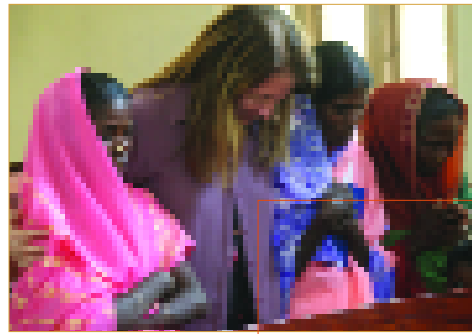
“This provides a beautiful example of what can happen when pastors and lay people unite with the Holy Spirit to move the kingdom of God forward,” says Columbia Union president Dave Weigley, who visited the evangelists in their respective villages to witness baptisms.

“The difference with this effort is that our home sponsoring churches have committed to build a

church in every village where there were baptisms,” Pastor David notes. He says it costs \$2,500 to build a church that seats 100 people. Some of the visiting pastors plan to return to India next year after the churches are built to see how the new disciples of Christ—their new friends—are growing in their newfound faith.

Web Watch: See more photos and a video story at www.columbiaunion.org.

Debbie Eisele, a pastor at Sligo church, spends a moment in prayer with her baptismal candidates.



PHOTOGRAPHY: DEBBIE EISELE, HENRY FORDHAM, VISITOR STAFF



Above: Henry Fordham, executive secretary of the Allegheny East Conference, prepares to baptize a new believer.

How You Can Help

Project #1: Hold three evangelistic meetings in Chennai, fall 2007, \$18,000.

Project #2: Remodel Adventist elementary school in Phulriwal, summer 2007, \$2,500.

Project #3: Build new girls’ dorm for Jalandhar Elementary/Secondary School, 2007-08, \$60,000.

Project #4: Provide three neonatal ICU beds for Adventist Medical Centre in Bangalore, 2007, \$16,800.

To volunteer, email dweigley@columbiaunion.net or call (410) 997-3414, ext. 203. To financially support any of these projects, send your tax-deductible donations payable to Columbia Union Conference, 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045. In the memo line, write “For India 2007” and the project number. Look for follow-up articles in the *Visitor*.—Dave Weigley

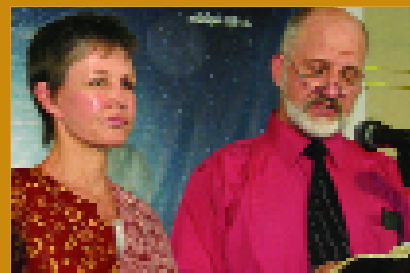


Richard Rajarathinam Taste for Evangelism

Celeste Ryan Blyden

A few hours northwest of Madurai in the Erode district, another group of Columbia Union members were hard at work in the villages preaching, operating a health and vision clinic, praying for people, and anointing them.

Burnt Mills (Silver Spring, Md.) church member Richard Rajarathinam and his family, retired pastor John Willmott, and Pastor Wallace Frost and his wife, Maryanne (pictured right), hosted these meetings in the region where Rajarathinam's father was raised. They also collaborated with



church leaders and Bible workers in the area, and, after several months of Bible studies and a reaping series, rejoiced over more than 700 baptisms.

Their choice to work in this particular region of India is personal. "My father became an Adventist when he was a teenager, the only one in his village here. He longed to see his people accept Christ," Rajarathinam explains. "Even now, after work began here 38 years ago, there are only 4,000 Adventists out of nearly half a million people."

That's why a year ago, Rajarathinam, a successful businessman, asked his church to get involved in the "10 Church Project." The board, congregation, and Pastor Frost agreed to support the building of 10 churches and conduct evangelistic meetings.

"Some may be illiterate and some may be ignorant, but when we share the love of God, there is life and there is joy," says Rajarathinam, who already has funding for several churches. "They are willing to come to the Lord."

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

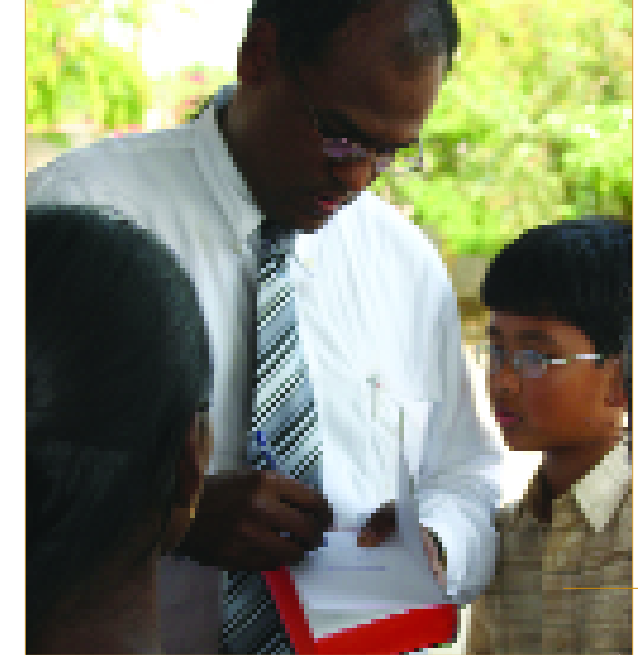
And so it came to pass that on a hot Sunday afternoon, in the cool rolling river near his home village, Rajarathinam's father, Devaanbu—



New believers display their first Bibles, which were donated by a Burnt Mills church member.

a retired Adventist minister—had the privilege of baptizing dozens of new believers (including the two ladies pictured on opposite page, top).

Watching along the shore and dabbing tears of joy were Rajarathinam, his mother, his wife, and his two kids; Pastor and Maryanne Frost; and Solangé Delbeau, a newly baptized member who



helped with the children's meetings. "The Lord really used Richard (above with son Matthew) and his family," Delbeau says. "I am amazed to see how the people are opening their hearts to the Lord."

Among the throngs who came to be baptized were two disabled women—one who had to crawl into the river on hands and knees because she has no legs (pictured below). "I know now what it means when [the Bible] says 'He took on our infirmities, and He was moved by compassion for us,'" says Pastor Frost. "How can you not be moved when you see people in this condition, giving their hearts to Jesus and being baptized?"

The group returned to Burnt Mills with lots of photos and miracle stories, but, in time, they'll again cross many time zones to see their new brothers and sisters in Christ. "I've tasted evangelism," Rajarathinam says. "Once you have that flavor in you, it's hard not to do more."



“Tell The World— Tell Them Now”

Mountain View Sparks Cooperative Evangelism Initiative

LARRY G. BOGCESS

Plans for a Columbia Union Conference cooperative evangelism initiative, to be focused in the Mountain View Conference, were set in motion during the union's fall 2006 Presidents' Council. Pastors and evangelists from our seven sister conferences—Allegheny East, Allegheny West, Chesapeake, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Potomac, and Ohio—are committed to participating in Mountain View evangelism efforts throughout 2007-2010. This united endeavor dovetails with the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church's "Tell The World" initiative (see www.adventist.org), which runs from 2005-2010.

Extensive evangelism is nothing new for Mountain View churches, which have been encouraged to have a reaping series every 12 to 18 months for the past several years. In fact, the "Tell The World—Tell Them Now" initiative is the maturing of an idea born and nurtured during previous Mountain View Conference administrations.

The goals are to coordinate nearly 100 meetings, plant seven churches, and involve every Mountain View member in preparing the field for a large explosion of church growth. Instructors are planning to conduct training for lay members, so they can help churches prepare for meetings *and* do the follow-up work vital to the success of these efforts.

Target areas include 19 of the most populous districts, such as Garrett and Allegheny counties in Maryland, and all but the three eastern-most counties of West Virginia.

Putting Home Missions First

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, is leading this "home mission" initiative by example. Currently he is conducting the first effort, which is being held in Lewisburg, W.Va., March 23 to April 17. In preparation for this meeting, members of the Lewisburg church pulled out all the stops. They joined pastoral team Stewart and Kathy Pepper and veteran Bible worker Lillian Torres in initiating and conducting Bible studies with people in their communities.

"We appreciate Elder Weigley's commitment to come to Lewisburg to proclaim the great Advent message, especially considering his major duties as union

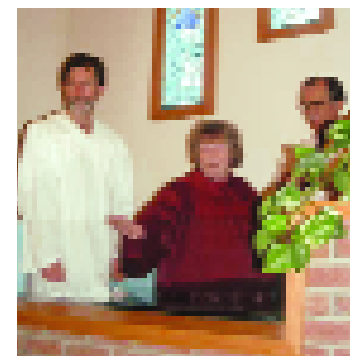
**Such commitment
calls for our full
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the intensive invest-
ment that effective
evangelism requires
of every host church.**

—*Stewart Pepper*

president," says Stewart, who also pastors the Rainelle church. "Such commitment calls for our full participation to make the intensive investment that effective evangelism requires of every host church."

This fall Charles Griffin, executive secretary and Trust Services director at the Chesapeake Conference, will conduct a series in Cumberland, Md. "We are thankful for the Chesapeake Conference's willingness to partner with our conference to help finish the work," says Cumberland church pastor Harold Wightman.

The Potomac Conference is committed to sending at least five pastors/evangelists to conduct meetings throughout the year. And the Ohio, Pennsylvania, Allegheny East, Allegheny West, and New Jersey conference presidents are in the process of finalizing plans. "This united



endeavor among our sister conferences to support evangelism in Mountain View is a blessing whose golden resonance echoes the grace, brotherly love, and shared zeal for proclaiming the gospel

that abounded in apostolic days," says Brian Jones, Mountain View communication director and pastor of West Virginia's Spencer, Glenville, and Braxton churches.

Each conference will financially support their evangelists and meetings, while the host churches will handle preparation and follow-up.

Now is the Time

We're excited about this strategy that embraces the united efforts of our seven sister conference presidents and the Columbia Union administration to help Mountain View make a major evangelistic thrust during the next four years. Jesus is counting on us to rally to His call and meet the challenge to tell our world—*now*.

Larry G. Bogcess is president of the Mountain View Conference, headquartered in Parkersburg, W.Va.

WEB WATCH: See a story, photos, and *Visitor News Video* segment about this initiative at www.columbiaunion.org.



Mountain View's evangelism efforts have resulted in new members, including these (left and above) who joined the Buckhannon church.

Mountain View Conference Evangelism Goals

- Leading God's people to rearrange their personal priorities to spend more time with Jesus in their devotional life.
- Helping members recognize that spiritual growth is directly related to witnessing and using spiritual gifts in loving service to others.
- Encouraging members to join 5 million other members around the globe in giving Bible studies, conducting small group ministries, distributing literature, or engaging in some form of personal witnessing.
- Embracing and participating in the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church's initiative to hold 100,000 evangelistic meetings in 2007.
- Planting seven new churches in Mountain View by 2010. (The world church's goal is 20,000.)

Trust & Obey

To be a lay evangelist, sometimes there's no other way. Here are stories of several members who have stood in the pulpit to preach the Word of God. Though they differ in age, race, and place, they all have one thing in common—they willingly answered the call to share Christ:

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

I had faith in God, but my heart was trembling. I'd never done anything like this before. That's how I felt in Belize during my first evangelism meeting.

After being baptized in Jamaica in 1985, the Lord gave me a desire to be a missionary and to preach—but I was afraid. Our message is so special and different; I didn't think I could do it justice. But my church saw something in me and began to use me. I worked with small groups, conducted Bible studies, and spoke at Sabbath revival meetings. The Holy Spirit also impressed me to reach out to people who had stopped attending church, or were searching, as I had been.

Then I moved to the United States and started attending the Haverton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pennsylvania. One day I noticed brochures for overseas mission work. I completed the application, but was afraid to mail it in. In my mind I could only see myself as a support staff person or prayer warrior, not *leading* a program.

Later, during camp meeting, the Lord impressed me again. "Lord, if you really want me to do this, send someone who doesn't know I'm in this battle to talk to me," I prayed. Before the week's end, three people responded! I mailed that application and was soon invited to preach in Belize, July 10-31, 2006. After much prayer and fasting, I decided to go—and speak.

My friends Dan Folkenburg and Jean Cusack went with me. They taught me to use a computer. But during the practice session, I couldn't remember a thing. My first presentation was only a few days away, and I was near tears knowing

that I couldn't even turn the computer on!

A small voice kept telling me to pray, but I ignored it at first. Then I poured my doubts and fears out to the Lord. He told me that it wasn't about me, my lack of education, or the fact that I wasn't a theologian. It was about sharing Jesus—that's it. Whenever I was discouraged during the



meetings, that still, small voice calmed me, reminding me who was in control.

At the end of the meetings six people were baptized, and 10 more followed the next week.

Now I am a Bible worker in Shamokin, Pa., where I was blessed to speak at the church recently. I still don't consider myself a preacher, but a "testifier" for Jesus. I also enjoy knocking on doors, hosting prayer groups, and building friendships to share God's Word.

In July I'm planning to speak at an evangelistic series in Uganda, and one day soon, I want to do

one in the United States. As Adventists we're commissioned to share God's end-time message so people can develop a personal relationship with Him.—*Valrie Ulette*

OBLIGATED TO EVANGELIZE

I was living in Florence, Ala., in 2001, when I saw a brochure about some evangelistic meetings and started attending. It was really an enriching experience, because I'd prayed for understanding about end-time events and eschatology. Scripture was opened up for me, and I saw that Jesus Christ was the Messiah based on the 2300-day, 70-week prophecy. The sanctuary message also became clear. The core of Adventism really paved the way for my Christian experience—and I was baptized.

I immediately felt a real sense of obligation and duty to spread this message, so I went to Black Hills Mission College School of Evangelism in South Dakota for three months.



Then I relocated to Pennsylvania. My first evangelism series was at the Capital Area church, in Mechanicsburg, right after September 11. It was a small mission group at the time. After the series, nine people were baptized. Soon attendance grew from 10-15 to 30-50, and we became a company. Now we have about 45 members.

Since then I've done 13 evangelistic meetings in different places. The Lord has also blessed me to play the guitar, so I've written several songs and sing them during my meetings. I've been self-employed for 14 years, selling college textbooks,

and never expected to be an evangelist. But I believe that God will bless this message as long as it's preached with truth and clarity.—*Bill Cave*

THE CHILDREN SHALL LEAD THEM

For the past two years, fifth- sixth- and seventh-graders at Summersville (W.Va.) Adventist School have been preparing to present an evangelism crusade. These Mountain View Conference young people worked with principal Donna Nicholas, Summersville church pastor Robert Michaels, and Pathfinder director Bruce Greenberg in preparation. They took Bible marking classes, studied the book of Revelation, and practiced to perfect their PowerPoint presentations. The event was held last month at the Richwood (W.Va.) City Hall.

The seminar presenters (pictured left to right) were: Emily Hayes (10), Ashlee Goad (13), Andrew Haas (11), brothers James and Johnnie Hamilton (15 and 17), Trey Dietz (13), Alex Trent (12), and



Chris Sigman (12). Not pictured is Katrina Pepper (13) who attends Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va.

"It was hard, but it was worth it," said Trent. "I would encourage other kids to do this so they can teach people about God and heaven," added Haas. "It was very scary at times, but I felt really good after getting the word out," stated Pepper. And Sigman said, "People need to know that the Lord is coming back." Goad, Hayes, and the Hamilton brothers agreed and were equally happy to "spread the Good News."—*LaVerne Henderson*

How to Witness Without Embarrassing GOD

Frank Bondurant

I gave up on witnessing. It's not that I wasn't grateful for the salvation I have through Jesus. I was grateful and really wanted to tell others about His love and how He changed my life. I took classes on how to share my faith. I memorized scripts. I learned proof texts and how to answer objections. Yet in spite of my best intentions, my efforts failed miserably.

Something that should have been a natural, free-flowing exchange, was stiff, awkward, and mechanical. Mine was not a winsome witness. People were put off, and God must have been embarrassed at my misrepresentation of Him. Traditional methods of evangelism just didn't seem to match my personality and spiritual gifts. I was like David wearing Saul's armor. Did I really have to be pushy, insensitive, or confrontational to be an effective witness?

Later, as a pastor, I learned that only about 10 percent of my church members were comfortable sharing their faith using traditional methods. Many of them also gave up on witnessing.

Why would God require a particular model for witnessing and then equip so few of His people to use it successfully? I wondered. I have since discovered a different approach to witnessing, or as I call it, evangelism. If you are ready to build up the kingdom of God, here's how to get started:

Make Yourself Available - In the morning, before you start your day, yield yourself to God, and ask Him to use you to impact others for His kingdom. God will always answer this prayer.

Be Yourself - God can and will use you—just as you are. Don't let personal imperfections and lack of training prevent you from being His witness. Seek training, but if you have a relationship with Jesus, you already know enough. God provides on-the-job training.

Start With Acquaintances - Don't concentrate your efforts on strangers. Begin sharing with the people you know. Each of us has a mission field among our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Build on your established personal relationships, good will, and rapport.

Minister to Needs - There can be no impact without contact. Start connecting with the people you know and minister to their needs. Small acts of service and simple gestures of kindness have a bigger impact than spiritual eruptions. We earn the right to share our faith with people when we serve them with no strings attached. We must first minister to people with our hands and ears, and then with our mouths.

Initiate Spiritual Conversations - As the Spirit leads, use the person's needs, or world or local events, to initiate spiritual conversations. Simple and sincere phrases like "I am praying for you," "God loves you and so do I," or even "God bless you" can open doors for further conversation. Watch for moments of receptivity, and then share a thought—not a sermon.

Invest and Invite - God doesn't merely call us to share our faith, but to share our life. Don't look for quick results or shortcuts; make long-term investments in people in order to better their lives. Then spiritual inquiry will be awakened and opportunities to invite friends to church, evangelistic meetings, or to join a small



Bible study group will arise. Be sure to attend with them and offer to give them a ride. Afterwards, grab a snack and talk about it.

True evangelism is not merely proclaiming a message of good news but also being a warm and loving embodiment of that good news. When this

is accompanied with intercessory prayer, miracles will happen, hearts will soften, people will accept Jesus, and God will be glorified.

Frank Bondurant is assistant to the president and Visitor correspondent for the Chesapeake Conference.

We must minister to people first with our hands and ears, and then with our mouths.

Dos and Don'ts of Giving Bible Studies

- ✓ Select a Bible study you understand and are comfortable using - Students will lose confidence in what you are saying if you are confused about the lesson.
- ✓ Pray, pray, and then pray - Pray before you get there, before you open the Bible, while you are studying, and when you end the study. Bathe your study in prayer, and listen for the Holy Spirit to guide.
- ✗ Don't argue - You'll likely win the battle, but lose the war.
- ✓ Make Christ and salvation the center - Don't just share information; share Jesus Christ, His great love, and what He has done to save us.
- ✗ Don't be mechanical - Use this opportunity to win a heart and gain a friend.
- ✓ Be kind and patient - Never make your students feel uncomfortable if they do not immediately grasp what you are saying.
- ✗ Don't constantly correct erroneous understanding - Allow your students to come to a clearer understanding of biblical truth as the Spirit enlightens their minds.
- ✗ Don't allow the study to get off track - Inform students that their questions pertaining to other topics will be covered in a future lesson.
- ✓ Make an appeal following each lesson - It reveals where your student is spiritually, and if they don't understand or are struggling with certain areas.
- ✗ Don't stay longer than an hour - This overwhelms the hearer. Keep the lesson simple, and be considerate of their time.

Remember, it is the power of God's Word that converts hearts and transforms lives—not your human effort. Your success in giving Bible studies depends on your willingness to be an instrument in God's hand, filled with His Spirit, and revealing His great love.

-Lillian Torres, Bible Instructor



How I Found the *Real* Truth And Learned to Share It

The *National Sunday Law* was the name of the book my boss gave me in mid-October 2004. His niece, who's a Seventh-day Adventist, gave it to him, but he wasn't interested and passed it on to me. I was intrigued, as I read it, and started looking up details to confirm whether or not they were true. Soon I was excited—and a little afraid—at what else I would find.

I was raised Catholic and learned a different doctrine. This new information astonished me, and I became very anxious about my salvation. I realized that even the spiritual foundation I had provided my two daughters, Sherrell and Angela, was not based on truth. How was I going to redirect them from what I so adamantly stressed was truth to the “real truth?”

It wasn't long before my reading list, and Bible knowledge, began to grow. After discovering the

changes made by the Catholic Church and how protestant churches came about, I decided to find a nearby church that practiced Sabbath worship. I knew that Jews worshiped on Sabbath, so I went online looking for a synagogue, but that wasn't an easy task. Next I searched “Churches and Sabbath Service.” I found information on the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but it was identified as a “cult.” So I went back to looking for a synagogue and found one in Woodbridge, Va. However, there was no phone number, and I got no response from the website. I didn't know it then, but God had other plans for me.

If I got involved, I knew it would impact my personal time and interfere with my playing golf. Frankly, I wasn't ready to make that sacrifice.

I went back to the Adventist search thinking, *I don't care what they're called, I'm going to find out what they are about. If the Bible says we should worship on Sabbath, how could they be a cult?* I thank God, and my prior background as a police officer, for this instinct and ability to investigate. My journey brought me to the Woodbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in February 2005.

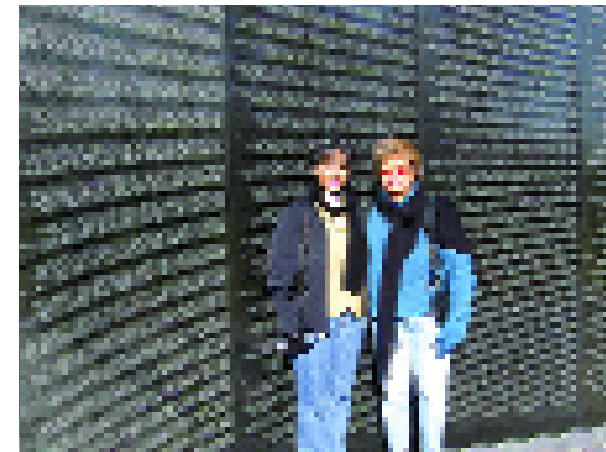
Excited about my new findings, I shared everything—including my research—with my boss. He said he knew it was the truth but was “not ready to make a change at that point.” I could feel the heaviness in his heart. But *I was* ready to make a change, *and I did!*

WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

I attended the Woodbridge church for several months and was baptized in November 2005 fol-



After reading the booklet National Sunday Law, Raquel Manso searched the Internet until she found a Seventh-day Adventist church.



Manso (right) and Bible worker Lillian Torres tour the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

lowing the “Insights to Revelation” seminar. I'm now involved as a greeter and fellowship volunteer.

Since becoming an Adventist, I've made it a point to take advantage of every learning opportunity at our church. I knew so little about salvation, God's promise, prophecy, how to study the Bible, and prayer. I also had to unlearn what I knew and replace it with truth. I prayed and asked God to teach me to do His will. At times I felt overwhelmed, but I knew I couldn't go back to my previous beliefs.

In the summer of 2006, Pastor Rick Jordan told us that a Bible worker named Lillian Torres would be coming to our church and staying for about six months. I thought she would be giving us Bible studies to complement the Bible-marking class that he'd conducted a few months earlier. I remember thinking, *If she stays at my house, I can get extra lessons.* Once again, I was looking to *get* something from the church! I soon learned that God has a sense of humor, and I would be the one *giving* Bible studies.

Lillian arrived and started training us to win souls for Christ. I started thinking about all the time it would take, and it scared me. My time is precious; daily peace and quiet is something I enjoy very much. If I got involved, I knew it would impact my personal time and interfere with my playing golf. Frankly, I wasn't ready to make that sacrifice.

Besides, I kept thinking, *I'm new and not yet capable of taking on such a great responsibility.* But Lillian has a way of making you say yes when

you want to say no. It's hard not to get excited when you see and hear a speaker testify with such conviction and truth. I wanted a piece of what she had.

The best advice she shared was the “Would you do me a favor?” approach. We had to ask someone close to us to do us a favor and let us practice giving him or her Bible studies. The third week into the study I called my oldest daughter, Sherrell, and asked if she would do me a favor. Much to my surprise, and glee, she said yes. Counting on my first success, I then asked a co-worker the same question, and she too said yes.

Both studies are going well, and I know God is helping me. It doesn't matter that we think we are not ready, because when God has a plan for us He makes it possible. One day I want to hear Him say, “... Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matt. 25:21).

Raquel Manso, who attends the Woodbridge, Va., church, is retired and still enjoys giving Bible studies.



Manso was blessed, and pleased, to give Bible studies to her daughter Sherrell (left).

ADVENTIST SCIENTIST AND AUTHOR COMING TO THE COLUMBIA UNION!



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Dr. Elaine-Godwin-Kennedy is a seventh-day Adventist geological who believes in the biblical account of Creation. She has spent her life studying layers of science and faith with her own eyes. 20 years of hard experience.

Dr. Kennedy's Speaking Schedule

April 23	8:30 AM 1:00 PM 3-4:30 PM	Spencerville Adventist Academy Delmarville Adventist Church Millsville Adventist School
April 24	8:30 AM	Silgo Adventist Academy
April 25	9:20 AM 11:40 AM	Takoma Academy Spencerville Adventist Academy
April 26	8:00 AM	Central Conference Worship
April 27	8:20 AM 10:40 AM 12:15 PM	Spencerville Adventist Academy Millsville MS School Millsville MS School
April 29	2-4:00 PM	Book Signing! Potomac Adventist Book Center

To contact Dr. Kennedy about questions or to invite her to speak, contact her by e-mail at elaine@kenedy@gmail.com

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The Lourie Center:
More Than Learning to Read and Write

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital:
This Place Has a Warm Heart

Washington Adventist Hospital:
We Should Be Different

Hackettstown Regional Medical Center:
Three Charter Employees



Five by Nehemiah

A short prayer from the prophet Nehemiah has always spoken to me with great power. In it Nehemiah restates his understanding of who God is, and who we are as well:

"They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand" (Nehemiah 1:10).

Nehemiah lays out a five-point reminder of exactly the nature of man's relationship to God:

- We are the servants of God.
- We are the people of God.
- We are redeemed by God.
- We are sustained by God's power.
- We are held in God's strong hand.

We are the servants of God. A fundamental aspect of happiness is realizing who you are and who you aren't—in this case, the servant not the master, the subject not the king, the one who's happiness is derived from giving useful and willing service.

We are the people of God. We are the ones he thinks of and cares for and watches over. We are his people, the ones he loves.

We are redeemed by God. Think saved from crisis and uncertainty. Think rescued. Think being pulled out of harm's way.

We are sustained by God's power. Power can mean strength or might. It can mean the ability to act in an effective manner. Being sustained by God's power means that His strength is expended on our behalf, and that God has the capacity to come into our lives in powerful ways.

And—my favorite—we are held in God's strong hand. When this phrase is used in the scriptures it almost always describes God at his strongest. A hand is uniquely human. Other creatures have paws or hoofs or fins. But God is said to have hands. This is God identifying with the human family so completely that a reference to a defining human characteristic is one of the most powerful ways to describe the Divine.

This verse provides a five-point reminder of what it means to be in a relationship with God. Created to serve. Rescued by his power. Protected by his strong hand. And able to thrive and grow and to become all that he intends for his us, his people.

William G. "Bill" Robertson
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



A Comforting Quilt

My name is Cheryl Ottley, and I am a Reimbursement Manager at Adventist Home Health Services. We help patients recover and function as independently as possible in their homes.



out, you'd find that most of us have been together for at least five or ten years. We are all working together to help care for our patients. It's a good feeling.

The diversity among my co-workers is amazing. Not only do we perform a variety of tasks, we are from a variety of backgrounds. We have a devotional meeting every Thursday, and even though there is great diversity of faith amongst us, our interaction is very close. We pray together with the same mission.

It is rewarding to be able to help meet people's needs. This is my niche, and this is where I think I shine. Sometimes I feel like sort of a counselor. I enjoy the interaction with the patients and their families, helping them work out their finances, assuring them that we'll work something out, being compassionate and creative. Sometimes, on the phone, we pray together. That's always moving.

Every year at Christmastime we choose two families who are in need—and believe me, we work with plenty of families in need—and we all bring gifts and food and clothes for them. Our staff really gets involved. It's so rewarding. I don't think I'd be able to do that at a really large company.

When I started working at the company our personnel were mainly Adventists. Over the years, as we grew, our workforce broadened to include persons of many other faiths. This has brought a richness to what we do. It has helped us in the way we view our patients, because our patients aren't only Adventists; we see patients of every faith in the community. I appreciate the strength of this diversity; it has balanced and tempered my faith.

I like to think of Adventist Home Health as a comforting quilt for our patients; each different person that works here brings a different type of fabric to our mission. And together we make a beautiful quilt.

CHRIS HALL
Director, Business Development Support
With Adventist Health Care for 15 years

"It's wonderful to work with individuals who have the same values as I do. Regardless of our faith or denomination, we embody the same values and are here for the greater calling."



More Than Learning to Read and Write

My name is Tamiika Thomasson, and I am the Director of Education at the Lourie Center. We help at-risk children achieve a healthy emotional start in life.

I come from a family of educators—my father was principal at Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., and my mother is the Dean of Students at Howard University. They are from the West Indies, and they tell stories about coming here with ten cents in their pocket; their point is that any success they have is because of education. Education has always been a part of my life.

I've always known that I wanted to work with children. At first I thought I'd like to be a child psychiatrist; then I worked at a camp in upstate New York for children with special needs, children who had been traumatized or abandoned. That's when I decided I wanted to help children with their social and emotional development.

I started at the Lourie Center as a teacher's assistant when I was working on my Master's degree. Then I was offered a

position as a teacher; I taught for about seven years. I left to be a special education advocate in DC, but after a year the Lourie Center asked me to come back as director. I said, "When can I start?" This place has always been dear to my heart.

The Lourie Center looks at a child very differently. We look for the social-emotional components of development. We don't just ask, "Can he read and write?" We ask, "Can he read and write and play well? Can he read and write and have a strong sense of self? Can he read and write and make good choices?"

It's more than just growing up to be a smart person; it's growing up to be a whole person—socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually. My job is to make sure the state educational standards are being met, but it's more than that.

I love what I'm doing because it makes a difference. A large population of our children here are African-American boys. I want them to know that someone who looks like them cares about them. That's why I come in every day. I want to give them the best chance they have.

The parents appreciate what we do. Our kids are children who have failed at other schools, and when they come here they are successful, sometimes for the first time. Last year a parent was in tears because her 8-year-old was being promoted for the first time and this was the first time they had been able to attend a promotion ceremony. We don't expel kids. They are here for a reason, and we are here for that reason. The parents are so thankful that we stand by their children and help them be successful.

Working with children has always been my passion. I can't think of anything that could be more rewarding.

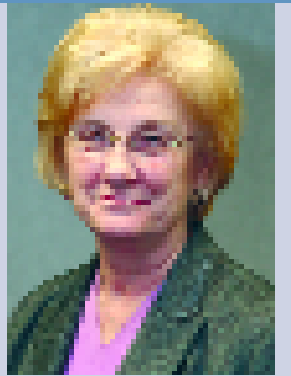
BOBBIE LEGG, LCSW-C
Therapist & Clinical Supervisor
With Potomac Ridge Behavioral
Health at Anne Arundel for four years

"The Adventist Healthcare mission matches my personal beliefs and social work values. It is patient focused. To me, there is nothing more important in our work. I believe that in our work with the troubled youth at Potomac Ridge we live out Christ's teaching to serve 'the least of these.'"

My name is Linda Ries, and I am Chief Nurse Executive at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center. I grew up on Willow Grove Street, across the street from where the hospital now stands; my friends and I used to ride our sleds down this slope.

I always wanted to take care of people and help them get better. My father was mayor of Hackettstown, and he promised me that one day he would help build a hospital here that I could work in. When the hospital opened in 1973, I was among the first nurses.

So many things have changed at the hospital over the years—we've greatly expanded the units and the services we offer. But one thing hasn't changed: our constant striving to deliver quality patient care to our community and our pursuit of innovative ways to accomplish this goal.



This Place Has a Warm Heart

My name is Seoung Chung, but people here have a hard time pronouncing it, so I have adopted "Alice" as my middle name. Even so, people still try to call me Seoung. They call me Siung, Sue, Song—I respond to any of them. I don't care. "Call me Alice," I tell them. But then, when someone telephones my ward asking for Alice, everybody goes, "Who is Alice? We don't have an Alice working here!" It's so funny.

Anyway, I am Seoung "Alice" Chung, RN, and I am a bedside nurse at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. I've been working with new mothers and babies here for 26 years. Well, actually, when I first came to SGAH they didn't have a mother and baby unit, so I worked in critical care for 10 months until they opened this unit.

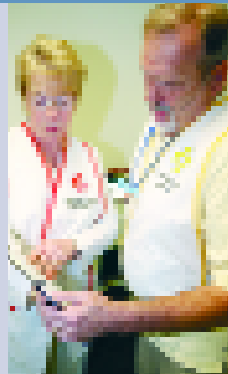
I love being a bedside nurse. I much prefer having contact with the patients to doing paperwork. I like it when I get a chance to talk to the new mothers, when things aren't too busy. We always talk about the little patient, about what a miracle it is that God has given her this precious little baby. And we talk about the future and plans for the baby. I usually ask, "Do you go to church?" And often she'll say that she used to when she was young. I always



encourage her to find a nice church, one where they will love her baby. Then, of course, she will have to go with the child to church, and they will both be in church.

I am not an Adventist, but I am a Christian. I have worked in several hospitals, but this is the hospital where I've worked the longest because it is truly a Christian hospital, and that's what makes me want to stay. I was working at another Christian hospital when I heard about Shady Grove; when I came and looked at it, I just got a warm feeling. It's hard to explain, but I feel that this place has a warm heart. My coworkers are nice and kind; they are friends. And the atmosphere is loving; there is something special about the way patients are treated here. And that's why I stay.

My name is Rick Armstrong, and I am the manager of the Maintenance/Security Department at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center. I figure I've been working here longer than anybody, because I worked here even before the building was completed! I was employed by the builder who constructed the hospital. When the building was ready, I applied for a job here, and I've been here ever since.



I remember the last truck to make a delivery before the hospital opened—it was a tool truck from Sears. Up to that point the Maintenance Department was equipped with one pair of pliers—that's it. We certainly have more equipment today—not just in my department, but throughout the hospital.



My name is Sandy Miller, and I am the Same Day Surgery and Admitting Registration clerk at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center. I schedule all the pre-admission testing for the patients who are going to have same day surgery. I like the contact with the patients and taking care of them and helping them feel more at ease.

Before I came here (34 years ago) I worked at another hospital. But when this place was being built, I decided to apply because it was a closer commute. I remember opening day. I remember when the doctor called to admit the first surgical patient. It has been exciting to watch the growth in the number of patients and employees.

I love it here; it's like a family. We help each other out—not only during times of crisis, but also on an everyday basis. Every person in every department, we're all working together, looking out for the patients.

We Should Be Different

My name is Krista Yoon, and I am Nurse Manager, Post Anesthesia Care, at Washington Adventist Hospital.

My mother was an Adventist, and she wanted me to go to an Adventist school. So, even though I was not an Adventist, I was sent to Seoul Adventist Nursing School. At first I rebelled, big time. I had no doubts—I would never become an Adventist. We were



a job in the Operating Room. There were no openings in OR, but there was a job in the recovery room. It was the night shift, and that's when I wanted to work. Now I am so glad that job was open for me.

My supervisor, Mrs. Louise Laughlin, was a motherly person, and welcomed me with lots of love. She showed us the love of God. She created such a pleasant atmosphere—we came to work with happiness instead of dragging ourselves in. We worked together for 12 years. When she left, she told me, "You are taking my position." I said, "Oh, no! I'm a foreigner." But she encouraged me. That was almost 21 years ago; I was 37 years old.

I have tried to put in practice what she showed me. Her attitude towards both the patients and the nurses was "I'm here to be of service to you." I am trying to be like that. I have stayed here so long because I've wanted to show others the same love and care.

People often tell me that our hospital is different—that we care more about our patients. It is good to hear that we are different. We should be different.

We don't push religion. We hope to show our love through our actions. We pray with those patients who request it, but we don't press our religion on them. We show it through our care. And our patients are thankful for our work. Recently I got a note that said, "You made me feel very special, like I was the only patient in the hospital."

I love my work. I'm happy to come to work every single day.



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ALLEGHENY EAST Exposé

APRIL 2007

Berea Temple Teams Up for Health Evangelism

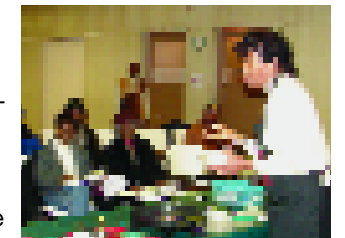
The Berea Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church and the St. Martin Church of Christ teamed up recently to present a three-week health evangelistic series in Baltimore. The "Optimum Health Seminar" provided information to residents about how to prevent or reduce the effects of stress and fatigue; how to improve heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, arthritis, and other health issues; how to overcome addictions; and how to use herbs for natural healing. As many as 50 people attended each night.

The presentations included reliable health information from acclaimed healthcare and fitness specialists. Presenters included diabetes expert Wendell Cheatham, MD; health and nutrition specialists Curtis and Paula Eakins—regularly featured on 3ABN; herbalist Maude Scott; internist Edward Pelote, MD; and cancer researcher Patrick Eteme, MD.



As a result of the series, several attendees made major positive changes in their lifestyle, resulting in lower blood pressures, weight loss, reduction of blood sugar levels, and an increase in water consumption and exercise. The seminar also taught attendees that worshipping God contributes to good health.

A graduation ceremony concluded the event, and a scholarship was awarded to one local attendee to participate in the Allegheny East Conference FIT 4 YOU summer camp. Bible studies are also underway as a result of the seminar. More collaborations between the two churches are scheduled.—Phyllis Edmonds



Nutrition specialist Paula Eakins gives a food demonstration for the attendees of the recent health evangelism series in Baltimore.

Beacon Light Musicians Take Joy to East Africa

Recording artists David and Monique Griffiths, members of the Beacon Light church in Annapolis, Md., recently toured East Africa with world-renowned Rwandan artist Jean Paul Samputu (www.samputu.com). Together, the musicians helped bring joy to thousands of orphans in East Africa for the holidays.

"Monique and I participated in four major concerts and numerous church services," said David (pictured) of the trip. "And then we were honored to sing in



Nairobi, Kenya, on national TV in a stadium filled with an estimated 50,000 people. It was for a New Year's Eve special service hosted by the Maximum Miracle Center, a vibrant ministry located in downtown Nairobi."

Samputu is a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda and the winner of numerous awards, including the Kora award, Africa's

equivalent of a Grammy. The Griffiths and Samputu are currently preparing to release a collaborative CD in the spring. The Griffiths will also be releasing their own CD project soon.

The trip was made possible by fund-raising concerts and from various individual and church donations. Beacon Light church, in particular, raised \$3,000 to help an orphanage in Nairobi finish building a well.

"It was a life-changing experience for Monique and me to see how people with so many hardships had so much enthusiasm in their worship of God," added David. The couple has one child, David Jahari Charles Griffiths, age 2.—Beth Michaels

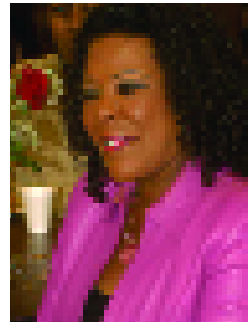


Beacon Light member Monique Griffiths (center) became fast friends with some kids from the Maximum Miracle Center's children's home, which houses former street children of Nairobi.

D.C. Broadcaster Honored at Adventist Soup Kitchen

The First Street Seventh-day Adventist Church soup kitchen was the recent site of a celebration for 35 years of broadcasting by CBS-affiliate anchor J.C. Hayward (pictured). The soup kitchen in Northwest Washington, D.C., was a fitting location for the celebration because Hayward—often called the Queen of Community Service—has utilized her influence over the years to raise money for the homeless and other worthy causes. More specifically, Hayward—the first female to anchor the news in D.C.—aired several major stories about the First Street and Fourth Street church soup kitchens. She has also helped promote bone marrow drives and Adventist Community Services activities taking place at Adventist churches in the area.

More than 60 people attended, including First Street church members, soup kitchen volunteers, and homeless people. Her TV crew did a live broadcast from the event.—*Rocky Twyman*



Garden of Prayer Making Difference in Community

The Garden of Prayer church in Baltimore is the new congregation born out of a four-week crusade by all of the city's Seventh-day Adventist churches last summer. Shepherding the new flock is Pastor Ronald Edmonds (pictured).



Edmonds recently laid out the draft of his master plan to grow the fledgling congregation. His focus will primarily be on providing for the needs of the neighboring Park Heights com-

munity, known for its increasing crime, drug use, and HIV cases. Number one on his to-do list is to triple the current membership of about 25 within the next two years. Reclaiming those of the 96 who were baptized last summer but are not attending will help the church reach this goal.

The plan also includes developing the church into an evangelistic center. Quarterly campaigns will be held on various topics including prophecy, the sanctuary, alcohol abuse, the family, and church doctrines.

Services to be provided to the community include job training—which started in February—and GED, literacy, and computer training programs. Additional services will include a smoking cessation program, a health clinic, health and fitness programs, and support groups. Pastor Darriel Hoy, executive director of Adventist Community Services (ACS) in Baltimore, and Katie Adams, ACS director for the nearby Berea Temple church, are sharing their expertise and providing assistance.—*Mirlene Andre*

PFA Language Trip Changes Lives

When the opportunity arose to go to Europe for 10 days as part of the recent Pine Forge Academy Language Trip, student travelers were ignorant to the fact that many of their fundamental items—cell phones—would be snatched away.

The entire group of 125 traveled to London—the first stop—on three separate flights. Separated from friends, some negative thoughts started forming. Once firmly on the ground, friends were reunited, the accommodations were nice, and things started looking up. They visited St. Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Windsor Castle.

The next stop was Paris. The hotel assignment was four girls to one room. Girls who normally may not interact were placed together. Some girls were surprised to spend the whole night laughing and talking with each other. Staying up late did not stifle their excitement at the Eiffel Tower or hinder their awe of the Mona Lisa at the Louve museum.

The students next made their way to Madrid, riding a night train that took 16 hours. Four girls with different personalities and all of their luggage had to fit together in a small sleeping compartment. But once again, to their surprise, things went smoothly. After seeing the



sites of Madrid, the group headed back home having had once-in-a-lifetime experiences.—*Tomisha Jessup and Veronica Murphy*

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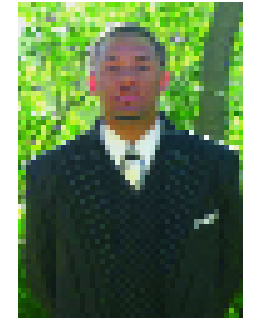
New Pastors Welcomed

Jason Andre Ridley (top) was recently welcomed to the Allegheny West Conference (AWC). He is the new pastor of two churches in West Virginia: the Berea church in Charleston and the Shiloh church in Huntington. Pastor Ridley's passion is preaching the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ and doing evangelism and outreach in the community. He also has a passion for working with young people and believes that the church needs to be more dedicated, motivated, and innovative in its approach to Youth Ministries.

A native of Richmond, Va., Pastor Ridley began preaching at the age of 13. While earning his bachelor's degree at the nearby Virginia Union University, he co-founded and was the first president of the Christian Club. The main focus of the club is to promote Jesus Christ on the college campus. Ridley once preached an evangelistic series in Uganda, Africa, where more than 280 souls were baptized into the body of Christ. He has also worked with youth in a Buddhist school in Bangkok, Thailand.

AWC also welcomes Rodney R. Valentine to its pastoral roster. He has been assigned to the Southside/Springfield district in Columbus and Springfield, Ohio, respectively. Pastor Valentine transferred from the South Atlantic Conference, where he served as the pastor of the Laurinburg/Southern Pines district in North Carolina.

Ordained in 2005, Valentine is a graduate of Oakwood College (Ala.), and has been in ministry for 10 years. He has conducted evangelistic meetings where many lives were won for the cause of Christ. Pastor Valentine also has conducted numerous weeks of prayer throughout the country, including one at Mt. Pisgah Academy in South Carolina where 250 students gave their lives to the Lord.



Baskins Bids Farewell

Allegheny West Conference administrators bid farewell to Pastor Jeffrey Baskins (pictured), most recently of the Hillcrest/Uniontown district in Pittsburgh and Uniontown, Pa., respectively. Baskins is taking a leave of absence to engage in creative evangelism. His ministry in the AWC has been fruitful and enriching to many lives.

Baskins' pastoral ministry expands the eastern United States. He pastored in the South Atlantic Conference, and served as a teacher at Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland. He also pastored the Beckley/Kimball district in West Virginia and the Staunton/Waynesboro district in Virginia. Heavens richest blessings are wished upon Baskins and his wife, Abena, as they focus on their new ministry.



Disabilities Director Awarded for Excellence

Catherine Burks (pictured), conference disabilities director and a recording secretary for the Commission for People with Disabilities for the North American Division (NAD), recently received an Excellence in Ministry Award in Disabilities Ministries from the NAD. Burks was honored with the award during the NAD's biannual Adventist Ministries Convention held in



Tucson, Ariz. Burks was also a presenter at the convention. Her presentation was titled, "How to Start a Support Group."

Burks recently started an adult community support group in Cincinnati for persons with disabilities and mental illness as a model for other churches. She facilitates the group once a month in addition to her duties of equipping coordinators, sensitizing congregations to the needs of people with disabilities, and empowering persons with disabilities to serve God to their fullest capacity.

Bethel Crusade Creates New Believers

The King is Coming" crusade was detailed in 24 Biblical lessons during a Revelation seminar at the Bethel church in Cleveland recently. The Holy Spirit moved Pastor Russell Fields (left) as he preached each night. From the beginning of Earth's history found in Genesis, to the end of the Bible revealed in Revelation, Pastor Fields showed an accurate disclosure of what was, and is to come. He touched the lives of both new and seasoned believers.

Greeters (right) welcomed and registered visitors, giving each one free copies of *Steps to*

Christ, the Bible, and other literature. All attendees also received binders with copies of the 24 lesson studies. Quiz questions were given nightly, and audiovisual slides were shown to demonstrate the events that collaborated with the lessons. It was a high day at Bethel when 12 new members were baptized and united with the kingdom of God as a result of the crusade.—*Beverly Robinson*



Marriage Retreat Honors Vows

Staff and faculty of the Family Life Department conducted a magnificent marriage retreat recently in Columbus titled "The Love Connection." Couples of all ages gathered to hear featured presenters Alfred Booker, EdD, director of Family Life Ministries, Singles Ministries, and Sensational Seniors, and his wife, Louise; conference president James Lewis and his wife, Sharon; and Alex Swan, PhD, professor of sociology at Texas Southern University in Houston.

The theme for the weekend was "Remembering Our Vows," and was the second in a three-part series. Forty couples, including pastors and their spouses from all around the conference, attended. Icebreakers included stating spouse's favorite colors, and what they love

most about their mate. The Bookers gave various presentations about relationships. President Lewis gave a financial seminar, while Sharon Lewis' seminar was about the left- and right-brained personalities of husbands and wives. Dr. Swan led out in an interactive lecture about human sexuality and communication.

The event was concluded with a renewal of vows and a marriage vow reconciliation prayer. The couples celebrated the renewal service with a toast of sparkling apple cider.

The Family Life departments of AWC and the Allegheny East Conference will be joining together to host a family life cruise in July 2008. Contact your conference office for more information.

Ephesus Honors Distinguished Senior

During each quarter in 2007, the Ephesus church in Columbus will focus on a ministry within the church. For the first quarter, members chose to focus on Family and Personal Ministries.

During last quarter and the remaining three quarters, the membership honored a senior member of the church who has made a significant impact. The first honoree chosen was Frank W. Hale, Jr., PhD, (pictured), former Oakwood College (Ala.) president and former vice provost for Minority Affairs at Ohio State University.



During a special Sabbath service recently, the church held a surprise celebration to affirm Hale. There was a pictorial presentation set to music and a musical tribute by the Ephesus mass choir to the song, "I Shall Wear a Crown." Pastor William T. Cox, Sr., then presented Hale with a plaque in grateful appreciation for his years of outstanding and dedicated service, for his commitment to the highest standards of excellence, and for his diligent and tireless efforts.

Hale, visibly touched by the presentation, delivered an awesome message encouraging all members to remember the sacrifices made by others that enable us to have the privileges we enjoy today.

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, Bryant Taylor ■ www.awconf.org

Why Do We Call Grace Amazing?

Grace be with you." The apostle Paul took this commonplace greeting, dipped it into a whole new reality, and made it a signal of God's assurance that life can be all right just when everything in it is all wrong. Grace does not make everything right. Grace does not cure all our cancers, transform our kids into winners, or send us soaring into the skies of success. Grace is rather an amazing power to look earthly reality full in the face, see its sad and tragic edges, feel its cruel cuts, join in the primeval chorus against its outrageous unfairness, and yet sense in our inmost being that life is all right.

Grace is the one word that explains all that God is for us in the form of Jesus Christ. It has at least these three faces: it is a pardon for the past, power for the present, and a promise for the future. Why do we call it amazing? Because it works against the grain of common sense and reassures us that, in spite of how wrong we've been, there is a pardon. Grace tells us that, in spite of how weak or human we are, there is power to transform us into better people. It is telling us that we can trust God for a better tomorrow. Why do we call it amazing? Silly question, isn't it? *Grace be with you!*



Rob Vandeman
President

Members Rejoice at Crest Lane Gymnasium Ribbon Cutting

More than 70 members from Maryland's Westminster and Reisterstown churches and the South Carroll company in Sykesville, recently gathered at their newly constructed gymnasium for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The gymnasium is attached to the Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School, which is adjacent to the Westminster church. When the school was built in 1965, there was immediate talk about the need to build a gymnasium. Over the years, there have been a number of visionary leaders who championed the cause for the gymnasium, and there has been a lot of fund raising associated with it. Actual construction of the project started with a groundbreaking ceremony in late August 2006.

According to Steve Wall, district pastor, "The completion of this project is the realization of a dream these congregations have had for over 30 years." The facility measures 125 by 55 ft. and cost approximately \$800,000 to build.

In addition to the gymnasium, the facility also houses two new classrooms for the school, a home economics room, and storage area. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, conference president Rob Vandeman said to the assembled group, "This new edifice stands on the shoulders of the hard workers and faithful givers of the past, as well as the present." He likened the occasion to when Caleb and Joshua stood on the borders of the Promised Land, saying, "Like Israel of old who stood on the banks of tomorrow, this building represents the future for these congregations."



Left to right: Bob Schaffer, building committee chairman; Robbie McNeave, Crest Lane seventh-grader; and Beth Bankes, Crest Lane teacher/principal, cut the ribbon for the new gymnasium.

Church members believe this new facility will not only enhance their local fellowship and nurture opportunities, but also will generate community awareness and stimulate growth in their local congregations and church school.

New Pastors Welcomed

Timothy Lee—Conference leaders are pleased to announce that Lee was recently hired to assist the treasury department with auditing churches and schools. He will also serve as the new pastor of the Pasadena (Md.) church. Lee's pastoral work is being mentored by David Glass, pastor of the Linthicum and Pasadena district.



Lee has a bachelor's degree in theology from Andrews University (Mich.). Prior to coming to Chesapeake, he was a library services technology specialist for the Metropolitan Nashville Public School System. Lee and his wife, Joy, have three children; Benjamin (7), Leilani (4), and Titus (17 months). Joy's parents, Alan and Frances Freeman, are members of the nearby Williamsport church.

"We expect to move Timothy into full-time pastoring once he has helped the conference get up to date with our auditing," said president Rob Vandeman.



Josh Voigt—Conference leaders are also delighted to welcome Voigt and his wife, Celeste, as a pastoral team assigned to the Reisterstown church and the South Carroll company in Sykesville, Md. Voigt is working under the mentorship of Steve Wall, senior pastor of the Westminster, Reisterstown, and South Carroll district.

Voigt is the son of Roger Voigt, MD, and Gayle Voigt, members of the Baltimore-White Marsh church. The conference sponsored Voigt to attend the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), where he recently completed his Master of Divinity. Celeste also has a master's from Andrews in archaeology.

"Our conference and churches will be blessed with the addition of these fine young men to our pastoral team," added Vandeman.

2,000 Youth Witness in Baltimore

During a recent Sabbath afternoon, more than 2,000 attendees of the General Youth Conference (GYC) met at the downtown Baltimore Convention Center, boarded 35 school buses, and set out to witness to local residents. Baltimore area pastors created maps of the territories to be visited by the young people, and local members from Baltimore area churches were on each bus serving as local hosts and guides. The young people went door to door visiting homes, distributing literature, signing up people for Bible studies, sharing their faith, and praying for individuals.

What an incredible sight to see an army of Adventist youth take to the streets with the purpose of making spiritual contacts. According to Chelsy Jourdan, GYC Bible study coordinator, "By day's end, over 500 Bible study interests had been generated, with more interests coming in the mail every day." The Chesapeake Conference has contracted the services of four full-time Bible workers to follow up with these interests and prepare them for evangelistic meetings being held in the Dundalk and Woodlawn areas this month.

The conference, in partnership with Jourdan and the Bible workers, also recently held a seven-session lay evangelism class. These classes included more than 120



It took 35 school buses to carry the 2,000-plus youth and leaders throughout Baltimore to initiate a witnessing campaign.

registered Chesapeake members from more than 14 churches. Class participants received practical, field-tested strategies and tips for giving personal Bible studies. Each participant accompanied one of the Bible workers in a home visit and was prepared to follow up with some of the Bible study interests that were generated. Sedley Johnson, pastor of the Dundalk and Aberdeen (Md.) churches, says that his members, "are excited about how the evangelistic climate of their local church has been enhanced by the presence of these Bible workers, and these classes."

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

THE GATEWAY

APRIL 2007

Columbia Union College

Sophomore Wins Memorial Scholarship

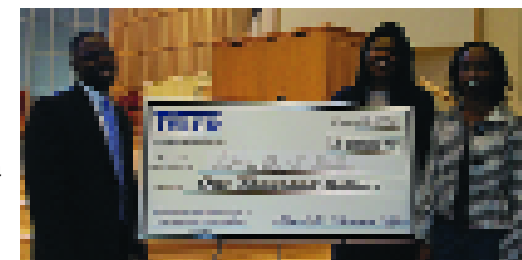
Columbia Union College (CUC) sophomore Daniella Daley was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship during a recent chapel service. The scholarship was split two ways: \$500 applied to her school account, and \$500 in cash for personal use. Daley, a Business Administration major, thanked CUC alumnus Mark Tyler and Tyler Enterprises for the scholarship, along with her father for encouraging her to apply.

Tyler told the audience that he was thrilled by the quality of the essays, especially Daley's. "The judges were very impressed by the caliber of students at CUC," recalled Tyler. He encouraged more CUC students to apply for the scholarship next year, and reminded them, "What you do makes an impact in places where you may never go."

Tyler and his wife, Deanna, created the Deborah Rhondda Tyler Memorial Scholarship after their daughter, in remembrance of her brief life. Deborah was born on July 14, 2005, and died later that day. The couple's

real estate company, Tyler Enterprises, sponsors the scholarship that is open to currently enrolled, full-time students at CUC. "This is a way to have our daughter's life extended," said Tyler. "Although she never got to reach her full potential, this scholarship has been designed to help students reach theirs."

Jean Warden, vice president of Student Life and Retention, agreed. "This gift shows the way for others so students can excel and succeed in the name of your daughter; and our students will carry on her legacy and memory," she said.



Sophomore Daniella Daley (right) receives a \$1,000 scholarship from Mark and Deanna Tyler.

School Groups Spend Spring Break on Tour

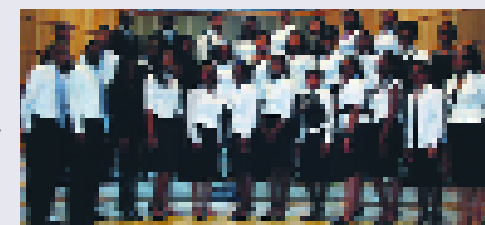
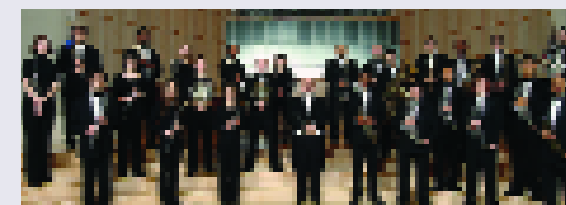
During spring break, CUC students typically visit warm places like the beach or go on short-term mission trips. Other students simply spend time relaxing at home. However, three special groups used their recent time off to showcase their talents and gifts.

CUC's Acro-Airs (left), the sports acrobatics team, tumbled across mats at academies like Spencerville Adventist, Blue Mountain, Mount Vernon, Spring Valley, and Pine Forge. Group members used the tour to talk to young audiences about the negative effects of drugs and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. The team also performed signature moves such as instant pyramids and advanced tumbling routines.

The Columbia Union Concert Winds (above, right) took a 10-day tour of Mexico and traveled by chartered bus to schools and Adventist churches from Mexico City to Guadalajara to Puerto Vallarta. A highlight of the trip came when CUC trumpet player Jose Oviedos played the "Concerto for Two Trumpets" by Vivaldi, with his father

(a music teacher in Mexico). Students experienced Mexican culture firsthand with visits to ancient Aztec ruins and an outdoor crafts market.

Students in the Black Student Union Gospel Choir (pictured, below) shared culture and enhanced the lives of others during their weekend trip to three academies. The group performed during chapel services at Greater New York and Northeastern academies; conducted vespers for students at Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania; and held a concert at Ephesus church in New York. CUC junior theology major Anthony Hackett also joined the choir as their speaker for the weekend.—
Candace Hamilton



Government Class Experiences History Up Close

Professor Roy Branson recently took his American Government class to Philadelphia to view first-hand sites and landmarks that made American history.

"CUC is located at a place where students can see, feel, smell, and taste concretely American history at various levels," said Branson, who also teaches Ethics



American Government students visit a model of Benjamin Franklin's printing press.

and Public Policy. He added, "Washington, D.C., is located in the midst of a whole series of historical sites that can make American history and government come alive!"

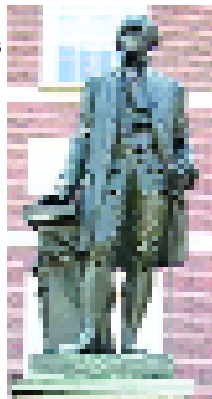
The class visited Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Students even visited the very room in which the Declaration of Independence

was signed.

"Our trip was very informative," said Lisandy Acevedo, a junior political studies/pre-law major. "Reading about history is not the same as seeing it in person."

Senior print journalism major Daniel Alexander Granderson agreed. "I learned that the founding fathers were not these god-like figures who were above everyone else," he said. "They had personal problems and limitations. They were very much frustrated with the situation and had arguments and disagreements like anyone else."

The students visited the House of Representatives, examined a model of Benjamin Franklin's printing press, and saw a re-enactment of how literature was created and published. "I didn't know the process of making newspaper or printing books was so complicated," said Granderson. "Supposedly, there are a lot of steps involved and yet Franklin did it at a very fast



pace. That amazed me. I have more appreciation for where we are now and how far we've come."

Branson hopes his students also gained a better understanding of politics. "The men who wrote the Declaration of Independence were ordinary people who responded to extraordinary events and came up with something that has lasted," he said.—Alexis Goring



Class participants of the Philadelphia tour included (left to right) David Pintor, Marquita Whyte, Brad Child, professor Roy Branson, and Natalie Hynum.

Alumni Weekend Planned

All Pioneer alumni and friends are encouraged to attend and interact with current students, recent alumni, and members of CUC's old guard during Alumni Weekend, April 13-15.

Events this year include scenic tours of historic Takoma Park and Washington, D.C., special concerts, and fellowship with friends. CUC's Alumni Association extends a special invitation for graduates from honor class years 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1982, 1987, and 1997.

CUC president Randal Wisbey will deliver a report on the college



and focus on the future of the school. Join us for a weekend to remember, and rediscover your love for the college.—PR Staff

CALENDAR

April

- 1 Tastes of Takoma
Acro-Airs Home Show
7:30 p.m., CUC Gymnasium
- 4 Awards Convocation
- 11 Student Recognition
Convocation
- 13-15 Alumni Weekend
- 14-16 Shakespeare Conference
- 14 CUC Choice Awards
- 15 Communication and
Journalism Awards Banquet
8 p.m., Martin's Crosswinds
- 22 SA Annual Year-end
Cookout
5 p.m., The Commons
- 23-25 Final Exams
- 27-29 Graduation Weekend

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

God Gives More Than We Dare Imagine

I've been reminded recently about how much God is willing to do in us and through us if we are willing to be instruments in His hands. In starting the process of raising \$50,000 for our student scholarship fund, I found I was dreading the task. While this is something I believe in intensely, raising money is neither a pleasure for me nor a gift I possess. One day, as I was contemplating how I was going to undertake this challenge, a generous couple called and asked if they could stop by my office. When they arrived later that day, they handed me a check for several thousand dollars, earmarked for student scholarships. This gave me a good jumpstart toward the fund-raising goal before I had even asked for the first donation! On the same day, my devotional reading led me to Ephesians 3:20, which states, "His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine" (CEV). I was somewhat ashamed that God needed to give me such blunt reminders that all I have to do is be a willing instrument. Thankfully, I did finish the day with a much more positive outlook toward the task awaiting me.



Sheri Tydings
Principal

English Teacher Wins Award of Excellence

The Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) recently chose to recognize Highland View Academy (HVA) English teacher Jennifer Payne with their annual Excellence in Teaching Award.

Each year the AAF honors five or more secondary teachers employed at an Adventist school operating within the North American Division (NAD). Finalists are chosen through a multi-tiered process. Nominations are first made by the school administration, and then narrowed down at the conference, union, and division levels. The NAD vice president for education—currently Gerald Kovalski—then recommends finalists to the AAF Board of Trustees. Nine teachers received this award in 2006.

The Excellence in Teaching Award includes a trip to the awards ceremony at the Westin Kierland Resort and



Jennifer Payne with her father, Ray Minner (left), and husband, Jason, at the Alumni Awards Foundation ceremony.

Spa in Scottsdale, Ariz., and a \$1,000 gift. Payne was overwhelmed and very humbled when she heard she won the award. She said, "I have my dream job, and it's amazing to be recognized just for doing what I love!"

"The AAF is doing great things for Adventist education, and I'm really proud that HVA has a recipient of their Excellence in Teaching Award," says Sheri Tydings, principal. "Jennifer is an inspiring teacher, a tremendous asset to HVA, and she certainly deserves this award."

The AAF was founded in 1995 by a group of individuals who wanted to give something back to the Adventist educational system that benefited them. In addition to the Excellence in Teaching Award, they also give the Academy Award of Excellence, the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award, and the Elementary Pursuit of Excellence Award. HVA received first place in the Academy Award of Excellence competition in 2000, and second place in 2006. Both awards came with a gift of \$20,000.—Jenny Harlow



Jennifer Payne guides her freshmen English students through the classic Romeo and Juliet.

Students Create Cultural Art

HVA students participate in an Art Appreciation Day every year. This year the theme was cultural art. Students were divided into groups, and each one learned about the art produced by a specific culture, such as Aboriginal, African, Japanese, Native American, and other cultural art forms.



Freshmen Victoria Dye and Brittany Jepson display their Native American art.

Students and teachers then got in touch with their artistic side. Using paints, pencils, clay, rocks, and other mediums, they produced an incredible variety of cultural art. Some of the finished products included unique sculptures created by the students, as well as those reproduced from famous artists. There were some beautiful paintings that showed the diversity of colors and styles prevalent in some cultures and time periods. Some students even put their art in motion and gave dramatic presentations about their assigned culture.

Freshman Jessica Gavin, who participated in designing Aboriginal art, said, "I enjoyed seeing and learning about so many different kinds of art. I think my favorite was the Chinese art."

The day concluded with all participants displaying their work. "The creative and unique pieces the students produced were amazing," says Kim Brown, registrar and group leader for the students who studied and produced Egyptian art. Many students and faculty alike were pleasantly surprised about the discovery of a lot of hidden talent.



The students who studied Mexican art created a large mural from 12 smaller paintings.



Austin Ugorji and Arthur Kim depict the flight of the buffalo.

Korean Students Enjoy English Language Program

Thirty-two Korean students from the Seoul Sahmyook Middle School in Seoul, Korea, recently visited HVA for a three-week English Language Program. This is the third time HVA has hosted Korean visitors, much to the enjoyment and enrichment of the whole campus. The visiting students, all in grades 7 to 9, stayed in the dorms, attended classes taught by HVA faculty and friends, visited homes during one weekend, and also toured New York City, Niagara Falls, and Orlando.



Students from the Seoul Sahmyook Middle School in Korea sing a traditional Korean song at the closing banquet.

Andrew Choi, business manager and program liaison, says, "This program provides immediate income for HVA, and also some long-term income as some past visitors have returned to enroll as full-time students."

The English Language Program concluded with a banquet that

included a full buffet of traditional Korean foods, vocal and instrumental musical selections, and the exchange of gifts between students and teachers. Each language school participant also received a certificate of completion from HVA principal Sheri Tydings, and several also received academic scholarships.—*Jenny Harlow*

CALENDAR

April

- 25 Spring Music Tour
- 25-29 Home Leave

May

- 4 Alumni Golf Tournament
Beaver Creek Course, 8 a.m.
- 4-6 Alumni Weekend
- 11 Covenant Drama Vespers Program, *Highland View Church, 7:30 p.m.*
- 12 Music Department Spring Concert, *Highland View Church, 7 p.m.*
- 20-23 Senior Trip
- 23-25 Final Exams
- 25-27 Graduation Weekend

Highlander is published in the Visitor by the Highland View Academy 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 ■ Phone: (301) 739-8480 Fax: (301) 733-4770 ■ Editor, Sheri Tydings www.highlandviewacademy.com

Soldiers of the King—Enlisted, Not Drafted

As we press forward with the proclamation of God's final message of warning and appeal, I think you will agree that the following words adapted from *Gospel Workers* (p. 351) are highly relevant to our shared responsibility today.

"The strength of any army is measured largely by the efficiency of the men and women in the ranks. A wise general instructs his officers to train every soldier for active service. He seeks to develop the highest efficiency on the part of all. If he were to depend on his officers alone, he could never expect to conduct a successful campaign. He counts on loyal and untiring service from every man and woman in his army. The responsibility rests largely upon the men and women in the ranks.

"So it is in the army of God. Our General, who has never lost a battle, expects willing, faithful service from everyone who has enlisted under His banner. In the closing controversy now waging between the forces of good and the host of evil, He expects all, laymen as well as ministers, to take part. All who have enlisted as His soldiers are to render faithful service as minutemen, with a keen sense of the responsibility resting upon them individually.

"The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of the ministers and church officers."



Larry Boggess
President

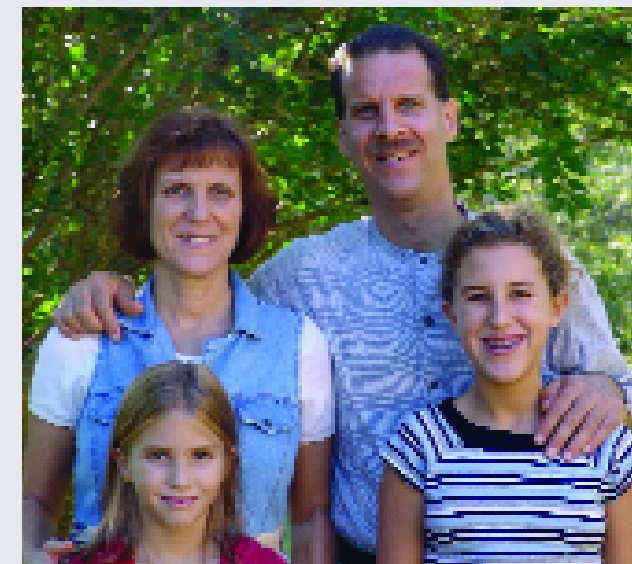
Pastoral Family Welcomed

Conference leadership are delighted that James Volpe and his wife, Priska, have accepted the call to shepherd the Clarksburg/Fairmont/Grafton district. Just prior to their move to West Virginia, Volpe served as a bi-vocational pastor for a three-church district in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Although a carpenter and house painter by trade, Volpe's dominate passion is soul winning. Thus he and his family welcomed the opportunity to devote themselves full time to ministry in Mountain View.

When asked what led him into ministry, Volpe replied, "I was brought into the church through the influence of Pastor Bob Banks in Beverly, Mass., who gave me personal Bible studies and invited me to his seminar on the book of Revelation. His rich knowledge of the Bible and sincere connection with God deepened my own growing desire to know the Lord and to gain a clear understanding of Scripture truth.

In addition to public evangelism, Pastor Volpe is dedicated to pastoral visitation, reclaiming missing members, and giving Bible studies. Volpe says, "It is the time for us all to make our calling and election sure in Christ, and for our lives to clearly represent the Lord."



James Volpe, new Clarksburg/Fairmont/Grafton district pastor, is teamed with his wife, Priska, and their children (left to right) Sarah (9) and Angela (13). Not pictured are the Volpe's older son, Jacob (25), a master mechanic; and daughter Francis (23), an emergency room nurse and missionary.

Evangelism Initiative Launched in Lewisburg

Dave Weigley (pictured), Columbia Union Conference president, was recently a guest speaker at the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church. His sermon was titled "Unity, Prayer, and Submission (UPS)." He presented several accounts from the book of Acts about the powerful effects of the Holy Spirit's baptism of the early Christians. Weigley described the conditions of this infilling, pointing out that the people were



in unity—all together in one place, of one mind, and unified purpose. Through much prayer, they submitted their will to God, constantly seeking His direction.

Noting that the Lewisburg church was unified in its decision to have an evangelistic series this month, Weigley encouraged members to pray for the meetings. "When we pray," he said, "God manifests Himself in powerful ways." For this reason Weigley urged each of us to ask, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" Weigley concluded his mes-

sage by quoting the UPS business slogan, "We Deliver!" He pointed out that when we faithfully do our part, when we "deliver" what we promise to do, God will deliver in a still higher sense, and we shall be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In preparation for Weigley's evangelistic series, the church engaged the services of Lillian Torres, an experienced Bible worker, who trained members to conduct personal studies with non-members, both before and after the meetings.—*Kathy Pepper*

Helping Students Do God's Will

Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator: individuality, power to think and to do ... It is the work of true education to develop this power to train young people to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other people's thought" (*Education*, p. 12).

As we train young people to be thinkers, it is vital to ensure that the training they receive is going to lead them to be productive citizens for His cause. It is our desire to instill in our students a sense of purpose and a feeling of success in their pursuit of advancing the kingdom. This desire has led all of us as staff to reflect on helping our students to develop the character of Christ and a desire to serve others. It is our prayer that as they "think" they will be prepared to "do" according to His will.



David Daniels
Principal

Morgantown Hosts Community Friendship Day



Morgantown church members fellowship over a homemade Italian dinner with neighborhood guests.

The Morgantown (W.Va.) church reached out hands of friendship to their neighbors by holding a community dinner recently. Members hand delivered invitations for a homemade Italian dinner to homes in the surrounding neighborhood. The invitation stated that church members hoped they could get better acquainted with their neighbors.

During the dinner, each attendee

stood and told a little bit about themselves and their family. The guests enjoyed the dinner and the fellowship so much that they suggested the church hold a block party this summer. They assured church members that they would encourage the rest of the neighborhood to come and enjoy this event. Accordingly plans are being made for the block party in June.

Mountaintop Students Exercise Compassion

The privilege and purpose of a Christian schoolteacher is to daily guide her students to a biblical faith and love for Jesus and a respectful compassion for fellow human beings. It is a deep joy to see young faith and compassion express itself in action. For such expression is the work of the Holy Spirit upon the human heart.

Such a flowering of Christ-like compassion for "a brother" has been developing in the sensitive heart of Cody LaRue (pictured), a seventh-grader at Mountaintop



Adventist School in Oakland, Md. Daily morning worship in

his classroom always includes prayer for Chase, the 22-year-old grandson of one of Mountaintop's church members, Norma Jean Dumire. Paralyzed from the neck down, Chase has been in a rehabilitation center near Washington, D.C., for more than a year.

Compassion bloomed into the kind act of Cody sending a Bible to Chase, who received it gratefully. God further moved upon the student's heart following Chase's request for a visit. This meeting and link of compassion have been strengthened by phone calls from all of the students. They sent their class picture and send up daily prayers for Chase during morning worship.—*Marie Schuberthan*

Mountain View EVENTS

April

- 2 Pastors Meeting
- 15 Board of Education

May

- 7 Executive Committee
- 13-18 Outdoor School

Mountain Viewpoint is published in the Visitor by the Mountain View Conference 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 Phone: (304) 422-4581 President, Larry Boggess Editor, Brian Jones ■ www.mtviewconf.org

Spiritual Development Program Created

Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) will embark on an innovative spiritual development program next school year that will involve all students. Each student will be given a spiritual gifts inventory and love language profile, and will then sit with a spiritual development facilitator to brainstorm ways to use their gifts. Each quarter students will decide upon two spiritual goals for themselves and two activities to fulfill these goals. Students will incorporate and use their spiritual gifts, love languages, and the nine character traits MVA emphasizes for character development into their spiritual development activities.

To fulfill their goals, MVA students will be able to choose from the many spiritual development framework activities already in place. But at least one of their goals/activities during the school year must be student created and student led. Students will be encouraged to think out of the box and get a little out of their comfort zone—and out of MVA and Mount Vernon too. Some of the student-created/student-led activities from a test group this semester include walks with nature-focused object lessons, a Christian book club, an inspirational art ministry, and a student midweek Bible study/prayer meeting.

Students' home churches will get a fresh dose of enthusiasm when MVA students take part in local and



Freshman Briana Castillo and Jay Colburn, Ohio Conference Superintendent of Education, visit area homes to pray and talk with local residents.



Freshman Lorraine Mukona (left) and senior Heather Davis make rag dolls for children of struggling families.

home church activities, projects, and church services as part of their individual spiritual development. The test group this semester will make rag dolls and mittens to give to the local Adventist Caring Through Sharing center for children going through hard family times. They will

also plan and give church socials, lead out in "special church" for special needs individuals, visit non-attending members, and take part in a flower-growing ministry. Ohio Conference staff will also be taking several students with them when they visit area churches, so the students can share their spiritual gifts with church members.

MVA students will be able to develop their own ministries, activities, projects, and programming with the purpose of using them for camp, college, and their local churches—now and as adult leaders. One student is already working on a link to MVA's website that will have an events calendar and "catalog" of ways church members may participate in the youth's spiritual development. It is the school leadership's goal for spirituality to permeate every aspect of the MVA experience and to develop lifelong spiritual leaders.

Academy Days Guaranteed to Please

Don't be caught off guard! Prepare now to be a part of the growing annual sensation called Academy Days. Last year proved to be a huge success as 110 visiting students arrived on campus for two fun-filled days.

Mount Vernon Academy extends an invitation to students in grades 7 through 11 to visit the campus on April 15 and 16. Visiting students, grades 8 and up, will be given the opportunity to try out for scholarships in choir, handbells, band, art, drama, volleyball, basketball, soccer, and gymnastics. Scholarship money will go toward their tuition for the 2007-08 school year.

While on campus, all students will enjoy playing unique games, participating in a knowledge bowl, eat-

ing in the cafeteria, and sleeping in the dormitories. Students will experience "going to class" alongside our current MVA students in order to meet the teachers. Upon arriving on campus, students will be greeted by their own personal MVA ambassadors and met by their "team" members. Each team will consist of 10-12 students. The teams will compete against each other to earn points throughout the weekend.

The two-day event will culminate with an assembly where students will receive their scholarship awards and team prize money. This event is totally free of charge. For more information, send an email to masutton@mva-academy.org or call (740) 397-5411. See you there!

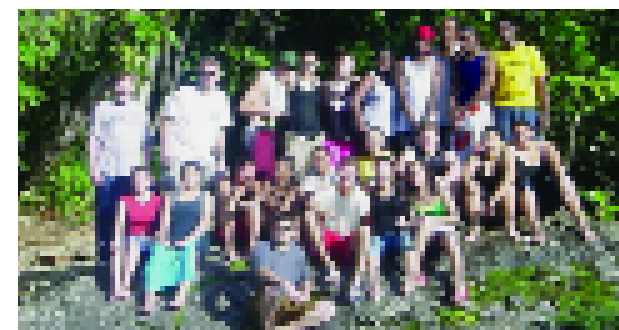
Students Grow Their Faith in Belize

Each year the students of Mount Vernon Academy are given the opportunity to work for the Lord in a foreign country. While there is plenty of work to do for Him here at home, a trip to a developing country places the students squarely in the arms of the Savior because the amenities and comforts of "their world" are no longer available. So while the primary goal of the mission trip is to further the gospel, the participant's faith and trust in God are being furthered as well.

MVA students continued the construction of a new Seventh-day Adventist church in the southern Belize town of San Pedro. The gospel is rapidly spreading in this area of the country, despite attempts by other denominations in the area to keep Adventists out.



Juniors Kayla Alcott and Joshua Asamoa lay block walls for a new Seventh-day Adventist church in San Pedro.



The MVA mission trippers take a group picture after enjoying a few minutes of cliff jumping into the crystal water of a lake in Belize.

Despite the heat, humidity, rain, rough roads, and attempts by village leaders to withhold supplies, the hard work of the students helped the construction to be nearly completed.

In one instance of divine watch care, the group's bus broke down at the height of a mountain road late at night, losing all of its oil onto the road. But because of

continued prayers by the group and those at home, a miraculous stream of events happened to put the group at their destination in time to continue with their plans.

It may be that the Lord allows trials to happen to grow our faith, or it may be that without the clutter of "American culture," we are simply more aware of God's leading and intervention in our lives. Whatever the case, God again used MVA's mission trip to bring glory to His name and a renewed sense of trust in Him to His servants in Ohio.

Spirit is published in the *Visitor* by Mount Vernon Academy
525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone:
(740) 397-5411 ■ Principal, David Daniels ■ www.mvacademy.org
Editor, Margaret Sutton

Do You Refuse to Hear God's Voice?

"I pray and pray, but God just refuses to hear me." Have you heard that one? But what about this comment: "I answer and I answer, but they refuse to listen to Me."

Money-hungry, power-seeking, status-climbing Balaam put God in that same position. He desperately wanted to work for the King of Moab and get a piece of the king's wealth. Somewhere along the line Balaam was a good guy for God and must have done some marvelous things because the king, fearing the large company of Israelites, called Balaam to come and curse them.

You know the story. Balaam presents his request to God, but in his soul he already knows there is only one answer he will accept. But I doubt if Balaam is so different from some of us who offer "just-in-case-God-agrees" type of prayers—because we really would like His approval. Secretly we may even hope that because we did ask Him, that, in itself, may in some way sway God.

We pray and pray, asking for the same thing over and over. When we get a response from God that we don't like, it doesn't take much for us to deceive ourselves into thinking God never answered. But if you look back at those times, and set self aside, you will find God did answer, and you knew what you were to do, or not do. Perhaps God should have gotten more aggressive with us as He did Balaam; however, even a talking donkey didn't detour him from his set course. He wanted what he wanted; we want what we want. I pray that we can more fervently seek God's true desire for us, and hear *His* answer to our prayers.



LeRoy Finck
President

Union City Spanish Celebrates Health Activities

The Union City Spanish church offers health classes to Latinos in the area through its outreach program called "A Healthy and Active Life" (Una Vida Sana y Activa). During a recent class, five new visitors were present, all of them attending a Seventh-day Adventist church for the first time.

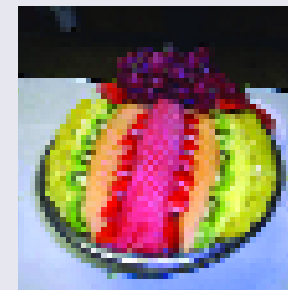


different stations for a complete body workout. Victor Hugo Garcia (pictured), a chef specializing in salad preparation, gives a demonstration on how to prepare and decorate healthy and delicious fruit and salad plates for any occasion. When the plates are prepared, participants can enjoy tasting these heavenly dishes. All participants also receive free health and evangelistic materials.

The classes are having such a positive influence on the community, that a local Hispanic newspaper reporter recently approached the church about publishing an article on obesity among Latinos, highlighting the class and its impact.—*Claudia Garcia del Puerto, MD*



The classes start with a Christ-centered devotional, a short song service, and a word of prayer. Next the physical education teacher, Gliceria Arboleda, and physical therapist, Wences Arboleda, conduct a thorough physical exercise class that includes 11



Browns Mills Celebrates Baptisms

It was a high day at the Browns Mills church as six people were baptized following the recent Revelation seminar conducted by Pastor Bob Hoyt.

Newly baptized Lucas and Angel Coffey first contacted Pastor Hoyt last summer to request that he marry them. He agreed and performed the backyard ceremony soon afterward. Pastor Hoyt invited them to attend his church and the couple accepted, attending that very next Sabbath. They continued coming week after week, right through the seminar.

Tyrone Oliver, a young man of 14, was invited to the seminar by a neighborhood Adventist friend, Andrew Baith. He continued attending both the seminar and church services, eagerly absorbing the les-



Newly baptized members of the Browns Mills church include (left to right) Tyrone Oliver, Angel and Lucas Coffey, and brothers Ian and John Wildman.

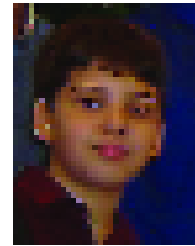
Youth Department.

Brothers Ian and John Wildman attended church for several years with their father, but had never before taken a stand for the Lord. When the seminar started, they both started attending the meetings on their own, frequently without

sons and taking them home to his grandmother. At the end of the seminar, Oliver asked to be baptized and is already an active member of the Browns Mills

dad. At the close of the seminar, both of the Wildman brothers decided to follow Jesus in baptism. John is already active in the fledgling Adventist Youth program.

Brennen Elg (pictured), who stays with his dad only every other week, is a really devoted young man who comes to church with his dad faithfully. At the end of the seminar he asked to be included in the baptism.



There are several more people who attended the seminar who are preparing for baptism and will be joining the church in the very near future.—Pastor Bob Hoyt

Pastoral Intern Welcomed

Elvis Diaz (pictured) recently joined the New Jersey Conference as an internship pastor. Diaz will be studying under the leadership of Joel Soto, pastor of the Bridgeton and Panamericana Spanish churches.

Diaz was born in the Dominican Republic. Early in his childhood, his parents Maximo and Lidia Diaz led him in God's path. Diaz graduated from Dominican Adventist University where he worked as a youth pastor.



After graduation, he served for a year as a district pastor in the North Dominican Conference. Diaz has been highly blessed by the Lord in the win-

ning of souls and as a youth leader. The conference is happy to have him join its pastoral team.

65 Couples Attend Retreat

The Family Ministries Department held a wonderful couples retreat recently for conference Hispanic churches. Held in Edison, guest speakers were Drs. Itamar and Ruth DePaiva from the Texas Conference.

Sixty-five couples shared, laughed, and cried together. There were six couples that were not Adventist, including a well-known speaker from a radio station in New

York and the Univision TV channel—"El Pacha"—and his wife.

The event included a romantic banquet and a special communion service. Speakers emphasized forgiveness and reconciliation, and couples got the chance to wash each other's feet.—Jorge Agüero



dates NEW JERSEY

April

- 1-8 NET 2007—Hope TV & 3ABN, Bridgeton
- 9 Evangelism Committee
- 10 Pastors Meeting
- Camp Meeting Planning
- 11 Directors Advisory
- 14-15 Sabbath School Workshop
- 17 ADCOM
- 20-22 Elders Retreat
- 21 Waldwick Education Rally
- 24 Administrative Committee
- TVRC Committee
- Finance Committee
- 25 HSH Board
- 26 Association Board
- Executive Committee
- 28 Youth Rally "The Call"
- 29 ACS/ACSDR Advisory

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 Hispanic Leaders Gather for Small Group Evangelism Retreat

More than 100 Hispanic leaders gathered in Columbus at the Embassy Suites Hotel recently to receive instruction and inspiration for starting small group evangelism in their churches. The 116 attendees from nine churches and groups throughout Ohio listened to evangelist José Esposito, Potomac Conference Hispanic Ministries director, as he led in the training.

In 1985 the Potomac Conference had three Hispanic churches and started the small group initiative. Today there are 54

Hispanic churches in Potomac. Small group ministry is a major contributing factor in the dramatic growth. The metro areas of Ohio are fertile ground for reaching thousands of souls for Christ.

The Ohio Conference is intentional in reaching into this part of the Lord's vineyard. On November 17 a celebration of all the churches and members and those who have been baptized will take place in Columbus. Your prayers are appreciated as this major initiative is started.—Hubert Cisneros



Guest speaker José Esposito baptizes a new member from the Hamilton Spanish Mission Company in the hotel pool.



Food and fellowship were an important part of the recent evangelism training event in Columbus.



Alabanza Pura, a musical group from Maryland, provided inspiration throughout the weekend.



More than 100 small group leaders came to learn about starting small group evangelism in their churches.

Conference-Wide Youth Congress

Transform '07

100

years of youth ministry

In 1907, the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist church took an action to create a society that would call, teach, and display the young people of the church into the mission field of the worldwide church. The recognition that Adventism was a movement started, fueled, and inspired by younger folk was now acknowledged as God's leading.

Now in 2007, a century has passed. Young people are still in the front lines of many aspects of the Advent movement.

Transform '07 is a clarion call to all the young people of the Ohio Conference and surrounding areas to reclaim their heritage, celebrate the way God is using them now, and surge into the future that God has clearly envisioned for all His children. This high Sabbath will see hundreds gather in Dayton to praise God, lead a band in service, and connect with others who love Jesus.

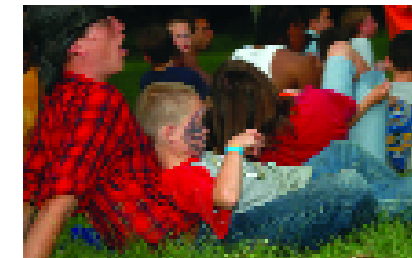
Transform '07 is for youth and young adults and will be held October 15, 2007 at the Tenth Avenue in Dayton, Ohio. For more information call the office of Youth Ministry for the Ohio Conference at (740) 397-4665 ext. 122.

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

Helping Youth Make Choices for Heaven

In His wisdom, God gave each of us the power to choose. Children today are bombarded with more and more information that would lead them to believe that choosing Jesus is not the best choice to make. We as a church have a responsibility to help all the children in our congregations have an opportunity to see how much fuller their lives can be if they make choices for heaven.

Summer camp is one of the best opportunities for young people to see Jesus and how much He loves them. With fewer and fewer youth staying in our small churches, and even less able to attend Adventist schools, camp offers a chance for them to see others who have been taught and believe the same way they do. To share a cabin with nine people who also have been taught about Jesus, and to be surrounded by a staff that is older and choosing Jesus, can really impact a young person.



Summer camp counselors, like James Goff, have a huge impact on campers—giving them a glimpse of God through their friendship, laughter, and prayers.

This year our focus is on developing "Forever Friends." Friends can be so important to all of us, but to young people, having friends can be a very strong driving force. In all our programming this summer, we will focus on how to choose Jesus as our most important friend, and then, by showing Him to others, we can develop friendships that will last throughout eternity.

For more information or to register for summer camp, go to www.laurellakecamp.com, or call (814) 938-9300.



Laurel Lake Camp was filled to capacity last summer with kids from across Pennsylvania who learned more about nature, themselves, and God.



Denise Moran

Summer Camp Ministries Director

Camper Confirms Camp's Impact

I have gone to Laurel Lake Camp for five years, but there is no doubt in my mind that this past summer was the best. The staff was great. I really saw God in each one of them. Everywhere we went and everything we did, we could feel the blessings of God—in nature, in the kids.

The activities were off the hook! I loved playing basketball, swimming, and jet skiing. But I think my favorite part, above all, was water skiing with Josh and James. There was no time to get bored, never a dull moment.

The worship services were very inspiring—the singing, the stories. We could feel God's presence all around, and I feel it brought me closer to Him. When you are there, in nature, with other kids who believe the same way you do, you just feel God's love so strong all around you. I felt so touched by God that I want to help do the same for others. This coming summer I hope to go and work there and make an impact

on the lives of others. This one week of camp made a difference that I will not soon forget.—*Trish Panuccio*

Fifteen-year-old Trish Panuccio lives in Mechanicsburg with her parents, Tony and Donna, and her siblings, Gye, Dannielle, Alex, Joseph, and Anthony. She attends Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg.



Camp Outreach Targets Community

Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter is more than just a summer camp. Camp facilities director Gary Moran considers reaching out to the community part of the mission of the camp. Since he and wife, Denise, Summer Camp Ministries director, arrived last year, they have been working with the nearby Laurel Lake church to do their part in treating Pennsylvania like a mission field and inviting the community to events at the camp.

Approximately 40 people attended their first gospel sing. Darryl Marshall, who often sings on 3ABN, gave a community concert in March. More than 30 guests tasted their way through the recent Vegetarian Extravaganza. Attendees had the opportunity of trying vegetarian food and to pick up recipes. Close to 60 people attended the Christmas hayride, which allowed them to see the beautiful trails around the camp.

Located near Puxatawney—famous for the groundhog

Puxatawney Phil—the Morans opened the camp as a place for families and those wanting a smoke-free and alcohol-free place to stay for Groundhog Day. More than 70 people—families, college students, and a newspaper crew from Philadelphia—spent the night at the camp. Laurel Lake church member Betty Hawk helped the Morans make welcome packets for registration, which included a letter explaining the camp, the book *Who Are the Seventh-day Adventists?*, several issues of *Signs of the Times*, and treats. Church members Clair and Lois Limerick helped the Morans prepare and serve a full hot breakfast and fruit bar.

As a result of these events and the information about the camp and Adventists that are shared, several are planning to attend either family camp or to send their children to summer camp.

Plans are now underway for a Festival of Lights to be held from



Guests had the opportunity to try vegetarian entrees, soups, breads, and desserts at the Vegetarian Extravaganza.

Thanksgiving through New Year's featuring a walking tour with live scenes of the nativity, Jerusalem, and more.

Volunteers are always needed to help with events and to do repairs and improvements on the campgrounds. For more information, contact the Morans at (814) 938-9300.

2007 Events to Emphasize "Living the Mission"

What is the role of the church elder outside of the worship service? Can Pathfinders and Adventurers be an evangelistic outreach? Where can laypeople learn preaching skills? How can our various church ministries share the gospel with the community? How can we grow our church and reach our community for Christ?

The Pennsylvania Conference staff will be answering these questions and more at four upcoming "Living the Mission: Sharing the Gospel" events. Held at four different locations across the state, churches will be invited to an afternoon filled with practical seminars that will offer information, resources, and tools for sharing the gospel through the ministries of the church. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two seminars on topics that will include Children's Ministries, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Community Services, elders, deacons, preaching, stewardship, learning the new Adventist Church Connect websites, and church planting and mission.

Each event will be held from 2-5 p.m. on the following dates in 2007:

- April 21 at the Stroudsburg church
- May 5 at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy
- May 19 at the Pittsburgh church
- October 20 at the York church

More information will be available at your local church or by contacting the conference office at (610) 374-8331.

What's happening

- April**
- 2-5 Outdoor School, Laurel Lake Camp
 - 13-15 Young Adult Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp
 - 27-29 Alumni Weekend, Blue Mountain Academy
 - Adventurer Family Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp

- May**
- 6-7 Academy Days, Blue Mountain Academy
 - 11-12 Youth Leaders Summit
 - 25-27 Graduation Weekend, Blue Mountain Academy

- June**
- 15-23 Camp Meeting, Blue Mountain Academy

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

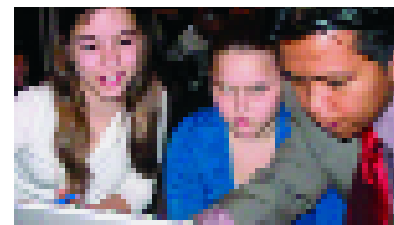
Potomac People

APRIL 2007

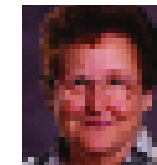
Jesus Said, "Go!"

Luke 9:1 states, "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority ... (NIV)." Luke 10:2 declares, "... the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

Jesus tells us to pray and go. After praying, He chose 12 men to be trained as His partners in ministry and then to carry on when His work was finished. The need to pray, choose, and send out workers is just as great today. The harvest is ripe. Current research tells us the baby boomers are "coming home."



Pictured is Mark Sigue (far right), Sligo church children's pastor in Takoma Park, Md., and part of the conference Children's Ministries "Dream Team." These are laypeople who are giving their time and talents to help reap the harvest so Jesus can come. Please pray for our team.



Barbara Manspeaker
Children's Ministries Director

Youthfest Energizes and Inspires

Infectious enthusiasm could not be contained when more than 600 youth from across the Potomac Conference gathered for Youthfest 2007. The theme was "So You Think You Can't Dance." Denny Grady, Youth Ministries director and speaker for the event, raised the questions: "How do you dance in your church? How is it that you make it fun for your youth?"

First-time attendee Cheryl



the people, and it's nice to meet kids who love God and are not ashamed to show it."

Shane Anderson, senior pastor

Simpson (left), age 14, a freshman at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., said, "I really like the atmosphere and

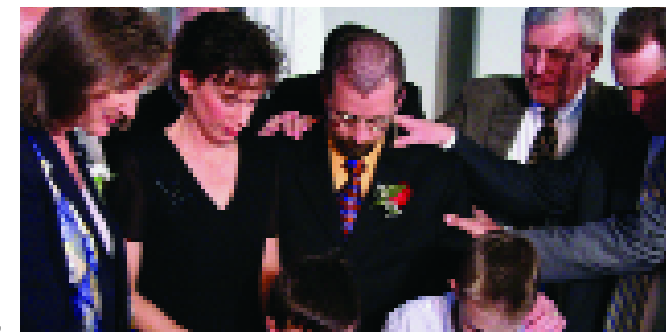
at the New Market (Va.) church, delivered a powerful message explaining how standards are essential because they provide a mental space for God to communicate with us—a radical new concept for many. There was lots of great music and a *Hollywood Squares* game show with a cast of favorite Bible characters played by youth leaders. Plan to attend next year's event!—Jeanie Allen

Damascus Pastor Ordained/Commissioned

Conference officers recently joined David Vandevere, pastor of the Damascus Grace Fellowship church in Damascus, Md., his wife, Cindy, and their friends and family for his ordination/commissioning service.

Before coming to Damascus three years ago, Vandevere served as secretary-treasurer for the Minnesota Conference. He said, "There is nothing as gratifying as serving God in the capacity that He has called you."

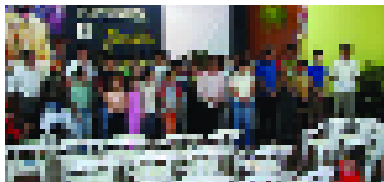
Vandevere felt the call to ministry during his youth, but changed direction and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He and Cindy have two children, Steven (13) and Ryan (10).—Jeanie Allen



Pastor Bonita Joyner Shields (far left), Adventist Review/Adventist World assistant editor and Damascus church member, offers the ordination prayer for David Vandevere.

Pastors Witness Miracles in Argentina

A group of 11 pastors, including Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley, recently traveled to Misiones, Argentina, to hold evangelistic crusades. Approximately 7,000 people attended each night, of which 3,000 were not Seventh-day Adventist. By the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, 319 souls surrendered their lives to Christ through baptism. A thousand more are currently taking Bible studies to prepare for baptism.



One special conversion story was that of Amada Oliveira. "She practiced witchcraft for more than 60 years in the same neighborhood I lived in as a child," said José Esposito, Hispanic Ministries Evangelism director. Long after the Esposito family moved away, Oliveira's daughter learned of the Adventist gospel and was baptized against her mother's will. Oliveira threatened to send her daughter an evil spirit in hopes of dampening her newfound faith. In 2005 the daughter died in an accident.

The Adventist pastor who officiated the funeral asked Oliveira's granddaughter to fill her mother's place in the church family. The young girl accepted and started studying the Bible. She shared what she learned about witchcraft and its evils with her grandmother and pleaded with her to abandon her ways. After many struggles and visits from the pastor, Oliveira acknowledged that this was the truth and was baptized along with her granddaughter. "I had the pleasure and honor of seeing this woman, at the age of 83, give her life to God," added Esposito.

Hispanic Ministries Gets Headquarters

After many days of fasting and praying by pastors, elders, and administrators, the conference was miraculously able to purchase a beautiful property to act as the headquarters for all Hispanic Ministries.

The new Adventist Training and Evangelistic Productions Center (pictured) has a 240-seating capacity sanctuary, eight offices, a fellowship

hall, and another large meeting room. It is situated on three acres of land in Temple Hills, Md.

The building will include the outreach of Second Advent Ministries, Radio Ministries, Hispanic Colporteurs and Evangelism Ministries, and Youth Ministries (PCJovenes.com). It will house studios for radio and video production. The radio station Ondas de Esperanza will produce its programs in the center, and the video production team will produce materials to be used in small groups. Programs in Spanish will also be produced for the Hope Channel, He Shall Come (Advenir) Net, and 3ABN.—José Esposito



Potomac Welcomes New Pastors

Richard James is the new youth pastor at the Takoma Park (Md.) church. James, a Barbados native, previously served as a pastor in the Florida Conference as well as a chaplain in the United States Army. James would like to see the church help young people experience the power of God in their lives. James and his wife, Del, are the proud parents of Richelle (16) and Richard, Jr. (9) (all pictured above).

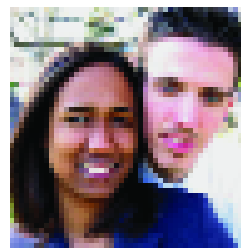


Will Johns is the new pastor of the Waynesboro (Va.) church. He previously served as the associate pastor at the Knoxville First church. Johns met his wife, Lori, while living in Collegedale, Tenn. The Johns enjoy spending



time with their two children, Bryn and Noah (all pictured, below left). Johns is passionate about sharing the gospel and seeing lives changed, both in the church and throughout the community.

Treva Osborn (pictured right, with his wife, Shari) recently joined the staff at the Patterson Avenue church in Richmond, Va., where he serves as associate pastor. Osborn met Shari while completing his theology degree at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. He would like to see the Patterson Avenue congregation serve as a community center where members are empowered to serve, and everyone in the community can find help for all their needs.—Jeanie Allen



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

SVA Keeps Getting Better

You may have heard about changes going on at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Not only have we been working on mission and objectives, we have also been working on programs and curriculum. While all of this is going on, we are also making major renovations on the physical campus.

The Phanstiel Fitness Room (pictured, bottom left) recently opened for the ladies of Hadley Hall. It is located on the first floor, opposite the worship room.

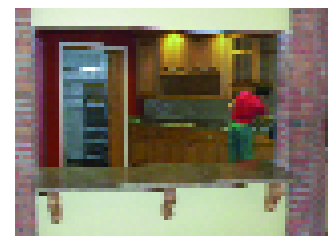
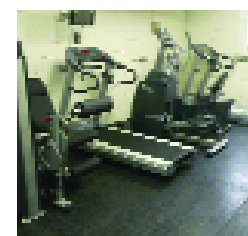
The room was recently painted and equipped with exhaust fans, lighting, rubber mat flooring, new glass entrance doors, etc. There are two treadmills, an elliptical machine, and a stair-stepping machine. There is a separate TV monitor placed in front of each machine with earphone jacks. There are also four weight training machines, each capable of doing two separate exercises. These eight machines are all in a row facing a wall of mirrors. Behind these machines are the free weights, exercise balls, computer for recording workouts, and a larger TV monitor for demonstrating how to use the equipment and instructions on exercise routines. There is also ample floor space for additional exercises.

The female students are very excited about the room. We have a weight-loss incentive for the staff right now, so I suspect some of the female staff will also log time in the fitness room.

We are also just days away from opening the newly renovated Student Center. Becky Cabrera Feltman has led the Class of 1976 in raising \$70,000 to redo the room. A snack shop will be in the old kitchen area, and all of the paneled walls have been dry-walled and painted. A wood laminate floor has been installed in the large area in front of the snack shop, with carpet in front of the fireplace. A new entertainment center will be placed on each side of the fireplace so that two audiences can view the same or separate programs. The elevated "balcony" has become the game area for air hockey, ping-pong, and pool. New furniture will be used for eating snacks, and soft furniture around the fireplace will make for comfortable conversation areas. The students are pretty excited about the improvements being made here. The most recent renovation photos can be seen at www.youracademy.org.

We are still putting ideas and plans together for renovating the boys' dorm, Price Hall. We have had meetings with Adventist contractors, Adventist architects, along with representatives from Maranatha Volunteers International. We hope to get good estimates on the remodeling project soon and begin work on this project during the spring.

SVA "ain't" what it used to be ... it's even better!



Dale Twomley, PhD
Principal

Mark Your Calendars

SVA faculty and staff would like to see you at Alumni Weekend, April 15-16. See firsthand the updates happening to your old stomping grounds.

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

TA TODAY

www.ta.edu

APRIL 2007

News you can use from Takoma Academy

To Never Say Goodbye

I look forward to seeing our alumni every year. Alumni Weekend is always the fourth weekend in April, and renewing acquaintances and sharing what has happened during the past few years is always a blessing. The special weekend also reminds me to look forward to heaven knowing that there will come a time when we will never have to say goodbye to anyone. What a homecoming that will be. To be in the presence of Jesus and friends for eternity makes me say, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."



C. Dunbar Henri
Principal

Senior Advances to National Scholarship Finals

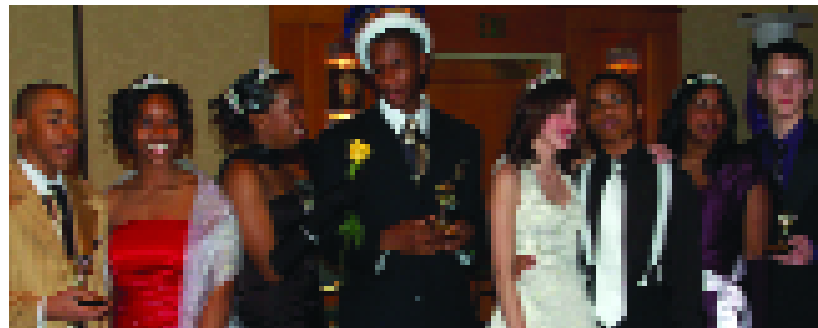
One of Takoma Academy's (TA) stellar senior students, Lehdeen T. Bennett (pictured), was recently selected as a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. High school students enter this program by taking the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and meeting program entry requirements.

TA is pleased to announce that Lehdeen has now advanced to the finalist standing in the 2007 National Achievement Scholarship Program, a privately financed academic competition for African-American high school students. More than 800 of the 1,300 finalists in this year's competition will win an achievement scholarship award. Names of scholarship awardees are being released to news media this month.

Alumni Weekend Planned

Takoma Academy's Alumni Weekend will be held April 27-29. The event will start with the annual golf tournament at Hampshire Greens. The welcome on Friday evening will allow time to visit with current and past students and staff. Pastor Ron Halverson, Jr., of the nearby Sligo church will be the Sabbath morning speaker. Saturday evening at 8 p.m., the Garth Gabriel Singers will perform to raise money for the J.P. Laurence Scholarship Fund. Tickets, available at the door or the Potomac Adventist Book Center, are \$10 and all proceeds, after expenses, will go to the fund. On Sunday there will be a family fun fair. Come out and enjoy it all.

Students Enjoy Valentine's Banquet



Class kings and queens were introduced and given awards during the banquet.

This year Takoma Academy's annual Valentine's Banquet was themed "The 1930s: Swing Jazz." Music teacher Tim Vandeman arranged for a professional jazz band to perform at the beginning of the night, of which

he participated. There were even a couple of professional dancers to perform some moves from the 30s. It was exciting to see students coming to the banquet dressed in the era. The food was good, the talent even better.

TA Events

April

- 13 TA's Amazing Race
- 20 Community Service Day
- 22 PATA Event
- 25 Open House, 6-8 p.m.
- 27-29 Alumni Weekend
- 27 Alumni Golf Tournament
- 28 Fundraising Concert, 8 p.m.

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

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3ABN's Ten Commandments Weekend will be broadcast live from the Arlo Crown Theater at McCormick Place, just minutes from downtown Chicago. Visit www.tencommandmentstruth.com for directions and

SATURDAY, MAY 5

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M. CST

SUNDAY, MAY 6

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. CST

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First-time advertisers who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church must submit a letter of recommendation from their pastor or conference leadership. **First-time advertisers who are not members of the Adventist church** must submit letters of recommendation from business members of their community or credit bureaus.

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Rates for classified advertising are calculated on a per insertion basis in our 12 issues. Minimum charge is \$45 for 50 words or less for ads originating within the Columbia Union Conference, and \$50 for all others. Additional words: 60 cents each. A 15 percent discount is given for 12 insertions, a 10 percent discount for six insertions, and a 5 percent discount for three insertions. A column ad (classified ad in a box) is \$110 inside the union and \$125 outside the union, with a maximum word count of 75. Ads must be placed a minimum of four weeks before the issue date, which is the first of every month.

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Potomac Conference is seeking applicants for a full-time Communication director position.

Candidates must have a degree in Communication/Public Relations or professional training in the communication field and at least two-years' experience. The job will involve aspects of public and media relations; writing, reporting, and editing; event advertising and promotion; and strategic planning. Knowledge of photography and video producing are also a plus.

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David Lee, DDS, PA, has a comprehensive dental office in Silver Spring and in Ellicott City, Maryland. He is excellent with children and adults, and is highly trained in cosmetic dentistry and implants. For appointments call: Silver Spring (301) 649-5001; Ellicott City (410) 461-6655. Mention this ad and receive 10% discount on all services (excludes third party payers). Our office is a participating provider with Adventist Risk Management.

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lawyer, judge, or law student—check out and register at the website provided for you by the General Conference Office of General Counsel: www.AdventistLawyer.com. Looking for an Adventist lawyer? This site may be helpful for you.

TRAVEL/VACATION

PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT OWNERS—ALASKAN ADVENTURE:

NAD-wide Alaskan Fly-in Camp Meeting, July 2007. Convoy with others as you follow the historic Alaska Highway to our camp at Palmer Alaska. Then, join mission flights to remote villages after camp meeting. Information: www.alaskaconference.org.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

at Highland View Seventh-day Adventist Church, April 8, at 6:30 a.m. Experiential sunrise service followed by breakfast, children's games, and an Easter egg hunt. The church is located at 21600 Academy Terrace, Hagerstown, Md. For more information, directions, or to make reservations for Sunday breakfast, please call (301) 739-3144. Visit www.fullylive.com.

THE TAKOMA PARK CHURCH CONCERT SERIES

presents "The Sacrifice," an Easter musical drama, on Sabbath, April 7, at 4 p.m., in the Church Sanctuary at the Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Old Towne Takoma Park, 6951 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. The church is accessible via Metro's Red Line. Parking is available at the Church Center at 6810 Eastern Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20012. A free-will offering will be taken. Please call (202) 829-4800, for additional information.

40TH ANNIVERSARY, Covington/Taylor Mill church—July 14—Taylor Mill, Ky. All former members are invited to attend. Details: Call Sandra Silbersack Bowman at (859) 525-7676; or taylormillsdachurch@yahoo.com.

	Apr 13	Apr 20	Apr 27	May 4	May 11
Baltimore	7:42	7:49	7:56	8:02	8:09
Cincinnati	8:13	8:20	8:27	8:34	8:40
Cleveland	8:05	8:12	8:20	8:27	8:35
Columbus	8:08	8:15	8:22	8:29	8:36
Jersey City	7:33	7:41	7:48	7:55	8:02
Norfolk	7:38	7:44	7:50	7:56	8:02
Parkersburg	8:01	8:08	8:15	8:22	8:29
Philadelphia	7:37	7:44	7:51	7:58	8:05
Pittsburgh	7:57	8:04	8:11	8:18	8:25
Reading	7:40	7:47	7:55	8:02	8:09
Richmond	7:43	7:50	7:56	8:02	8:09
Roanoke	7:53	7:59	8:05	8:12	8:18
Toledo	8:12	8:20	8:28	8:35	8:43
Trenton	7:35	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:04
Wash., D.C.	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:03	8:10

SUNSET CALENDAR

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY'S SECOND ANNUAL GOSPEL FEST

will be held at Highland View Seventh-day Adventist Church, April 20, 7:30 p.m. Gospel groups from all over the tristate area will converge to raise the roof with exciting praise and worship. Don't miss this power-packed event. The church is located at 21600 Academy Terrace in Md. Visit www.fullylive.com.

CAMP BLUE RIDGE (CBR), SUMMER CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER,

will celebrate 50 years of service to the youth and Seventh-day Adventist congregations of the Potomac Conference, June 1-3. Former campers and staff are invited to return for a reunion weekend in recognition of the ministry impact that CBR has had over the last 50 years. Come for just a day, or for the weekend, and visit with friends—young and old, near and far. To register for this weekend, please call (540) 886-0771, or visit us on the web at www.cbrsda.com. Registration deadline is May 21. For more information, you can also email 50thcelebration@cbrsda.com.

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EVERYONE: SAVE THE DATE! SISTERS FOR CHRIST

(a teen organization) Fifth Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet, April 22, from 2-6 p.m., at the Camelot of Upper Marlboro. Keynote Speakers: James Black, national youth director, and James Black Jr.! The theme is "Standing Together." It is a formal/semi-formal affair; attendance for all ages. For tickets and more information, please contact Linda Franks (267) 456-8065 or Tania Allen (301) 613-6596. You don't want to miss this impacting event! Dolores Allen, founder/director, Sisters for Christ, (301) 213-0601.

CONCERT AT HAGERSTOWN CHURCH:

Laurelbrook Adventist School, from Dayton, Tenn., will present a concert of Christian favorites at the Hagerstown church, April 28 at 7 p.m. Location: 11507 Robinwood Drive. Call (301) 797-2734, for further information.

OBITUARIES

ALTMAN, Peter S., born January 29, 1925; died January 18, 2007, in Richmond, Va. He was a member of the Carter Memorial church in Warsaw, Va. Peter is survived by his wife, Loni Altman; his son, Dan

Altman; and his two daughters, Linda Dee Baker and Susie Fritts.

GATTEN, Anna Mary, born March 10, 1916, in Dayton, Ohio; died December 25, 2006, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. She was a member of the Fredericktown (Va.) church. She was employed by Mt. Vernon Academy (1949-1967) in Food Service; Kettering Memorial Hospital (1967-1968); and was Food Service director at Indiana Academy (1968-1977). She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Willis and Janice Gatten, Eugene and Trudy Gatten, Jim and Marlene Gatten, Don and MaryJane Gatten; her daughter and son-in-law, Velda and Jake Capps; her two sisters, Esther and Bea; her brother, John Vitale; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Anna was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Willis M. Gatten; her daughter Mary Louise Matthews; two sisters; and a brother.

MORRIS, Helen Mae, born May 12, 1910, in New Castle, Pa.; died November 19, 2006. She was a member of the New Castle church. Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Leary B. Morris. Helen was baptized on February 18, 1943. She dedicated herself to the church and its work,

serving in many positions including church pianist, Sabbath School secretary, head deaconess, and church treasurer. Helen was a tireless worker for God and was dearly loved by her church family. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Bula Morris, and numerous nieces and nephews.

OSBORNE, Margie L., born November 24, 1923, in Altoona, Pa.; died December 23, 2006, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. Margie retired several years ago from the Review & Herald Publishing Assn., where she worked as the undertreasurer. She is survived by her sisters Irma Mowry and Jean Reigard.

QUIMBY, Rose H., born April 14, 1907, in Jefferson County, Ala.; died December 29, 2006, in Leesburg, Va. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. Survivors: step-son Sam Quimby of Austintown, Ohio; daughters Barbara Stratford of Aldie, Va., and Betty Zgone of Willowughby, Ohio; step-daughters Ruth McCoy of Hartford, Ohio, and Dorothy Campbell of Niles, Ohio; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Laverne Bert Quimby, her daughter, Nellie Jo Talley, and her son-in-law John Stratford.

RICHARDSON, Lucille, born November 10, 1934; died January 19, 2007, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. She is survived by her husband, Mark Richardson; daughter Doris Poffenberger; and three sons.

ZACHARKO, Mary Lou, born August 16, 1942, in Guadelajara, Jalisco, Mexico; died December 29, 2006, in Youngstown, Ohio. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio, where she loved to sing. Mary Lou moved to the United States and Youngstown in 1969. She married Taras Zacharko Sr. in 1969, and he passed away Sept. 27, 2001. Besides her mother, Ignacio Villa Valencia, who resides in Mexico, Mary Lou leaves five children to cherish her memory: her sons Taras (Rosanna) Zacharko, Jr. of San Diego, Calif., and Sergio Villa of Savannah, Ga.; three daughters, Rosa (Felix) Figueroa of Youngstown, Michalina (Michael) Jones of Hubbard, Ohio, and Claudia Zacharko of Youngstown. She also leaves her sisters Guadalupe, Ofelia, Isabel, Ignacio, and Martha; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her father, Aurora Sanchez Salivar, and her sister Melecio.

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

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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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Published by the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed at the Review & Herald Publishing Association. Volume 112 ■ Issue 4

See You on the Web

It has been a privilege to provide you with information through the *Visitor* over the past eight years. Some things I reported brought a strong response. I continue to believe that it is the duty of denominational leaders to convey the complete facts about the mission of Christ, even when the facts are not encouraging.



One of the most satisfying things about my role has been mentoring the young people who run the *Visitor*. Over the years our team has included some of the most gifted people in Adventist media. One has become an editor at *Adventist Review*. Another is the national media spokesman for the Adventist Church.

GOING TO THE FRONT LINES

Upon hearing that I am leaving, many people have called or emailed. Please forgive me for not responding, there are simply too many. A common theme is surprise. I guess people have come to expect Adventist ministers to move in a certain direction with their careers. During the 20 years I have served at the North American Division and the union level, I have always been involved in local ministries—including two stints as pastor of small congregations—and this is an opportunity to again work at the "front lines."

A key focus of my new assignment will be to help pastors and congregations find ways to have a transforming, more Christ-like impact on their communities. Ohio has three of the 25 largest metropolitan areas in the nation, as well as five other medium-sized metros.

I will continue to do research, writing, and teaching. I will try to be a servant to the pastors and conference leaders, helping them find the information and resources that enable them to do what God wants in today's world.

I want to say thanks to those (you know who you are) who have invested themselves—their time or money—in many ministries. I have lured you into something that has become more consuming than you ever dreamed. I don't apologize; that something is the mission of Jesus.

He compels me to invite you to discover what God is doing in our world today. I continue to be an unapologetic evangelist for an authentic Adventist faith that is inclusive, compassionate, progressive, and hopeful. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

For those of you who want to keep in touch, visit my blog at www.montesahlin.com.

Monte Sahlin, vice president for Creative Ministries for the past eight years, returns to ministry in the Ohio Conference next month.

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