

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

FALL 2007 • VOLUME 112 • ISSUE 6

Meet Bernice "Speed"
Roberson, Age 100

Celebrating Our Centenarians

+ Get Their Secrets
to Life and Longevity



8

News & Features

8 | Celebrating Centenarians

Since the Columbia Union is celebrating a centennial, we thought it fitting to highlight our 100-year-old members. In response to our appeal, we learned about 12 Seventh-day Adventist centenarians living in the eight conferences that comprise our territory.

In this issue, you'll learn about their lives, careers, and families, how they became Adventist, how they spent their free time, and what they believe has helped them achieve longevity—everything from walking and praying every day to eating chocolate cake every day!

This month, we salute:

Laura Cheatham

Veeriah Chedalavada

Robert Crouch

Violet Greene

Geneva Hitch

Leo Hogendorp

Rebecca James

Lula Jones

Glenn Lemon

Kathryn Richardson

Bernice Robeson

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■ **Podcasts** – LaVerne Henderson talks with Hamlet Canosa about the state of education and with Walter Carson, JD, about wills and trusts.

■ **Videos** – Don't miss "Celebrating a Century," a documentary-style look at our history.

■ **Blogs** – See where we go, what we do, and who we meet along the way!

www.columbiaunion.org

About the Cover: Bernice "Speed" Robeson, 100. Photo by Tina Slusser-Ley. Car provided by Motor Car Portfolio

Get Your House in Order

Is your house in order? Have you made plans for the care and protection of your family when you are no longer around? Have you remembered God's cause?

The Bible tells us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose" (Eccl. 3:1). This month the *Visitor* celebrates members of the Columbia Union family who have reached 100 years of life. These precious persons can certainly confirm that life is about transitions, about growing from a child—to an adult—to a senior. They can also speak from experience on the importance of extending God's kingdom from one generation to the next.

As you contemplate the transitions of your own life, your church can help in planning for your loved ones, and in making smooth the transition from one generation to the next. Your local conference Trust Services department is able to provide helpful estate and gift planning information with a special sensitivity to our faith. It's not just for the wealthy or the seniors. Throughout the cycles of life, it is important to learn and understand your changing financial needs, how to build security, how to protect and care for your loved ones, and how to sustain the causes that you support and believe in during life.



As we plan for these transitions, something that every Christian should have is a Last Will and Testament. A will is simply a declaration of a person's mind as to the manner in which he would have his estate disposed of after his death. It's a written instrument, properly executed, by which a person makes a disposition of his property (which takes place after his death). Surprisingly, many do not have a will, a situation that places their families and loved ones in jeopardy. In an interesting way, your will reveals who you are, what is important to you, and how your property should be distributed at the time of your death.

Excuses, Excuses

We make many excuses for not having a will: "I'm too busy," "I don't have many assets," "It's too expensive," or "I don't plan to die any time soon!" If you really care about your family and your loved ones, take the time to prepare a will. Those familiar with the law tell us that a will is an important component of a person's estate planning—whether or not the person has assets at the time the will is prepared. A simple will, properly prepared and executed, is not really expensive. And, for those of us who put off preparing a will because we fear death or deny that we will die, Ellen White tells us that "death will not come one day sooner, brethren, because you have made your will" (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 328).

Every church member must manage the resources—great or modest—that God has entrusted to you. Even Ellen White understood the importance of planning for the future. "Time is short," she admonished. "Is it not best to set your house in order?"

Walter E. Carson, JD (wcarson@columbiaunion.net), serves the Columbia Union Conference as vice president and general counsel. In that role, he also directs Trust Services and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.



LAVERNE HENDERSON

New Union Vice President Elected

The Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee



recently elected **Frank Bondurant** to serve as vice president for

Ministry Development, effective this summer. In this role, recently vacated by Monte Sahlin, he will continue the work of Metro Ministries and assist conferences with church planting, lay training, evangelism initiatives, young adult ministries, and other ministry activities.

“Frank brings rich experience in coordinating numerous conference initiatives in discipleship and evangelism,” says Columbia Union president Dave Weigley.

Bondurant, a Columbia Union member nearly all his life, was born at Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), in Takoma Park, Md. While completing his BA in Theology at nearby Columbia Union College, he worked as a student chaplain at WAH. Next Bondurant earned a Master of Divinity from Andrews University (Mich.).

He pastored for 11 years in the Chesapeake Conference’s Baltimore First, Towson, Brooklyn, Linthicum, and Berkeley Springs churches. In 1996 Bondurant joined the conference staff as communication, Adult Ministries, Adventist Community Services, and evangelism director. Assistant to the president was his most recent role.

“I have deep roots here,” says

Bondurant. “The union has made an investment in my life, and I see this as an opportunity to give back.” For 23 years he has been married to Stacey, whom he met at a Chesapeake camp meeting. They are the parents of Grace and Grant.

New Unionwide ACS Coordinator Chosen

Minnie McNeil has accepted the invitation to serve as the Columbia Union Conference coordinator for Adventist



Community Services (ACS). McNeil, who will continue in her role as director of ACS, Inner City, Prison, and Women’s Ministries for Allegheny East Conference, was selected by her peers in the union’s eight local conferences. She will serve the remainder of the current five-year term, which ends in 2011.

McNeil is known for her dedication to community services. She and her husband, Andrew, founded the Atkinson Memorial Center, a homeless shelter and transitional housing facility, in Coatesville, Pa. A certified ACS Disaster Response trainer, McNeil played a key role in the wake of Hurricane Katrina by helping survivors form the National Association of Katrina Evacuees. The former public health nurse also taught community services and public health seminars.

“Jesus declared us to be the ‘salt of the earth,’” she says. “We *must* be a symbol of His presence by giving hope in an

environment of hopelessness, providing comfort in the midst of daily storms, and representing His love and reconciliation.”—*Monte Sahlin*

Columbia Union Members Honored

William G. “Bill” Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, was given the American Lung Association of Maryland’s inaugural Breath of Fresh Air Award by Catherine Leggett (center), the first lady of Montgomery County, and Kathy Fowler, medical reporter for Washington, D.C.’s ABC television affiliate. “Adventist HealthCare is going all tobacco-free in November, and we felt it was fitting that with such a bold



move, Bill should be our first recipient,” says Terry Weigel, director of Special Projects.

Erwin Mack, executive director of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, received a certificate of appreciation from the state



of Maryland. The Potomac Conference member (third from left), honored for commitment, support, and leadership, is pictured with Neil J. Pederson, administrator for the State Highway Administration (SHA); Lolita Stewart, SHA Diversity in Traffic Safety program coordinator; and Joy Marowski, SHA deputy chief for the Maryland Highway Safety Office.

Debra A. Hill, a Warrensville Heights, Ohio, council member, received the 2007 Gold Leadership Ambassador Award during the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. Hill was also appointed to the 2007 Leadership Training Council, Public Safety, and Crime and Policy committees. Hill, a member of Allegheny West Conference’s (AWC) Southeast church in Cleveland, also serves on the AWC and Columbia Union Conference executive committees.

The Communication Services/*Visitor* staff of the Columbia Union Conference recently received three awards from the Religion Communicators Council (www.religioncommunicators.org) for the 2006 Constituency Session Report video and 56-page printed edition (pictured), as well as for the *Crisis Management Guide* for Adventist organizations. “This is the result of hard work and teamwork,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, communication director and *Visitor* editor.

“We do our best every day, and every day we see God blessing in return.” During the last five years, the team has earned five communication awards and two art awards for *Visitor* magazine covers.



New Program Enables Members to Tithe Online

The North American Division (NAD) recently launched Adventist Giving, a free program that enables members to return tithes and give offerings online.

“When we began setting up websites for all churches in North America in 2006, the capability for online giving was the most requested feature,”

says Fred Kinsey, assistant to the president. Kinsey expects about 20 percent of the more than 5,500 NAD churches to sign up for Adventist Giving.

Stewardship was a primary impetus behind Adventist Giving, so, in conjunction with the NAD’s Stewardship Department, features include information on where and how funds are used.

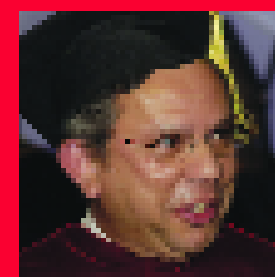
“Outside studies indicate that this feature will dramatically increase overall giving,” Kinsey explains. “We should see significant increases by the end of this year, and perhaps double that amount by 2008.” For more information, or to enroll your church, visit www.adventistgiving.org.

Get more news on the web.



From the Pulpit

“Money is great, but if you don’t like your job even money will not get you out of bed in the morning.”—*Renée Battle-Brooks, Columbia Union College commencement speaker, addressing the 2007 class of 111 graduates. Battle-Brooks is the assistant state attorney and chief of the Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, and Endangered Adults Unit in Maryland’s Prince George’s County.*



“The ‘dangerous dream’ that I hold up for you is that every encounter you have with a patient will be framed with the caption ‘God was here.’” —*Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president and this year’s Kettering College of Medical Arts commencement speaker, addressing the 237 graduates of the college’s largest class in its 39-year history.*

In the Spotlight > Radio Host Dorothy Boone

You must be dedicated, and you need to ask God to lead and guide you in all that you do," suggests Dorothy Boone, the longtime host of the radio program *Your Bible Speaks*, talking about how to start a radio ministry. "He will direct you in what to say and how to present His Word."

If anyone deserves to give advice, it's Boone. She's been the host of the Sunday program on Uniontown, Pa.'s WMBS 590 AM for 31 years, the longest running Adventist broadcast in the Columbia Union. An elder at Pennsylvania Conference's Uniontown Hilltop church, she has followed the Lord's call, not only in her radio ministry and church service, but also as a public school teacher for 30 years.

Your Bible Speaks was born out of an idea that Boone had while conducting Bible studies with church members and neighbors.



"I thought it would be nice to have the Sabbath School lesson on the radio," she explains. Her former pastor and longtime radio host, Walter Wright, helped her make it a reality.

The donor-supported show has remained steadfast in its mission.

It started as a two-hour show that included a children's segment hosted by her granddaughter. Although the program was recently cut to 50 minutes (9:10-10 a.m.), Boone still includes a children's section, now led by her 7-year-old grandson, Zayed Ennab. She also includes prayer for the sick and shut-in, Scripture reading, a song, birthday wishes, a Bible study, and more. The show will go on, "as long as God says so," Boone beams.

Web Watch

www.capitalthinks.blogspot.com or
www.capitalpiensa.blogspot.com (Spanish)

Washington, D.C.'s, Capital Spanish congregation created their "Daily Bread" blogs—in English and Spanish—for adults and youth to discuss the Sabbath School lesson. Another blog, "Young Bread" at www.capitalyouth.blogspot.com, gives youth a place to dialogue about issues and current events. Join the conversation.

Adventist Radio Stations

WJSS 1330 AM

Owner: Ronald Reeves, a member of the Miracle Temple Worship Center in Baltimore; features Christian news talk format and national programs

WPAK 1490 AM

Owner and General Manager: Stepenson Bynum of the Farmville (Va.) church; features 3ABN programming

WRAR 1000 AM

Owner: "Action Incorporated" Board of the Tappahannock (Va.) church; features Adventist and other Christian programming/music

WHMN-LP 107.3 FM

Owner: Kingston (Pa.) church; features Radio 74 Internationale programming (www.radio74.net)

WBBY-LP 100.3 FM

Owner: Berwick (Pa.) church; features Radio 74 programming

WXNM-LP 95.9 FM

Owner: Erie (Pa.) church; features local and 3ABN programming

WMCC-LP 105.7 FM

Owner: Spencer (W.Va.) church; **Manager:** Herbert Perrine; features 3ABN programming

WBWG-LP 99.1 FM

Owner: Fairmont (W.Va.) church; **Manager:** Gary Knoll; features 3ABN programming

WGTS 91.9 FM

Owner: Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md.; features family-friendly Christian music, sermons, and talk shows

Adventists on the Radio

"Spirit Alive" on WKTX AM 830 (Cortland, Ohio)

Hosts: Pastor Shelvan Arunan, PhD, DD, and John and Ann Luketic of the Warren (Ohio) church; airs Tues., 2-3 p.m.; features a spiritual and psychological call-in conversation

"Living Waters" on WPGA Praise 1590 AM (Chester, Pa.)

Host: Macedonia church in Chester; airs Sun., 11-11:30 a.m.; features sermon excerpts and local church events

"One Truth Ministry" on WNJC 1360 AM (Philadelphia)

Hosts: Nigel Verdell and Isaac Powell from Mizpah church in Philadelphia and Tyrone McMillan from North Philadelphia; airs daily, 8-8:30 p.m.; covers fundamental Adventist beliefs

"God Loves People More Than Anything" on WGTS 91.9 FM (Wash., D.C., area)

Host: J. David Newman, DMin, senior pastor of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md.; airs Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; features a two-and-a-half minute devotional with inspiring stories about God's love for people

The Watchman Media Ministries (TV and Radio) on WFBR 1590 AM (Glen Burnie, Md.)

Host: Pastor Charlie Jenkins of the Sharon church in Baltimore; airs Sun., 2:30-3 p.m.; shares God's last day message

"Ondas de Esperanza" (Waves of Hope) on Radio Continental 1930 AM (Wash., D.C., area)

Host: Fausto Salazar, Hispanic radio ministry coordinator for Potomac Conference and pastor of the Rockville and Aspen Hill (Md.) Spanish churches; airs Mon.-Fri., 6-7 a.m.; offers comfort and spiritual nourishment

"Accion Adventista" (Adventist Action) on Radio Poder (Power Radio) WWGB 1030 AM (Wash., D.C., area)

Host: José Esposito, Multilingual Ministries coordinator for Potomac Conference; airs Sat., 7:30-8:30 a.m.; welcomes Hispanic newcomers to the Wash., D.C., area and helps them learn about places to worship

"Discover the Love of Christ" on WSVG 790 AM (Mt. Jackson, Va.)

Host: New Market (Va.) church; Sun., 10 a.m.; features church sermons

What's New?

Books > Sabbath Reflections

As a lifetime Sabbathkeeper, Pastor James Wibberding of the Lansdale and Souderton (Pa.) churches feels that at some point he lost sight of *how* to keep the Sabbath, in spite of his knowledge on *why* we keep it. In his second published work, Wibberding invites readers to join in a 52-week journey through Sabbath in Scripture.

"I saw a gap in my own understanding of Sabbath," says the new father about why he wrote the book. "It started as a personal journey ... and turned into a tour guide for others." Sabbathkeeping is a way of life, he notes, but few books have explained "how to experience its richness."

Order Wibberding's book at any major bookstore and at most Adventist Book Centers. And keep your eye out for future works, cause he's caught the writing bug!



Keeping Score

8,000

Number of people 100 or older in the U.S. today

18 Million

Number of people expected to be 100 or older in the year 2046

CELEBRATING centenarians

celebrating
a century

✂ Census information indicates that there are about 8,000 centenarians in the United States. From the response to our appeal, we know that at least 12 are Seventh-day Adventist members in the Columbia Union territory. ✂ Who are they? Where do they live? How did they earn a living or spend their free time? What's their story (everybody has one), and to what do they attribute their long fruitful lives? ✂ As we continue to celebrate the Columbia Union's centennial, we thought it only fitting to celebrate our century-young members too. To them we say "Happy Birthday to you ... and many more!" ✂

Leo Hogendorp was born in Indonesia, September 18, 1906. Baptized into the Adventist Church at 17, he served as a literature evangelist, pastor, preaching evangelist, musician, and teacher before moving to Takoma Park, Md., in the 1950s. While there, he earned a Bachelor of Divinity at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (now located at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.).

For the next 20 years, he worked for the Johns Hopkins University Paul N. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies, in Washington, D.C. While his main duties were in the language laboratory, he also taught Dutch, German, and Malay language courses. He also worked part time at Home Study International (now Griggs University & International Academy) in Silver Spring, Md., developing and grading Bible history, German, and Hebrew lessons.

While semiretired, Hogendorp embarked on another profession—making violins and violas—which he learned at a local violin shop. Today there are about 50 instruments in his personal collection.

In 2003, after 66 years of marriage and two daughters (Irene and Cindy), his wife, Tina, passed away. Now, the longtime member of the Potomac Conference's Sligo church, in Takoma Park, Md., attends the Chesapeake Conference's Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. He believes that the "signs of the times" are becoming clearer. "Jesus will be coming sooner than we expect," he says.

When asked about the reason for his longevity, the grandfather of five and great-grandfather of five explains, "I have been a vegetarian for the last 90 years."—Cindy Nelson-Possinger

PHOTO: RICHARD HERFARD

Leo
Hogendorp

100

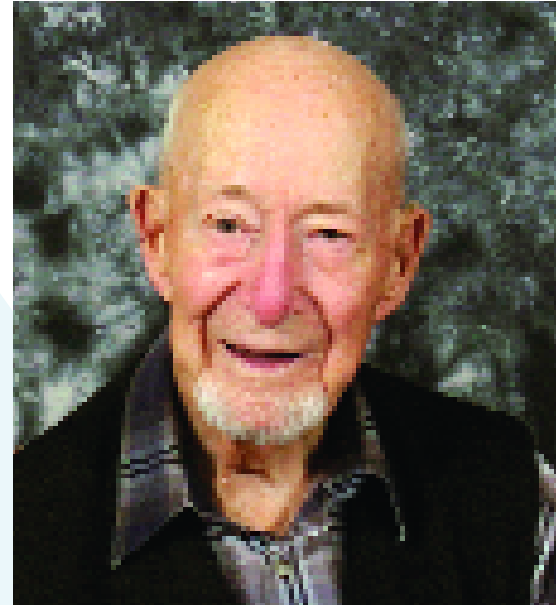
Jesus will
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than we
expect.

Ralph Snideman

100

I'm 100 years old, but I feel like I'm 80!" says Ralph Snideman, who was born in Creede, Colo., on December 22, 1906. As a 9-year-old, in 1915, he remembers seeing Ellen White's photo on the cover of the *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald* (now the *Adventist Review*), indicating that she had passed away.

As the fifth of nine children, he credits his longevity to "watching what he eats, putting his full trust in the Lord, and paying a faithful tithe." His family became Adventists through his grandfather's influence. Snideman graduated from Platte Valley Academy (Neb.) and earned a certificate in business. In 1930 he married Gladys, whom he'd



met at church, and they became the parents of Phyllis, Donna, and Elizabeth.

He worked in construction and earned 30 cents an hour at a cereal-making company "puffing wheat." Soon this businessman-at-heart started manufacturing plastic bags. Wanting to provide tuition income for Adventist students, he ran businesses at Campion Academy (Colo.) and Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

After retiring at 65, he and Gladys volunteered at Shawnee Mission Medical Center (Kan.) and Moberly Regional Medical Center (Mo.). Snideman was volunteering so many hours that Moberly hired him, at age 80. Then he was named "Employee of the Year" at 85!

After 70 years and four months of marriage, Gladys passed away on April 24, 2000. Today Snideman, a resident of a retirement center in Orwigsburg, Pa., provides fresh produce for the staff and residents from his vegetable garden. He also exercises, reads, makes calendars, greeting cards, and bookmarks, and emails several of his seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.—*Edith Galambos*



Veeriah Chedalavada

100

Last year at age 99, Veeriah B. Chedalavada walked 35 miles in one day. He did so because he wanted to exceed his 30-mile record before he turned 100.

Chedalavada's determination to succeed is characteristic of his life's journey. He was born January 13, 1907, in Andhra Pradesh, India, where at age 10 he started school, walking four miles each way. "We children didn't have notebooks or slates," he recalls. "We brought ashes, spread them on the verandah, and traced the lessons with our fingers."

Then Chedalavada attended a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in Narsapur and was baptized. As a student, his name was changed from Veeriah B. Chedalavada to Ch.B. Williams.

In 1929 he married Shandamma and headed off to the South India Training School in Bangalore. His denominational career included teaching at his alma mater in Narsapur, eventually becoming the first Indian principal of the school. He also worked as an evangelist, served as founding editor—for 25 years—of *Margadarshi* (which means "Pathfinder"), a healthy lifestyle magazine in the Telugu language, and managed the cafeteria at Spicer Memorial College.

In 1975 the couple came to Washington, D.C., to visit their seven adult children: Enoch, Baburao, Ardys, Lillie, Hephzi, Edna, and Robert. They stayed, became citizens, and he changed his name back to Veeriah B. Chedalavada. He found work in construction and as an air-conditioning technician. A man of many trades, he has also worked in carpentry, masonry, watch repair, and sewing—making all of his children's clothing when they were small.

He finally retired, at age 90, to care for Shandamma, who had become ill. She died in 1997, after 68 years of marriage. Their legacy includes 17 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Today this member of the Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., still lives alone and walks 5-10 miles daily. He attributes his longevity to several factors: "I always have a breakfast drink of carrot juice, ginger, and garlic," he says. "I don't eat between meals, and I don't drink with my meals. I rise at 4 a.m. to read the Bible for one-and-a-half hours. And, I always keep a positive attitude."—*Tom Prasada-Rao*

PHOTO: RICHARD HERARD



Bernice Robeson

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A

lthough Bernice Robeson has no children or grandchildren, her great-nieces and -nephews find it hard to believe that she was alive when Theodore Roosevelt was president of the United States. In fact Robeson—born October 29, 1906, in Galeton, Pa.—has lived through the administrations of 18 U.S. presidents.

She's also lived through many changes in the Adventist Church, which her parents joined when she was 9. "More people are wearing jewelry now," she observes. "When I joined, it wasn't allowed." Robeson, who attended Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio, has officially been a member of that conference's New Philadelphia church since 1919 when she was baptized.

Until her retirement in 1969, Robeson worked at the Joy Manufacturing Company, operating a blueprint machine. And that's when things really got interesting. She learned to drive and purchased her first car—a Chevy Impala. There were other "firsts," such as going to the movies "once" and flying in an airplane.

Though she recently quit driving, "Speed," as she was nicknamed, still savors life. She attends church every Sabbath, says her favorite song is "Amazing Grace," and laughs and jokes with the best of them. She also has a sweet tooth and loves chocolate cake so much that she eats it every day and even attributes it to her longevity!—Bessie Mercer

PHOTO: TINA SLUSSER-LEY

Bernice Robeson enjoys chocolate cake so much that she eats it every day!

S

he's a world traveler, a wonderful example of entrepreneurship, and has attended every General Conference Session since her baptism," says church elder Warwick Hill, talking about Geneva Hitch. The resident centenarian at the Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., hasn't let age stop her from following her dreams and seeing the world.

"I've been to every continent except South America, which I hope to see very soon," says Hitch, who started a travel agency—Gene's Pleasure Tours—in 1985. "Coordinating different trips has allowed me to travel all over the world."

The youngest of 12 children, Hitch was born February 22, 1907, in Baltimore where she attended cosmetology school and started her first business—Gene's Beauty Salon—in 1935.

Geneva Hitch

100



Sometime later she joined the Adventist Church, married Harold W. Hitch, Sr., and had two children—Marsha and Harold. She soon became involved, serving as treasurer of Baltimore's Sharon church for some time. "The Adventist Church has made too many compromises," she says of the changes she has witnessed over the years. "We've let down our standards."

When asked about her longevity, the grandmother of four and great-grandmother of two says, "Truthfully, I really cannot say, but I'm grateful to the Lord."—Marsha Hitch

I've been to every continent except South America ...

Kee it simple, accept change as it comes, work hard, eat healthy, and exercise,” says Kathryn “Katie” Richardson, doling out advice like a teacher in class. She’s earned the right to do so; after all, she was a schoolteacher and she recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Born January 6, 1907, this Pennsylvania native attended Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio where she earned a teaching certificate, got baptized, and met her husband, Robert. Before marrying him in 1925, she taught elementary students in a one-room school in Reading, Pa., where it was sometimes challenging to keep the older boys in line. “Those boys were pretty big,” recalls the petite woman who also raised three children.

What’s her advice on parenting? “It’s important to adjust your view for the time you are living and to adjust your viewpoint to that of your children’s,” she says, dispensing more words of wisdom.

Richardson, who lost Robert after 62 years of marriage, has been a member of Ohio’s Mount Vernon Hill church for many decades. A vegetarian for most of her life, she believes that diet has a lot to do with her longevity and never being sick. Adjusting and growing are also important factors. “Change is good,” she says, sharing one more tip. “It broadens your viewpoint.”—Beth Durbin



Kathryn Richardson

100

Robert Crouch grew up on a farm with a horse and buggy.

Robert Crouch accomplished a lot during his first century of life. The Ohio native, born January 15, 1907, grew up on a farm with three brothers and a horse and buggy. Shortly after becoming a Seventh-day Adventist, he met and married Gertrude in 1929. Their union produced two daughters, Roberta and Marolynn.

Crouch became a skilled machinist and welder, eventually running his own business. He didn’t have to enlist in World War II because he was the only welder for a 60-mile radius, and his skill was considered essential war work. He also built gas tanks for trucking companies and kept his factories running with steam lines. He became so well-known that prominent Adventist physician Harry Miller, MD, known as the “China Doctor,” asked Crouch to accompany him to China to help build a soymilk factory.

Charter members of the Norwalk (Ohio) church, he and Gertrude—affectionately known as “Grandma and Grandpa Bear”—were Pathfinder leaders during the 1960s. They took the youth to Pathfinder fairs, camporees, and even polar bear camping. “Well into his 90s, Crouch was a willing helper,” says longtime friend and Norwalk member Iverna Fallecker. He spent many hours sawing wooden craft kits for VBS and planting flowers at the church.

Today Crouch, who lost Beatrice in 1992 after 63 years of marriage, has five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He attributes his longevity to a temperate lifestyle and faith in God. “I don’t eat meat, drink alcohol or coffee, and I don’t smoke,” he testifies.—Marolynn Crouch



Robert Crouch

100

When Laura E. Cheatham turned 103 last Independence Day, there wasn’t a lot of fanfare or fireworks. But with eight adult children, 25 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren, there’s plenty of excitement during the rest of the year.

Cheatham was born in Philadelphia on July 4, 1903. As a young girl she attended church school at what is now Baltimore Junior Academy in Maryland, and became a Seventh-day Adventist. In 1922 she married William L. Cheatham, Sr., and lent her support to his ministry by serving as a homemaker, playing the piano at the churches he pastored, and assisting him when he was elected president and publishing director of the Allegheny Conference.

In 1991, after 68 years of marriage, William died at age 92. But Cheatham is grateful that all of their children—William, Jr., Anna, Oliver, Donald, Merle, Charles, W. Augustus, and W. Wendell—are still members of the Adventist Church. Charles currently serves as president of the Allegheny East Conference.

Since her retirement, the soft-spoken and unassuming matriarch has served as a deaconess and Sabbath School superintendent at Allegheny East’s Walnut Street church in Pottstown, Pa. “[She’s been] the perfect unofficial role model and mentor for many young families,” says fellow member Daniel Davis.

Cheatham attributes her long life to “being careful, eating wisely, and to the wonderful blessings of the Lord.”—Merle Ford

Laura Cheatham

103



Rebecca Rosemond Fountain-James

100



Rebecca Rosemond Fountain-James, born January 22, 1907, has dedicated her life to education. After completing high school in Richmond, Va., she matriculated Washington Missionary College (now Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md.) and Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.). She taught at several Adventist schools around the Columbia Union in Charleston, W.Va.; Dayton, Ohio; Philadelphia; Baltimore; and Norfolk, Va. Public school systems in Virginia also benefited from her expertise.

Fountain-James was baptized at 23 and married Moses Alexander James Sr. at 26. Their two sons, Moses Alexander James Jr. and Julian Pierpont James, are now deceased. The dedicated local church leader has held several offices, including Sabbath School superintendent and treasurer. As a Bible worker, she assisted many distinguished ministers such as George Rainey, Robert L. Bradford, W.A. Thompson, William C. Scales (Sr. and Jr.), and Milton Thomas with evangelistic efforts.

Today the Richmond resident and great-grandmother of eight attends the Allegheny East Conference's Ephesus church. To satisfy her thirst for knowledge, she enjoys reading the Bible and the *Richmond Times Dispatch*.

Fountain-James contributes her longevity to obeying and trusting God. Each day this prayer warrior asks the Lord to use her to bless someone. "Putting faith in the Lord can bring a person through anything," she testifies.—*Rosalyn James*

Putting faith in the Lord can bring a person through anything.

Violet Grevious Greene was born June 4, 1906, in Hillsboro, Ohio. As a young girl she was sent to a Christian boarding school in Kentucky, where she felt the presence of the Holy Spirit for the first time. From then on, prayer became an important part of her life.

Greene had her first encounter with Seventh-day Adventists when ingatherers came to her door collecting money. In 1945 she attended evangelism meetings and joined the Adventist Church. From then on she loved witnessing, giving out literature, and serving as a deaconess.

These days the Cincinnati resident, who worked as a seamstress and shirt maker and made her own clothes, lives in the Shiloh Adventist Garden Apartments. She attends the Allegheny West Conference's Shiloh and Maranatha churches, and the Ohio Conference's Clifton Avenue church. She still does her own banking and will sometimes take the city metro when her "chauffeurs"—cousin William or friend Sharon—aren't available.

What's the secret to her longevity? "Healthy cooking," she says. "I steam my vegetables to save the vitamins, minerals, and nutrients." Greene also credits her simple, humble lifestyle.

"I never chased after the riches of the world," she notes.

Greene, who was married and has a daughter, Portia, has just two wishes: "The Adventist Church

needs more love," she says. "We don't love one another. Also we need to let people know the devil is real; we don't talk about the impact of spiritualism anymore."—*Patricia Lindsay Anderson*

The Adventist Church needs more love.

Violet Greene

101



She's an avid reader. She enjoys solving puzzles. She loves writing and reciting poems. And at 104, this mother of four, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of 15 sometimes rides the bus to run errands. Until recently she also volunteered at the local senior center. "I didn't go there to play games, I went to help those old folks!" she says. "Some of them could hardly feed themselves, so I helped them, cleared away their dishes, and cleaned up afterwards."

She is Lula Hazel Walker Jones, and they don't call her "sunshine" for nothing. Her positive attitude is infectious and her still-sharp memory is impressive. Recently, at the birthday party for a fellow centenarian, she thrilled everyone by reciting a poem from memory.

Jones, the second of six children, was born in Chesterfield County, Virginia, on May 20, 1903. Through the years, she was employed as a factory worker, housekeeper, and home health aid. Before he passed away in 1967, Jones and her husband, Sidney, were married 40 years and had four children: Nathaniel, Sidney, Queen, and Rosa.

Today Jones, who joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the 1970s, still attends the Allegheny East Conference's Ephesus church in Richmond, Va. She attributes her vitality and longevity to her love for—and deep faith in—God. "His grace and mercy have kept me all these years," she beams. Indeed, He has.—*Mike Davis and Althea Henderson*



I didn't go there to play games, I went to help those old folks!

Lula Hazel Walker Jones

104

Glenn Lemon's ancestors emigrated from Five Mile Town in Ireland to Canada, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. The clan left such an impact in the area near Tunnel City, Wis., that is it now known as "Lemon Valley." Today the jet setter's love of travel has taken him across the United States, Canada, Ireland, and Europe.

"I'm a firm believer in God and following our church standards in caring for our bodies," says Lemon. Born December 5, 1905, in Elks City, Neb., he grew up in an Adventist family of three girls and three boys.

Lemon married Lillian "Beatrice" in 1930, and they had six children—Doris, Roy, Cecil, Vivian, Duane, and Beverly. Their children were all educated at Adventist schools and remain active church members.

In 1995, just four months shy of their 65th wedding anniversary, Beatrice died. Today their family has 120 members. Lemon is the oldest, and great-great-granddaughter Madison Isabella Wade, born in March, is the youngest. Ever the jokester, his hilarious stories and sense of humor keep the family in stitches.

In 1998, at age 92, Lemon married Frieda Wangerin. Although 13 years younger than Lemon, she died in February 2006.

Today he attends the Atholton church, in Columbia, Md. "In earlier years, spirituality was better and there was more reverence," says Lemon, describing how the Adventist Church has changed. "Also, the biblical signs are more evident." Atholton pastor Steven Jencks says two of Lemon's greatest beliefs are "personal devotional time and Christian education."

At Lemon's 101st birthday celebration, President George W. Bush sent personal greetings and congratulations, as did Adventist World Church president Jan Paulsen. Don Schneider, North American Division president, and a family friend, came by with personal good wishes.—*Ingrid Lemon*



Glenn
Lemon

101

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FINANCE DIRECTOR

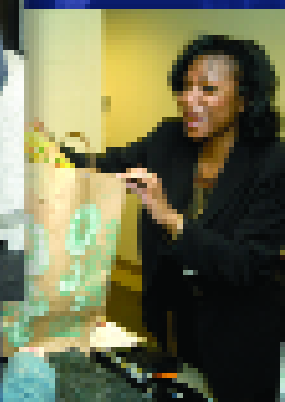
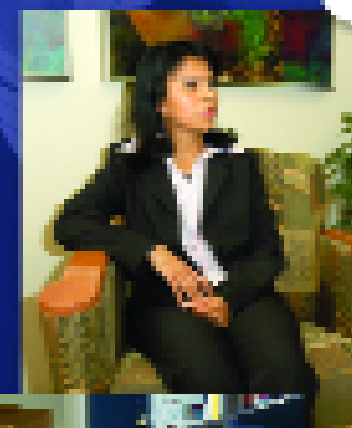
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Meeting Community Needs

Roadways of Change

The driving force behind something that goes on 24/7 every day is the roadways of change. The roadways have been under construction for months, and finally ready to travel. The roadways that we've just finished building will lead us, and not the other way around, to a new way of thinking for our CEOs, leaders. Nothing is the same and we feel that every day as we travel along the road out of about April 30.

Can't get me thinking about change. How can you be so sure that the way you're going is the way. In every aspect of our business, change is inevitable.

How do we deal with all this change? I like "driving with change" and it's a lot more fun. As a leader, and a change agent, I don't have to be the only one that's changed. I don't have to be the only one that's changed. It doesn't have to be the only one that's changed. It doesn't have to be the only one that's changed.

I haven't read it's about change, but I do like to see the way you're doing and how you're doing. I like to see the way you're doing.

How do we deal with all this change? I like to see the way you're doing and how you're doing. I like to see the way you're doing.

How do we deal with all this change? I like to see the way you're doing and how you're doing. I like to see the way you're doing.

How do we deal with all this change? I like to see the way you're doing and how you're doing. I like to see the way you're doing.

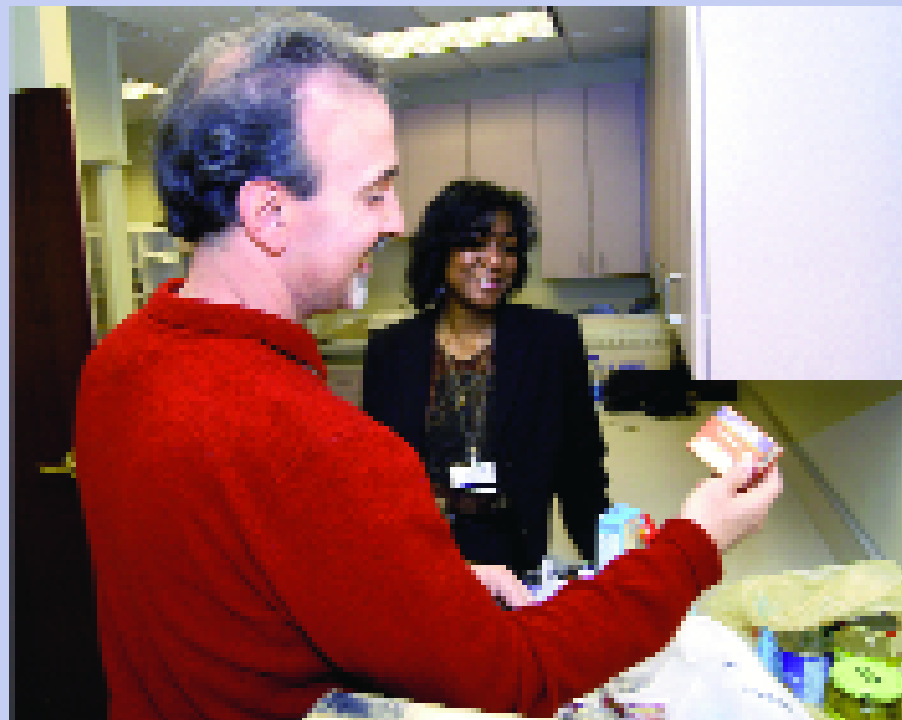
How do we deal with all this change? I like to see the way you're doing and how you're doing. I like to see the way you're doing.

How do we deal with all this change? I like to see the way you're doing and how you're doing. I like to see the way you're doing.

William G. "Bill" Edwards
President 1/1991
Adventist Health Care



Meeting Community Needs



Support Center made the food drive a special event.

The first food drive took place last summer, and it was quite successful for a first-time effort. The drive returned to pack it up and that time, the food bank was full from a group of 100 donors.

The second food drive in November brought in about twice as much food. The drive was held at the University of Maryland.

The Support Center just finished their third food drive in March. Traditionally, March is a slow time of year for charitable activity, but it was promoted heavily, and the support center brought in 100 pounds of food.

The employees of the Support Center have already received the project. They will donate to the Baltimore Hospital where it, and community members to participate in food drives all over the city.

They got Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital involved, and it was a

Rehabilitation Hospital has begun a partnership with Mission in a program called "Mission Meals." Every Friday, many patients receive a meal. Children go to backpacks filled with food, returned to their homes for the weekend. That way the kids will have something to eat, even though there are no school meals, which is how they receive their meals during the week.

Meals provide the volunteers for the food programs. The volunteers at the backpacks every week and in any, there were no other school. They were given they pick up the empty backpacks and fill them up again.

As the people at Adventist HealthCare step up to help, they will continue to be there in the fight against hunger. The community effort needs to be happening with this project. We can see it growing, right before our eyes.

From volunteer to the theory that a food bank is a place where people can get help, it's not always clear why they are there. The food bank is a place where people can get help, it's not always clear why they are there. The food bank is a place where people can get help, it's not always clear why they are there.

People from all over the world are coming to help during these struggles. And that's wonderful.

But the reality is, it's not infinite. And when people need their money for food in Baltimore, there may not be much left to support local charitable organizations.

That's what happened to Mission Food Center, a food bank that serves to eliminate hunger in Montgomery County. The plan

Mission volunteers and donors had to people in need, and after Mission's food supplies were low. The food bank was open to the community. For many families, the money just couldn't stretch far enough. More and more people were coming to the food bank for supplies.

Greg Korman, Employee Relations Manager at Adventist HealthCare, is on the board of the County of Montgomery Council of Montgomery County. When he heard about Mission's need, he arranged for Adventist HealthCare to hold a food drive. The success with administration at HealthCare led to the suggestion that the



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

JUNE 2007

Baltimore Academy Breaks Ground for Gymnasium



Many distinguished guests and school members of Baltimore Junior Academy attend the groundbreaking ceremony for their new gymnasium.

Baltimore Junior Academy (BJA) recently hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new gymnasium. Guests at the ceremony included Councilwoman Sharon Middleton (6th District) and Lillian Sydnor, Park Heights Neighborhood Association president.

The gymnasium project is an effort being supported by six Baltimore-area Adventist churches led by Sharon church pastor Charlie Jenkins. Each church pledged their support to the project, which— together with a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund—will make it possible for the students to have an adequate physical education facility. It will also continue to facilitate community projects. BJA is also the current home to the Garden of Prayer, a new congregation formed last summer after a community evangelistic effort in its neighborhood. Since its inception in 1915, BJA has educated more than 12,000 students.—George Johnson Jr.

Van Donated to Fourth Street Soup Kitchen

A new van was recently donated to the Fourth Street Friendship church in Washington, D.C., to help with the outreach efforts of the church's soup kitchen. The donation was made by Thomas L. Blair, founder of HealthExtras and chairman of the Board of Directors of both FedMed, Inc. and United Medical Bank, F.S.B.

Blair is a long-time personal friend and colleague of Jesse Reaves, soup kitchen board member and former pastor of the Fourth Street Mission. When Blair contacted Reaves to inquire about the needs of the soup kitchen, a van was mentioned. Soon Reaves and his wife, Mary, were being called to pick up the van. What they didn't expect was that the van was not only brand new, it was also already painted with the name of their church. God surely answers all prayers.—Tijuana Griffin



Jesse and Mary Reaves of the Fourth Street Friendship Soup Kitchen accept the new van donated by their friend and colleague Thomas L. Blair (right).

Sharon Ministries Unite for International Day of Prayer



The Men's and Women's Ministries departments of the Sharon church in Baltimore recently joined forces to host the church's first collaborative International Day of Prayer. The event was spearheaded by Women's Ministries leader Devora Vinson, who partnered with Men's Ministries leader Rupert McDonald to make it a reality. They led a full day of services dedicated to prayer.

The program started with an early morning continental breakfast. There were hymns of praise, devotional readings, testimonies, and prayer requests. This was followed by a short season of prayer, a sermon, and closing remarks before members departed for Sabbath School. The evening program was even more spectacular. It followed the same order of service, but ended with every member holding hands as they closed out in prayer.

One blessed member said, "It was refreshing to come together like this and break bread as a family." Another said, "We used to do this at the old church and it was nice to have it back. I think we should do it more often."—Marcia D. Omondi

United in Christ Youth Bake Cookies With Love

Youth members of the United in Christ church in Baltimore recently took part in the 19th Annual National & Global Youth Service Day, directed by Baltimore Adventist Community Services (ACS). With assistance from adult members, the youth put their love into baking cupcakes and more than 150 cookies, which were later delivered to homebound HIV/AIDS and breast cancer patients connected with Moveable Feast, a meal delivery program in Baltimore.

Baking cookies has become a ministry of the church through an idea spearheaded by members Wilhelmina Edwards and Terry Black, church ACS director, who help provide the homemade dough for such projects. The youth also baked the homemade dough into cookies last Thanksgiving for the city's less fortunate.—*Beth Michaels and Goldie Louis*

Capitol Hill Celebrates Multicultural Worship

The Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., recently hosted a month of multicultural worship services. The event was planned and organized by Michelle Riley Jones, minister of music and worship arts.

"In 2005 I read a wonderful article by J.H. Zachary in the fourth quarter Sabbath School lesson of a young Jewish girl who was baptized into the Beth-El Shalom congregation of Seventh-day Adventists (Fla.). I had no idea there were Adventist Jewish congregations, let alone 13 of them!" said Jones. The article gave rise to the idea of exploring other cultural expressions of praise through authentic multicultural worship experiences, as represented by the church body.

The first Sabbath was based on the great hymn "O For A Thousand

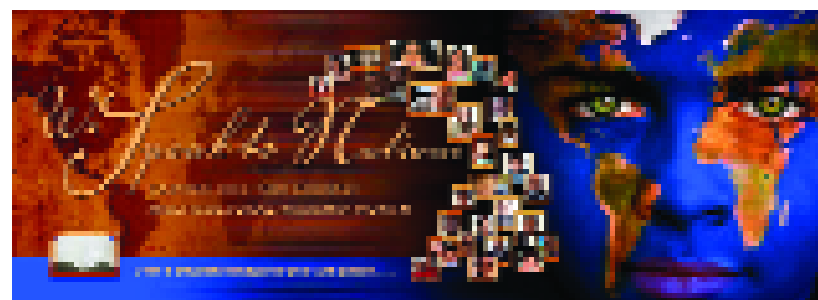
Tongues" as members explored the worship cultures of Europe and Latin America. The multilingual service was presented in Spanish, Portuguese, German, and French, and featured the Brazilian Adventist Youth Choir of Hyattsville, Md.

The second Sabbath heralded Jewish/Adventist traditions with a service of reading and singing the Psalms, with a special focus given to God's gift of the Sabbath. Literature from the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies at Andrews University (Mich.) was provided to the congregation as they sought to build relationships with their Jewish neighbors.

During the third Sabbath, the service emphasized African spiritual heritage through members' expressions of faith and trust as African-Americans in this land.

Black history facts in the Adventist Church were provided, and the congregation focused on its local community service work, as well as their recent mission trip to Tanzania.

The last Sabbath punctuated the rhythms of the Caribbean with a performance by the church's steel orchestra. Members focused their attention on religious liberty with guest speaker Barry Black, chaplain for the U.S. Senate.



Regina Hayden, member of the Bladensburg (Md.) church, designed this beautiful banner for the special month of multicultural worship services recently celebrated at the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C.

Church Officers Participate in Training

The mission of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) is to "Evangelize, Empower, and Educate." The conference administration set out to enact that mission through recent training sessions offered to its church officers. Training sessions were held in Roanoke, Va., Cleveland, Columbus, and at the campgrounds in Thornville, Ohio, where the officers could receive education and resources related to their duties. Donald Burden, DMin (pictured), AWC ministerial and youth director, opened the sessions with a morning worship thought where he encouraged each leader to take on their responsibility for the glory of God.

There were several special guest presenters. Celeste Ryan Blyden, assistant to the president for communication for the Columbia Union Conference, and Beth Michaels, associate editor for *Visitor* magazine, shared the new and exciting features the Columbia Union is now providing on its website. They also presented workshops to church communication directors.

Damian "Chip" Dizard, co-creator of Absolute Presence, and Lonny Nelson, helpdesk technician for AdventSource, reported on the new Web initiative of the North American Division (NAD)—Adventist Church Connect.



Cheryl Alli, administrative assistant to the conference's secretariat office, provides training to church clerks.

Washington Johnson II, DMin, marketing director for the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., shared how to involve church members in Personal Ministries. His wife, Joyce Johnson, PhD, presented creative ways to liven and enhance Children's Ministries. Carol Bearce from Charleston, W.Va., and Cindy Washington, member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, presented much needed information on strategies to develop Health Ministries in the church. Alfred Johnson II, director of Adult Ministries for the NAD, presented ways to engage the church in Sabbath School and to develop a program everyone will want to attend.

With the training, conference leaders are now better equipped to perform their duties within the church, and to help their congregations evangelize the world.



Correction

It was incorrectly stated in the April edition of *Exposé* that the Garden of Prayer church in Baltimore was born out of a four-week crusade held last summer by all of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the city. The crusade, in fact, lasted nearly eight weeks, resulting in the baptism of 104 souls. Evangelist C.B. Gentry, senior pastor of the city's United in Christ church, led the crusade. We regret the error.

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Communication Director, Robert Booker
Editor, Beth Michaels

Ramah Junior Academy Walks for Cause

Ramah Junior Academy (RJA) in Cleveland picked the best day of spring to walk for the March of Dimes, just to discover that hundreds of other Clevelanders had the same idea. Thirty-one faculty members, students, parents, and friends of the school walked the entire five miles of the downtown area. For some students, it was the first time they had an opportunity to view the beautiful Indian's baseball stadium. For others, it was much-needed exercise for the week. For most participants, it was just wonderful sharing time with friends and loved ones, a chance to really enjoy each other's company. The best reason for the walk was for RJA to give time and commitment back to their community. Faculty and staff appreciate everyone who helped fill the gleaners with dimes and quarters. As a result, RJA raised \$155.63 for the benefit.

Next year the school leaders hope to have more participation from its six constituent churches and student body. They look forward to next year's walk and hope to raise more for this worthy cause in Cleveland.

—*Mary Conwell*



Faculty, students, parents, and friends of Ramah Junior Academy prepare to join the March of Dimes walk through downtown Cleveland.

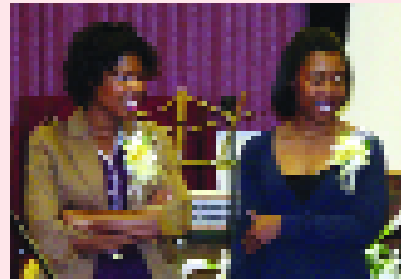
Alpha and Omega Youth Learn Better Living

The Alpha and Omega church in Warren, Ohio, and Pastor James W. Davis recently hosted Youth and Temperance Day, giving the leadership a chance to educate their young people about better living within the community and church. Youth leader Kevin Agee and temperance leader Michael Callion organized the special day.

Fred Boseman, elder at the Glenville church in Cleveland, was the keynote speaker for the special service. His theme was "Destined for Greatness, Are You Ready?" His wife, Linda, brought her puppet ministry.

Charita Boseman, assistant director of wellness for Sears and K-Mart in Chicago, educated the young members about STDs and drugs. Karen Foster, an account coordinator for Point.360 in Chicago, addressed the issues of confidence and self-esteem.

The church's children's choir, under the direction of Barbara Davis, as well as special guest Launica Jones, a Cleveland Glenville church member, provided special music for the day.



Guest speakers Charita Boseman (left) and Karen Foster discuss drugs and self-esteem during Youth and Temperance Day.

Conference Hosts Area-Wide Youth Federation

Young people from across the conference gathered in Pittsburgh at a local high school recently for Youth Federation, a day packed with spirit-filled events.

During Sabbath School, the young people were engaged in thought-provoking and life-changing workshops. One was presented by Ruth-Ann Mosby, member of the Ethnan Temple church in Wilksburg, Pa., who discussed leadership, values, skills, and competence. Pastor Steve Valles and his wife, Carla, of Ohio's Twinsburg and Park Street (in Oberlin) churches, divided the group by gender and shared the importance

of recognizing and taking responsibility for one's actions.

The adults enjoyed a traditional Sabbath School lesson led by Pastor Brandon White of the Pennsylvania



Conference. The worship service was filled with music by Pittsburgh youth, followed by the morning speaker, James Black (pictured), Youth Ministries director for the North American Division. He encouraged the youth to stay in church and stay connected with God. He chal-



lenged the adults to never give up on their children. In the afternoon, Black presented the state of our youth, pointing out the necessity for prayer conferences and events

like the Youth Federation to keep young people involved in the church and focused on Christ.

Later Pathfinder clubs from across the conference, as well as one from the Pennsylvania Conference, led a parade through town with their drum corps. At the conclusion of the parade, there was an investiture service for the Pathfinders.

The day ended with a much-awaited and anticipated championship basketball game between the attending churches. It was a spirit-filled and blessed day.

Upcoming Events

- June**
- 1-26 Evangelist Meeting, Hilltop Community Worship Center, Columbus
 - 22-30 Camp Meeting, AWC Campgrounds
- July**
- 15-22 Youth Camp, AWC Campgrounds

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Look at the Possibilities

When Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5) if he wanted to be healed, the man immediately began to complain about his sad situation. Little did he realize that the One who could change his situation was standing at his side. The man was judging the present by the past.

Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude of "things can never change." We need to remind ourselves that God can change things! God can forgive sin and put new power into lives that seem to be utter failures. God can send revival to a church that everybody thinks is dead. God can move into a difficult situation and turn seeming failure into triumph. God makes the difference.

Too often we focus on the problems rather than on the possibilities. We see what we don't have rather than what we do have. Whether we like it or not, outlook determines outcome. We all have situations we would like to have changed. What would you do if Jesus stood at your side and asked if you would like to have it made whole? Would you respond with a complaint or an excuse and miss the miracle? Or would you look at the possibilities and, by faith, be made whole?



Rob Vandeman
President

Holy Spirit "Rains" on Conference Evangelism Rally

It was a sunny, cloudless day recently when more than 350 church members from more than 40 Chesapeake churches gathered at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., for a conference-wide evangelism training rally. Extra seating had to be brought in to accommodate the eager crowd. Contradictory to the weather, the theme for the afternoon was, "Let The Rains Come."

Conference evangelism director and rally coordinator Frank Bondurant likened the current condition of the world to the days of Elijah. He said to attendees, "There is a great spiritual drought in our world and in our churches. We as a people are dry, and we come from dry churches, but God has promised that in the last days He will rain down His Spirit upon us. Let the downpour begin right here and now."

The afternoon featured speaker was evangelist Ron Halvorsen, Sr. (below). He powerfully pressed attendees with three questions: Where is God? Who



am I? What am I supposed to be doing? Following Halvorsen's energetic sermon, participants joined one of six seminars. Atholton church members provided a deli-

cious light supper. Then the crowds returned to the sanctuary to be inspired by the powerful preaching of Walter L.

Pearson, Jr. (right), the director/speaker for Breath of Life Ministries and general field secretary for the North American Division.



Pearson, who suffered a mild stroke a year ago, shared intimately from his own recuperation experience about God's goodness. He powerfully brought home the point that "We as Christians are part of the franchise that will bring people back to God. We are not ordinary people, we are ambassadors for God."

Conference president Rob Vandeman closed the meeting with a stirring challenge to the attendees "to not be content with church as usual but to be willing to make the necessary changes locally so that our congregations will become caring and redemptive communities that transform people." It was a day of great preaching, inspiring music, and wonderful fellowship. The attendees went home revived and recommitted to sharing the good news. Truly all could witness that the Spirit came down like rain—in a torrential downpour.

Training Refreshes Children's Ministries Leaders

More than 56 children's Sabbath School and Vacation Bible School (VBS) leaders from churches in the Chesapeake, Allegheny East, and New Jersey conferences gathered recently for a training event. Held at the Chesapeake Conference office, the event was led by Candy DeVore, Children's Ministries director at the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md.

The first part of the training was geared toward Sabbath School leaders of Beginners through Youth divisions. After receiving instruction on the multiple learning styles that children and youth can possess, DeVore divided the attendees into groups. Each group was instructed to demonstrate specific biblical principles in a manner that is consistent with a particular learning style.

The second part of the training focused on VBS leadership. DeVore presented two programs by Group Publishing: "Avalanche Ranch" and "Galilee by the Sea." Her presentation included step-by-step instructions on how to do each program, including helpful suggestions about using crafts, decorating, creative costuming, and songs and music.

"I was pleased by the wonderful turnout of enthusiastic people who are committed to Children's Ministries," said Stacey Bondurant, conference Children's Ministries director and coordinator of the event.

For more information on Children's Ministries and local training events, visit www.childmin.com.



Children's Ministries director for the Review and Herald Publishing Association Candy DeVore (right) rejuvenates children's Sabbath School and VBS leaders from three conferences with specialized training.

Baltimore Churches Consecrate Community Evangelism

Maryland church members of the Baltimore First, Pikesville, and Dundalk churches recently assembled at the White Marsh church for an afternoon consecration service. Ben Boggess, pastor of Baltimore First; Roosevelt Marsden, pastor of Pikesville; and Sedley Johnson, pastor of Dundalk, along with more than 200 of their members, gathered to dedicate themselves and to spiritually prepare their churches for upcoming evangelistic meetings.



The featured speaker for the special service was Jim Ayer (pictured), vice president for advancement at Adventist World Radio. Ayer challenged attendees to seize the current unique opportunities for soul winning created by world events.

One of the highlights of the service was a graduation ceremony for more than 90 church members who completed the seven-session Evangelism 101 classes taught by Chelsy Jourdan, Bible worker coordinator for the General Youth Conference (GYC). Jourdan and the four Bible workers who were hired to follow up with interests generated from the recent GYC presented certificates to the graduates. These workers and their students also shared experiences and testimonies of God's goodness to them during their work for Him.

Chelsy Jourdan (second from right), Bible worker coordinator for the General Youth Conference, poses with Bible workers (left to right) Wendy Granados, Simone Flynn, Kori Butts, and Holly DaCosta.



Chelsy Jourdan (second from right), Bible worker coordinator for the General Youth Conference, poses with Bible workers (left to right) Wendy Granados, Simone Flynn, Kori Butts, and Holly DaCosta.

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Swinging Tassels Announce Class of 2007

Amid the speeches, awards, and departmental events, 111 graduates in the spring Class of 2007 excitedly waited to hear their names called during Columbia Union College's (CUC) Commencement Weekend recently, held at the campus' Sligo church.

"My favorite part of graduation was walking across the stage and hearing Dr. [Robert] Young (vice president for Academic Administration) call my name as a Bachelor of Music candidate," said Anwar Ottley, whose solo performance on the organ brought many in the audience to their feet.

According to the records office, there were 39 School of Graduate and Professional Studies graduates, one external degree graduate, and 71 traditional graduates in this class.



The spring Class of 2007 accepts congratulations from friends and family outside Sligo church. Photo above and below: Al Peasley



Graduating seniors (left to right) Alexis Goring, Jordan Beck, and Genaye Channel pose before joining the processional. Photo: Candace Hamilton

José Rojas, director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division, opened graduation weekend during Friday's Consecration Service.

"Class of 2007, this is your beginning, the beginning of something real. Your degree is the key to a brilliant future, but only by God's grace shall you succeed," said Rojas in his message themed "The Beginning." He said that "a degree does not equal money, it's just the beginning."

Sabbath's Baccalaureate speaker, Peter Bath, vice president of Spiritual Wellness and Human Development at the Shawnee Mission Medical Center (Kan.), continued that theme to students in his message "Does This Thing Work?"

"If you want to realize the hopeful future God has

for you, then your life needs to make room to hear the voice of God speaking to your heart," said Bath, former Sligo pastor. He admonished graduates to stay connected to the Lord every day in order to receive His blessings.

On Sunday, Renée Battle-Brooks, assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County in Maryland, applauded graduates for their achievements.

"Only 15 percent of all people in the United States have attained a college degree," said Battle-Brooks ('82). After sharing

her personal "walk by faith" with the seniors, she added, "If God is in your life He will take you by the hand and lead your journey down the right path." She ended with the charge, "Class of 2007, this is your life. How are you going to live it? Go out and serve. Go out and excel. Go forth and do good!"—Candace Hamilton and PR Staff



Religious Liberty Dinner Guests Enjoy Consort

The CUC Baroque Consort (pictured) was well received during their recent performances at the Beltsville (Md.) church and for special guests and senators during the Religious Liberty Awards Dinner. The dinner was held at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

"The Baroque Consort were well-loved by the audience when they played at the Senate two years ago and were invited back by popular demand," said Debby Knott, secretary-treasurer for the North American Religious Liberty Association, a sponsor of the dinner. Their appearance preceded a keynote address by Senator John Kerry.

"It was interesting to hear these people speak on religious liberty and the U.S. Government," said recent CUC graduate and cello player Anastasia Elliot.

Consort members include local musicians as well as CUC students and alumni. According to director Geri Mueller, an adjunct music teacher at the college, the group was formed about eight years ago and has a distinct musical style. The consort concentrates on the historical interpretation of Baroque composers from 1600 to 1750. Music is performed on various instruments including recorders, transverse flute (or a Baroque flute made of wood), strings, harpsichord, and sometimes other historical instruments such as the cornetto and krumhorn (a tall instrument that resembles a cane).

"I enjoy Baroque music because it is technical, difficult to play, easy to understand, different from most music, and has a sweet sound," said sophomore music major Maria Salazar, who plays the viola in the consort.—PR Staff



Faculty Members Given President's Awards for Service

During the recent graduation ceremony Commencement Service, president Randal Wisbey, DMin, recognized four outstanding faculty members for their commitment to students.

Assistant communication professor Tami Shipowick Hoyt (pictured) accepted the award for her dedication to first-year students as director of the First-Year Experience. The program is designed to help first-year students make the transition from high school to college seamlessly, both academically and socially.



Bradford Haas (pictured), assistant professor of English and



Honors Program director, received an award for the leadership and direction he has given students in the Honors Program.

Professor Joan Francis, PhD (pictured), is well known around campus for her passionate support of student activities. Wisbey cited her support of several campus organizations and for devotions read before each class. Francis is chair of the Department of History and Political Studies.



Weis Library director Margaret von Hake (pictured) was recognized for her tenured service to the college. A room in the library



will be named in her honor. According to Wisbey, this distinction is well deserved, "for her unwavering belief in this school."—PR Staff

CALENDAR

June

- 7-29 Summer Session II
- 11 Praxis Exam
- 24 Placement Testing
- 25 Early Registration

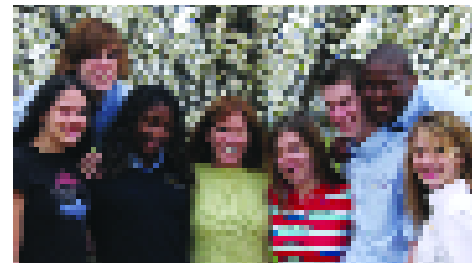
July

- 2-27 Summer Session III
- 4 Independence Day—
No Classes, Offices Closed
- 23- Capital Summer Session
- Aug. 9

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

Already Gearing Up for a New School Year

For those of us in the education arena, we take a deep breath and think of a slower pace during the summer. It is finally time to catch up on all the things left undone. Oddly enough though, after a week or two of break, our brains switch gears again and we start thinking about the next school year! Teachers start working on lesson plans and reorganizing their rooms, administrators work on planning activities, and the maintenance and grounds crews are busy sprucing up dorms, classrooms, and landscaping.



Faculty and staff are excited about the 2007-08 school year. While it is always sad to say goodbye to graduates, it is also exciting to welcome new students. We are expecting an increased enrollment next year and are thrilled to have more families taking advantage of Adventist Christian education! We are developing some new classes, one in forensic science and another to help freshmen successfully transition to academy life by learning about study skills, time management, etc. We instituted a character development program three years ago and are planning bigger and better things for it next school year. Our Campus Ministries department is already planning our Commitment Weekend, Senior Survival, youth church services, and a conference-wide youth weekend.

I have seen firsthand what an Adventist education can do for young people. I know that Highland View Academy (HVA) has top-notch academic, spiritual, and social programs, and I'm committed to giving this educational opportunity to as many young people as possible. I love what it says in 3 John 4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (NIV).

I would like to once again encourage readers to think about students you may know who are not currently planning to attend an Adventist academy. Take a moment to pray for them, and take the initiative to talk to them about the possibility of attending HVA. Trust me, you'll be helping to change lives and shape futures!



Sheri Tydings
Principal

NEWS

Students Honored at Awards Reception

Recently a number of HVA students were honored at the 11th Annual Awards Reception. More than half of the student body was recognized for being on the honor roll. Senior Maxine Umana was given the title "Miss DeHaan Hall" and senior Chad Banks was crowned "Man of the Year." School letters were also awarded—given for outstanding achievement in the total school program—to Alexandria Distan, Ashley Dunbar, Amanda Greenleaf, Damaris Odhiambo, Chelsea Powell, Julie Souza, Lauren Stough, Maxine Umana, Jessica Wahlen, and Nathan Zollman. Recipients of the Principal's Award were freshman Jennifer Calhoun, sophomore Cody McCulloch, junior Damaris Odhiambo, and senior Amanda Greenleaf.

"This event is a great way to wrap up the year and publicly recognize our students who are so talented

and involved in school life," said principal Sheri Tydings. "It's one of my favorite events of the year."

Potential Students Encouraged to Visit

Any potential students who are considering attending HVA are welcome and encouraged to visit the campus this summer. They can meet some of the faculty and staff, view the beautiful campus, and learn more about programs offered. For an appointment, please call (301) 739-8480, ext. 221. The faculty is happy to accommodate evening or weekend appointments if necessary.

An admission packet can also be requested and additional information about the school can be accessed at www.highlandviewacademy.com. Applications for the 2007-08 school year are now being accepted, and an entrance fee discount is available to students who register before July 1.

Students Fast for World Hunger

A group of 32 students and faculty recently participated in the "30-Hour Famine," a program sponsored by World Vision. The event is designed to raise money to help combat world hunger and to raise awareness of this global problem.

Participants started the fast on a Friday afternoon and continued until Saturday evening. Students stayed overnight in the HVA gymnasium and spent time praying, learning, and supporting each other for the event's duration. In addition to fasting, students participated in a variety of activities to learn more about world hunger. In one activity students drew stick figures to represent the 27,000 people dying each hour from hunger.

"Seeing the enormity of paper it took just to draw tiny stick-figure people that would die from hunger in the next hour really had an impact on the students," said Stephen Herr, Campus Ministries director and event organizer.

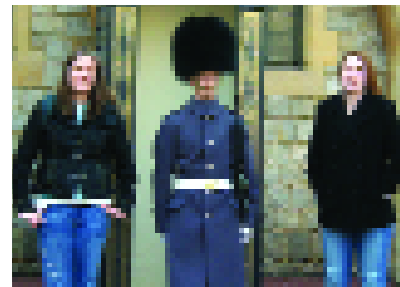


Students involved in the "30-Hour Famine" display a representation of those dying from hunger.

Students Spend Break Experiencing the World

Highland View Academy strives to offer exciting opportunities for students who wish to do something different during their spring break. This year the options were a mission trip to Honduras or an educational tour to England and Scotland.

Students who traveled to Santa Barbara, Honduras, worked at the REACH International Children's Orphanage. They ministered to the orphans and helped in some reconstruction projects by painting



Ashley Dunbar (left) and Chelsea Powell pose with a guard at Buckingham Palace.

of the children on a hike into the rain forest and cheering them on at a National Pathfinder Camporee.

The group also donated funds for several area projects: breast cancer treatment for a local woman; a multipurpose pavilion for the local high school; and two small houses for families in need. Trip participants were so affected by the great needs of the village that they "emptied their pockets" at the end of the trip and left another \$465 for miscellaneous school supplies. Many students returned feeling they received more than they gave.

Another student group headed for Europe, an educational tour organized by English teacher Jennifer Payne. It was designed to bring alive the literature and history students learned about in the classroom.

"My goal was to give students

an opportunity to see the world from a different perspective by experiencing a different culture," says Payne.

Some of the sites visited were Edinburgh, Newbold College, London's Piccadilly Circus, and the Globe Theatre. Students were also fortunate to attend a Good Friday evening vespers program, Evensong, at St. Paul's Cathedral.

CALENDAR

June

12-16 Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting, HVA Campus

July

1 Registration Discount Deadline
9-13 Basketball Camp

August

1 2007-08 School Year Application Deadline

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Will You Heed His Call?

The rain and recent events in the Mountain View Conference have led me to reflect on the following thoughts. Based on Zechariah 10:1 and the spirit of prophecy, rain symbolizes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit just before Jesus returns. "The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the 'former rain' and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 21).

"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure ... " (*Review & Herald*, July 21, 1896).

God is at work in Mountain View. His people are taking possession of the mission and message of the church. We estimate that by camp meeting, nearly 500 members will have committed their time and talents in a united effort to enlarge God's kingdom in our territory. Outreach leadership teams have been organized in nearly every congregation, each with the number-one priority to reach their community for Christ.

Each team understands that, "It is in working for others that they will keep their own souls alive" (*Christian Service*, p. 22). A lay revival movement is sweeping over Mountain View, and with this heaven-born movement, the revitalizing showers of the latter rain are beginning to fall on every active participant in God's service. The call has sounded forth to Mountain View members, "Who will go now?" In the widening response to His call around the conference, many are laying plans to preach the gospel in their hometowns. The question is, will you heed the call?



Larry Boggess
President

Members Encouraged to "Share Him"

Jesus is coming soon—let's all share the good news as widely, efficiently, appealingly, and speedily as we can," proclaimed Robert Folkenberg, Share Him Ministries director for the Carolina Conference, at a recent event held at the Spencer (W.Va.) church. The Share Him program is being used to help equip every willing conference member to do the work of an evangelist. "It's my business to make sure that you have no



Spencer (W.Va.) church member Phil Biliciano and his wife, Cheryl, were eager participants in the Share Him training event. Phil recently applied his training toward an evangelistic series he held at the Living Waters church in Mt. Vernon, W.Va.

excuses for not evangelizing," he preached, sweeping away lazy excuses for shirking our part in carrying the great gospel commission.

With the unanimous and enthusiastic commitment of conference

pastors, each congregation heard its minister describe the essential features and advantages of Folkenberg's well-honed training program that enables every Adventist with a burden for souls to proclaim the three angels' messages successfully. Pastors gave a call for all interested members who are fully committed to devoting their time, talents, and resources to evangelism to come forward and be introduced to the congregation as its committed evangelists. These volunteers then attended one of four Share Him rallies held this spring in various districts.

The Charleston (W.Va.) church, the location for the first of these rallies, was crowded with about 200 members from churches in the southwestern portion of the conference. Attendees were all ready and primed for the practical training that Folkenberg presented with high energy and enthusiasm. Those who signed up as active participants in the program received the materials they will need to share the gospel anywhere in the world. Mountain View is fully on board with this streamlined, low-cost, and high-commitment approach to evangelism. For more information, visit www.ShareHim.org. To view the Columbia Union Conference's video about the initiative, visit www.columbiaunion.org.

Sanctuary Lessons Portrayed in Spencer

Robed in a reproduction of the high priest of Israel's attire, as he stood beside a beautiful scale model of the Hebrew sanctuary, Darwin Whitman (pictured) started a three-day seminar at the Spencer (W.Va.) church.

For the past several decades Whitman, who lives in Dayton, Tenn., has devoted himself to presenting the rich correlation between the Levitical sanctuary service and the New Testament teachings of the gospel linked with prophecy. His special emphasis on the ministry of Christ as our High Priest, Advocate, and Judge in the heavenly sanctuary gives timely appeal and force to his presentations.

Members and visitors appreciated Whitman's practical applications to the typological significance of the participants, rituals, furniture, and special services held in Israel's ancient sanctuary. Holy living, reverence in the house of worship, effective intercessory prayer, ministry to our children, and healthful living were some of the key topics Whitman brought forth from the lessons conveyed in "Tabernacle in the Wilderness."

Most of the audience heartily responded to Whitman's closing call for single-minded commitment to God in these final hours of Earth's history. Whitman left a gift DVD copy of his complete sanctuary series for the church's future evangelistic use. His time at Spencer completed a tour through other parts of the Columbia Union.—Jane Lawaty



Leadership Training Empowers Mountain View Women

For years Peggy Koch, member of the Charleston (W.Va.) church, cherished a deep longing to serve the Lord full time. Last year the time arrived to fulfill that aspiration. After much prayer and study, Koch felt led to become equipped for evangelism. More than that, she was convicted to help other women achieve the same objective.

Stepping forward in faith, Koch intensively studied materials that enabled her to launch into presenting a comprehensive course in women's leadership training.

Registered participants were required to meet weekly for more than seven months. Among the topics covered in the syllabus for Level I training were communication skills, effective public speaking, effective leadership, strategies for evangelism, needs assessments in the local church, problem solving and more. Graduates of this training at Charleston were Becky Deal, Katherine McCormick, Pamela Phannachitta, Joyce Yeager, Crystal Farmer, Libby Pauley, Joyce Brown, and Karen Davis.

Level II training included study modules on the philosophy of



Peggy Koch (far left), leadership trainer from the Charleston (W.Va.) church, presents diplomas to her Level II graduates.

Women's Ministries, budget and finance, principles of counseling, producing newsletters, small group ministries and support groups, reclaiming former members, working with committees and boards, and more. Graduates of this level were Becky Deal, Katherine McCormick, Pamela Phannachitta, Crystal Farmer, and Joyce Yeager.

These ladies are all dedicated to conducting public as well as personal evangelism until Jesus comes. Koch will soon conduct an evangelistic series in Point Pleasant, W.Va., to model the way for more sisters and co-laborers in the faith.

Mountain View EVENTS

- June**
- 8-13 Lifeguard Camp
Valley Vista Retreat Center
 - 15-23 Camp Meeting
Valley Vista
 - 17 ABC Book Sale
Valley Vista
Lay Advisory
Valley Vista
- July**
- 1-8 Adventure Camp
Valley Vista (Ages 7-9)
 - 8-15 Junior Camp
Valley Vista (Ages 10-12)
 - 15-22 Teen Camp
Valley Vista (Ages 13-16)

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Seeing God Through New Eyes

Today, as I write, the campus of Virginia Tech University is observing a day of mourning for the students and faculty who died in the recent attack. During this time of great sorrow, the hearts of parents everywhere go out to the families of those precious sons and daughters. It is another dark day in our country's history and the whole world shares tears of sorrow.

This event came as we celebrated the end of our Spring Week of Prayer, a very special time with our students. Our speaker, Herb Montgomery, led the students and staff on a spiritual journey that focused on seeing God through new eyes. Satan would have us paint God as stern and unforgiving. Pictures and reports of continuous tragic events would have us doubting God's love. But careful study led the students to a deeper understanding of God's character for what it really is, one of unrelenting love.

We must never forget that we are caught in a struggle between good and evil. This great controversy continues, but praise God we know that, even through grief, God will prevail. As we take this opportunity to talk with our students about this tragic event, we are sustained by God's love and anchored through our faith. We may not know what tomorrow—or even the next hour—holds for us, but we know we can trust God.



Linda Taber
Vice Principal

Students Challenged By Week of Prayer Speaker

It is no secret that we live in a world that has given itself over to sin. The pursuit of gain and service to self are the motivating factor in so many of Earth's inhabitants. Adventist academies, Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) included, have been set up, in part, to counteract the negative influence of the world on our children. They also must provide a place for students to be nurtured and grown in a spiritual environment. But even in



this haven, it is of great benefit to have a time to refocus our thoughts and energies heavenward.

To this end, MVA recently conducted its annual Spring Week of Prayer with guest presenter Herb Montgomery (pictured), speaker and evangelist for Light Bearers Ministry. Pastor Montgomery challenged the students to correct their view of God. He explained that with a true understanding of God's

intense love for humanity, with a right concept of His relationship with His creation, and with a correct perception of His attitude of forgiveness, humanity can experience the joy, peace, and love that He offers us.

Student response to the event was overwhelmingly positive. Freshman Michaela Stevenson said, "I really, really liked it. It was nice that he didn't talk about how to act, but about how to see." The power was in the simplicity. The students were drawn to a real picture of a God who loves them. The "dots were connected." Students got the message "that [if we] focus on how we see God, then our behavior and attitudes will change," concluded junior Hiel Rutanhira.



Spring Week of Prayer speaker Herb Montgomery challenged the students to correct their view of God.

Potential Students Experience Academy Days

Mount Vernon Academy extended an invitation to students in grades 7 and up to visit the campus for our annual Academy Days. Visitors were given the opportunity to experience the different aspects of life at MVA. Upon arriving, the guests were organized into small teams and assigned two MVA student ambassadors to assist them throughout their two-day stay.

Students experienced "going to class" where they met the teachers. They also participated in planned activities where they earned points. During the final assembly, the top three teams were awarded prize money for their efforts.



Visiting student Pierre Wolfe hunts for marbles in the stinky, gooey slime at the science station during recreational activities.

Students were excited about the variety of activities provided, such as a scavenger hunt, an academic bowl featuring a number of mind bender games, and organized games during recreation time. Many students took the opportunity to tryout for scholarships in choir, handbells, band, art, drama, volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer, and

gymnastics. Scholarship money will go toward their tuition for the 2007-08 school year. At the end of the first busy day, visitors experienced a night in the dormitories.

MVA's Religion Department provided a time for everyone on campus to come together and praise Jesus with song and worship. Through a visual presentation, the chaplains shared the diversity of spiritual activities that are available at the school. To give visiting students an idea of the variety of classes offered in the arts, MVA teachers and students presented a concert that featured the Echoliars (choir), band,

handbells, and drama departments. The gymnastics team also gave a thrilling, high-flying presentation that was quite impressive.

The students' academy experience would not have been complete without eating traditional ice cream sundaes on the lawn. Although the weather was a bit chilly, everyone enjoyed the sweet treat. The event concluded with an upbeat fashion show featuring MVA students showcasing the wide variety of campus attire available. Visiting students, as well as current MVA students and staff, had a great time making new friends and lasting memories.—Margaret Sutton



Visitor Julie Montgomery tries out for a volleyball scholarship. Because of her many talents, she was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in gymnastics and \$500 for drama.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

June

10-16 Ohio Conference Camp Meeting

August

- 1 Faculty/Staff Report to School
- 5-8 Volleyball/Soccer Camp
- 9-12 RA Training
- 12-14 Freshman Orientation
- 15 Sophomore, Junior, Senior Orientation
- 16 Classes Begin
- 24-26 Handbell and Choir Retreat
- 30-2 Senior Survival

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Editor, Margaret Sutton

"This is God"

"This is God," I thought as I stepped out of my car and was immediately wrapped in the silence and beauty of the still mountain lake and surrounding forest. The sun overhead warmed my shoulders as my heavenly Father placed His arm about me. Two geese glided silently over the lake's mirrored surface leaving ripples of dancing diamonds. I was in the very presence of His tranquil serenity. My face turned to the heavens, my eyes closed in prayer, as freshness swept across my brow and into my soul. It was one of those moments that place you at His feet in awe and wonderment. A moment needed more than you knew. A moment in which scars heal and harsh, troubled thoughts are quieted.

Later that evening I found myself in a beautiful lodge sitting beside a warm, crackling fire. The room was welcoming and unpretentious. A library of old books lined the walls of dark warm woods. Soft lamps glowed in the corners next to small writing tables. Large, over-stuffed chairs were placed about the room. Floor to ceiling windows brought the outdoors in, with the lake lapping at your toes. I was so drawn to this place that here, too, I found myself in reverent prayer. Calmness, acceptance, and reassurance entered my tired soul.

For the next few days, either standing beside the lake with my Father's arm about my shoulder, or in the hearth room sitting beside Him on a pillow strewn sofa, I discovered a need within all of us—a need to be in His presence. Through the calming surroundings, God was telling me how much He needs His servants to live welcoming, unpretentious lives. Lives that draw others into His sweet presence, providing a place where scars can heal and troubles are quieted. I am to live a life where people can see Him, not me. Through the indwelling of my Savior, I am to share Him in a way that beckons others to step into the awe and wonderment of Him. A place where others will want to linger and learn. A place where prayers flow and others discover, "This is God."

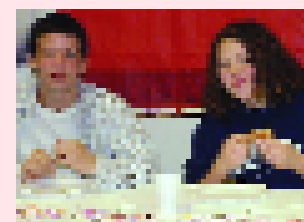


LeRoy Finck
President

Atlantic County Couples, Youth Rejuvenated

The Atlantic County English church in Northfield recently held its second annual marriage seminar as well as its first youth seminar. The guest speaker for both events was Nancy Van Pelt, certified family life educator and best-selling author from California. Van Pelt was a return guest from last year's marriage seminar.

The couples' event, themed "Marriage By the Sea," was hosted and organized by Avis Jackson, the church's Women's and Family Ministries director. About 20 couples from churches around the conference participated. Some admitted they attended hoping to rejuvenate their marriages. All found the seminar and literature very helpful and informative, and many enjoyed the



dinner banquet held Saturday evening at a nearby hotel. Pastor John Pifer and his wife, Shannon, were happy they participated.

The youth seminar, titled "Smart Love," attracted 15

youth from the church and from other denominations. Both events were a success.—Bob Jackson



Pastor John Pifer and his wife, Shannon, enjoy time together at the marriage seminar.



The "giraffe" group pauses during their race to another station during the Academy Days scavenger hunt.

Toms River Crowns Hancock "Pastor of the Year"

The Toms River congregation recently honored their pastor, J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, as "Pastor of the Year." There was a celebration designed to let him know that he is very much loved and appreciated. Nearly 100 worshipers attended the surprise celebration, which included a catered banquet, talent show, and honors ceremony. During the celebration, head elder Nicasio Alteros, Sr., announced that since Hancock started leading the flock in September 2004, church membership has increased from 133 to 181.

Cheryl Zimmerman, Sabbath School superintendent—as well as instigator and organizer of the celebration—commented, "We just wanted Pastor Hancock to know how much we appreciate his gracious preaching. Each week his powerful messages anchor us in the unshakable realities of the eternal gospel. He helps us to apply those realities to our daily experiences while encouraging us to look upward to our heavenly hope. He speaks with authority, always giving sound doctrine. The words of his preaching have a soul-saving effect on the lives of all who are responsive to God's call."

As Pastor Hancock and his wife, Dianne, turned on the lights in the

fellowship hall, they were completely taken aback by the outburst of "Surprise!" from so many well-wishers. The room was exceptionally decorated to duplicate an elegant dining room of a luxury hotel overlooking Central Park in Manhattan.

After many performances by various members and groups in the church, a plaque was read and presented to the pastor by Fred Zimmerman, assistant head elder. The plaque stated the congregation's appreciation of the pastor for his devotion to the Word of God and for his spiritual leadership.

A life sketch of Pastor Hancock, written by Zimmerman, was then read and distributed to attendees. Little did most of them know about his major accomplishments as a nationally recognized educator, author, pastor, and healthcare administrator. He was also a Citizen Ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China for People to People and the Eisenhower Foundation. The former leader of China, Deng Xiaoping, presented him with a bronze medallion for his work in the field of Cognitive Retraining and Uncommon Leadership. People to People and China were the first to recognize him as a world-class speaker.

Hancock earned his doctorate from Brigham Young University in Elementary & Secondary Curriculum and Instructional Science with special emphasis in Rural Education.

Martha Shewell presented the pastor with his final gift, a complete 12-volume set of *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*. Nearly speechless, he finally said, "Oh my dear friends, do you know what this is?" Pausing to hold back tears, he continued, "This is the commentary that most pastors only dream of having in their library. There is no greater gift that can be given to a minister of the gospel than the gift of this commentary to enhance his preaching. Thank you, dearly beloved. Thank you so very much."



Toms River church head elder Nicasio Alteros, Sr. (far left) presents the appreciation plaque to Pastor J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, (far right), while some church members show their support.

dates NEW JERSEY

June

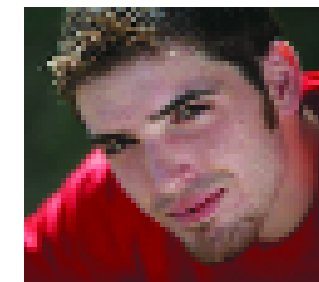
- 5 Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- 10 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 12 Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
VRC Board, 10 a.m.-Noon
Finance Committee, 7 p.m.
- 13 Directors Advisory, 9 a.m.
HSH Board, 3 p.m.
- 14 Association Board, 9 a.m.
Executive Committee, 10 a.m.
- 19 Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- 24-27 Family Summer Camp
- 28- New Jersey Conference
- July 1 Camp Meeting
International Food Fair
Parade of Nations

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New Staff Welcomed

Monte Sahlin (right) joined the leadership team of the Ohio Conference as director of Research and Special Projects. Coming from the Columbia Union Conference, where he served as vice president for Creative Ministries, Sahlin is a nationally recognized researcher and resource specialist and the Adventist denomination's leading consultant on community and humanitarian ministries. He has served on the boards of several federal, state, and local agencies, including FEMA and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

Sahlin has authored more than 20 books and over 50 research reports and articles. He and his wife, Norma, have two married daughters. The consulting services that he will make available to Ohio churches will be a tremendous asset to congregations seeking to have a stronger presence and ministry in their communities.



Andrew Taber (left) also recently joined the conference as technical intern. Taber is a 2005 graduate of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) with a long-time interest in computers. His understanding of technology was instrumental in his being hired by the technology teacher to help with the computers on MVA's campus. During his senior year he was placed in charge of all campus computers and the academy website.

During his summers, Taber assisted with the video and sound systems at Ohio camp meetings. He also was hired by Camp Mohaven and Timber Ridge Camp to produce videos of the camp seasons. Last summer Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, hired Taber to work in their computer department doing website management and developing a new site for the biology department.

For the past two school years, Taber attended Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., and recently graduated with an associate's degree in general studies. He plans to continue his college studies, working toward a degree in Interactive Media Design.

NEWS

Lakewood Hosts First Community Breakfast

The Lakewood church recently held the first of four community breakfasts they have scheduled for the year. The idea was initiated by the Board of Elders and is organized by member Anita Curtin with the help of volunteer members. A free, all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with juice and milk is open to the community. Church members greet, serve, and spend time with the



Community visitors enjoy breakfast while making friends at the Lakewood church.

visitors, making sure that no one eats alone. Although the weather was chilly, approximately 30 visitors from the community attended. The church members praise God for the response and

positive reaction they received from total strangers who have now become their new friends.—Cliff Wright

Hamilton Spanish Crusade Yields Baptisms

The Hamilton (Ohio) Spanish Mission company recently held a weeklong evangelistic crusade themed "The Last Decision." Guest speaker for the outreach event was Oswaldo Magana (pictured), pastor of the Cleveland Hispanic church district.



Approximately 40 visitors, in addition to regular church members, attended each night. Attendees were blessed with beautiful music, the Word of God, and many answered prayers. But the most wonderful experience of the event was on the last Sabbath, when 12 people rendered their lives to Jesus through baptism and profession of faith. God's Word—which He promises will never return empty—was fulfilled.

Toledo First Women Pamper Shelter Residents

Recently 18 ladies from the Toledo First church entered the doors of Aurora House, an inner-city women's shelter. With their hands and an abundance of God's love, they treated 20 shelter residents to an afternoon of pampering.



First a light lunch of tea, mini-sandwiches, and delightful desserts was served, giving everyone a chance to get acquainted. Then came the manicures, facials, hand treatments, pedicures, haircuts, and massages. And while the shelter residents were enjoying their treatments, their children were being entertained in another room with crafts and other activities. The afternoon was a delight and everyone was blessed.—Carla Szczechowski



A member of the Toledo First church (right) gives a pedicure to an Aurora House shelter resident.

"Can Man" Cleans University Campus

If there has been a weekend campus party of any kind in Oxford, Ohio, residents won't be surprised to hear the clanging of aluminum cans in their yards early Sunday morning. Abraham Kuranga, PhD, has earned the nickname "can man" in the campus town of Miami University for picking up this metal trash.

If you would see Kuranga collecting these cans, dressed in his scrubbiest clothes, you would not guess he was a distinguished professor of history at Cincinnati State College and a respected member of the Hamilton church. His wife, Eulin, an infection control coordinator at the McCullough-Hyde Hospital, often joins him. Together they pick up the nuisance cans piled up in trash-strewn lawns, garbage cans, fire pits, etc.



Abraham Kuranga, PhD, and wife, Eulin, regularly clean up aluminum cans from careless partiers on the campus of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

When Kuranga first started collecting, he was arrested three times for trespassing. Now, however, the police see how helpful he is and will actually call him when there is a large party. Even the community has expressed gratitude for his contribution to a cleaner, safer town.

"I may not be able to go to Baghdad, to Washington, or Columbus, but I can make a difference right here in Oxford," says Kuranga. "When I make a difference in Oxford, I make a difference in Ohio. When I make a difference in Ohio, I make a difference in the USA. And when I make a difference in the USA, I make a difference in the world in which I live."

After collecting, Kuranga takes his can collection to the processing plant in Hamilton, about 15 miles away. He has to drive very slowly and sometimes has to make two trips to carry a normal load of 20 large, 55-gallon plastic lawn bags full of cans.

Professor Kuranga was born in Nigeria and grew up in Ghana. He obtained a bachelor's in Nigeria and then moved on to get his master's degree in Michigan. After teaching in Nigeria for six years, Kuranga came to Oxford to earn his doctorate in history at Miami University.

During his time at Miami, Kuranga started noticing the students' carelessness about disposing of their aluminum cans. It bothered him so much that he started to carry a trash bag with him, picking up cans as he walked through campus. After graduating and starting his teaching career, he started his official can project, stating he wanted to make a contribution to the community and he needed to teach his children the dignity of labor.

The proceeds from these cans are either spent on supplies or given to charity or the Hamilton church, where the Kurangas are very active members. The "can man" and his wife may only be collecting cans, but they are contributing to a better world by leaving it a cleaner and safer place.—Judy Northcutt

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Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ President, Raj Attiken
Editor, Bette Toscano ■ www.ohioadventist.org

Called to Rescue the Broken

I recently found myself making small talk with a tow truck operator on the way to a garage as he towed my car. I asked how he liked his job. "It's okay," he replied, "but I would rather be doing what I was several months ago."

He explained that he had been serving as a soldier in Iraq and that he wished he was still there. When I asked why, he responded, "Because there I had a job to do and was entrusted with the responsibility to do it right. I knew that if I didn't do my job someone might die."

Friends, each of us lives today in a battle zone. We each have a job to do, and we need to do it in the way that only we can with our gifts and talents. If we don't, someone may die—*eternally*. God places each of us in the paths of others who we alone can reach for Christ. If we don't share the good news, who will?

God sent us to rescue others from the broken down places on Earth. Will you join me in living the mission every day—at work, in your neighborhood, in your home, and in your church?



Ray Hartwell
President

Equipping University Teaches Community Outreach

In cooperation with the North American Division Evangelism Institute's (NADEI) ChurchWorks training team, the conference recently held an Equipping University training event. It was the first in a series of scheduled events designed to equip churches with reaching their communities. More than 315 people from across Pennsylvania participated.



Equipping University ended with prayer as over 315 people gathered together, linking arms and hands, praying that God would use them to do His work in Pennsylvania.

"Our goal for the weekend was to see pastors and key church leaders come together as a team and prayerfully plan how they will be responsible as a district to reach their entire territory for Christ," explained conference president Ray Hartwell.

Bill Peterson, assistant to the president for missions, added, "This event is the first part of a process where the ultimate goal is for every church district to reach everyone in their territory with the everlasting gospel."

Through presentations and activities, Russell Burrill,

NADEI director, challenged attendees to claim their territory and begin impacting the lives of the people in it. One attendee commented that his co-workers used to be a source of irritation, but after Equipping University he now sees them as opportunities to share Jesus. Another person reported that he was now reaching out to the young people in his neighborhood—playing catch, hiring them to do yard work—finding simple ways to start a friendship and, hopefully, share the gospel.

During the recent training event, Equipping University director Eduard Schmidt walked the districts through several planning sessions. They started mapping out their district and working on plans for reaching that area, sometimes combining plans with neighboring churches.

The districts will continue to work together, getting more church members involved, in the months ahead. A second Equipping University weekend is planned for November 9-11. Those interested in learning more should contact their local pastor.

“Amazing Women” Acknowledged

Eleven “amazing women” received special recognition during the recent conference women’s retreat, applauded for their positive impact on others and through making a difference for Christ. Nominated by family and friends, each lady was surprised by the acknowledgment.

Despite a heart attack and dependence on a cane, Paulette Alexander of the Waynesboro church has made a difference in the lives of children for the past 30 years through her leadership of different Sabbath School classes. A member of the Hanover church, Karen Ball was nominated for her consistent Christian support and encouragement to those around her—no matter what trials she is facing.

With a heart for families, Pam Carbaugh was recognized for her leadership in Family Ministries and the Adopt-a-Child Program at the Chambersburg church. Nominated

Charlene Eby of the Mifflintown church has risen above health problems and developed a ministry at a local nursing home, which continues to thrive. Known for her outgoing personality and smiling face, Leslie Freeman, nominated by her husband, has impacted the lives of children in her home day care for the past two decades. A member of the Harrisburg church, Freeman’s husband writes, “I believe her positive impact on our community lies in the future of the children she watches and the contributions they make as tomorrow’s adults.”

Gettysburg church member Kay Stahl was nominated for “making an impact on her family, church, and work place.” Her courage while battling lymph node cancer and still handling her daily responsibilities, including counseling families with their finances, has been an inspiration to those around her. A member of the Chambersburg

church, DeAnn Straley was nominated for her courage and perseverance in the way she turned personal struggles into opportunities to impact the lives of others.

Christine Waring from the Hanover church was nominated by her father-in-law who wrote, “Christine is a

person of intelligence and integrity, sympathetic, and safe with confidences. Often in prayer for all within her sphere of influence, she exemplifies God’s grace in her life and relationships.” Angie Weems from the Pleasant View church has brought “joy, new life, and enthusiasm” into many of the programs at her church.

Angie Waring died a few days after attending the women’s retreat in 2006. Involved in all aspects of church life at the Hanover church, she was known for her laughter and passion for Christ. “Angie truly revealed Christ to others through her life’s activities. She radiated the light of Jesus in all that she did,” said loved ones who recognized her posthumously.

The lives of each of these women show that its not the “big things” that we do that make the most difference, but the way we live our lives for Christ each day.

What’s happening

June
15-23 Camp Meeting,
Blue Mountain Academy

July
1-8 Adventurer and
Family Camp,
Laurel Lake Camp

8-15 Junior Camp,
Laurel Lake Camp

10-30 Uganda Evangelism
Mission Trip

15-22 Tween Camp,
Laurel Lake Camp

22-29 Teen Camp,
Laurel Lake Camp

August
3-5 Young Adult Rafting Trip
8-12 Union Pathfinder
Camporee, Patapsco
State Park, Md.

12 Church Planting Summit

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Eleven women received certificates and roses at the recent conference women’s retreat. They were recognized as “amazing women” for the way they live and impact others for Christ.

by her husband, Margaret Christian is a busy English professor at Penn State University, but is still active at the Blue Mountain Academy church. “Always smiling” were words used to describe Cesi Diaz of the Lawndale church who opens her home to others and shares Jesus’ love through her actions and words.

Waynesboro Youth Member Shares Gospel in Brazil

Sixteen-year-old Kaylin King (pictured with Adrienne), Waynesboro (Va.) church member, could not have been more excited and apprehensive at the same time as she boarded the plane with her parents and brother for Amazonas, Brazil. King was the youngest of nine teens at three venues to preach in Brazil. Although she was to present only one sermon, this was no easy task for someone who had never preached before.

“I was completely out of my comfort zone,” she shared, “and was given the monumental task of condensing an hour-long sermon down to 20 minutes.”

Thanks to the help of several pastors and staff members, King was finally ready to preach her sermon about the second coming. She was nervous but prayed that her words would bring people to Christ. With all the transportation issues they faced at her site, it was evident the devil was working hard. But on the night King preached, the church was full.

“I have never seen so many miracles and have never seen God work so personally in my life,” she said. “I preached completely from my heart, and two people made the decision to be baptized. This experience has changed my life forever and made me realize how God can use even me to bring people to Christ.”—Jeanie Allen



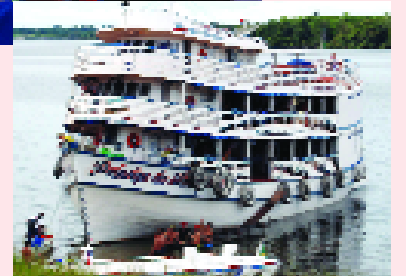
Mission Team Builds Structures, Changes Lives in Brazil

Potomac Conference Youth Ministries director Denny Grady knows all too well that sometimes the best laid plans don’t happen as anticipated. In the weeks leading up to this year’s Far Out Missions trip, many obstacles surfaced including uncertainty that the materials would be available for the building projects. Even after the 51 participants arrived in Amazonas, Brazil, transportation challenges occurred. “Sometimes our expectations are not in His plans and we need reminding that God is ultimately in control,” said Grady.

This year’s trip was unusual because the participants went to the same location as last year. “It was wonderful to see the seeds we planted a year ago, God had watered and caused them to grow—evidenced by how the people incorporated the songs we taught them into their daily lives,” said Cindy King, a Waynesboro (Va.) church member and previous mission trip participant.

The participants, representing 10 states, serviced three communities and completed a school and church, and started construction on another church. The three VBS teams provided daily programming to more than 200 community children. The medical team, including five doctors and two nurses, made 8 excursions by boat to the surrounding communities and provided many people with free medical and dental care.

This year the youth led out in all of the evening evangelistic meetings. The Lord blessed and 29 precious souls were baptized, including two mission trip participants.—Jeanie Allen

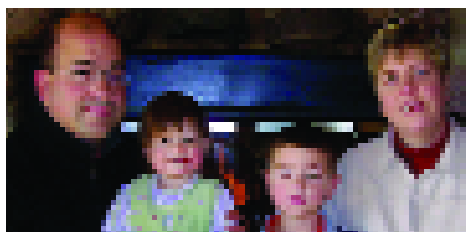


For 12-year-old Chase King, a Waynesboro (Va.) church member and mission trip participant, committing his life to Jesus was especially significant since he narrowly escaped serious injury or worse after being trapped under a tractor for two hours last November. Youth Ministries director Denny Grady baptizes him while in Brazil.

NEWS

New District Pastor Welcomed

Dean Waterman, an Illinois native, recently accepted the pastoral position for the Chesapeake district in Virginia, which includes Chesapeake and Portsmouth churches, and Redeeming Grace Fellowship company. Waterman previously served as a pastor in the Minnesota Conference. He and his wife, Jody, a nuclear medicine technologist, have two children:



Joseph (5) and Andrea Rose (2) (pictured). Waterman envisions his members understanding God's will for His church,

discovering how to reach their full potential, resulting in renewed passion for mankind and growth through one-on-one outreach.—*Jeanie Allen*

New Hispanic Coordinator Appointed

José Esposito, former Hispanic Ministries evangelist for Potomac Conference and pastor of the Fairfax (Va.) and Wheaton (Md.) churches, accepted a call to serve as the conference's Hispanic Ministries coordinator. Esposito succeeds Rubén Ramos, new assistant to the president for Multilingual Ministries at the Columbia Union Conference.

"I am looking forward to working with the Hispanic church initiatives in relation to outreach and evangelism. With the acquisition of the new Adventist Training and Evangelistic Productions Center, I hope to see continued membership growth," says Esposito, who assumed the position on April 8.

Esposito and his wife, Carmen (pictured), a kindergarten teacher at John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., have three children: Paolo (21), Romina (16), and Melissa (13).—*Jeanie Allen*



Community Praise Center Receives 2006 eChurch Award

The Community Praise Center (CPC) in Alexandria, Va., was recently awarded the 2006 eChurch Award of the Year. Each year the NAD Office of Communication presents the award to the congregation hosting what is considered by the judges to be the year's best website within the Seventh-day Adventist community.

CPC's Web developers are excited about future prospects, including an emphasis on website member interaction, acts of service, networking, and evangelism.

Senior pastor Henry Wright remarked how the emergence of websites takes the tape ministry much further than ever imagined. "It is now possible for people to embrace the Adventist message through our web ministry and never step foot in a Seventh-day Adventist church," he said. "Only eternity will tell how many people we touched."—*Jeanie Allen*



George Johnson Jr. (far right), associate communication director for the North American Division, presents the 2006 eChurch award to Community Praise Center. Ludi Leito (left), lead photographer, and David Barrow, Web developer, participate in the celebration.

New Community Fellowship Marks Third Anniversary

New Community Fellowship (NCF) celebrated its third anniversary to a nearly packed facility at Sligo church in Silver Spring, Md. The event included a free concert by the 220-voice National Christian Choir (pictured), under the direction of C. Harry Causey, DMA.

It was four years ago that Pastor Terry Johnsson dreamed of launching an evening worship experience for community members searching for a spiritual home, and to offer an alternative style of worship for lost members in need of spiritual renewal. What began as an informal gathering of five people, on a Saturday night in 2004, has grown to a joyful worship celebration with about 400 attendees.

NCF's newest initiative for 2007 is the Friday evening "home small groups," strategically located so no one has to drive more than five miles. Bring a friend and expect to be blessed!—*Jeanie Allen*



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Phone: (540) 886-0771 • www.pcsda.org • President, Bill Miller • Comm. Asst., Jeanie Allen

New Year Touts Enhanced Program, Advanced Teachers

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) will provide greater breadth and depth to its curriculum and teaching faculty for the 2007-08 school year. Course offerings will be expanded in virtually every subject area, and 75 percent of our teachers will have completed a master's degree. Approximately 60 semester hours of college credit will be available on our campus.



We will continue to focus on our number-one objective of spirituality. Seven religion classes, including two that can be taken for college credit through the dual credit program with Columbia Union College, will be available. Three full-time religion teachers/chaplains will be involved in

teaching classes and leading in the outreach and inreach spiritual programs. Two new faculty members will join Pastor Tim Harley in the Religion Department: Pastor Bob Van Ornam and Rebecca Lee, MDiv.

The English curriculum will be expanded with one new class for dual credit, along with classes and personal assistance for students with learning disabilities. Most students will benefit from our new, full-time special education teacher Jenny Song. She will assist students with improved study skills, tutoring, reading and writing labs, and other academic assistance. Kuriko Maeki will be responsible for our expanded English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Erik Brown will join Deborah White in teaching our traditional English classes.

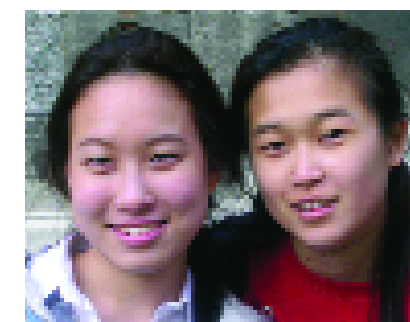
Mathematics, physics, and science classes will continue to be taught by Tom McNeilus and Jonathan Borne. Three classes will be available for dual credit, including College Calculus. Marvin Brauer, MD, a local physician, will teach the anatomy and physiology class for dual credit.

Four new classes, three for dual credit, will expand the social studies program. Don Slocum will teach in this department part-time and devote the balance of his time as guidance and career counselor. Gabrielle Griffin will teach nearly full-time in social studies, and I will teach Personal Economics for dual credit. Business

education classes will continue to be taught by Dorenda Dodge, including two for dual credit. She will also be our registrar.

Our foreign language classes will include four years of Spanish, two of which will be available for dual credit. Edgardo Ullrich will teach two Spanish classes and act as boys' dean.

The Music Department will add two new full-time teachers: Melissa Anderson and Marc Elysee. Anderson will be responsible for our choral program and will provide voice lessons. Elysee will lead our strings



ensemble and conduct our orchestra. He has an undergraduate degree in violin and a graduate degree in orchestra conducting. Van Ornam will direct our concert band and teach

lessons on a variety of band instruments. Cynthia Coston will continue with our handbells ensemble and Connie Twomley will continue teaching piano and organ lessons. All music lessons at SVA are given without additional charges.

We invite you to check out the new and improved SVA. If everyone does their fair share, we will work out a financial plan that will make it possible for any Adventist student to attend our school. To arrange for a visit, please call Tim LaPierre at (540) 740-2210.



Dale E. Twomley, PhD
Principal

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E-mail: daletwomley@hotmail.com • Editor, Tim LaPierre
www.youracademy.org

Keep Open Communication With Students

What a blessing it is to see young people grow in their relationship with the Savior. It is vitally important that we encourage our youth to “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Ps. 34:8) for themselves. One student recently told me he was disappointed that his parents would not openly discuss standards with him. Instead they wanted to tell him what to do. I know it is easier for parents to say “just do as I say,” yet if we want our children to have a relationship with God, we must allow them the opportunity to talk openly about their church. Is it tough? Absolutely. But the young people that grow amid openness with their parents, teachers, and church will always be stronger in their relationship with Jesus.



C. Dunbar Henri
Principal

Students Explore Spain

Recently 25 students and staff from Takoma Academy (TA) took the long flight to Spain as part of the school’s biennial foreign language trip. Current and former Spanish teachers Erica Chavez and Orlando Mastrapa, respectively, led the group from Madrid, to Granada, to Toledo, to Seville, and finally to Torremolinos. The students had a wonderful time exploring other cultures, and many are already planning to participate in the 2009 trip to Greece.



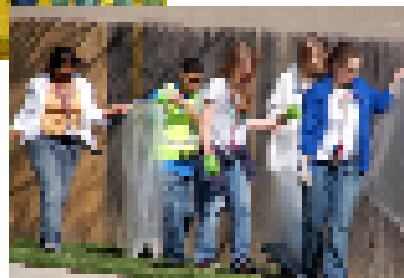
Events Promote Responsibility, Peer Fellowship

A number of recent events have allowed TA students to fellowship with peers from other Adventist schools, and to experience responsibility to the world around them:

Students from nearby Beltsville, G.E. Peters, John Nevins Andrews, Olney, and Sligo schools came together for friendly competition in TA’s Amazing Race.



During Community Service Day, TA students cleaned up Takoma Park, Md.



The South Lancaster (Pa.) Academy singing group (right) and Sacramento (Calif.) Academy band, bells, and choir recently came to share their talents with TA students.



Calendar

- June**
 1 Last Day of School
 1-3 Graduation Weekend
 4-7 Post School for Teachers

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy
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June 16: Bible Study Fellowship, Jr. Musical Band Sings with Ladies	June 23: Pastor Steve Blasing Musical Band Fellowship Service
June 30: Communion In the 10	

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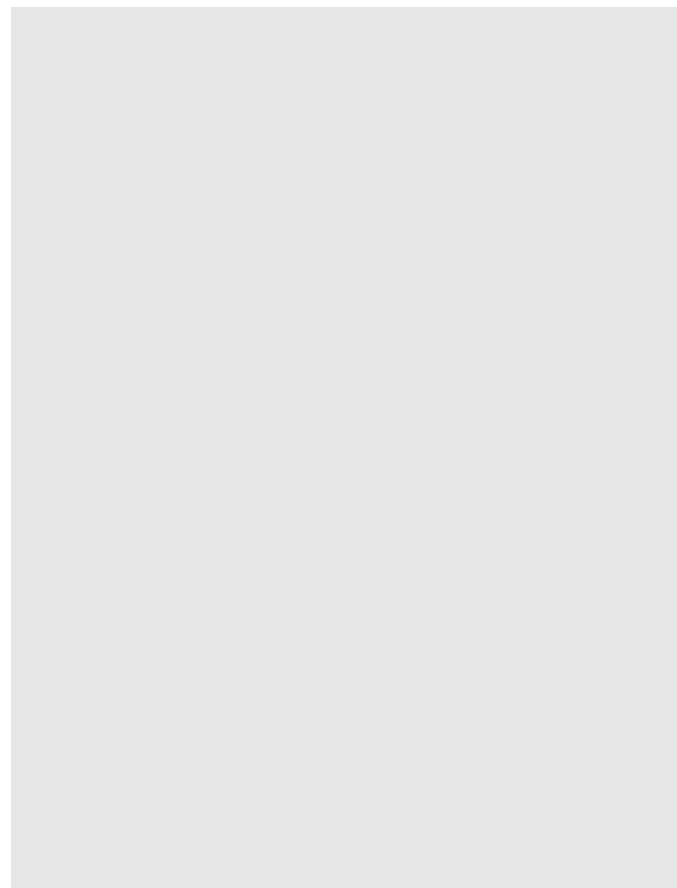
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First-time advertisers who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church must submit a letter of recommendation from their pastor or conference leadership. **First-time advertisers who are not members of the Adventist church** must submit letters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

Payment must accompany all advertisement(s). We do not bill for classified or display advertising and tear sheets are not provided unless prior arrangements are made. Checks and money orders are accepted. Make checks payable to Columbia Union *Visitor* and mail together with classified advertisement and recommendations (if applicable) to: Sandra Jones, Columbia Union *Visitor*, 5427 Twin Knolls Rd., Columbia, MD 21045, and display advertising to Beth Michaels at the same address.

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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Display Advertising: For rates and information, go to www.columbiaunion.org or call (888) 4-VISITOR and ask for Beth Michaels at ext. 282.

EMPLOYMENT

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WALLA WALLA COLLEGE seeks applicants for teaching position in communication, with emphasis in drama. Qualifications include experience in play direction, technical theater, costuming and stagecraft, writing for stage and screen, speech instruction, classical drama and drama, history, and managing facilities and groups. See additional details at <http://www.wwc.edu>. Contact Nancy Semotiuk, Chair, Communications Department, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. (509) 527-2843. semona@wwc.edu.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELTSVILLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI REUNION:

Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited back to Beltsville Adventist School for its 50th anniversary Alumni Reunion celebration, September 15. Join fellow classmates for fellowship, friendship, and fun as we celebrate this momentous occasion. For more information, call (301) 937-2933.

THE HYATTSVILLE (MD.) CHURCH

announces its 75th anniversary celebration on July 13-14. All former members are invited to attend this special weekend. For more information, please call (301) 927-7295 or RSVP to Lriverdale@aol.com.

FYI: ADVENTIST TRUCKERS—

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THE KETCHUM, (OKLA..) ADVENTIST CHURCH

will be having a 100th year reunion on July 6-7. All alumni and friends are welcome. The weekend will begin with an agape feast on Friday evening. Worship service with James Rainwater, lots of music and food, door prizes, and memory-making. Call JoAnn Flock for more information, (918) 782-2694.

SUNSET LAKE CAMP

in Wilkeson, Wash., invites former staff members, managers, and directors to celebrate its 50th anniversary—June 23—with programming at Auburn Academy and Sunset Lake. Bring memorabilia to share. Call (253) 681-6008 or visit www.sunsetlake.org for details.

25th Anniversary Conference
October 24-26, 2007
Silver Spring, Maryland

OBITUARIES

SPIRES, Rodney, E.,

born September 11, 1937, in Kyger, Ohio; died October 2, 2006, in Middleport, Ohio. He was a member of the Pomeroy (Ohio) church. Rodney was a faithful member of his church and was serving as head elder at the time of his death. He always gave God the praise for extending his life more than 20 years after being diagnosed with liver cancer. He is survived by his wife, Patsy J. Spires, of Kyger, Ohio; sons, Rodney Jr. and Timothy Spires of Kyger; daughter Diana L. Wears of Kyger; sisters, Irma D. Bales of Middleport, Ohio, Ardath Zwies of Pensacola, Fla., Rita White of Kyger; his brother, Dennis M. Spires of Cheshire, Ohio; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

YOUNG, Merie F.,

born April 9, 1915, in Lancaster, Pa.; died November 9, 2006, in Lancaster, Pa. She was a member of the Lancaster (Pa.) church. She is survived by her sons, Glenn E. Herman and his wife, LaVerne, and Marlin F. Herman and his wife, Belinda; his daughter, Marlene W. Bowman and her husband, Ray L. Bowman; nine grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29	July 6
Baltimore	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:37	8:36
Cincinnati	9:02	9:06	9:08	9:08	9:07
Cleveland	8:59	9:02	9:04	9:04	9:03
Columbus	8:59	9:02	9:04	9:05	9:04
Jersey City	8:26	8:29	8:31	8:32	8:30
Norfolk	8:23	8:26	8:28	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:51	8:54	8:56	8:57	8:56
Philadelphia	8:28	8:31	8:33	8:34	8:32
Pittsburgh	8:48	8:52	8:54	8:54	8:53
Reading	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37
Richmond	8:29	8:33	8:35	8:35	8:34
Roanoke	8:39	8:42	8:44	8:44	8:43
Toledo	9:07	9:10	9:12	9:13	9:11
Trenton	8:27	8:30	8:32	8:33	8:32
Wash., D.C.	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:36

SUNSET CALENDAR

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June 30 Steve Chavez	July 7 William Johnsson
July 14 Kermit Netteburg	July 21 Terry Johnsson
July 28 Dave Weigley	August 4 Alicia Patterson
August 11 Fred Kinsey	August 18 Ron Halversen Jr.
August 25 Gaspar Colón	September 1 William Loveless

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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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The Secret to Longevity

As backwards peak into the lives of these centenarians reveals that their secrets to living a century or more are no secrets at all. The lifestyles they advocate are simple health habits we have known for years: eat wisely, be physically active, stay connected to others, live temperately, express gratitude, and enjoy a trusting relationship with God.



Yet despite knowing (and teaching) this health message, I find myself instead caught up in the American fast pace and fast food way of living. The result? Skipped devotional times, longer work hours, too much junk food, feeling winded climbing stairs, a growing pants size, and no energy or time for relaxing with friends and family. A look around at my fellow church members shows me I'm not the only Adventist that struggles with integrating the health message with the demands of everyday life. More than 60 percent of Americans are overweight, and rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and depression are reaching epidemic proportions. How can we live the health message that we know will not only prevent disease and add years to our life, but also open doors for us to share the gospel with others? Is it relevant today?

IT'S NO ACCIDENT

Perhaps the secret to longevity lies in what the centenarians *didn't* say. What we don't hear is, "Oh, it was an accident, really. Everything just sort of worked out for me to live a long, healthy life." Sure, genetics plays a role. But genes are only 30 percent responsible for how long we live and how we age. The rest is pure lifestyle—an *intentional* lifestyle.

God tells us in Deuteronomy 30:19: "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live" (NIV). Living an intentional lifestyle means to live on purpose. It means counting the costs, choosing to live healthfully, and then renewing that decision often (like when we're tempted to grab a candy bar at the checkout, or "veg" in front of the TV instead of taking a walk). It involves realistic planning and then taking the steps necessary every day to carry out that plan, in spite of the challenges we face. And it includes applying scripture to strengthen our resolve and encourage us along the way.

So live intentionally—and enjoy a long, healthful life.

Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, is program director and wellness coach for Adventist WholeHealth Lifestyle Medicine Center in Reading, Pa.

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