

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

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The Caviness Family

All in the
Family
Adoption Expands and Enriches Families



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News & Features

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We all have been adopted into God’s family. Carrying on this biblical tradition, people everywhere continue to adopt children into their families. Read about the adoption experiences of three Columbia Union families.

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About the Cover: The Caviness family from Centerville, Ohio. Photo by Lee Ann Yahle

We’re All Adopted

Setting our feet in concrete couldn’t have kept us on the ground the day we found out we were going to be parents. You see, this announcement came after several years of seeing doctors, undergoing infertility treatments, and experiencing emotional ups and downs. After a time it became evident that biological children were out of the picture, but we still wanted to experience the joy of being parents. So we decided to adopt.



While waiting to become parents, we had to have physicals to prove our health, references to prove our fitness for parenthood, home studies, and personality testing. There was required reading, and we each had to write about a dozen pages explaining our philosophy of life, telling about our family backgrounds, and detailing a host of other things. (This is a great idea for those wishing to be biological parents too!) As we tackled the pre-placement work, we joked that we had the gestation period of an elephant! But when the call came, it was worth it all! In fact, we have received that call twice and have been blessed with both a son and a daughter—Josh and Abby. It’s hard to explain the mix of feelings we experienced when those babies were placed in our arms. There were tears of joy, gratitude, amazement, wonder, and disbelief. *Is this really, finally happening?!*

What a joy it has been to share all of life’s experiences with our children over the years. We marvel at the family unit God created by bringing us together through His planning and timing. We were and are so thankful for His wonderful blessings!



The Hartwell Family: Ray, Josh, Abby, and Jeanne believe God brought them together through His planning and timing.

GOD’S GIFT

Adoption is not as uncommon as you may believe. Although the reasons and seasons for adopting may vary, many Adventist families in the Columbia Union have eagerly welcomed another precious son or daughter into their family circle. You’ll meet some in this issue of the *Visitor*, which features adoption. With willing hearts, they provide their new family member(s) with love and support.

In a real way, adoption is not just for a few fortunate families. It actually is the experience of each Christian. We have often thought about the amazing gift that God gave to this world—to all of us—when He sent His Son here so that we could be adopted into His family. Ephesians 1:5

says, “... having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will ...”

Being part of a family can be a wonderful feeling. Having a family open its arms and invite us into their hearts when we are in great need gives us a place to belong. And that is what the heavenly family has done for us through Christ. Christ longed for us to be a part of His heavenly family. Because of His gift on the cross, we are legally His when we choose Him. We haven’t been brought into our new home yet, but one day soon—when the pre-placement work is finished—we’ll all go home at last.

Ray Hartwell is president of the Pennsylvania Conference, headquartered in Reading, Pa. Jeanne serves as Family Life director and as associate director in the Ministerial Department.

LAVERNE HENDERSON

Columbia Union Produces TV Show

The Columbia Union Conference recently completed production of a new television show called *Columbia Union Story*. The 30-minute program, hosted by president **Dave Weigley**, features inspiring stories of mem-



bers, churches, conferences, and ministries within the Columbia Union.

“This edition focuses on evangelism and highlights what can happen when dedicated members and pastors work together with the Holy Spirit to share Christ in their communities,” Weigley says. “I’m hoping it will motivate others to experience the mission of Christ that we so faithfully embrace and teach.”

The premiere edition aired last month on the Hope Channel and is included in this month’s *Visitor* as a DVD. It includes stories about the annual Hispanic Lay Festival, where members are trained to start small group Bible studies in their homes; the Mountain View Conference’s new evangelism initiative that aims to involve every member; and the Potomac Conference’s Manassas church, which recently completed its first successful evangelism series in many years.

“Each month through the *Visitor* magazine, email, website, podcasts, and blogs, we share news about how Christ’s work is

progressing in the Columbia Union territory,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, communication director and the show’s executive producer. “Television provides another dimension to bring those stories to life.”

To commemorate the union’s centennial, the DVD also includes a 15-minute documentary called “Celebrating a Century” that chronicles how the Columbia Union was formed.

Additional shows will be produced and distributed to Columbia Union members and churches for free. To subscribe, call (410) 997-3414.

Church Leaders Honored for Service

The Takoma Park (Md.) City Council recently passed a resolution expressing appreciation to six local Seventh-day Adventist leaders. Pictured left to right and recognized by Councilman Terry Seamens (second from left), the leaders include Erwin Mack, chair of the Adventist Community Action Council (ACAC); Larry Rich, principal of Sligo Adventist School; C. Dunbar Henri, principal of Takoma Academy; David Waller, principal of John Nevins Andrews School; Jere Stocks, president of Washington Adventist Hospital; and (not pictured) Ron Wiley, executive director of Adventist



Community Services of Greater Washington. Each was presented with a certificate of appreciation, at a recent ACAC meeting, for their organization of a community project.

For the second year in a row, they organized an Earth Day community clean-up effort. Wiley coordinated the event, the principals engaged 400 students in picking up trash along a two-mile stretch, the hospital provided nurses in case of emergency, and Mack secured sponsorships from local businesses and worked with city officials to identify the clean-up location.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden

Colleges Collaborate on Promotional Efforts

The 14 accredited Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities in North America have partnered to promote the benefits of a Christian higher education. They’ve already sent more than 40,000 letters to Adventist young people, attending public or private high schools and home schools, touting the benefits of Adventist schools.

“If an Adventist student attends one of our academies, there is a good chance they know a lot more about Adventist college options,” says **Jonathan Scriven**, executive director for enrollment and admissions at Columbia Union College. “But Adventist students who are in public schools have little or no formal contact with our colleges. We want that to change.”



A new website, www.adventistcolleges.org, offers students and parents a central place to find information about Adventist college options. There are also links to each school’s website.

Adventists Convene Urban Congress

The first Adventist Urban Congress will be held at Oakwood College, in Huntsville, Ala., July 22-27. This event is geared toward enabling church leaders, pastors, and members to impact their communities through metropolitan ministries in urban settings.

“It is time to increase the impact of Adventist metropolitan ministries as a leading force for strengthening communities,” says **Sung Kwon**, Adventist



Community Services director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in

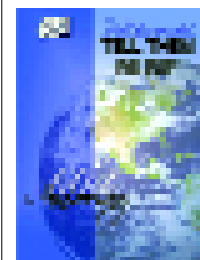
North America. “This congress is an invitation to pastors and lay leaders who desire to acquire unconventional tools and skills for leading congregations in community development.”

In addition to Kwon, Columbia Union-based presenters and speakers include Mark Finley, an Adventist World Church vice president; Ivan Warden, associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate; Alvin Kibble, a North American Division vice president; Barry Black, 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate; Zdravko Plantak, Columbia Union College School of Theology chair; and Fredrick Russell,

pastor of Miracle Temple church in Baltimore. For more information, or to register, contact PlusLine at (800) 732-7587 or www.plusline.org.

ASI Prepares for 60th Convention

Louisville, Ky., is the site of ASI’s (Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries) 60th



Annual International Convention. “Tell the World, Tell Them Now” is the theme of the August 1-4

celebration. The event features five main seminar tracks—Business, Education, Health and Lifestyle, Nonprofit, and Witnessing—to empower Adventist business owners to share Christ in the marketplace. As in the past, portions of the Sabbath offering will be used to support local and international ministries. For more information, or to register, visit www.asiministries.org.

Festival of the Laity to Fortify Leaders

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s North American Division (NAD) Adult Ministries is sponsoring a Festival of the Laity, September 26-29, in Orlando, Fla. This event, themed “Anointed, Disciplined Disciples: Telling Our World!” is tailored to those interested in the Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Prison Ministries areas. The 45 specialized training seminars will also be translated into Spanish.

“This year’s event will provide the most comprehensive

training, networking, and motivational opportunity under one roof,” says

J. Alfred Johnson, Adult Ministries director for the NAD. “We intend to make our theme a reality!”



Featured Columbia Union-based speakers include Walter L. Pearson, Jr., speaker/director for Breath of Life Ministries; J. Alfred Johnson, event coordinator; Dave Gemmell, associate director of the NAD Church Resource Center; and Jonathan Kuntaraf and Gary Swanson, director and associate director, respectively, of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries at the Adventist World Headquarters. To register, visit www.festival-ofthelaity.com.

For more news and photos, visit www.columbiaunion.org.

From the Pulpit

“Rather than being so critical—learn to affirm, accept, appreciate, admire, and adore your children. They will grow up to become what you say they will become. ... It’s better to build a fire within them than under them.”

—Franklin David, senior pastor of Potomac Conference’s Southern Asian



church in Silver Spring, Md. See more church photos at www.columbiaunion.org in the Columbia Union People blog.

What's New?

Magazines > Renewed & Ready

Did you know the median age of Seventh-day Adventists in North America is 58? Pacific

Press Publishing Association (Idaho) did. That's why they launched *Renewed & Ready*, a 64-page monthly magazine designed to celebrate

the best of mature Adventist living. "We felt it was time [for] a magazine that directly addressed the concerns and needs of our [50-plus] members, one that would help them with the particular issues they face, such as planning for retirement or raising grandchildren," says Dale Galusha, president of Pacific Press. Topics of focus include spiritual life, service, health, relationships, travel, finances, encouraging stories, humor, and more. The editor is Ginger Church, a member of the Chesapeake Conference's Williamsport (Md.) church. If you're ready for a little "R&R," stop by

www.renewedandready.com. For a free copy, email nicbat@pacificpress.com. —Celeste Ryan Blyden

Whole Health

Running on Empty

Summer. The word conjures up images of family camping trips, lazy days by the pool, tending a garden, sipping lemonade on the porch swing, and losing oneself in a good book—while resting in a hammock.

Yet for many of us, the porch swing and hammock sit empty as we rush about trying to accomplish all that we need to do. In fact, compared to most other developed nations, Americans work longer hours and take fewer vacations. In addition, we often have more than one job, leaving little time for restful activities that restore energy. Researchers cite this obsession with work as a contributing factor to the higher rates of sickness in America.

However, taking a break from work is essential for refueling our physical, mental, and spiritual health "tanks." (That's why Sabbath is such a blessing.) Optimal health and well-being involve the rhythmic balance of work and rest, exertion and

recovery, busyness and lazy summer days.

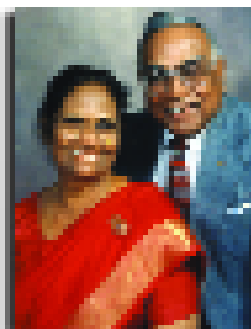
What are the activities that provide a welcome release from the stresses of your everyday life? When was the last time you actually *did* them? This summer, stop running on empty, and plan some activities to renew your energy and improve your health.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth

On a Mission

Johnson and Jessie Christian

Though they've given more than 40 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States, including 28 years in the Columbia Union Conference territory, Johnson Christian and his wife, Jessie, continue in their service to the Lord. The couple—members of Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md.—is on a mission to help people in need.

For the past 13 years, the Christians have used their talents and resources to help boarding students pay tuition, provide clothing for children, assist with school reconstruction projects, teach Bible classes, help build new churches, and support other projects in their native India. "As long as the Lord gives me health and strength, I will go," says Johnson.



What You Bring to the Table

Keeping Score

\$1.6 billion

Adventist tithe worldwide in 2006

\$1.45 billion

Adventist tithe worldwide in 2005

Source: General Conference Treasury

In the Spotlight > Evelyn Shaw and Abby

Upon reaching her 70s, Evelyn Shaw has been surprised to discover a new calling. Her "furry" mission story combines the well-trained talents of her dog, Abby; the support of her husband, Harold, and son, David; and the expectant clients of two homes for persons with Mental Retardation or Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) in her hometown.

It all started a year ago when the Shaws, members of the Ohio Conference's Grove City church, got a puppy from a Golden Retriever Rescue group to help 44-year-old David—born with brain damage—deal with the loss of another dog. One week later, they took Abby to meet the MR/DD clients. At the suggestion of the home's director, Evelyn decided to train Abby to be a therapy dog.

"She visits with them and lets them pet her. She might give them a little kiss. She loves it, and they love her," explains Evelyn, who's now training another dog, Misty, to join the mission. Trips for therapy occur twice a week, but Evelyn predicts that once Misty is certified—and if she can get Abby qualified for advanced training—the trio will help put smiles on many more faces.



Abby (front, center)—with her masters (left to right) Harold, Evelyn, and David Shaw—was recently honored at the Grove City church for earning a certificate from Therapy Dogs International. Misty will soon follow in her "paw" prints.

Web Watch

www.adventistjobnet.com

Are you seeking a job in an Adventist-based organization or business? Are you an Adventist business seeking an employee? This is the premier site for matching job seekers with employers across the nation.

Optimal health and well-being involve the rhythmic balance of work and rest, exertion and recovery, busyness and lazy summer days.



all in the family

Adoption Expands
and Enriches Families

Some people adopt because they can't have children. Some adopt to help family members. Still others do it to give foster children a good home. But it really doesn't matter *how* you came to be family, it only matters that you are. • In 2005 there were 51,000 public agency adoptions in the United States. On the following pages, meet several Columbia Union Conference members whose adoptions not only expanded their families—it enriched them:

Love Makes It Easy

When Paul and Melinda Gittens—a Mason, Ohio, based Web designer and pediatric medical doctor, respectively—decided to adopt, they already had two children—Benjamin and Olivia. Now that they were blessed, they wanted to *be* a blessing. After much prayer, these Centerville (Ohio) church members came to the conclusion that adoption was the answer.

Both loved Guatemala, its people, and customs, and felt they could give one of its children a life of advantages. So in February 2006, they began their journey to adoption.

Foreign adoptions require a lengthy approval process, which in this case, included the Guatemalan Embassy. Although the attorney and processing fees were expensive, the Gittens believed the reward would outweigh any costs.

On March 31, 2006, the agency called with information, pictures, and the question, "Will you accept this 5-day-old baby?" That baby, Nicholas Antonio, was 5 months old on August 15, 2006, when Paul, Melinda, Benjamin (11), and Olivia (6) went to Guatemala to meet him. A teddy bear, with everyone's voice recorded inside, was sent ahead. Nicholas' intense smile quickly won everyone over! Each night the children prayed that

everything would go well so they could bring their new brother home soon.

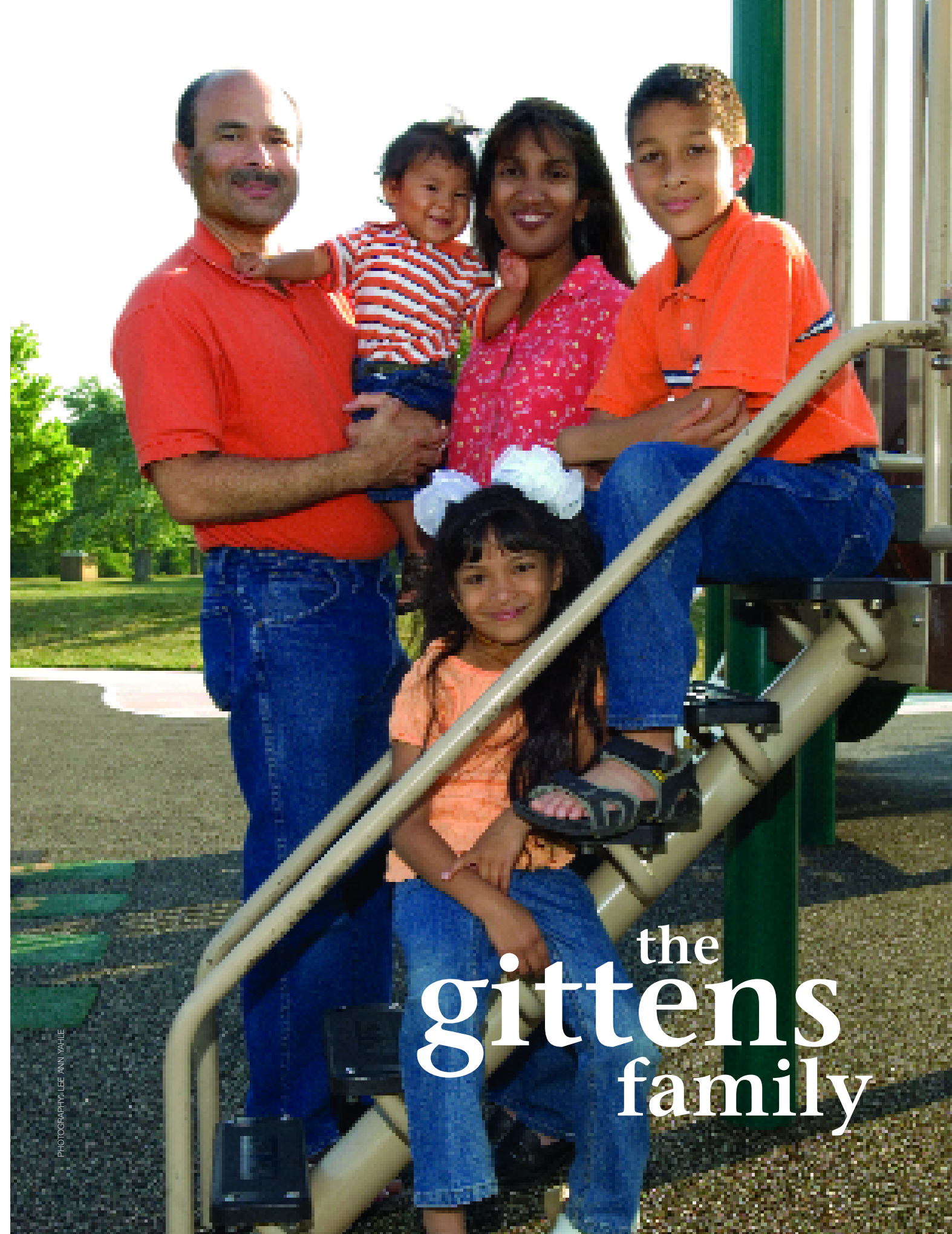
In November Paul made the final trip to bring Nicholas home. Concerned that Nicholas might not remember him, he wondered, *What if he screams when he sees me? What will I do with this baby by myself during the four-day trip?* But he had no reason to worry.

"God is so good!" Paul says. "When Nicholas saw me, he reached for me. And that smile ... it was as if he knew I was his dad."

When they arrived home, Melinda was a little jealous when, at times, Paul was the only one who could console Nicholas. A week later he was sleeping and happy again. The biggest adjustment was making sure everybody got equal attention.

"I love him a lot. I love how he's always smiling," Benjamin says. Not-so-talkative Olivia simply says, "It's fun!" But her mother says Olivia's love for him shines as she helps take care of Nicholas. "It's like he was always here; he even looks like us," adds Melinda.

What's their advice for families considering adoption? "If God has called you, *pray*, and go for it!" the Gittens say. "This child's mother had a need, Nicholas had a need, and we had a need." Love makes it easy!—*Sheila Jones*



the
gittens
family

PHOTOGRAPHY: LEE ANN YAHLE



the patterson family

Never Give Up

When they told us that our first attempt at adoption fell through, we were surprised, shocked, and very disappointed,” recalls Dale Patterson, a Westerville, Ohio, information technology specialist. He and his wife, Cheryl, an accountant, began their journey to adoption 19 years ago.

“We always wanted to have children,” Cheryl says. “But we didn’t think about adopting until my sister adopted her little boy. Then we saw how great it was.” They spent the next five years completing paperwork, going to adoption classes, and waiting before receiving the heart-breaking rejection.

“But friends, like Ernestine Jenkins, kept encouraging us to ignore them and move forward,” says Dale. Then another friend, who happened to be a caseworker at a private adoption agency, suggested the Pattersons speak with her boss at Lutheran Social Services. The couple, members of Allegheny West Conference’s Ephesus church in Columbus, specifically asked for a little girl—and not a baby. “We thought we were too old for babies; most of our friends had older kids,” Dale says. “But when the subject came up, we thought, ‘Okay, Lord, what should we do?’”

That was how baby Nia, now 14, came into their lives. Because it was a closed adoption, the parents never met. However, each party was provided with background information. “Nia is loving and easy to get along with,” says the proud mother describing her daughter.

The Pattersons had no significant challenges transitioning a child into their home. “I’m told that I’m a big kid,” Dale laughs. A junior division Sabbath School teacher, he has worked with kids for over 25 years. “I just thought I’d strap her onto my shoulders and keep moving!” he jokes.

Blessed by their experience, the Pattersons would like to see more African-Americans choose adoption. “Many of our kids are neglected. We need to step forward because the agencies, and the kids, really need us,” Dale says.

What advice do they offer potential adoptive parents? “It’s really important to pray and ask the Lord to give you the right child,” says Dale. “And the classes are excellent to learn about the

When they told us that our first attempt at adoption fell through, we were surprised, shocked, and very disappointed.

—Dale Patterson

process and what to expect.” They also suggest adopting older children or siblings, the two groups most difficult to place. Families should be open about the adoption, particularly with the child(ren). “Don’t hide it. You don’t want a situation where someone else shares that news with your child,” Dale notes.

In addition to opening their home and giving of themselves, adoption has provided the Pattersons with many opportunities to witness. “It’s the best thing we could’ve done,” Cheryl concludes.—Sherry Y. English

Before the Sun and Moon

Before the stars, before the sun and moon, God had chosen you for us. He knew that you would be our child.—Michelle R. Caviness

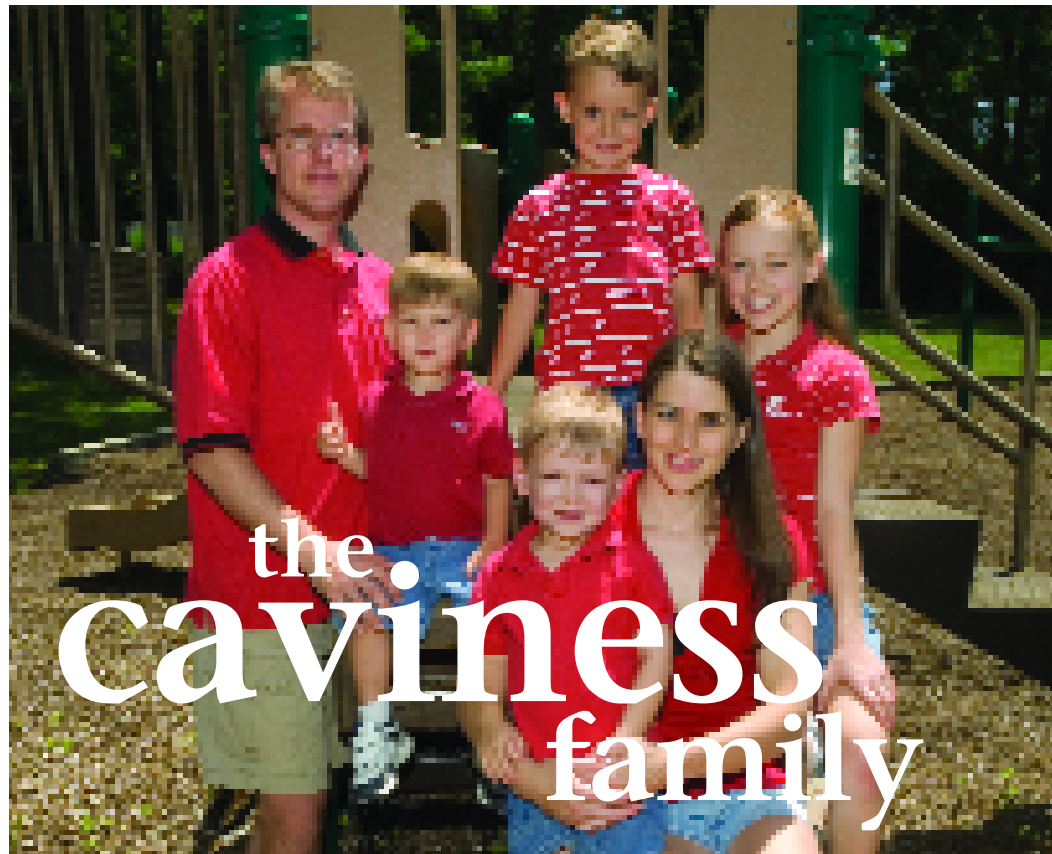
It was something that God put in our hearts over 16 years ago, before we were married. Darin and I knew, when we were dating, that we would adopt someday. Our biological family began with Kaelibeth, now 11, and Grant, who's 5. Then we started the adoption process. We'd heard stories of domestic adoptions going wrong, so we chose international adoption. It was a very difficult and expensive process. The first time I saw the paperwork I cried because I was so overwhelmed. Every form had to have two originals and be triple authenticated by the local, county, and state governments. We also had to undergo physical exams, visits by social workers, police clearances, psychological evaluations, and more.

But eventually, on February 6, 2006, Luke and Collin—from Kirov, Russia—came to Centerville, Ohio, to join our family and our church family. Biological half-brothers, they were 1 1/2 and 2 1/2. Both had to adjust to riding in a car, train, and plane—and then to an entirely new culture and language. Obviously

not very well nourished, they ate like they were starved, and their little bodies trembled when they saw food. Luke and Collin also had some minor medical and re-immunization issues, and I spent a lot of time at the doctor's office those first few months.

They, on the other hand, were excited about their new siblings and took everything in stride. Grant went from being the baby to the oldest boy; he's an awesome big brother. And Kaelibeth has become a second mother hen. "It's kind of surreal, but I think it's really cool that we adopted them," she says. "It's like my mom had twins."

As for Darin and me, the strangest transition was going from two to four children—instantly—and trying to make sure everyone got enough attention and love. Our biggest challenge was not raising the little ones from birth. Also, in addition to making the transition to their new home, country, and life, Luke and Collin—now ages 4 and 2—had to learn our family values. But overall, our lives have been enriched by the experience, and by the hugs, kisses, and giggles. Watching them learn about Jesus, enjoy a book on your lap, or go to the zoo for the first time ... everything is better through the eyes of a child.—Michelle R. Caviness



adoption

the loving option

LaVerne Henderson

The day we got the call that we could come and pick you up was so joyous," said Cheryl over and over to baby Jennifer.

Jennifer Wakefield smiles as she recalls those words from the mother who raised her. "I was 21 days old when Charles and Cheryl Tremper adopted me," she says. "My mom rushed around, cleaned the house, and bought baby clothes. It was always nice to hear that I was so special."

Born 34 years ago, she has a brother, John, who is also adopted. Both, coincidentally, share the same June 1 birthday, although John is two years older. "My parents made adoption a natural part of my life, so I never felt different," says Wakefield, who was raised by Seventh-day Adventists in Union Springs, N.Y. "We grew up in the country, and I used to ride my horse to elementary school. I had a great childhood!"

After attending nearby Union Springs Academy, Wakefield sought out her biological parents—Faith and Jack—while a junior at Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Mich. "I started wondering who I was and where I came from," she admits.

Armed with the support of her adoptive parents, she made contact. Faith (left) and Jack (below) were 18 when they put Jennifer, who was originally named Patricia, up for adoption. The pair chose not to marry and ended their relationship. "My biological mom said she gave me up because she wanted me to have a mom and a dad instead of being raised by her mom," says Wakefield. She has kept in touch with both and now considers them "more like friends."



Jennifer Wakefield (center) feels blessed that God ordained her adoption by Seventh-day Adventists Cheryl and Charles Tremper. "I love that Mom and Dad got to choose me," she beams.

It is phenomenal that God's hand has been in my life from the very beginning and that I was adopted by Adventists," says Wakefield, whose biological parents are Catholic. But she admits to sometimes wondering what it would've been like being raised by her biological family.

Today Wakefield serves as an advocate for infant adoption with the Children's Adoption Services, Inc., Foundation. "I have found my calling in helping others who have been adopted, are looking to adopt, or are looking for biological relatives," says Wakefield, an administrative secretary who's married to Scott and has two young daughters—Alexzondra and Natasha. Each month, the member of the Chesapeake Conference's Atholton church in Columbia, Md., participates in teleconferences for the group. "I tell my story, answer questions, and urge parents to tell adopted children the truth," she says.

Above all, it gives her a chance to help and encourage others to consider infant adoption, something she knowingly calls "the loving option."

Resource Guide

LAVERNE HENDERSON

Help for Those Interested in Adoption

Each year thousands of children—who might otherwise grow up in orphanages, foster care, or on the streets—are adopted into loving, stable families. Adoption continues to be a vital element in our society. If you're thinking about making a much-needed difference in the life of a child, here are some resources:

Christian Family Adoptions (CFA) has been in existence since 1958. This Adventist-owned organization has successfully placed hundreds of children with caring and loving families. Though licensed in Oregon and Washington, CFA facilitates infant adoptions from any state. Through each step of the adoption process the primary purpose of Christian Family Adoptions is to match children available for adoption with parents able to meet the child's developmental and emotional needs. For more information, visit www.adventistadoption.com or call Beth Miller at (503) 232-1211.



The Children's Bureau of the federal government is actively recruiting adoptive parents nationwide for its Collaboration to AdoptUsKids program. Managed by the Adoption Exchange Association in Baltimore, www.AdoptUsKids.org has photos and biographies of nearly 7,000 foster children in the United States. Interested families will be directed to state agencies for further assistance. For more information, go to www.AdoptUsKids.org or call (888) 200-4005.

BROCHURES

I'm a Teen and I'm Pregnant*

This brochure provides practical and spiritual answers to teen questions about pregnancy such as:

- How can I tell my parents?
- Should I see a doctor?
- Does God still care about me?
- What about adoption?

Ministering to the Unwed Pregnant Teen*

Within the Adventist Church community, there is a tremendous amount you can do to help teens grow. Your support, interest, and involvement can make a difference and positively impact their future. See this brochure for details.

Our Daughter is Pregnant: Help for Parents of an Unwed Pregnant Teen*

Parenting is the most difficult and challenging work we can face. Determine to show your daughter love, acceptance, support, and guidance. Help her grow and make responsible choices as she faces this difficult situation.



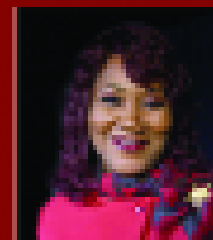
WEBSITES

www.adoptivefamilies.com
www.adopt.org
www.adoptex.org
www.ourkids-ourbusiness.org
www.americansadoptingorphans.org

*Brochures are available (\$4.95 for a package of 25) from AdventSource at www.adventsource.org or (800) 328-0525.



SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2007
Host Hotel- Sheraton BWI



Dr. Hyveth Williams
Author, Pastor of Campus
1811 SDA Church



Dr. James Doggett
Oakwood College,
Madison Mission Church



Alvin Slaughter
Concert



Dr. Cedric Dent
Lanham Speaker

3RD ANNUAL

UCAAA Music Conference

Miracle Temple Worship Center & Ministry Complex
100 S Rock Hill Road Baltimore, MD 21228

Conference Host - Paula Morris

Host Pastor - Fredrick Russell

WWW.UCAAONLINE.ORG

Registration

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

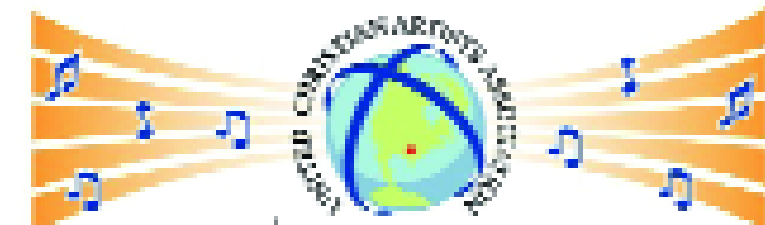
\$119.00 for UCAA members
\$169.00 for NON UCAA members
\$119.00 for a UCAA member student
\$169.00 for a NON UCAA member student
\$119.00 for a UCAA member Group
\$169.00 for a NON UCAA member Group

Online Registration ends August 31, 2007

Contact Info

Email: info@ucaaaonline.org

Call: 678-712-7983



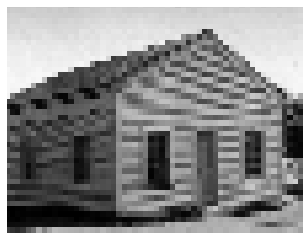
GospelCity.com

Miracle Temple Church
A Ministry of Christian Fellowship

People, Places That Shaped Our History

Many people and places have helped shape the Columbia Union Conference. As we continue to celebrate our centennial this year, we'd like to take you on a journey through time, revealing the stories behind some of our historical landmarks:

LOVETT'S GROVE, OHIO – This small Ohio town is best known to Seventh-day Adventists as the place where church co-founder Ellen White experienced her “Great Controversy” vision. Ellen and her husband, James, were visiting in March 1858 to speak at the local one-room schoolhouse (pictured). About 40 residents who had recently accepted the advent message attended. The Whites’ stay was extended when a young man died and James was asked to preach the funeral sermon. When he finished speaking, the Holy Spirit impressed Ellen to share news of Christ’s second coming.



“Heaven, sweet heaven, was the magnet to draw my soul upward, and I was wrapt in a vision of God’s glory. Many important things were there revealed to me for the church,” she said of the two-hour vision (*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 2, p. 265). Reports indicate that two days later Satan attempted to take her life.

According to the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* (pp. 907-908), after the adoption of the church’s name, in 1860, and the formation of the Michigan Conference a year later, steps were taken to establish other state conferences. In February 1862, M.E. Cornell formally organized eight churches in Ohio, including the Lovett’s Grove congregation. Four years later, Lovett’s Grove hosted one of Ohio Conference’s first business sessions.

VINELAND CHURCH, NEW JERSEY – The *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* notes that evangelist Nahum Orcutt organized a small group of believers in South Vineland in early 1874. By late summer, he had “partially organized a church” of 14 members. This group “petitioned the New England Conference to admit them to their fold,” since the New Jersey Conference was not officially recognized until 1901. The Vineland group became



New Jersey’s first Adventist church.

The Vineland congregation rented its first facility (pictured, c. 1930s) in October 1886 on Elmer Street—for a mere \$2 per month. They met there for 38 years and continued evangelizing the southern part of the state by railroad. Their efforts spawned numerous congregations, including some of the first Spanish-speaking churches. They even started one of the oldest Adventist schools (Garden State Academy, from 1910 to 2005). Vineland members purchased their first building in May 1924, paying off their debt 20 years later. This building is still their home!

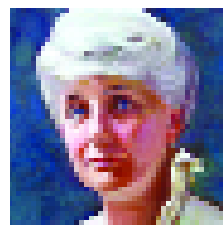
“I remember when I was about 8 or 10, during World War II,” says Joseph Perry (pictured), age 73, a Vineland member since childhood. “Would you believe our pastor preached about terrorists? He said they’re going to attack San Francisco, and Chicago, and blow up the bridges. Well, honey, that’s happening right now. I really believe the second coming of God is coming soon.”



VOTAW HOUSE, MARYLAND – Heber and Carolyn Harding Votaw (pictured)—the sister of U.S. President Warren G. Harding—became the first Adventist missionaries to enter Burma



(now Myanmar) in 1905. After returning to the United States in 1914, Heber spent two years as a Columbia Union College (CUC) faculty member. He then worked for the Federal Prison System in Washington,



D.C. Carolyn became the first female police officer in the nation’s capital, assigned to look after unwed mothers. In 1926 Heber started a 20-plus year career as leader of the Religious Liberty Department for the Adventist Church worldwide and editor of *Liberty* magazine.

In 1936, with a bequest from President Harding, the couple had their four-level home at 7633 Carroll Avenue constructed. Well known for its stately white pillars, the Votaws opened their home for many CUC special events or to temporarily house faculty, staff, or students. When they grew older, they wanted the Adventist Church president to live at the residence. After leaders declined, they submitted the offer to CUC.



“It’s a house with personality,” chuckles Deanna Wisbey (pictured), wife of the eighth and most recent CUC president, Randal Wisbey, DMin. They’ve lived in the home since 2000. “It’s fun to listen to those who visited the house years before. Everyone has a [story about] what has happened in this home.”

CAMP BLUE RIDGE, VIRGINIA – In 1956, after sharing state campgrounds for several years in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Potomac Conference decided to open their own camp. Leaders tried to lease a plot of government land, but local “bootleggers” signed a petition causing the lease to fall through. Then the late Maxie Seaman (pictured), a local door-to-door salesman and Sunday School teacher, intervened and altered the future of Camp Blue Ridge.



Seaman had first heard of Adventists 15 years earlier while selling Rolly Products. One Friday evening he came to the home of Adventist John Kaufmann, who explained why he couldn’t do business. The prologue turned into a long-term friendship and sparked Seaman’s eventual conversion. When Seaman learned of the petition, he went to the conference office to see why they wanted the land. Then he investigated some land once owned by his grandparents and discovered that the property—in Montebello—was for sale.

Camp Blue Ridge opened in 1957. Charles Seitz (pictured), a member of the Roanoke (Va.) North Valley church, was the first camp director. “We had a little less than 400 kids that first year,” he remembers. “It was a thrill to watch the development of the cabins; we were like pioneers. It’s very satisfying to see how we’ve grown and progressed.”



WASHINGTON SERVICEMEN’S CENTER, MARYLAND – During the Vietnam War, church leaders wanted the 250 or so Adventist servicemen in the Washington, D.C., area to have “a home away from home.” In February 1968, the Washington Servicemen’s Center in Takoma Park, Md., officially opened. Adjacent to Takoma Academy, it was built to accommodate 60 men, four married couples, a civilian chaplain, and the caretaker. Most of the servicemen were volunteering as “guinea pigs” in Operation Whitecoat in order to serve their country as non-combatants.



Chaplain Thomas Greene, who served at the center from 1968 to 1974, has fond memories of his tenure. “I had a choice to go back to the seminary or take this chaplain position. I loved working with the young people and finding social activities for them,” recalls the former Newark (N.J.) pastor and current member of the Littleton (Colo.) church. “It was demanding but very interesting.”

After President Nixon stopped the draft in 1973, the need for the center ceased. The Adventist Church leaders handed the property over to the Potomac Conference, which used it for more than 10 years as a branch office and hotel for staff traveling to the area. In 1995 Adventist HealthCare (AHC) purchased the property for a senior group home and assisted living facility. In 2001 AHC renamed it Potomac Ridge Manor, and it is now part of the Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health System.

WEB WATCH: For more fascinating details and photos about these historical sites, go to www.columbiaunion.org and click on “Historical Landmarks.”

Richmond's Ephesus Church

A Century of Putting God First

God cannot become a footnote to our efforts, He must be foremost—always,” says Ephesus pastor Errol T. Stoddart. He had the privilege of presiding over the Allegheny East Conference congregation’s recent 100th anniversary celebration. During the past century, this historic Richmond, Va., church has grown and struggled along with the country.

Sometime around 1906, there was an evangelistic campaign for “colored” people in the state of Virginia. The next year, concentrated outreach efforts in Richmond, by L. Munce and Franklin G. Warnick, led to the establishment of the Second Seventh-day Adventist Church at 727 North 2nd Street. Warnick pastored the new congregation of six.

1912-1923

In this period, the church relocated to 807 North 2nd Street and John B. Mallory served as pastor. In 1914 during World War I, Charles M.

Kinney—a Richmond native who was the first black minister ordained in the Adventist Church—became the pastor. He was a staunch advocate of separate conferences for blacks and strongly opposed the Church’s segregation policies.

In 1917 Mallory returned to shepherd the flock. Under his leadership, they relocated to 912 North 6th Street.

1930-1946

In the grip of the Great Depression, Pastor N.J. Grant arrived to find only 14 members in the now struggling church. But by 1933, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he grew the congregation to 60 members. After him came Monroe A. Burgess. In 1939, during his tenure, the church was featured as the “Church of the Week” in the Richmond *Afro-American* newspaper. The article noted that they were “free from debt.”

In 1942 Frederick B. Slater became the congregation’s next pastor. (He later served as executive secretary of the South Central Conference.) Pastor William R. Robinson succeeded him in 1945, and then went on to serve as editor of *Message* magazine.

1950-1968

During this period, the country had entered the Korean War, struggled with the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education ruling, and saw Rosa Parks’ action ignite the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott. In 1950 a new pastor, Cleveland Tivey, took the reins of the 437-member congregation. Two years later they had a new name and address—Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church at 2809 North Avenue.

Furham D. Beatty became pastor in 1955 and helped found Ephesus Junior Academy. Then an evangelistic campaign, led by George H. Rainey, resulted in 100 baptisms. In the uncertainty and momentum of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert F.



Laddie Bell's expertise on the organ added a heavenly nuance to the Sabbath service.

Kennedy; the Civil Rights Acts of 1964; and the raging Vietnam War, Pastor Ulysses S. Willis, Jr., took the helm of Ephesus in 1963. They garnered coverage in the *Review and Herald* when it was reported that Ephesus’ young people were keeping in touch with Vietnam troops.

1969-2004

In 1968, a year before man first walked on the moon, Pastor William C. Scales, Jr., walked into the Ephesus church. He led the congregation to purchase its current property at 3700 Midlothian Turnpike. The Ephesus day care was founded, followed by the much-loved Ephesian Choir. Pastor Scales, along with his father, William Scales, Sr., also conducted a successful tent effort. Pastor Oliver E. Cheatham succeeded him in 1983, leading Ephesus—with rejoicing and gratitude—to burn its mortgage. Gene Donaldson became pastor in 1993. He comforted his members in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks and guided them through much-needed repairs and renovations.

A CENTENNIAL TO REMEMBER

Ephesus launched a recent weeklong centennial celebration. It was culminated, in grand style, with a memorable Sabbath service. Honorary participants included guest speaker Barry C. Black, 62nd chaplain of the U.S. Senate; Allegheny East president Charles Cheatham; U.S. Congressman Bobby Scott; Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Virginia Commonwealth David Smith; City Councilman Martin Jewell; and former pastor William C. Scales, Jr., and his dad. Members

celebrated the present and basked in the past.

Stoddart, the pastor since 2004, strives to be a “servant leader.” He views ministry as striking a balance between serving and leading the people of God. Echoing this sentiment is Pathfinder leader Kevin McClatchie: “Our mission is to draw kids—from our church and the community—from their restlessness,” he explains. As a result of a young boy’s interest in the Ephesus Pathfinder drum corps, McClatchie says the entire family was baptized.

Striving to maintain an environment of inclusiveness, Ephesus embraces all of its members. “We’ve debated the idea of ‘youth’ and found that it embraces the youngest child to the oldest senior,” says youth leader Ashleigh Solomons. “We often call on seniors for their experiences and wisdom.”



Current pastor Errol Stoddart (at pulpit) was joined by (left to right) the U.S. Senate’s 62nd chaplain Barry C. Black, Allegheny East president Charles Cheatham, and former Ephesus pastors Kenneth Bushnell and William C. Scales, Jr.

At age 100, Rebecca James is definitely one of the church’s wisest members. “Sticking close to God and not being bothered by what others say or do has helped me remain steadfast all these years,” says the centenarian who joined the church in 1930. It’s evident that if time lasts another 100 years, God will continue to be foremost—and never a footnote—at Ephesus.

George Tucker, a program analyst, is an Adult Sabbath School teacher at the Norfolk (Va.) church.



The Ephesus church family gathered for an historic photo to commemorate their recent 100th anniversary.

PHOTOS: MIKE DAVIS



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YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

Making the World New

Charles Scriven

Graduating 230 students—more than ever before—Kettering College of Medical Arts recently celebrated accomplishments that will change the world. I think of Christian education that way. You help light a fire in a student. That student learns how to put new knowledge, new skills, and—if we teach well—new compassion into daily practice. And the world becomes new.

When a graduate is from Kettering, prospects for the care of the sick and vulnerable in and around Ohio improve measurably. And if that student is from either Kettering College or Columbia Union College, the world receives one more educated person whose life reflects the Jesus story. Adventist education is about knowledge and skills and so much more.

Every student's diploma makes me glad and proud. When that diploma comes from an Adventist institution, I'm *doubly* glad and proud. None of us, and certainly not every graduate of an Adventist college, is a perfect reflection of the Jesus story. But many graduates embrace the life Jesus called us to live, and many find support for such a life in a local congregation.

Adventist higher education is about what we learn from Jesus, who embodied the love of God so completely that He asked forgiveness for his own executioners. That *radical* embodiment of love is what made Him the Word of God—the final criterion of Christian truth, the One who is alone the “exact imprint” of the Divine Being, alone the True Light, alone the Revealer of the Father's heart.

I try as often as I can to make the point that Adventism is a radical reformation faith. Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli matter a lot, but lesser-known reformers followed them, and, among other things, reclaimed adult baptism. In rejecting infant baptism, they made the assumption that loyalty to Jesus is a deliberate and life-changing commitment. It's what a remnant people must believe.

One of these lesser-known radical reformers was Bernhard Rothmann. He said one of the best things ever about the Bible and Christian faith. “Honour and fear God the Almighty in Christ His Son,” he stated. This briefly summarizes the whole content of the Scriptures.



To me, that remark is wonderful. Now the Bible becomes a window, and through it you see the one way of life that, according to the first disciples and generations after them, brings about both peace and joy.

Education in the light of Christ is, well, it's fascinating—and as important as bread. You light a fire in a student, and that student gains new knowledge and new skills. But the compassion of Christ is what matters most. And when a student embraces that ideal, the world itself is new—where it matters most—in the human mind and heart.

Charles Scriven is president of Kettering College of Medical Arts in Kettering, Ohio.

Adventism is a radical reformation faith.



Searching for Answers in Scotland

Clive Wilson

It was a typical Scottish day when we arrived in Crieff, Scotland. The sky was a little gray and overcast, but the people we met were as colorful and vibrant as the verdant and lush countryside we viewed on the way to our destination.

Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, a former mentor and president of the Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, asked me to speak at their annual spiritual youth retreat. He also asked that I speak to the leaders working within the Scottish Mission. There were a total of nine presentations (four for the young adult spiritual retreat and five for the pastors retreat).

The spiritual retreat began on Friday evening. The young adults came from all parts of Scotland, especially Glasgow and Edinburgh where many were university students. In total there were about 45 in attendance, ranging in age from 18 to 60. There were pastors, students, friends, and other young adults from all over the Scottish Mission. After opening prayer from a youth sponsor, we began a lively song service. It was something that I had really missed

about the corporate United Kingdom worship experience. It was a spirit-filled, lively song service with worshipful praise.

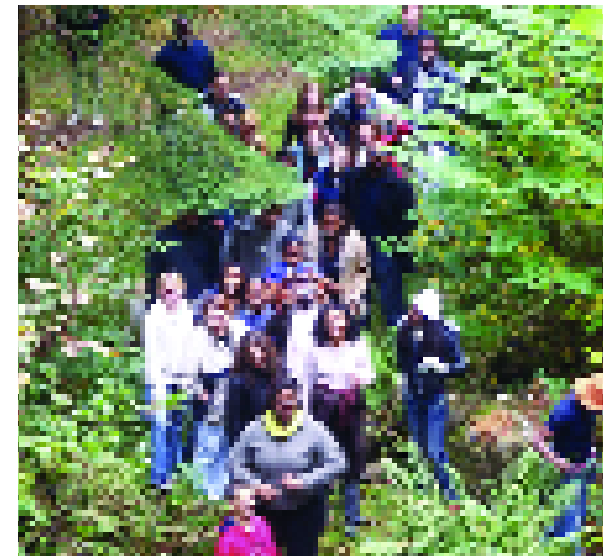
That evening we did an overview of the presentations. The weekend seminar topics were: "Divine Discourse—Listening for God's Voice," "Defining Moments," "Where R U?" and "Who R U Listening 2?" We prepared to explore the crucial conversations that took place between God and Adam and Eve, especially after the fall.

ASKING HARD QUESTIONS

Sabbath was a full day that began with a presentation in the morning. We gave in-depth attention to "Defining Moments" and "Where R U?" The discussion focused on how we often respond to God's benevolent initiatives. Then we looked at Adam's response to God's blessings. At first there was harmony and joy. But then came the fall and the breakdown of their relationship. There was a reprioritization of the love and respect relationship, where God should always come first and human relationships second. But Adam took the love and respect due God and, to some extent, deified Eve when he chose her over his Creator.

"Where R U?" is the question that God rightly asked Adam. And in our post-modern society of moral relativism, where what feels good is often the demarcation for moral and ethical choices, "Where R U?" is equally pertinent to today. Who are you deifying? Is it a music diva, a movie celebrity, or a boyfriend or girlfriend? Has the highest place in our lives, that should be reserved solely for God, been surreptitiously supplanted by another?

"Who R U Listening 2?" was the final message. Based on Genesis



At first there was harmony and joy. But then came the fall and the breakdown of their relationship.

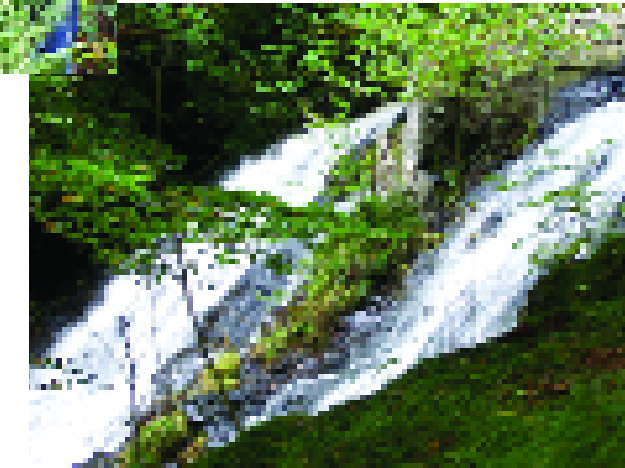
3:11, this is when God asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked?" Putting it in the context of our society, our thought-provoking questions included: Whom do we primarily listen to? Who provides our frame of reference? What or who do we allow to construct our worldview? Which do we view as more authoritative—the secular or the spiritual? And what weight do we give to these individuals or systems?

It was eye-opening to see how the divine questions that God asked that first couple are still emotionally, evocatively, culturally, situationally, and spiritually relevant to us today. We shared a time of deep discussion while seeking concordant responses to God's questions. The group was great and the feedback excellent.

To punctuate this beautiful Sabbath, we also managed to take a long, and interesting, hike in the beautiful Scottish loch regions and enjoy a late night movie.

On the morning of our departure, we ended with the ordinance of humility by washing one another's feet and partaking of communion. It was a high spiritual note in the hymn of our time together. Hearts were touched, lives changed, new friendships formed, and everyone was elevated. But most importantly, our relationship with God was renewed for some and restored for others.

Clive Wilson is the chaplain of Kettering College of Medical Arts in Kettering, Ohio.



Kettering College Dean Returns to Alma Mater

Norman Wendth, PhD, current dean for academic affairs at Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA) in Kettering, Ohio, has accepted the presidency of Atlantic Union College (AUC) in South Lancaster, Mass. "I know that my own life of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church stems from the direction I received from AUC faculty and leaders when I was a student many years ago," says Wendth, a 1968 graduate.

"Dr. Wendth has served as the academic leader at Kettering College for 10 years," says KCMA president Charles Scriven. "His knowledge and thoughtfulness about Adventist higher education are unexcelled. Our faculty, staff, and students will miss him deeply."



Prior to serving Kettering College, Wendth's previous positions included: chair of the Department of English and chair of the Division of General Studies at Atlantic Union College; professor of English at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif.; English instructor at Nihon Saniku Gakuin in Sodegaura, Japan; and English instructor at Loma Linda University in Riverside, Calif.

New Medical Center to Expand Southview's Services

Nearly 500 people were in attendance for the recent groundbreaking ceremony for Southview Hospital's new \$18 million medical center. Located on the campus' east side, near Yankee Street, it will be called the Yankee Medical Arts Center. The 80,000-square-foot, two-story building is Southview's



first major expansion since 1997. It is projected to be completed by the end of this year.

"This new building, along with the new access from Yankee Street, will give Southview Hospital a more noticeable presence and easier access," said Roy Chew, PhD, president of Grandview Medical Center, which includes Grandview and Southview hospitals. "We will have a large, attractive new building that will expand our services to meet the needs of the citizens in our surrounding communities."

Visitors will be greeted at an elegant reception area, featuring a rotunda. Space in the Yankee Center will be dedicated to cardiac rehabilitation and cardiac nuclear medicine. A pool will assist therapists with injury treatment, and a medical imaging area will have diagnostic tools such as an MRI machine.

"Our clinical quality has been earning us national awards for the past five or six years," said Greg Henderson, Southview's senior executive officer. "We are very proud of the strides we have made, but they are causing us to outgrow our patient care space, and we have a need for new physician office areas."

New orthopedic physicians will be coming to the campus as a result of the project. A neurology practice and sports medicine will be in the Yankee Center as well.

"This project has been in the planning stage for about 18 months," said Joseph Di Cicco, DO. "We received input from a great number of physicians, community leaders, and hospital neighbors. The process has been a great collaboration, and it is going to be exciting to see this very beautiful building rising up in the next few months."

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Sharon Members Celebrate African Heritage



The Sharon church in Baltimore recently hosted its first African fashion show. Member Charlene Anthony, event coordinator, said the special day gave members the opportunity to celebrate their African heritage as well as showcase their talents.

Participants donned various types of African array including head wraps, robes, and pant and skirt sets. Married couples happily strolled arm-in-arm down the aisle, sporting their fresh African attire. The children, clad in their African garments, also got an

opportunity to shine. Even the pastors participated. The event was a great success.—*Marcia Omondi*

Ministries Webcast Promotes Healthy Living

Exciting! Informative! Inspirational! These are some of the terms used to describe the latest Allegheny East Conference (AEC) webcast on family fitness. The webcast was the collaborative effort of the Health and Family Life Ministries departments. Co-hosts were A. Leah Scott, Health Ministries director, and John Trusty, EDS, DMin, Family Life director. The "Dynamic duo" (pictured) kept the Internet audience glued to their virtual seats while they intelligently and passionately discussed the plight of the American family, especially that of childhood obesity.

"Childhood obesity is notably one of the most challenging healthcare issues of this generation," Scott reported. "Obesity develops in stages, and over a period of time. Most cases of childhood obesity can be traced to family lifestyle." Scott, who was suffering from a fractured ankle, told the audience, "I still exercise, in spite of this cast. I do upper body exercises. There is no excuse not to exercise."

A highlight of the webcast was a panel discussion featuring a team of qualified health professionals. They discussed the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle at a young age. The panel also gave suggestions on how to accomplish and survive the changes. Panel members were Lloyd Henry, a member of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., and a three-time Ironman and triathlete; Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, program director and wellness coach for Adventist WholeHealth Lifestyle Medicine Center in Wyomissing, Pa., and Health Ministries director for the Pennsylvania Conference; India Medley, MSN, RN, a certified nurse practitioner and dean of the School of

Nursing at Radians College in Washington, D.C.; and Patricia Richardson, MD, MPH, a family physician practicing in Northern Virginia and a post-doctoral research specialist in the area of adolescent obesity.

The most heartfelt aspect of the webcast was the live interview with the Douglas family of the Walnut Street Community Church in Pottstown, Pa. They informed the audience that they are working hard to correct their lifestyle so as to renew and revitalize their health. After fielding their questions, the co-hosts praised the family for their courage.

Scott then introduced Anthony Medley, co-pastor of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., who is a fourth degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and president of Tae Kwon Do Ministries. Pastor Medley emphasized the importance of teaching discipline along with lifestyle, because it helps in many situations, and could be a lifesaver in present society.



Volunteers Assist With New Orleans Clean-Up

Many communities in New Orleans are still uninhabited while residents try to repair their homes. The burden felt by one Germantown (Pa.) church member caused a discussion that led to 50 conference volunteers participating in a recent seven-day mission trip to the historic city. Participants were from churches in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Wilmington, Del.

The excursion was organized

through Delaware Valley pastors in partnership with the conference's and North America's Adventist Community Services (ACS) teams and the Southwest Region Conference. Organizers of the group met with ACS-trained volunteers of the National Association of Katrina Evacuees (NAKE) to work out specific details for the trip. They put up sheet rock in four homes, gutted two other homes, and mowed 100 lawns.

"I believe that we are here to be a blessing," said Germantown church pastor Jackson M. Doggette, Jr. Roberta Tatman of Sharon Temple in Wilmington added, "A lot of people lost their homes. My purpose was to help build their spirits as well as their homes."

Some of the participants who worked on gutting the homes had the opportunity to meet one of the homeowners. "There isn't enough



Approximately 50 people volunteered for the conference mission trip to New Orleans. Photos: George Johnson Jr.

thanks that I can express for what you have done to help me out," he said to the group.

Conference members continue to assist the NAKE group with rebuilding their communities. Other trips are planned for this summer and next year. For information on how to help, visit www.community-services.org.—George Johnson Jr.



Volunteers had to wear protective clothing and masks while they gutted the damaged homes.

North Philadelphia Church Hosts First Cotillion

The first cotillion sponsored by the Philadelphia County Chapter of the National League of Junior Cotillions is best described as "simply elegant." The recent event was hosted by the North Philadelphia church's Education Committee, directed by Bri-Anne Williams-Guischard, the founding director of the cotillion.

Each part of the program, from the welcome to the Father-Daughter, Mother-Son Processional, was divine. The young ladies, dressed in beautiful white gowns,

and the young men, fashioning black tuxedos, made a grand impression. All of the young people, moreover, were encouraged by speaker George E. Thorton, associate professor in the Grants Program at Harcum College (Pa.), to continue performing at their best.

In preparation for the ball, the young people participated in workshops that helped them socially, academically, financially, and spiritually. They attended plays, visited colleges, and participated in etiquette classes. "Each activity," said

Keith Goodman, senior pastor of the North Philadelphia church, "taught the young people that some things may not come naturally, but, with practice and perseverance, you can achieve [anything]."

"The cotillion taught me the discipline of how to commit to a project," participant Corey Johnson admitted. Sherell Dawkins, another participant, said, "It was a unique opportunity to learn something different, and it had a major effect on my daily life and how I present myself."

Several awards were presented, including the College Scholarship of Excellence award to Rashidi Butcher.—Madeia Q. Jacobs



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www.myalleghenyeast.com
President, Charles L. Cheatham
Communication Director, Robert Booker
Editor, Beth Michaels

Men Blessed, Challenged at Conference

A men's conference was recently held at the Westside church in Cleveland. More than 200 men from the Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Northwest territory came to be blessed, to share, and to fellowship. The event, hosted by the Northern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania Ministerial Association, is regularly held with the purpose of strengthening the bond between men and encouraging and challenging them to be strong, positive examples of Christian husbands and fathers.

The weekend started with Westside pastor Luke Robinson, conference host, conducting a Friday evening vespers service. On Sabbath morning, area pastors led out in various workshops. Pastor Gregory Jackson from Erie/Ashtabula, Pa., spoke about being the head of the household. Pastor Steve Valles from Oberlin/Twinsburg, Ohio, talked about breaking the cycle of unwed mothers. Pastor Nathaniel Lyles, Glenville (Ohio) church youth pastor, presented a message on how to overcome temptation. Pastor Russell Fields of the Bethel church in Cleveland spoke on friendship evangelism, while Pastor Robinson covered the topic of how to build relationships.

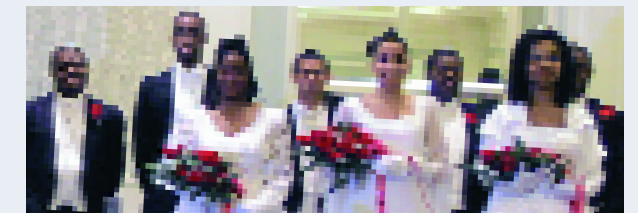
Conference president James L. Lewis presented a rousing sermon titled "Inside the Church, But Not in the Church." He challenged all attendees to be vital, active leaders in their church and to avoid simply "parking themselves in a pew." He also cautioned the men that simply being a church member is not a sufficient means for being saved.



10th Cotillion/Beautillion Honors Young Adults

Family, friends, church members, and supporters gathered recently to celebrate 20 honorees at the conference's 10th annual Christian Cotillion/Beautillion. This year the event's borders were extended to include several young people from Illinois, South Carolina, and the Ohio Conference. As a black-tie event, young beaux provided the opportunity to look handsome in their tuxedos and the debutantes to shine in their formal gowns.

"As supporters of our youth, we believe if you are going to take something away, then you should replace it with something," said Cheryl Alli, administrative assistant to the conference's executive secretary and director of the event. "Since most proms are on Friday



night and our students would not attend, we instituted the Cotillion/Beautillion in its place. In addition to being presented to Adventist society, it also gives these graduating seniors the opportunity to receive scholarship funds for their freshman year of college," she added.

Prior to the event, each student was responsible for attending classes and workshops designed to prepare them for their future. The workshops, conducted by Valerie Green of St. Louis, Mo., covered topics such as etiquette, dating, college preparation, and "7 Habits of Highly Effective Christian Teens."

Donald Smith Jr. from the South Fountain Avenue church in Springfield, Ohio, and Lauren Elizabeth Roe of the Ephesus church in Columbus were crowned cotillion king and queen. These two young people raised the most money for the scholarship fund. As a matter of fact, Roe raised the largest amount of any debutante during the past 10 years.



Four Baptized Into New Akron Congregation

The New Life Christian Fellowship, one of the newest AWC congregations, is on fire for the Lord and active in soul winning and evangelism. Located on the east side of Akron, Ohio, the young church was recently host to a Revelation Seminar that resulted in its first baptisms. Four individuals (pictured) dedicated their lives to the Lord and became members of the church. More people are anticipated to take their stand for the Lord in the near future.—Tracy Jordan-Steele



Cleveland's Southeast Enjoys "Freedom" Performance

Members of the Southeast church in Cleveland were blessed recently by a musical play celebrating black history and progress. Hosted by the church's Education Department, the local actors appealed to the large congregation to come aboard *A Train Called Freedom*.



Lifting Our Voices Eternally Productions, a local company, produced the play. The message captivated the audience, helping them all feel a part of this time in America's development. The journey was described as thought provoking, educational, soul stirring, and spiritual.

Southeast church. The final destination was glory. "For centuries there has been a yearning for the freedom God intended all men to have," explained playwright Joyce M. Meadows. "And many who believed it have made the ultimate sacrifice to procure it; realizing that they would not be the beneficiaries but believing that it must be there for posterity. To all who have, who are, or who will champion the cause of freedom for all men, I dedicate this piece."

The riders of this special train were various characters from history who fought for freedom: Elijah McCoy, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Malcolm X. Some of them told stories of their contributions to America's culture. The riders shared a common bond: They were all weary from the burdens of injustice. Slavery, inhumanity, and degradation were the main ingredients that fostered the train's invention. Their stories were informative as well as inspirational and carried messages that are just as relevant today. Interspersed with these messages were spirituals, hymns, gospel songs, freedom and patriotic songs of various eras—songs in which black people have found strength for centuries.—Deborah Miller



Southeast church members participate in the call to join *A Train Called Freedom*, a play by a local production company that celebrates black history.

The play's conductor and engineer expressed enthusiasm for the impending journey. They quickly picked up the ticket punch and prepared to move out on schedule. The conductor stated that the train was leaving places where slavery exists, with the next stop being the

Upcoming Events

July
 15-22 Youth Camp, AWC Campgrounds

August
 3-5 Frank Loris Peterson Society Men's Retreat
 Kenyon College, Ohio

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 Editor, Bryant Taylor ■ www.awcsda.com

Celebrating Freedom

During the month of July, we pause to celebrate freedom. Actually, we do far more than pause. To celebrate the Fourth of July, we take off work, host dinners and parties, and gather by the tens of thousands to set off fireworks—all because we are free.

As Adventist Christians, we know from where true freedom comes. In John 8:32, after refusing to condemn the woman caught in sin, Jesus declares, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." And later, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall

be free indeed" (verse 36). True freedom comes not from the world, but from knowing Jesus Christ. And when you know Jesus, you can't help but want to be like Him.

We are thankful when, through their many talents, students can share the freedom Christ offers. Our Sylvan Singers (pictured) recently performed Theodore Dubois' "The Seven Last Words of Christ" at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hamburg, Pa. They were accompanied by orchestra and guest musicians and directed by Hector Flores.

This opportunity to share the love of Jesus received an extremely positive response.

Comments from the audience included "Extremely moving," and "We want to bring our friends next year!" Our plan is to continue this type of outreach to the community.

At Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), we are committed to setting our young people free in the knowledge and hope of Jesus. We are also committed to providing them with opportunities to help set others free.



Spencer R. Hannah
 Principal

National Honor Society Membership Doubles

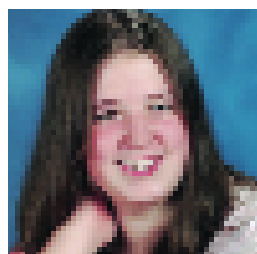
The Blue Mountain Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) recently conducted its fifth annual induction service. Prior to the induction, the chapter consisted of 13 seniors and 13 juniors. There are 26 new members—one senior, three juniors, 21 sophomores, and one honorary inductee—making it the largest number of inductees in the chapter's short history.

The NHS chapter conducts monthly meetings in which they practice proper procedures for formal meetings. Agendas are set, minutes are taken, and motions are made, discussed, and voted.

The chapter has chosen the honor of raising and lowering the American flag each day. In addition, all members are required to do a monthly service for the school community—mostly helping other students with their academic challenges.—Doug Stewart



Why I'm Passionate About Christian Education



There has been an interesting debate on the benefits of Christian education and whether it matters if the Bible is taught as a class. I believe Christian education *does* matter. I have grown up in it, and it has changed my life forever.

First, Christian education is a tool that has firmly instilled my values. The three leadership classes I have taken at BMA have especially helped with this. I *know* what I believe, and I am persuaded that values in this world are sorely needed.

Second, Christian education has affirmed me as a person and encouraged me to be the person I want to be. Christian education teaches me that I don't have to fit a mold, and I'm not just a statistic. I matter.

Christian education is not only about the curricula, but also about the people who teach it. Throughout my 12 years of education, faithful witnesses have surrounded me and have bolstered my self-confidence and challenged me to be more than I ever thought I could be. Because of teachers like David Morgan, Duane Ferguson, Sergio Manente, and Karyl Kramer, I have strength and purpose. I know I am a dearly loved daughter of God with amazing and thrilling opportunities.

Christian education begged me to stand out against a drab and dying world. What a thrill to say I learned that during the first 19 years of my life, instead of realizing on my deathbed, that I could have done something amazing!

Another thing Christian education has done to prepare me for my future is put my passions at my fingertips. Writing is a passion for me. Through opportunities like AP [Advanced Placement] and Honors English with Mrs. Kramer, and writing in the school paper *The Appalachian*, I have had opportunities to expand my writing abilities.

I also love to play the piano. Through instructor Julia Askernia, my skills as a pianist have been challenged more than ever before. I can play the piano because Christian educators thought it was worthwhile to instill a love of music in Christian youth.

I also had the opportunity to explore chemistry hands-on last year. I realized it was not "my thing," but it gave me amazing opportunities.

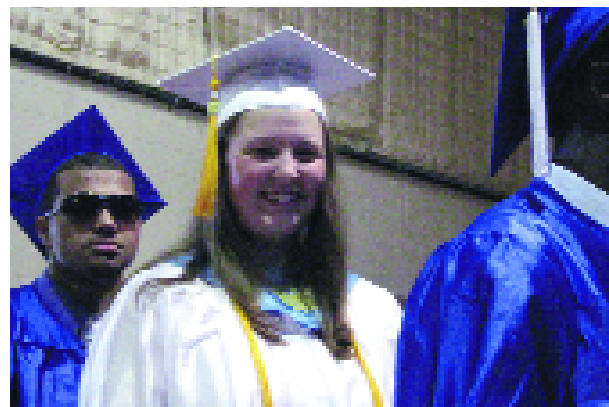
There could be other ways to help me live my passions, but with Christian education, connecting people with their passions is more than just a hobby—it's a life calling.

Most importantly, Christian education has introduced me to my Best Friend in the whole world—only He's more than that. Jesus is infused into everything that goes on in Christian education: the way we walk, talk, pray, play, read, sleep, etc. Christian education teaches

me that Jesus is infused in all parts of life. Jesus *is* life!

Some may say, "Yeah, well, how is that going to help you in the *real* world? You can't stay in the 'BMA bubble' forever!" I say that is why it is even more important to grow up in such a sheltered and nurturing environment. It gives strength and purpose in going out to face the world.

I just graduated this year and am prepared to face anything—with Jesus at my side. I am a strong, beautiful young woman with the world at my fingertips. I can do anything I want, and I'm doing it with Jesus at my side. Could any public school give me that?—*Ashley Richards ('07)*



Coming EVENTS

August

- 17, 18 New Student Orientation
- 19 Registration
- 20 Classes Begin
- 25 SA Extravaganza
- 30-Sept. 1 Senior Retreat

September

- 4 Fall Picnic
- 6-8 Columbia Union Leadership Retreat
- 19-23 Home Leave
- 28-Oct. 1 History Honors Tour
- 30 Sport Festival
- 30-Oct. 1 CUC College Days

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JULY 2007

The Bumps are What You Climb On

A little boy was leading his sister up a mountain path and the way was not easy. "Why, this isn't a path at all," the little girl complained. "It's all rocky and bumpy." And her brother replied, "Sure, the bumps are what you climb on." That's a remarkable philosophy of life!

Most of us respond in a predictable way to the rocks in the path. We complain about them, kick against them. We can't always get around them and wonder if we can ever get over them. Some people just stop and go no further. Others give up and turn back. But the child of God can use the rocky places in life as stepping stones to climb higher.

I find the 91st Psalm to be a great source of encouragement for difficult days. It magnifies the care that God exercises over His children. It does not say that we will not experience difficulties but rather that God has a way of working things to our ultimate good. What seem like barriers to human eyes, become blessings to the eyes of the faithful. Whatever the challenge you face, see it as an opportunity for growth—for the bumps are what you climb on!

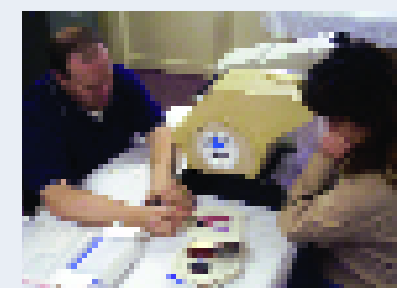


Rob Vandeman
President

"Dinner With a Doctor" Captivates Dundalk Community

If you could enjoy dinner with a medical doctor and receive free advice about any health topic, what topic would you choose?

This question was posed to residents of the Dundalk (Md.) community in a health survey administered by members of the Dundalk church and the Baltimore Adventist Community Services (ACS) Youth Corps. The result was the development of a health education program titled "Dinner With A Doctor," tailored to the



A Maryland Society for Sight staff member provides a free vision and glaucoma screening to a Dundalk resident.

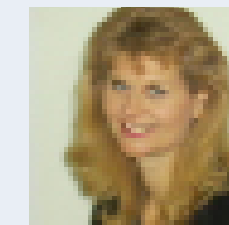
interests of the community. Now, Baltimore ACS and the church collaborate to host a monthly forum answering the community's health questions and sharing the Adventist health message.

"We asked the community to name their top health concerns and now we address those concerns through 'Dinner With A Doctor,'" says Dundalk church pastor Sedley Johnson. The community's health concerns include diabetes, heart disease, cancer, hypertension, and nutrition.

"Dinner with a Doctor" is not a new idea," explains Pastor Darriel Hoy, Baltimore ACS director. "It's a remix

of the health message. We've repackaged it into attractive and bite-sized pieces so that modern culture can swallow and digest it."

Each month about 40 community and church members gather on the third Sunday for a delicious meal, free health screenings, and a brief health talk by a physician. The dinner, prepared by church member Teresa Clark, models healthy nutrition and a balanced diet. The health talks share disease prevention strategies and reinforce health principles such as exercise, salt reduction, smoking cessation, and prayer. Karen Piper, MD (pictured), of Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md., educated the community about hypertension. Cardiologist Anabel Facemire of the Wilna church in Joppa, Md., focused on heart health, and Melva Brown, MD, of the Liberty church in Baltimore, emphasized stroke prevention.



"Dinner With A Doctor" focuses on the prevention of chronic diseases such as heart attack, stroke, and diabetes, which are the leading causes of death in the nation and the Baltimore metropolitan area. The event is funded by a grant from the AMERIGROUP Foundation and is staffed by Dundalk church members and Adventist health professionals throughout Baltimore. To volunteer, contact Tricia Swann at (410) 997-3414, ext. 283.—*Tricia Swann*

Atholton Celebrates 50 Years

Fifty years ago, 22 people got together to adopt a name for a new church being built in Howard County, Maryland, and the Atholton Seventh-day Adventist Church became a reality. The group met for their first official worship on March 16, 1957, with 41 adults and 31 children in attendance.

This same congregation, now with more than 550 members, gathered recently with former members to celebrate God's leading. More than 500 people attended, coming from all across the United States.

Friday evening commenced with songs by Messiah's Flame, the church's young musical group. Attendees praised God and heard former pastor Paul Smith (1960 to 1963) share instances of God's leading during the congregation's early years. On Sabbath morning, there was a mission emphasis given by some current and former members who have served collectively in 13 countries.

During the worship service, plaques with expressions of gratitude were presented to representatives of the Howard County Police Department, Department of

Fire and Rescue, and the County Executive for their services to the community. Charter members were also acknowledged for their vision. Don Schneider, North American Division president, then challenged them to take their relationship with Jesus to the next level.

Following lunch, "A Walk Through the Decades" allowed attendees to reminisce over pictures and share experiences. The Atholton Adventist School Music Department was also featured. To conclude the special day, participants enjoyed a family social event on Saturday evening.—*Dan Herzel*



Atholton pastors and their wives attended the anniversary and shared their experiences of time served at the church.

NEWS

Triadelphia Pathfinders Earn Award

The Triadelphia (Md.) Sparks are celebrating their third year as a Pathfinder club as well as their third entry into the North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Bible Achievement Award.

This year they earned second place at the NAD level.

The Lord has blessed the children with the opportunity to study His Word in depth. This year they studied Deuteronomy 30 through Joshua 24, discovering the words of the prophets Moses and Joshua. The children were very excited and diligent with their

study and memorization of these passages and look forward to studying the Book of Matthew for next year's competition.

Friendship School Goes High Tech

Friendship Adventist School, located next to the Linthicum church near Baltimore, opened its doors in 1998 with portable classrooms. In 2000 it moved into a new building with two full-size classrooms, a library, playground, and adjoining day care and

pre-kindergarten rooms. "Our school and day care work closely together to serve church members and the community, from infant care through eighth grade, including before and after school care," reports Johnna Curtis, board chairwoman.

The school recently opened a new computer lab. One parent applied for donated Pentium 4 computers from a nearby college after it upgraded. Then parents and the school board raised the money to equip them with current and licensed operating systems and software. Two volunteers from the nearby National Security Administration now provide tutoring for classes two days each week.

Michele Gavin, kindergarten, first grade, and computer teacher, says, "Our students learn how to use new technology in a modern lab. The library and other classrooms are also being equipped." Linthicum pastor David Glass says, "Our church members and teachers are committed to making Friendship school a place that builds a lifetime of love for learning."—*Debbie Glass*



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Columbia Union College

1000 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (301) 271-4000 Fax: (301) 271-4001

Retiring Weis Library Director Honored

Margaret von Hake, long-time director of Columbia Union College's (CUC) Weis Library, was recently honored for her service and commitment to the institution with two special marks of distinction. For her 45 years of service, von Hake was given the designation of Professor Emerita. Von Hake started working at the institution in 1962 and has contributed many new initiatives to the development of the library.

"Professor von Hake is a remarkable member of this college," said former president Randal Wisbey, DMin. "She is widely recognized for her years of dedication and commitment while serving the students and faculty as a librarian at Weis Library."

The second distinction came as a surprise to the library director. The Heritage Room located inside the library—which houses a special collection of works written by and about Adventists—was renamed the Margaret J. von Hake Heritage Room.

"It has been both a privilege and a blessing to work for the college these years," said von Hake. "It's the people, including the students, at the college that have made it such a wonderful place to be."

Von Hake oversaw the reorganization of Weis Library's book collection to provide open access to the materials, consolidated the bound periodicals, moved the library catalog from print to electronic media, and implemented the move from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress Classification. She also helped name the library in honor of her colleague Theofield G. Weis, and has served as president of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians. Including her CUC services, von Hake worked for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in the fields of education and librarianship for 50 academic years.

"I've been blessed with an interesting and challenging job," said von Hake, "with rewarding collegial relationships and friendships with CUC faculty, staff, and administrators for whom it has been both a pleasure and a privilege to work." Von Hake retired June 30, and reference librarian Lee Wisel assumed the position July 1.—*Alexis Goring*



Weis Library director Margaret von Hake (front, center) stands with co-workers (left to right) Jane Ogora, Lee Wisel, Debbie Szasz, Kathy Hecht, and Genevieve Singh. Wisel assumed von Hake's position July 1.

Three New Master's Degrees Offered

Staff at the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) at Columbia Union College are excited to introduce three new master's degrees available through its Takoma Park, Md., campus.

The Master of Science in Nursing and Business Leadership has gained Maryland state approval and will be open for enrollment this fall. The MSN is for those who wish to expand their nursing career into administration, management, and business leadership.

The Master of Arts in Religion is expected to receive state approval in late July and be implemented during fall enrollment. The degree will offer two areas of emphasis: ethics and church administration. Students will be equipped for upper levels of denominational work and advanced ministry work in their communities.

The Master of Arts in Public Administration is similar in focus to the master's in Religion. The MPA will enhance the careers of those who work in government and non-profit organizations. This degree is expected to be open for enrollment in January 2008.

Each of the new programs is designed for a student to complete in less than two years. Future plans include offering the courses at CUC's Gaithersburg (Md.) Center and online. For more information, call 877-2-GO-BACK, or e-mail SGPS@cuc.edu.

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

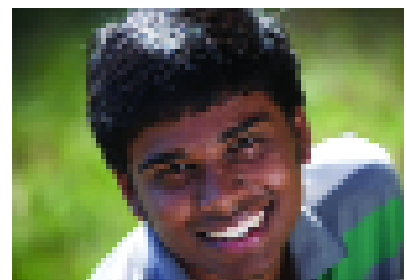
Student Publishes Book for Growing Christians

In the introduction of his new book *I Love the Lord, but ...*, Columbia Union College senior Sylvester Paulasir (pictured) describes his life as a baby Christian. He explains that having faith is easier when you get everything you ask for, instead of waiting on God to answer prayer.

"I wrote this book not as one who has overcome sin or as a person who has all the answers for every problem, but as a humble beginner in a strange world of real Christianity," writes Paulasir, a major in both pre-med and theology.

I Love the Lord, but ... was inspired by Paulasir's personal walk and experience as a young Christian learning about God. Born in Dindigul, Tamilnadu, India, he grew up attending Seventh-day Adventist schools. As a pastor's son, he knew about the struggles attached to Christianity but had yet to experience them for himself.

"My spirituality has taken shape because of this book," said Paulasir, who spent 10 months writing the manuscript amid homework assignments and a part-time job. "The writing process gave me a chance to think deeper about Christian living."



The book targets churchgoers everywhere and challenges them to take Christianity seriously. "By choosing to be a Christian, you pretty much have to lose yourself for Jesus," he suggests.

Once he completes his education at CUC, Paulasir plans to attend medical school and become a medical missionary. He also hopes to write more books. To purchase *I Love the Lord, but ...*, visit your local Adventist Book Center, or

shop at adventistbookcenter.com, Amazon.com, or ilovethelordbut.com. Readers can contact Paulasir at Sylvester@ilovethelordbut.com.

—Candace Hamilton

Annual Capital Summer Session Attracts Students

CUC's annual Capital Summer Session is scheduled to take place this year from July 23 to August 10. This three-week program offers potential students an opportunity to earn three free college credits while they explore the college campus. Students will meet new people, take field trips to the U.S. capital, and study under experienced college professors.

Courses available to students are "Intro to Human Communications," "United States History I," "Jesus and the Gospels," or "Introduction to Psychology."

Many students who attend Capital Summer Session stay and complete their degree at CUC. However, if students choose to attend another school, their earned credits will transfer to any other college. For more information on the program, e-mail css@cuc.edu or call (800) 835-4212.—PR Staff



Students in last year's Capital Summer Session learn about campus life.



CALENDAR

July

- 2-27 Summer Session III
- 4 Independence Day—
No Classes/Offices
Closed
- 26 Summer
Commencement
- 29 Placement Testing
- 23-Aug.10 Capital Summer
Session—Free Tuition

August

- 20 First Year Experience
Begins
- 29 2007-08 Classes
Begin

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Los Conquistadores disfrutan del primer campamento de Potomac

La asociación de Potomac tuvo su primer campamento hispano de Conquistadores recientemente en Cedarville State Forest Park en Brandywine, Md. Alrededor de 350 personas, incluyendo el personal, representaron los 12 clubes de las iglesias del territorio de Potomac. El tema del evento, "Fuente de Esperanza", fue un reflejo del mensaje vigorizante de Jesús.

Los participantes se alojaron en carpas el fin de semana y participaron en cultos de adoración, predicación y cantos. El programa estuvo lleno de actividades y los campistas disfrutaron aprendiendo de Dios y la naturaleza. El Pastor Eliasib Fajardo, director hispano para jóvenes, y un maravilloso equipo, se gozaron organizando y planeando esta actividad importante para los jóvenes.—Yerusi Fajardo

Chesapeake presenta el segundo retiro juvenil

Unos 250 jóvenes hispanos se reunieron en el campamento y centro de retiro Mt. Aetna en Hagerstown, Md., para el segundo retiro anual juvenil de la Asociación de Chesapeake.

Los de veinte y tantos años participaron de seminarios, y fueron inspirados por el orador invitado Manny Cruz, director asociado para jóvenes de la División Norteamericana, con el tema "Hazlo Real". Seis de los pastores y líderes de la asociación local presentaron los seminarios sobre el noviazgo cristiano, la testificación, la presión de grupo, cómo dar estudios bíblicos, la adicción, y otros temas pertinentes.

"El punto culminante del evento fue cuando tres de los participantes pasaron adelante para el bautismo después del culto de adoración", informa Raúl Rivero, pastor de la compañía hispana de Parksley en Virginia. Añadió: "fue agradable trabajar con mis colegas. Todos estamos felices que los pastores llegaron y trabajaron unidos."

Comuníquese con su asociación local para recibir más información acerca del retiro del próximo año.—Beth Michaels



El retiro anual une a las mujeres de Ohio



Nibia Mayer, RN, (segunda de la izquierda) presentadora invitada en el retiro hispano, comparte su sonrisa con las participantes en Ohio.

Más de cien mujeres entusiastas se reunieron recientemente en Mansfield, Ohio, para participar en el cuarto retiro de mujeres de la Asociación de Ohio. Las participantes tomaron un descanso de su rutina diaria, sus hogares y familias, y disfrutaron del compañerismo con otras mujeres, mensajes para enriquecer la vida, estupenda comida y conversación, y música maravillosa.

La oradora invitada fue Adly Campos, presidente de Family Well-Being International. Siendo esposa del pastor José Campos, ex director de publicaciones de la sede mundial de la iglesia, Adly tuvo muchas oportunidades para predicar alrededor del mundo. Ha llegado a ser una evangelista pública internacional muy cotizada. Su tema reflejó lecciones prácticas y espirituales de la historia de Ester.

Nibia Mayer, RN, la presentadora del seminario invitada, resaltó las destrezas importantes y prácticas para ser exitosos como padres, esposos, y en la vida espiritual. Su presentación estimuló la participación durante los momentos de preguntas y respuestas. Jorge, el esposo de Nibia, es el coordinador hispano en la Unión del Sureste. Ambos se unen regularmente para presentar seminarios sobre la vida de la familia y el matrimonio.—Lucy Cisneros

NOTICIAS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN DE POTOMAC

Pastores y ancianos de iglesia viven una renovación

Más de 200 pastores y ancianos de iglesia hispanos se reunieron recientemente en el campamento Blue Ridge en Montebello, Va., para recibir entrenamiento, y renovarse espiritualmente. Oraron y compartieron, estudiaron, y aprendieron cómo mejor servir al Señor en sus iglesias y comunidades.

Víctor Burgos, presidente de la Asociación de El Salvador, enfatizó la importancia de sus responsabilidades y habló de la relación entre pastores, ancianos, y feligreses. El Doctor Daniel Plenc, director de investigación del Patrimonio Elena de White en la División Suramericana, habló de cómo la Biblia y el espíritu de profecía definen la función del anciano de iglesia.

Bill Miller, presidente de la asociación, presentó los cultos matinales, y el grupo Pure Praise, un grupo gospel de El Salvador, trajo bendición a los participantes con música inspiradora. El sábado de tarde se colectó una ofrenda para el nuevo Centro Adventista de Capacitación y Producciones Evangélicas.—*Jeanie Allen*

El director de jóvenes dice adiós

Líderes y jóvenes en Potomac están tristes al decir adiós a su diligente y cariñoso director hispano juvenil, Eliasib Fajardo (en la foto), y su esposa Yerusi. Ellos se



trasladan a la Universidad de Andrews en Michigan, donde él terminará su estudio posgrado.

Se conoce a Fajardo por su teología única y progresiva en el liderazgo juvenil. Su idea fue trabajar “con los jóvenes, por los jóvenes, y para los jóvenes”. Esto

hizo que se promoviera la unidad juvenil en la organización de eventos para sus colegas.

“Esta clase de liderazgo ha producido crecimiento en las ideas y talentos de nuestros jóvenes para la creación de nuevos sub-ministerios en el departamento juvenil”, comentó William Armendaris, diseñador de la página Web PCJovenes.com

Se reconoce a Fajardo por iniciar la nueva página Web PCJovenes.com en el 2003, para comunicarse con los jóvenes de Potomac. Después de mucha persistencia y visión, el sitio se ha convertido en un ministerio

mundial con más de 70,000 visitas mensuales.

“El pastor Eliasib nos enseñó a trabajar duro, compartir nuestros talentos y recursos con todos, y a la vez predicar el evangelio a tantos como podamos”, añadió Armendaris. “Le deseamos lo mejor en esta nueva fase de su vida.”

Se elige nuevo coordinador hispano

José Esposito, antes evangelista de ministerios hispanos en Potomac, aceptó el llamado a servir como coordinador hispano de la asociación. Esposito sucede a Rubén Ramos, ahora el nuevo asistente al presidente para los ministerios multilingües de la Unión de Columbia.

“Estoy ansioso de trabajar con las iniciativas de la feligresía hispana en relación al alcance y el evangelismo”, dice Esposito.

Él y su esposa Carmen (en la foto), maestra de Jardín de Infantes en la escuela John Nevins Andrews en Takoma Park, Md., tienen tres hijos: Paolo (21), Romina (16), y Melissa (13). —*Jeanie Allen*



PRÓXIMO EVENTO

**Retiro hispano de mujeres
16 al 18 de noviembre
Ocean City, MD
Contacto: Rubén Ramos
(410) 997-3414, extensión 217
rramos@columbiaunion.net**

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

What is That in Thine Hand?

Long ago God asked Moses, “What is that in thine hand?” Moses replied, “A rod” (Ex. 4:2). With this rod God used Moses to deliver His people and do many wonders. In John 6, Jesus uses a small lunch in the hand of a lad to feed 5,000. Today God’s people all around Mountain View—young and old, rich and poor—are responding to His call, “What is that in thine hand?” They are discovering that God will use them while they hold evangelistic meetings or conduct Bible studies for the first time. They are opening thrift stores in more communities in order to minister to others. Small groups are being organized in a united effort to reach their community for Christ.

Members are discovering that “tasting and seeing” that the Lord is good gives people something to tell. There will be an earnest longing that those around us may “behold the Lamb of God.” Members are catching the vision that, “There will be no one in heaven with a starless crown. If you are saved, there will be some soul in the courts of glory that has found an entrance there through *your* instrumentality” (*Signs of the Times*, May 15, 1892). I urge each person to do something in their part of the vineyard to enlarge His kingdom. Step out in faith and God will use you beyond all that you can imagine. Notice His promise: “Uniting with Christ, you may work the works of God ... If you would go forth to do Christ’s work, angels of God would open the way before you, preparing hearts to receive the gospel” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 438). Will you respond to His call and let Him use you to reach others for the kingdom?



Larry Boggess
President

Fairmont Welcomes New Members

The Fairmont (W.Va.) church recently launched a series of meetings on Israel in prophecy. Evangelist Rich Cavaness of Charleston, W.Va., held the opening night’s audience of 100 spellbound. As the meetings progressed, only the most courageous seekers of truth remained. Among these was Kenna Frye (right), a



Fairmont pastor James Volpe (far left) presents baptismal vows to (left to right) Linda Hogan, Kenna Frye, and Sarah Keeble.

young man whose cousin previously handed him a CD of evangelist Leo Schreven’s series from last year. When Frye heard that more meetings were coming to the area, he attended them all and freshly posted each night’s message on his personal webpage. At the end of the series, he and other enthusiastic attendees were baptized. Others continue to attend the church’s Tuesday

night Bible marking class and Daniel seminar given for seekers each Sabbath morning.

Another visiting couple was admonished by their church family to stay away from the Fairmont prophecy meetings. The rejection, however, only made it easier for them to attend. As a result, the family found a very warm welcome and supportive fellowship. Another young lady, Sarah Keeble, also stood tall in the spiritual battle for present truth. Despite her former church’s warnings and criticism of her new discoveries in truth, Keeble was baptized and joined the church. She is continuing to study the whole counsel of God in preparation for helping interested friends from her former church. The Fairmont congregation looks forward to the additional new members who are preparing for baptism. —*James Volpe*

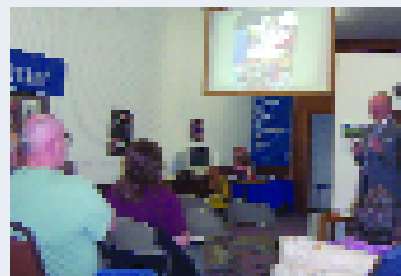


Spencer Residents Stirred by Revelation's Truths

The three angels' messages were heralded recently at the Living Waters Outreach Center in Spencer, W.Va. Phil Balisciano (pictured), program director, was pleased by church members supporting every aspect of the meetings, including the presentation of a nightly health nugget.

"I appreciate the evangelist supporting all of his views from the Bible," remarked a regularly attending schoolteacher whose husband is a preacher for another denomination. She had also been watching a television series by an Adventist pastor. Unaware that the sponsoring denominations are the same, the consistency of the messages impressed her. She said that the historic view of prophecy is correct and requested more information.

"It makes sense," said another attendee who came to the meetings regularly with his wife. "I've been to a lot of other churches. They give you only so much, but in the end it never forms a complete picture. I was never satisfied. I wanted more, and have found it here." The church anticipates more baptisms.—*Adam Hendron*



Conference Announces Pastoral Transitions

Linden St. Clair – Pastor St. Clair recently accepted the call to lead the Logan and Williamson (W.Va.) churches. He previously served in various capacities for the Guam-Micronesia Mission, as project founder and team leader for six years with Adventist Frontier Missions in West Africa, as well as in Georgia and Maine. He has been married for 17 years to Michelle, and they enjoy spending time with their two children, Andrew (7) and Anja (5).

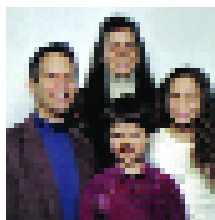
Originally from Wisconsin, Pastor St. Clair has also lived in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Indiana, and several other states. "My interests center around bringing people to

Jesus, which is the only thing from this life that will be important a million years from now," he says.

Adam Hendron – "It's great to be part of the family," beams Hendron, who recently joined the pastoral team of West Virginia's Spencer, Glenville, and Braxton (in Gassaway) churches. "I'll take what the Lord gives me," he chuckled, "but it so happens that this district has everything I wanted."

He is eager to create programming for a radio station owned by the Spencer church—WMCC-LP 105.7 FM. The church also operates a downtown storefront outreach center, something Pastor Hendron previously envisioned himself taking part in. "And I've always had an interest in Campus Ministries," he reports. "Glenville State College affords that opportunity."

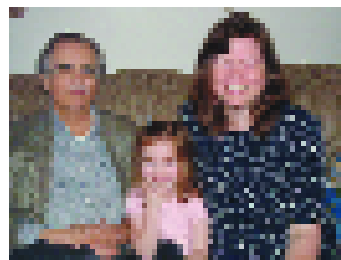
Hendron has served as an assistant pastor in Tennessee and senior pastor for districts in Florida and Utah. His wife, Suzanne, and children, Hannah (10) and Benjamin (8) (pictured), are also settling in.



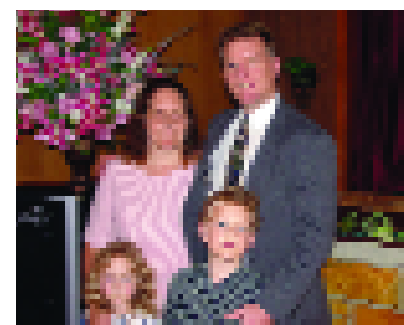
Brian Jones – Pastor Jones, formerly of the Spencer, Glenville, and Braxton district, is transitioning to the Wheeling and Wierton (W.Va.) district. He will also remain the conference communication director. Jones, along with his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Rebekah (pictured), replaces Pastor Abelardo Rivas who is embarking on a Master of Divinity at Andrews University (Mich). The Rivas family made a rich and lasting contribution to the conference in youth work and evangelism.

"It is an honor to attempt to continue the good work that my esteemed brother and his family performed during their term of service in West Virginia," comments Jones.

"It is also a joy to serve two such beautiful and loving flocks as those at Weirton and Wheeling."



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



The St. Clair family is now pastoring the Logan and Williamson (W.Va.) congregations. Pictured are (clockwise) Linden, Andrew, Anja, and Michelle.

Thursday's Promises Will Come

Every Thursday for worship in our office we read from the little book *Promises for the Last Days* by Ellen White. When we come to the end, we are always eager to start over. How wonderful it has been to discover, on so many occasions, that the promise we read that morning was exactly what was needed. God's timing is beyond our comprehension.

I now notice that as I come to certain chapters, memories from times past flood my mind. I recall what a particular chapter meant to me when it was read the last time, or the time before. In such times, we are reminded in vivid, refreshing clarity of an insurmountable, answerless problem with which we were struggling. But then one of God's hope- and light-filled promises gets read. Over and over the memories of God's care, of His love, of His promises, continue to strengthen our soul.

And now, looking back over the past eight years of our office reading this little book, it is clear that promises aren't just for the future, but have come to pass many, many times in many situations. How can we possibly forget how God led in the past when we bring His acts of goodness back into our lives every Thursday?

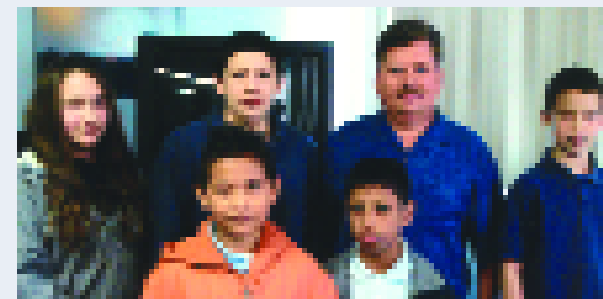


LeRoy Finck
President

NEWS

Delaware Academy Hosts Week of Prayer

Delaware Valley Junior Academy in Deptford recently hosted a wonderful week of prayer under the leadership of Phyllis Chew, member of the Woodbury church. The excitement of the students indicated that



Pastor Mike Gill (back row, second from right) poses with recently baptized students: (back row, left to right) Erika and David Terzian, and Bryce Capacchione; (front row, left to right) Uriel Mendoza and Adolfo Bonilla. Not pictured is Lanay McWhorter.

they were spiritually blessed. Attendees were delighted to have former student Eileen Gill accompany them on piano. There was another special visit by the Arndt family of Woodbury who also provided special music. The children loved the stories told by Chew, Bob and May Gray from Woodbury, Helen Dennison from the Laurelwood church in Woodbury, and Eleanor Terzian from the Williamstown church. All of this took place under the spiritual guidance of Laurelwood pastor Mike Gill.

God's spirit has been felt at the school this year. Members praise God that six students surrendered their lives to Jesus through baptism. This is evidence that when many churches band together for the good of the Lord and Christian education, the strength can be felt.—*Barbara Chew and Delores Capacchione*

Paterson Pastor, Sons Earn Tassles

Pastor Jorge Aguero, Sr., of the Paterson Temple, Paterson South, and Paterson Eastside Spanish churches, enjoyed a momentous day with his two sons recently. Together, the three celebrated college graduation at Andrews University (Mich). Pastor Aguero earned his Doctor in Ministry while his son Jorge Luis Aguero, Jr., earned a bachelor's in Religion and his son Samuel David Aguero a bachelor's in Administration. The entire family praises the Lord for the opportunity God gave the men to climb the stairs of success together in order to better serve the Lord.



Trio graduates (left to right) Samuel Aguero, Jorge Aguero, Jr., and Jorge Aguero, Sr., enjoy the celebratory occasion.

Elders Retreat Rejuvenates Spirits

A fourth annual elders spiritual retreat was held recently at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. The 200 attendees enjoyed fellowship and praising the Lord together and garnered new education on how to better lead the church. Seminars were presented by a number of conference pastors. They covered such topics as working together, church organization, being in communion with God, skills of the elder, working with church youth, and other subjects.

The conference's Multilingual Department, under the leadership of Pastor José Cortés, helps make the retreat take place each year. Leaders take care in instructing their elders in order to help them better serve their congregations. The retreat helps charge their enthusiasm and professionalism and gives them an opportunity to share experiences with other leaders. Each one returns to their church renewed in their service to God.



Toms River church pastor J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, educates seminar attendees during the recent elders retreat.

Treasured Rockaway Member Remembered

Well-loved Rockaway church member Frederick Alfred Rowe, Jr. (pictured), passed away suddenly, just seven days before his 19th birthday. As a testament to the young man's influential character and positive reputation, 1,800 people from the Hackettstown community and beyond clogged local traffic to attend his funeral services.

Rowe was the son of Frederick A. Rowe, Sr., and Merlyn Nelson



Rowe. He was a student at the Warren County Community College, majoring in business. He was a dedicated server at the local senior liv-

ing facility, Paragon Village, where the staff and tenants loved him because he made the job fun—singing, laughing, and making jokes.

Many of Rowe's friends echoed the same sentiments, saying that he was an "amazing guy" who brought everyone together. They were all

glad they had the chance to know him. Rowe had a warm, winning smile that enabled him to easily make friends. One parent commented at his funeral, "He was a very personable young man with a bright smile and a positive outlook. For the short time he spent on this Earth, he brought joy to his many friends." One of his teachers also commented that he brought a freshness to the classroom.

At the Rockaway church, Rowe served as a junior deacon and willingly participated in the youth program every third Sabbath. He would often talk with his friends about the Lord and sometimes invited them to church. He enjoyed his life, his family, and his many blessings. Part of his last conversation with his mother was thanking God for allowing him to pass all of his classes and to get a raise at his job. His friends and classmates will miss the "vroom vroom" of his imaginary car coming down the hallway.

In addition to his parents, Rowe is survived by three brothers: Virgil, Derick, and Rondell; two sisters: Sandy and Candace; his maternal grandmother, Ismui Nelson; and his paternal grandfather, Bergan Rowe.—Betty-Jean Cox

dates

July

- 1 ABC Closed at Trenton
ABC Open at TVRC
- 2 Camp Strike
- 3 Administrative Committee,
9 am.-Noon
- 4 Independence Day—
Office/ABC Closed
- 8 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Children's Fun Day
ACS/ACSDR Advisory,
10 a.m.-Noon
- 9 Evangelism Committee,
11 a.m.-Noon
- 10 Administrative Committee,
9 am.-Noon
- 17 Administrative Committee,
9 am.-Noon
- 22 Youth Fun Day
Teen/Parent Picnic
- 24 Administrative Committee,
9 am.-Noon
- 31 Administrative Committee,
9 am.-Noon

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

Churches Unite to Transform Toledo

In an age where "the suit and the evangelist" is no longer reaching the emerging generation, we must find new ways to relate to today's youth. Using their own elements of sports, music, and culture, the four teams of the Impact World Tour share just one thing in common: a passion to reach the lost with the love of Jesus.

More than 125 extreme-sports athletes, musicians, and performers from a dozen countries are involved in the largest evangelistic campaign the Toledo area has seen since Billy Sunday pitched his tent in 1911. All the events are presented free of charge with the goal of drawing thousands of teens and young adults to the venues by offering a high-energy mix of radical entertainment and an unconventional presentation of the gospel. Impact World Tour is a branch of Youth With A Mission, an international, interdenominational mission movement founded in 1960.



Hundreds of Toledo young adults respond to the alter call at Impact World Tour. Members of the Toledo church are helping to follow up with the new converts. Toledo Blade photo used by permission.

Is it working? I'd say so. In three nights, through five events, 650 people came to Christ! And the Toledo Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the groups helping with these events.

More than 5,000 people from churches throughout the city have signed up as volunteers, handling roles that include setting up stages, praying for people at events, serving meals, providing housing or transportation, and following up with new converts after Impact World Tour leaves town.

Under the direction of Nathan French, the Toledo church is helping to provide training for those wishing to become "Local Links"—Christians who follow up with the new converts.—Mike Fortune

Barbarton Celebrates Grand Opening

Recently Pastor Chester Hitchcock and his Barbarton congregation celebrated the grand opening of their new church building. Conference president Raj Attiken attended the special event and



Barbarton church members look forward to reaching out to their community through their new church location.

challenged the congregation to be intentional about reaching their community in culturally relevant ways.

Prior to the grand opening, Pastor Hitchcock also preached to members about how to reach the community with the gospel more efficiently by finding ways of getting to know their neighbors. Part of the plan for their new church location is to reach into their new neighborhood with projects that will help beautify and transform the community, one project at a time. They are calling their new ministry, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" in an effort to enlist anyone in the area who wishes to help.

The church has also helped Adventists earn a positive influence in the community through its Adventist Community Services center. Its volunteers distributed more than \$100,000 worth of food in 2006, and helped hundreds of families with clothing and household items.

"I'm confident that this move will enable our church family to grow," relayed Pastor Hitchcock. "The members are excited about their new opportunities and have worked hard to prepare the church building for growth."

Bucyrus Member Brought by God

Darron Bolton is a new member of the Bucyrus church. He grew up in Tennessee as a member of another denomination. Following the death of his grandfather, Bolton's neighbor Lawrence Campbell hired him to help in his fields. Although not an Adventist, Campbell shared with Bolton his conviction that Saturday was the true Sabbath. It made sense to Bolton and he also started keeping the Sabbath.

Bolton entered the military, served his time in Iraq, and, upon his return to the states, moved to Ohio. One day as he was leaving the local Wal-Mart parking lot, he looked across the street and saw the Bucyrus Seventh-day Adventist Church sign. He immediately started attending the church and studying the Bible with Pastor Marcellus de Oliveira. Bolton is a beautiful example of how God is at work in the hearts of many.—*Marcellus de Oliveira*



Pastor Marcellus de Oliveira of the Bucyrus church baptizes new member Darron Bolton.

Annual Hispanic Retreat Unites Ohio Women

More than 100 eager ladies gathered recently in Mansfield, Ohio, to participate in the fourth annual Hispanic Women's Retreat of the Ohio Conference. Attendees got a break from their routines, homes, and families while the Holy Spirit bathed their souls through feminine fellowship, life-enriching messages, great food and conversation, and lovely music—all in the Spanish language!

and where Spanish is being spoken and sung. Yearly retreat fees are raised through Women's Ministries fund-raisers at each local church throughout the year so their female members and guests may attend. Otherwise, such an experience could be financially unfeasible.

This year's guest speaker was Adly Campos, president of Family Well-Being International. As wife to former publishing director for the worldwide Adventist Church, José Campos, she was given many opportunities to preach around the world. She has become a sought after international public evangelist. Campos' theme reflected on practical and spiritual lessons from the story of Esther.

Guest seminar presenter Nibia Mayer, RN, highlighted important and practical skills for success in parenting, marriage, and spirituality. Her illustrated presentation invoked much participation during the question-and-answer periods. Mayer's husband, Jorge, is the Hispanic coordinator for the Southern Union Conference, and the two team up regularly to present family and marriage enrichment seminars.—*Lucy Cisneros*



Evangelist Adly Campos (second from left), guest speaker for the recent Ohio women's retreat, spends a moment with some attendees.

Plans for this type of women's retreat started more than five years ago, when a few attendees of the yearly English women's retreat wanted something similar for the women in their Hispanic congregations. A high percentage of these women are first-generation immigrants who do not speak English. Culturally, Hispanics are inclined to celebrate such spiritual events with a particular formality that brings great satisfaction when it accompanies music, dress, conversation, and activities

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

Jesus Made Them Follow?

Pittsburgh is the Adventist Church's least entered city in North America, with only one Adventist in every 1,200 people. But Adventist Community Services of Greater Pittsburgh (ACSGP) is establishing a significant presence there to change that statistic. A core group is forming and developing their values, mission, and vision. They hope to be organized as a mission group by year's end and multiply into several churches in the future.

Since Tropical Storm Ivan caused extensive flood damage in 2004, ACSGP has become a significant contributing partner in the Chartiers Valley, a section of the Pittsburgh metro area. Many interests have been developed using the methodology of our Savior. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me,'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

ACS leaders have learned that community minded people are interested in Adventism. One of them is Joe Serkoch. Last December ACSGP and the emerging church were experiencing a crisis. Their future in the community hung in the balance. Serkoch videotaped this crisis from his perspective. Read the accompanying article and watch the video to see his view of Adventism, and learn how he thought Jesus *made* the disciples follow Him.

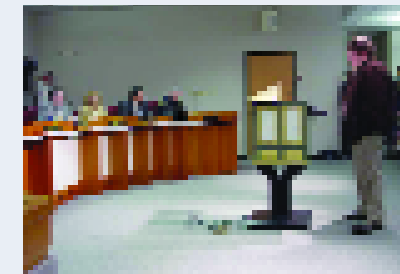


Bill Peterson
Assistant to the
President for Missions

Pittsburgh Community Supports ACS Outreach

What is the difference between "bade" and "made"? The difference was recently demonstrated, in a very tangible way, to Adventist Community Services of Greater Pittsburgh volunteers, and to Joe Serkoch, in particular.

ACSGP's mission (defined in the editorial) was nearly dealt a fatal blow when faced with the necessity of getting an occupancy permit for their new location. It was



Director Andrew Clark appeals to the Pittsburgh City Council for an occupancy permit for Adventist Community Services of Greater Pittsburgh's new facility.

certain that at least four of the seven council members were opposed to granting the permit. ACSGP requested its community supporters to attend the council meeting and defend their cause.

More than 200 people attended, including city leaders and several clergy who voiced overwhelming affirmation and support. After three hours of personal testimony, most of which came from people who are not Adventists, the council unanimously approved the permit. The respect and support ACSGP

has earned is leading people to learn of Jesus' love. Through community programs that are impacting people in practical ways, doors are opening to share Jesus.

Serkoch videotaped the meeting with only two requests from ACSGP: to use the ACS logo at the beginning, and to use the "Christ's method alone" quote from page 143 of *The Ministry of Healing* at the end. He was happy to comply but thought he'd discovered a typo when he read the phrase "He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" Instead, he substituted the word "made." The full impact of one small letter came to bear when Andrew Clark, ACS director, explained that Jesus "bade" or invited people to follow Him, not *made* them. Serkoch, reflecting on this simple yet profound difference, commented, "That is deep."

For a free copy of the DVD, write to ACSGP, P.O. Box 676, Carnegie, PA 15106, or e-mail Mayda Clark at maydaclark@hotmail.com.—*Bill Peterson*



ACSGP opened a used bookstore and computer room in Carnegie, Pa. Their goal is to provide social services to the community, including job training.

Church Planting Summit Scheduled

Members are invited to attend the Pennsylvania Conference Church Planting Summit on Sunday, August 12. Hosted by the Harrisburg First church, attendees will be able to hear the story of Bill McClendon (pictured), dynamic pastor of South Tulsa Adventist Fellowship (STAF) in Oklahoma, one of the fastest growing Adventist churches in North America.

McClendon became an Adventist in 1983 through a public evangelistic campaign in Tulsa. For the next 17 years, he served the local church in numerous capacities while operating a computer software consulting company. In 1999 he and his wife, Shirlene, got the opportunity to plant a new church in the Oklahoma Conference. The following year, McClendon sold his company and entered into full-time ministry as STAF pastor. By the fifth year, the membership surpassed 500 people. Their tremendous growth is attributed almost exclusively to an aggressive public evangelism program.

At the summit, McClendon will tell his story and look at the questions, Who are we? Where do we go from here? And how do we get there? The program will run from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Starla Overton at (610) 374-8331, ext. 248, or at soverton@paconference.org.



Church Planting News

Shamokin Three Angels' Message Outreach

Paul and Nancy Cartwright became interested in the work being done in the Shamokin area after hearing a 3ABN program. Wes McDonald, then pastor of the Danville church, spoke about Pennsylvania being a mission field and the need for missionaries to help work with church plants in the state. Following the program, Nancy visited the Shamokin church plant with a friend in June 2005, and again with Paul in September.

Very impressed with the congregation, and feeling a desire to be a part of it, they decided to make it a matter of prayer to see where God would lead them. They put their house up for sale without a real estate agent—or even a sign in the front yard—just to make sure it was truly God's leading. Without any advertising, the house sold—sight unseen—in three months. With that miraculous sign of God's plans for them, they moved to Shamokin in June 2006. The Cartwrights, though unable to leave the country, are thrilled to be missionaries for God in Pennsylvania.—*Starla Overton*

Phoenixville Mission Group

This group, led by Buddy Goodwin (pictured), is growing through the

relationships that its members have established with the community. Members are affecting those in their

spheres of influence. These local missionaries are hosting six Bible studies, four of which were started with members reaching out to their neighbors, befriending them, and sharing God's love as opportunities arose. Two other studies are made up of church members witnessing to their families. As a result of the outreach, several people are preparing for baptism.—*Starla Overton*

Emmanuel's Place – This church plant of the Kenhorst Boulevard church recently increased their flock by 19 people. The converts were baptized following the congregation's first evangelistic crusade led by retired pastor Ruben Duany. Among those baptized were two pastors of other denominations. One pastor had been convicted of the Sabbath truth years ago and was happy to learn more doctrinal and Bible teachings at the crusade. The other already pastored a



Sabbathkeeping church but joined Emmanuel's Place by profession of faith, along with his wife and two sons.—*Miriam Vega-Vargas*

What's happening

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.

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

Potomac People

JULY 2007

Members Rebuild, Give Hope in Mississippi

A group (pictured) from the Waynesboro and Staunton churches in Virginia recently volunteered a week of their time to help rebuild lives and homes in Waveland, Miss. The mission trip was organized through a connection with His Hands and Feet Ministry, Inc., an Adventist-based ministry located in Waveland for the purpose of construction evangelism. The volunteers worked on four different building projects and assisted with demolition, painting, carpentry, roofing, and installing drywall. It was soon apparent that the most important work of their trip was to touch lives and hearts by giving much needed hope to the residents.

Since Hurricane Katrina devastated part of Louisiana and Mississippi, more than 30,000 people are still living in FEMA trailers. The suicide rate is phenomenally high because residents do not feel they have any hope. Witnessing the volunteers coming to rebuild gives them hope and many have given their lives to Christ. Matthew 25:38-40 says: "And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee in prison and visit thee? And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me'" (RSV).—*Rhonda Shreve*



NEWS

Conference Commissions Three JNA Teachers

Conference officers and Education Department personnel recently commissioned three John Nevins Andrews School (JNA) teachers at the Takoma Park (Md.) church. Loida Doukmetzian is the ESL and special education teacher, Kimberly Terry is the computer program director, and Pamela Smith is the second grade teacher.

Associate superintendent Robert Smith introduced the candidates and talked about the requirements for commissioning. David Waller, principal, and Larry Marsh, vice president for education, were also at the special



President Bill Miller (far right) offers the commissioning prayer for JNA teachers (left to right) Loida Doukmetzian, Pamela Smith, and Kimberly Terry.

service and spoke on the importance of teachers in our Adventist schools. Several JNA musical groups added to the day with their performances.—*Jeanie Allen*

Beltsville Pastor Commissioned to Ministry

Sonia Perez (pictured), associate/youth pastor at Beltsville (Md.) church, was recently commissioned to the gospel ministry. Many children and youth participated in the commissioning service, showing their obvious value of and care for "Pastor Sonia" and her ministry.

Perez joined the Beltsville church four years ago, and her primary focus continues to be ministering to the children and youth. She also leads in Bible studies with children at the adjoining Beltsville Adventist School, at a summer day camp, during Sabbath School classes. She also looks for innovative ways to include the children in worship services.

It was a great honor and privilege for president Bill Miller to share God's Word and welcome Pastor Perez to ministry. Miller was her first small group facilitator, and in her words "inspired me to connect every person I meet with Jesus." This is a passion Perez shares: "To see the young people use the gifts God has given them to witness who Jesus is by sharing His love and testifying that He changes lives."—*Jeanie Allen*



Farmville Church Celebrates Grand Opening

The Farmville (Va.) church recently celebrated the grand opening of their new—and first—church building (pictured). The church was first organized as a company in November 1970 then elevated to church status nearly seven years later. The congregation met for many years in a house that was converted into a church. That building was sold about three years ago when the building project started. While building, the congregation rented a hall in town.



To help commemorate this special event, conference executive secretary Roger Weiss presented the morning message. The church was full of visitors including several area pastors. Other highlights included a full church history report, recognition of special

guests, and a full afternoon musical program. Due to the Lord's blessings, the church now owes less than \$80,000 on the building! Former conference president Herb Broeckel presently pastors the church.—*Jeanie Allen*



Farmville charter members Thelma E. Robinson (left) and Marion L. Taylor are thrilled to worship in the church's first real sanctuary.

Mayor Recognizes Vienna Stars

Vienna (Va.) Mayor Jane Seeman recently recognized the Vienna Stars Pathfinders Club for their outstanding community service at the Sixth Annual Volunteer Recognition Day held at Town Hall. "Volunteering of one's time and resources is a fundamental part of the tradition of our country and is essential to its spirit. The people of our community benefit from the deeds of these selfless and dedicated individuals and organizations," Seeman stated.

Allison Levy, Vienna Stars director, said the club was nominated because every member and staff put forth their full effort to complete their "missions" with a positive attitude. This year's community outreach included collecting cans, delivering Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate families, sending packages to the troops in Iraq, delivering fleece blankets to long-term hospitalized children, and providing food and clothing to a shelter. Congratulations to a great group of kids.—*Jeanie Allen*



Mayor Jane Seeman (in red blouse) poses with the Vienna Stars and their leaders.

Blue Ridge Bells Perform at Jamestown Celebration

The Blue Ridge Bells (pictured) from C.F. Richards Junior Academy in Staunton, Va., recently performed at the Heritage Stage in Jamestown for America's 400th Anniversary celebration. The 14-member handbell choir, directed by Patti Short, performed a 30-minute concert for the many festival attendees at the celebration. Musical selections included a wide range of patriotic, sacred, and spiritual arrangements.



Several other participating musicians commented that they had never heard handbells played with such energy. "It was invigorating to hear the boisterous applause," said handbell member Mollye Coon.

"It was exciting and moving to see and hear President Bush," said long-time handbell member Jessica Eberly. "It was especially fun to see him direct the 400-



piece orchestra playing 'Stars and Stripes Forever' for a few measures," Eberly reminisced. "This happens once in a lifetime and is something I will remember forever," said member Melissa Allen.—*Jeanie Allen*

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

Students Prove They are "Leaders of Today!"

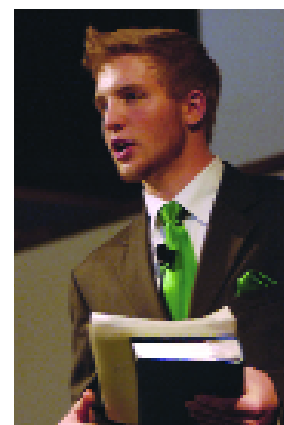
Last November a group of parents and friends of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) formed six worship teams. They then recruited groups of students to serve on those teams. The vision, which was successfully implemented after Christmas, was to provide assistance with planning and producing creative Sabbath programming for our students.

During a recent Sabbath morning, nearly 50 SVA students filled the Vienna (Va.) church. Among them were the student leaders of one of the worship teams. Helpful staff and two adult worship team members, including myself, accompanied this army of youth. Working with



the student leaders was nothing short of a privilege.

Three students led the song service, five others prepared to join them on the church's platform, and the remaining students reverently found seats in the sanctuary. Minus announcements, SVA students presented the entire service. Even senior David Ramsdell (pictured) presented the morning's inspiring message. Although Ramsdell has been preaching since the eighth grade, this sermon meant the most to him. It was the first one he had written himself.



Ed Komorowski, Vienna's senior pastor, said it best when he corrected the view that our youth are typically referred to as the "leaders of tomorrow." He emphatically stated, "They are the leaders of today!"

Feeding the Homeless

After enjoying a fellowship meal with the Vienna church family, the SVA entourage proceeded to McPherson Square in downtown Washington, D.C.,

to care for the homeless. SVA chaplain Tim Harley started this ministry in 1996. Students served food and distributed clothing to those in need. Observing these young Christians in action was inspiring. Their kind, thoughtful way of helping our guests brought countless smiles to a significant number of God's children.

Several passersby paused to inquire about these amazing young people. Junior Tucker Coston was grateful to be a part of the group. Although he has been on several such trips, this is the first time the students spontaneously started singing with the visitors. "I really enjoyed that," said Coston. "They even sang along and made requests."



As a parent of an SVA student, I greatly appreciate the school's renewed focus on academic excellence. I also appreciate the faculty-student families, the strong focus on music and competitive sports without Sabbath conflicts, and numerous other student activities. SVA would not be worth consideration without these assets to prepare our youth for their futures on this Earth. However, what excites me the most about SVA is the increasing opportunities for our God-given youth to step up and lead in the name of Jesus Christ, thereby preparing for their futures in heaven. Few things inspire and energize me as much as witnessing these wonderful young leaders presenting vespers, Sabbath Schools, church services, etc., because they want to and because they are saying yes to Jesus.



Don Feltman
Parent

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

Make Christ "Relevant" to Our Youth

Faculty and staff are already anticipating what the new school year will bring. Which students will allow us to share Jesus Christ with them? Which students will let us teach them about life? God is so good in giving us this awesome responsibility. To whom much is given, there is much more required. Scary? Yes. But as long as we stay on our knees and depend solely on Jesus Christ, we cannot fail. My strongest desire is to make Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church "relevant" to our young people. One reason our youth are leaving the church is because we have been afraid to give meaningful definitions to our beliefs and standards. Just "telling" them to do something is not working. Our young people are thinkers, and we must treat them with the resolve to help them grow stronger in their relationship with Jesus Christ.



C. Dunbar Henri
Principal

NEWS

Students' Poems Published

The company Creative Communication publishes an anthology called "A Celebration of Young Poets." Recently 19 TA students (some pictured), under the

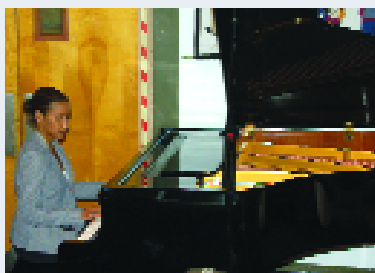


direction of learning specialist Karohn Young, had poems selected for publication. In the company's correspondence to Young they stated that "less than 50 percent of the poems submitted were selected to be published," and the fact that TA has so many selected is a strong statement about the school. TA "stands out and will be recognized in the anthology as receiving a Poetic Achievement Award," they added. This honor is given to the top 10 percent of the schools that entered the contest. Receiving this award qualifies the academy to apply for one of their \$250 Language Arts Grants.

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New Piano Donated for Chapel

Lisa Rarick, sister of TA board member Kay Rosburg, recently donated a baby grand piano to the school. The school has slated the piano to be used in the chapel. "It is a blessing to have members of the



community believe in our school and to tangibly support us," says principal Dunbar Henri.

Guidance counselor Denise Barclay plays the new piano for a recent worship.

Seniors Vacation in Caribbean

This year's seniors (pictured) chose to go on a cruise to the Caribbean for their class trip. The 35 students flew to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where they enjoyed a brief romp on the beach. They then boarded a ship that sailed to Key West, then to Cozumel, Mexico, and on to the Grand Cayman Island. It was truly a wonderful experience.



Calendar

July	
1,29	Registration
4	Holiday—Office Closed
9-Aug.3	Summer School Course: American History
August	
15	Open House, 6-8 p.m.
17	Making It Count, 8 a.m.-Noon, All Freshmen

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy
 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
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WALLA WALLA COLLEGE seeks nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the Edward F. Cross School of Engineering to begin October 15, or at a mutually agreeable time. The successful candidate will be a visionary leader with strong communication and academic management skills who will collaborate with faculty, staff, and administrators to strengthen recruitment, retention, fund-raising and industry relations. More information about the position and application process at <http://www.wwc.edu/services/employment/facpos.html>.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATION MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 38th regular association meeting of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 23, 2007, in the Robbinsville Community Seventh-day Adventist Church on 2314 Route 33, Robbinsville, N.J.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers and trustees, consider recommendations for amendments and revisions of the constitution and bylaws, receive reports of the organization, and transact such other business that may properly come before the constituency at this time.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for its organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. The delegates-at-large shall be composed of the conference executive committee members, the credentialed and licensed employees of the conference, and members of the executive committees of the Columbia Union and the General Conference who may be present.

Local churches, church boards, conference-operated institutions, departmental directors and permanent commissions, committees and boards of the conference may propose items for the agenda. Local churches may recommend members of their delegations as candidates for the various committees.

**LeRoy Finck, President
José Cortés, Secretary**

CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 38th regular constituency meeting of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 23, 2007, at the Robbinsville Community Seventh-day Adventist Church on 2314 Route 33, Robbinsville, N.J.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers, department/association/service directors and committees, consider recommendations for amendments and revisions of the constitution and bylaws, receive reports of the organization, and transact such other business that may properly come before the constituency at this time.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for its organization and

	July 13	July 20	July 27	Aug. 3	Aug. 10
Baltimore	8:33	8:29	8:24	8:17	8:09
Cincinnati	9:05	9:00	8:55	8:48	8:40
Cleveland	9:00	8:56	8:49	8:42	8:33
Columbus	9:01	8:57	8:51	8:44	8:35
Jersey City	8:27	8:23	8:17	8:10	8:01
Norfolk	8:25	8:22	8:16	8:10	8:03
Parkersburg	8:53	8:49	8:43	8:36	8:28
Philadelphia	8:30	8:25	8:20	8:12	8:04
Pittsburgh	8:50	8:46	8:40	8:33	8:24
Reading	8:34	8:29	8:23	8:16	8:08
Richmond	8:32	8:28	8:23	8:16	8:09
Roanoke	8:41	8:37	8:32	8:26	8:18
Toledo	9:08	9:04	8:58	8:50	8:41
Trenton	8:29	8:24	8:19	8:11	8:03
Wash., D.C.	8:34	8:30	8:24	8:17	8:09

SUNSET CALENDAR

one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. The delegates-at-large shall be composed of the conference executive committee members, the credentialed and licensed employees of the conference, and members of the executive committees of the Columbia Union and the General Conference who may be present.

Local churches, church boards, conference-operated institutions, departmental directors and permanent commissions, committees and boards of the conference may propose items for the agenda. Local churches may recommend members of their delegations as candidates for the various committees.

**LeRoy Finck, President
José Cortés, Secretary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION The Linden Church of Seventh-day Adventists, Laurelton, N.Y., will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary during the week of August 25-Sept. 2. Theme: "To The Next Level ... Heaven Next." All former members and friends are encouraged to join us. For more information, call (718) 527-1950 or visit our website: www.lindensdachurch.org.

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COLLEGE VIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND: October 12-14. Honor classes '47, '57, '67, '77, '82, '87, and '97. Special feature Saturday Oct. 13, 11 a.m.: Byard Parks, class of '87. All former students welcome. Come enjoy a great weekend. More information at www.sdasl.org.

OBITUARIES

JEFFERSON, Thomas, R., born December 23, 1931, in Chester, Pa.; died January 31, 2007, in Belleville, N.J. He was a member of the Trinity Temple (Newark, N.J.) church. His last areas of church service were the Disability Awareness Committee and the Deacon Board. After his first stroke in 1994, he started a greeting card ministry so that he could still be of service to his church. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ruth Trawick Jefferson of Newark, N.J.; daughters, Linda Jefferson of Newport News, Va., and Seana Jefferson of Newark, N.J.; sons, Rudy Jefferson of Newport News, Warren Jefferson of Bronx, N.Y.; one daughter-in-law, Nadine Jefferson of Bronx; granddaughters, Kioni and Imari of Newport News, Christina of Bloomfield, N.J., and Leah of Bronx, N.Y.; grandsons Jamon of Newport News and Warren II of Bronx; and great-grandsons, Jamon, Jr. and Keohn of Newport News; great-granddaughter Jordynn of Newport News, one special cousin, Robert Jr. of Philadelphia, Pa.; three brothers-in-law; five sisters-in-law, and a host of other nieces, nephews, and friends.

SHAFFER, Ruth M., born April 6, 1917, in Indiana County, Pa.; died February 1, 2007, in Indiana, Pa. She was a member of the Indiana church. She is survived by her husband, William C. Shaffer (married in 1941); sons William C. Shaffer, Jr., and his wife Barbara, and James Howard Shaffer; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters; and one brother.

SHAFFER, William C., born December 26, 1916, in Indiana, Pa.; died February 6, 2007, in Indiana, Pa. He was a member of the Indiana church. William (Bill) was a deacon of the church for many years. "Bill" was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Elizabeth C. (Yohe) Shaffer; his wife of 66 years, Ruth M. Shaffer, died five days before him; his sisters Esther Nibert, Genevieve Blakley Nibert, and Martha Fogarty; and brothers, Orren, Arthur, and Quinley ("Mike"). Bill is survived by his sons, William C. Shaffer, Jr., and his wife Barbara of Indiana, and James H. Shaffer of Wilmington, Del.; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his brother, Martin L. Shaffer of Florida.

SPENCER, William L., born July 28, 1922, in Erie, Pa.; died February 5, 2007, in Port Trevorton, Pa. He was a member of the Shermans-Dale (Pa.) church. He was the son of R.M. Spencer, who was a pastor and former president of Chesapeake Conference. William was a school teacher, teaching for six years at Lowville, Pa., Greater Phila. Academy, and Hatboro in Md. He graduated from Washington Missionary College (now Columbia Union College) in 1950. He was a World War II veteran. Survivors: wife, Mary Ellen Spencer; his daughters Judith Bergmann of Aiken, S.C., and Virginia Engle of Liverpool, Pa.; and his sons William Spencer of York, Pa., and David Spencer of New Columbia, Pa.; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

STOWERS, Fagate Dulaney, born March 14, 1925, in Williamson, W.V.; died April 30, 2007, in Williamson. He was not only a member of the Williamson church, but helped establish it. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Kijak Stowers; his son, Allen; his daughters Connie Medvee, JoAnn Starr, Lanette Piekarek, and Amy Walker; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and his sister-in-law Helen Sokol.

WILSON, Mary Louise, born October 16, 1914, in Lancaster, Pa.; died February 5, 2007, in Rising Sun, Md. She was a member of the Rising Sun church. Survivors: daughter, Gwendolyn Reader of Pemberton, N.J.; sons, John Wilson of Savannah, Ga., David Wilson of Rising Sun, Daniel Wilson of Berrien Springs, Mich., and Steve Wilson of Waynesboro, Va.; and a brother, John Keppel of Ridge Manor, Fla.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION
For information on placing an obituary in the *Visitor*, please contact Sandra Jones by phone (888) 4-VISITOR, or email sjones@columbiaunion.net and request a submission form. Obituaries are placed in the order they are received, on a space-available basis.

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**SLIGO BY THE SEA
2007**

June 30 Steve Chavez	July 7 William Johnsson
July 14 Kermit Netteburg	July 21 Terry Johnsson
July 28 Dave Weigley	August 4 Elicia Patterson
August 11 Fred Kinsey	August 18 Ron Halversen Jr.
August 25 Kaspar 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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Be the Light in the Heart of a Child

To me, being adopted means that I am the product of heredity, environment, and divine guidance. My heredity comes from a biological mother who wanted to give her baby girl a chance to have more than an 18-year-old could offer. My environment was provided by parents, who wanted a child so much, that they spent the time and money to go through the adoption process. I love that my mom and dad got to choose me instead of being surprised at what they got, which brings me to the divine guidance. I am the woman I am today because of the parents God chose for me.



I feel that God called me to be an adoption educator and advocate, so I could help calm the fears of potential adoptive and biological parents, educate the general public about what it is like to grow up being adopted, and help people understand that adoption can be a positive experience for all parties involved.

I advocate for infant adoption—because that's my experience—and because studies have shown that the most beneficial time to be adopted is as an infant. Early bonding and attachment are vital for the healthy mental, physical, and, most certainly, emotional health of the adopted person. The earlier a child becomes accustomed to their caregivers, the better adjusted he or she will be. Older children also benefit from adoption, although they may experience attachment issues.

LOOKING FOR LOVE

There are many children looking for parents to love them. Likewise, there are many parents yearning to hold and love a child. Bringing them together takes trained professionals, time, and money. That's why I recently coordinated a charity event to raise money for a nonprofit adoption agency that works to place children in loving homes. The First Annual Light for Adoption Run/Walk was a success as I raised awareness about infant adoption, exceeded my monetary goal, and landed a front-page photo in the local newspaper.

My hope is that more Seventh-day Adventists will join in my mission—*To Be the Light in the Heart of a Child*—by giving your child a chance at more than you can offer, adopting a child, participating in the Light for Adoption Run/Walk, or supporting a nonprofit adoption agency in your area. Do what you can, because these are the things in life that are most remembered.

Jennifer Wakefield is an administrative secretary for the Columbia Union Conference's Office of Education. Learn more about her work for infant adoption at www.mrscolumbiainternational.com.

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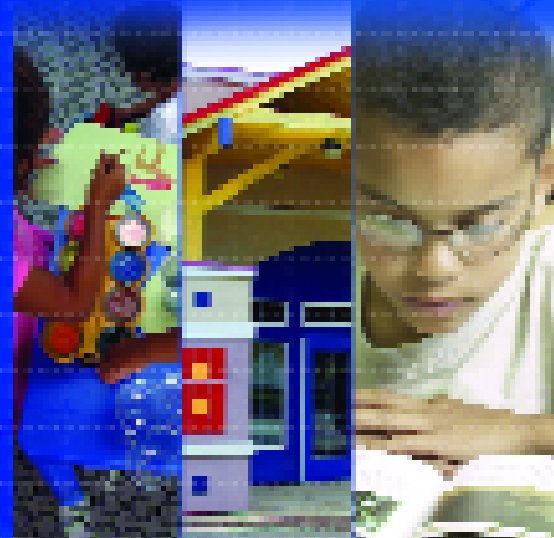
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