

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

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Get and *Stay*
Happily Married

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(Where are you?)

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Duct Tape, Play Time, and Other Things We've Learned About Marriage

Sometimes it seems like just yesterday that we exchanged wedding vows. Other times it feels like we have been married forever! But actually it was August 1977, after a seven-month, whirlwind courtship, that we were married in Sarasota, Fla. That was 30 years ago this month, and, thankfully, it's been a wonderful 30 years!



HAPPINESS IS POSSIBLE

What is it that makes marriage last? What are the secrets to a truly happy marriage? Are there no perfect marriages because there are no perfect people? Perhaps, but, as you'll read in this issue of the *Visitor*, a happy, successful marriage is possible! While the featured writers have shared their experiences and outlined many practical dos and don'ts, we also wanted to share what we've learned about making marriage work these past 30 years:

Buy Lots of Duct Tape - Spouses are not mind readers; you have to communicate. Share your ideas, thoughts, dreams, plans, and feelings. Travel is a big part of our life work, so we make a genuine effort to stay connected and may talk several times a day. But communication also entails knowing when to use "duct tape!" It comes in handy when you want to say something that you really shouldn't. At those times, we've discovered that mentally putting duct tape over your mouth works great. Sometimes it's better to postpone a discussion for a more appropriate time, when you both are ready to focus on the issue. Finally, it helps to remember that God gave us one mouth for communicating—and two ears for listening!

Work Together - Finances are one of the top three issues couples fight about. To avoid this pitfall, build a budget together and really make an effort to live by it. Share in the decision-making, especially when it comes to major purchases. And make sure you include a personal allowance, no matter how small, for each spouse to use at his or her discretion.

Play Together - It's okay to have individual hobbies, but find at least one recreational activity you can enjoy together. When we were first married, tennis was a sport that Becky enjoyed, but Dave had never really played. It wasn't long before we were enjoying the game together; in fact, we still do! Walking is also a great activity to share and provides the added benefit of "talk time." More recently we have discovered the fun of "riding" together—our horses, Fred and Rose, and our motorcycle, the "Silver Stallion."

Use the Same Compass - Commitment to each other and having a mutual commitment to God are extremely important. We are a team, we are on a mission together, and we are purposely traveling in the same direction toward a common goal. We may take detours occasionally, but we know where we will both end up.

Get Ready for Heaven - They say marriage is supposed to be a little taste of heaven on earth, and for us that is true! But it's also a wonderful model of what God wants in His relationship with the church. Much like a married couple has with each other, Christ's desire is to enjoy an intimate spiritual relationship with the members of His Church. The Bible likens us to a bride who should be prepared for our Bridegroom—and the marriage supper He is preparing for us. So, marriage is also a growing process that prepares us for heaven.

We've learned a lot in our marriage, but we're looking forward to eternity where 30 years will seem like nothing!

Dave Weigley is president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Becky Weigley is a professional assistant for its Christian Leadership Center. They have two adult children and one grandchild.

Newsline

LAVERNE HENDERSON

CUC Names Interim Administrators

Gaspar Colón, PhD, and Joan Francis, PhD, were recently asked to serve as interim president and interim vice president of Academic Administration, respectively, at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md.

"Both Drs. Colón and Francis bring tremendous skills to these positions," says Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley, who chairs the college's board of trustees. "I am grateful that they have graciously accepted my invitation to serve while we continue searching to permanently fill these positions.

Colón, director of CUC's Center for Metropolitan Ministries and a professor of religion, was recently voted Professor of the Year by CUC's student body.



His leadership experience with ADRA, Adventist higher education, community development, and division-level church ministries, will help him fill the vacancy created by the departure of former president Randal Wisbey, DMin.

Francis, a professor and chair of the History and Political Studies Department, received CUC's 2007 President's Award for her commitment to student development. With a teaching record that spans 41



years, she fills the position recently held by Robert Young.—*Scott Steward*

Potomac Vice President to Retire

Roger Weiss, Potomac Conference vice president for administration and director of Multicultural Ministries, will retire September 1. Weiss has



worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 43 years. He spent the past 29 years with the Potomac Conference—the last 12 as vice president.

Read more about him on p. 42.—*Jeanie Allen*

President Chosen for Shady Grove Hospital

Dennis Hansen has been selected to serve as president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (SGAH) in Rockville, Md.



Hansen joined SGAH in May 2006 as vice president and chief operating officer.

Since March, he has also been serving as interim president. "Dennis has brought a number of outstanding skills to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and is the best candidate to lead as it continues to expand and serve the community," says William G. "Bill" Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare (AHC).

SGAH is in the midst of a

four-year, \$99-million expansion and renovation project that will add 144 private patient beds, 16 new operating rooms, a new Surgical Services Department, and new space for patient care units, etc. "It is an exciting time at Shady Grove," Hansen says.—*AHC Communication Staff*

Kettering College Gets New Dean

Victor Brown is the new dean for Enrollment Management at Ohio's Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA).



"Victor will bring great depth of experience, remarkable energy, and passion to his work on behalf of our college mission and community," said Charles Scriven, KCMA president.

"I believe the college has a bright future, and I am excited to be a part of it," Brown says.

—*Mindy Claggett*

From the Pulpit

"Peter knew what it was to fall; he was a repeat offender. We too are repeat offenders and sinners in need of a Savior.



But God promises that if you stay focused on Him and your calling, you will never fall."—*Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president, speaking at their 2007 camp meeting. To see photos from other camp meetings, visit*

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AMAZING FACTS

What's New?

Book > Hope Inside Grief

Doris Juanita Johnson knows how to walk inside grief, live inside grief, and hope inside grief. She wrote the book *Hope Inside Grief* after she discovered the powerful truth of hope the hard way, by losing her husband of 34 years to heart disease. "After the death of a loved one, there are many emotions to deal with," she explains. "This book is a spiritual helpmate for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one and can be used as a tool to comfort friends."



Johnson, a retired bank administrator, mother of five, and grandmother of 11, is very involved in Allegheny East Conference's Ephesus church in Richmond, Va. She wrote the 142-page book because she felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to tell her story through poetry, reflection, Bible texts, and testimony. "I was looking for a book that addressed my needs, but couldn't find one," she recalls. "I felt compelled to write and could not sleep; I

Keeping Score

7.5

Average number of hours a typical U.S. home has a TV turned on each day.

Web Watch

www.AnswersForMe.org

This is a new site designed to provide information and resources about lifestyle issues—careers, children, family, health, nutrition, spiritual growth, and male/female relationships, etc. It's a gift from the Pacific Union Conference to the larger Adventist community.

had to get out of bed and type at all hours of the night." Through her book, interviews, and speaking engagements, Johnson aims to empower people to reach beyond their present circumstances. Order from www.tatepublishing.com or call (888) 361-9473. Contact Johnson at hope.serenity@yahoo.com.

WholeHealth

Marriage: Health Risk or Risk Reducer?

When talking about reducing the risk of certain common diseases such as heart disease, cancer, heart failure, or cirrhosis of the liver, few would look at marriage as a risk-reduction factor. However, according to one Harvard University study, married women are 20 percent less likely than single women to die of a variety of causes, including heart disease, suicide, and cirrhosis of the liver. Married men enjoy an even greater benefit. They're two to three times less likely to die of such causes than single men.

The key to this health benefit may lie in the degree of marital happiness. Unhappy marital relationships have an opposite

effect on health. Prolonged stress can negatively affect the cardiovascular, hormonal, and immune pathways. It has been observed that happily married



couples enjoy better health partly because they handle and defray stress as a team, unlike their single counterparts.

God has created natural remedies for lifestyle diseases, and few are as rewarding as a healthy marriage. The many benefits that come as a by-product are a reminder that God has created a wonderful system for us to enjoy long, prosperous lives.—Clara Iuliano, RD, LDN, *Adventist WholeHealth*

In the Spotlight > Umoja Marriage Club

Marriage, it has been said, is like twirling a baton and eating with chopsticks at the same time. It looks easy until you try it! "Even though marriages are made in heaven, humans are responsible for maintaining them," says Russell Thomas, Sr., a member of Allegheny West Conference's Southeast church in Cleveland. So he decided to do something to help, something that would strengthen and unify his marriage and others.

In November 2006, he started a marriage club called Umoja, which means "unity" in the Swahili language. Twice a month couples gather to discuss marriage using various materials or books, such as Stephen Covey's *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, as discussion starters. Though there's usually a meeting topic, Thomas purposefully keeps the agenda flexible. "Because we want to help where it hurts, any issue a couple brings to the table supercedes our plans for that meeting," he explains.

To make their group a safe place to share and grow, members abide by several principles. "What happens in Umoja stays in Umoja," Thomas says, citing one of the most important. Because of this, the club—now 10 couples strong—has been able to delve into deep waters, impart invaluable information on how they overcame various issues, and discuss pitfalls to avoid.

"Umoja has impacted our marriage by teaching us how to define our roles and expecta-

tions," say Andre and Lea Smith. "It showed us that what we are going through isn't as bad as we think because couples who have been married longer are experiencing some of the same problems. Listening to their experiences and learning how they overcame has been an inspiration."

But Umoja, which involves couples married as little as six months and as long as twenty-something years, isn't all talk. Each week the participants are given an assignment, usually to go on a date. This, combined with the supplemental reading and group discussions, is strengthening marriages and making an impact, even beyond Cleveland. Groups are

forming in Columbus; Staunton, Va.; the Washington, D.C., area, and outside the Columbia Union territory.

"Umoja means unity, and that is what this group has meant to my husband and me," says Sametra Price. "Nothing can truly prepare you for the maintenance of a good marriage. Umoja has taught us how to listen to each other, learn from each other, and evolve into a solid and strong relationship."

And that's just what Thomas set out to do.—Bryant Taylor

Russell Thomas, Sr., and his wife, Marquita, want to see others start marriage clubs like Umoja.



The Truth About MARRIAGE

and Why it's *Still* God's Ideal

WILLIE AND ELAINE OLIVER

Editor's Note: Ever since we published a singles' issue (Jan. 2005), readers have asked us to do an issue on marriage. Through planning with Willie Oliver, we decided to discuss this topic in three sections—before marriage, during marriage, and after marriage. The Seventh-day Adventist Church cares about marriage and wants members to build strong, healthy unions that give glory and honor to God and the institution He created and ordained. To that end, we hope you'll find this issue informative, encouraging, and truthful:

Marriage is God's ideal and He created it for our good. It is at once the most delightful—and the most challenging—activity given to mere mortals. What He meant for harmony and symphonic communication in this most important of relationships, turns to frustration, bitterness, and despair more often than we care to admit. When marriage is good, there is nothing better; when marriage is bad, there is nothing worse!

While it is okay to be single—given the problems in relationships caused by sin—there is no doubt that God's ideal for the human race was for every man to have his own wife and every woman her own husband. The same God who said that everything He created was “good” also declared, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him” (Gen. 2:18, NASBU). Then He made Eve from Adam's side.

Although God created marriage for our good, it seems to be at odds with the reality that many are experiencing today. Prudence leads us to ask:

What is the state of marriage today? Are there still benefits of marriage? And how can God's people survive and thrive in marriage?

Marriage by the Numbers

The trend in recent decades suggests that Americans are less likely to marry. Statistics from the United States Bureau of the Census reflect a nearly 50 percent decline in marriages per 1,000 unmarried adult women from 1970 (76.5%) to 2004 (40.2%). Much of the decline represents a delay in first marriages. In 1960 the median age was 20 for women and 23 for men, and in 2005 that changed to 26 and 27, respectively. Other contributors include the increase in couples living together and a slight decrease in the predisposition of divorced people to remarry. The truth is, since 1960 the overall marriage rate in America has dropped 14 percentage points. Among African-American women that number is over 29 percent, which represents the highest of any group in American society.

On the other hand, among those who are college educated, marriage appears to have gained momentum in recent years. This represents a growing marriage gap in America. According to recent studies, the marriage rates for college-educated women were lower than their less-educated peers well into the 20th century. However, since about 1980 that trend has reversed, and college-educated women are marrying at higher rates than their less-educated peers.

The marriage situation remains quite dismal for those who are not college educated. While the number of couples getting married continues to

drop among this group, out-of-wedlock births are rising. In 2000 more than 40 percent of high school dropout mothers were living without husbands. This was the case for only 12 percent of college-educated mothers.

Better Health, More Wealth

Because it is part of God's original plan, marriage yields many inherent blessings. Scientific research shows that there are many other benefits: Married people live longer, have better health, earn more money and accumulate more wealth, feel more fulfilled, enjoy more satisfying sexual relationships, and have happier and more successful children than those who remain single, cohabit, or get divorced. Studies also show that violence is less common in married households and that divorce lowers male life expectancy—the *equivalent* of a pack-a-day cigarette habit. In short, there is great value in marriage despite inherent challenges and hard work.

No Perfect Marriages

We often say that there are no perfect marriages because there are no perfect people. So, in order to have a good



Remember,
your spouse
is not the
enemy;
you're on
the same
team!

marriage you have to be intentional about making your marriage work. Marriage also involves spiritual work, and without God's help and power very little can be accomplished. “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it ... ” (Ps. 127:1, NKJV).

Sin will naturally cause your marriage to move toward a state of alienation and separation. To avoid this reality, earnestly look for God's help to make you kinder, gentler, more understanding, patient, and forgiving. As James 1:19 counsels us, “Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry” (NLT). While many hope their spouse will learn to better understand them and speak their language, taking the initiative to understand your partner and learning to speak his or her language will go a long way to making marriage a little like heaven on earth.

The Real Enemy

Remember, your spouse is not the enemy; you're on the same team! The fight is not against each other, but against Satan who wants to destroy your marriage. He knows that if your marriage is destroyed, it is easier to



wipe out your family and weaken your witness to relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Therefore, it is important to go into this spiritual warfare with the right gear and attitude in order to survive and thrive. As Ephesians 6:11 states, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (NKJV).

Finally, realize that your salvation is tied up with your marriage. Your marital relationship is a workshop designed to polish and make you and your spouse more like Jesus. According to John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (NKJV). So, love each other and let your marriage proclaim the truth about God.

Willie Oliver, an ordained minister, is director of Family Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Elaine Oliver, associate vice president for Student Financial Services at Columbia Union College, is a marriage and family consultant for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Eight years ago, they started hosting From This Day Forward, a one-day celebration of marriage commitment.

York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, March 2004.

Goldstein, Joshua R., and Catherine T. Kenney, “Marriage Delayed or Marriage Foregone? New Cohort Forecasts of First Marriages for U.S. Women,” *American Sociological Review*, 66-4:506-519.

Waite, Linda J., and Maggie Gallagher, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better Off Financially*. New York: Doubleday.

U.S. Bureau of the Census reports from 1986, 2000, 2001, 2004, and 2005

SOURCES:

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THE 5 STAGES OF MARRIAGE

Where are you?

What’s the stage of your marriage? According to well-known marriage researcher Michele Weiner-Davis,* most married couples should expect to go through the following five stages over the course of their marital life:

Stage One:

Passion prevails! Couples concentrate on what they have in common and are dominated by an intense physical desire for each other. In fact, this is the stage that many couples decide to marry.

Survival Tip: When your ecstasy begins to fade, it doesn’t mean your marriage is dying. This is a common phase.

Stage Two:

What was I thinking? After the euphoric honeymoon period,

couples are faced with the mundane things of life, like working and paying bills. Each person notices that the other isn’t all they expected. Their spouse has bad breath in the morning, and at other times. She/he spends too much time in the bathroom and doesn’t clean up promptly after meals. The fantasy world of Stage One is gone. Couples now have to make decisions about the rest of their lives. (Those in second marriages now face the harsh reality of coordinating a blended family.) Couples question their sanity at the time they decided to marry because they now seem to be stuck with this person for life.

Survival Tip: Every marriage experiences conflict and challenge. Stay connected, spend time together in different activities, and make a vigorous sex life a high priority.

Stage Three:

Everything would be great if you changed. For the next 10 years couples try to change their spouse. When this doesn’t happen some choose divorce or have affairs. Others stick it out because of religious beliefs, financial considerations, or concern for their children. Those who stay either resign themselves to living in unhappy marriages or look for better ways to communicate and manage conflict. Couples who choose the latter will be blessed because the best of marriage is yet to come.

Survival tip: Every marriage has stormy periods. Professional Christian counseling may be good at this time. Research suggests that 86 percent of unhappy couples that choose to stay together are much happier five years later.

Stage Four:

That’s just the way she/he is. Couples finally accept that they will never be on the same page about everything with their spouse. They realize that forgiveness is important, if they are going to make it, and accept that they are not that easy to live with either. They learn to live in peace—despite the differences—and strive to emphasize the positive.

Survival tip: Never think that you have arrived in your relationship. Nurture each other every day by spending time together, talking, and touching.

Stage Five:

Together at last! At this stage couples have accumulated quite a bit of history. While they agree that marriage is difficult, there’s a sense of accomplishment because of the trials faced and overcome. Each has a greater appreciation for the other’s strengths and less

consternation over differences. The children are older and independent so there’s more quality time for each other. There is a sense of having come full circle and having successfully learned the dance of marriage.

Survival tip: Exercise and stay

healthy and active so that you can enjoy the fruits of your labor.—*Willie and Elaine Oliver*

*Adapted from *The Divorce Remedy: The Proven 7-Step Program for Saving Your Marriage*, Michele Weiner-Davis, Simon & Schuster, 2001.



Before You Take The PLUNGE

7 Ways to Get and Stay Happily Married

GASPAR F. AND MAY-ELLEN COLÓN

Well, you've decided to get married. Congratulations! We would like to share some counsel that we wish we had when we were newly engaged. During the next few months you both will be very busy planning a wedding, but remember that your task has more to do with the marriage than the wedding. It's important that this information become part of what you think and do throughout your engagement *and beyond*. It will provide a strong foundation for a healthy, happy marriage:

1. Get premarital counseling. Take advantage of programs (i.e., Prepare-Enrich) that may be offered by your pastor or conference. They provide practical tools that will help you navigate the marriage experience.

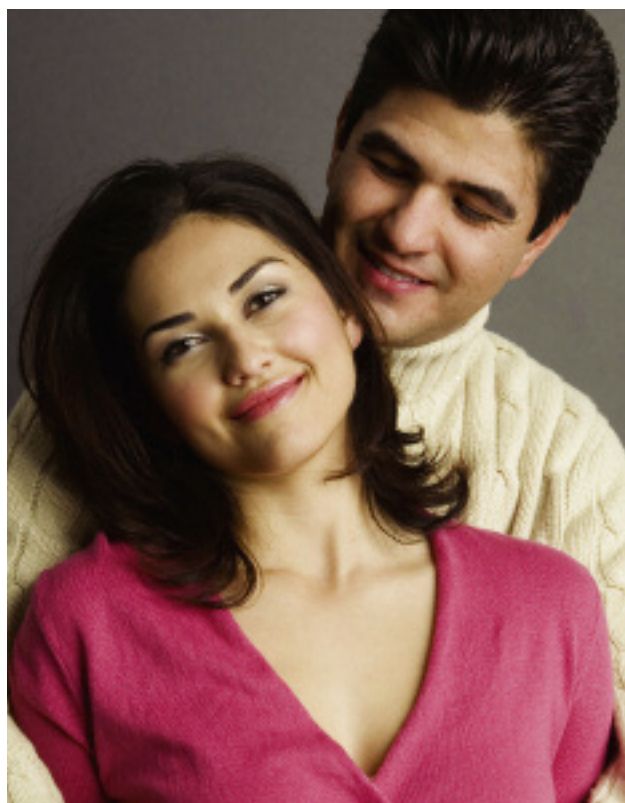
2. Save sex until after marriage. There will be times when the "dreaming" process becomes so intimate and romantic that you will be tempted to cross the line of purity. But stay

focused and stick with your choice to remain sexually pure. You won't regret it.

3. Practice little everyday graces. Things like opening the door for her or sharing a word of appreciation for his actions go a long way. Try not to take anything for granted. Make or buy a card. Send flowers for no particular reason. Surprise your sweetheart with a reminder of your love. It's the little niceties that reveal a caring

character. With these habits, your married life will not easily lose its luster. Remember that curiosity sparked your interest, affection grew into love, and love led you to want to spend the rest of your life together.

4. Worship together. Set aside a regular time to read scripture or a few paragraphs from a spiritual book. Pray with, and for, each other. Pray for your marriage. Pray for your dreams and your contributions as a couple to society and your church. This will not be easy and will take intentionality.



5. Manage your resources. Agree on spiritually motivated aspects of the budget like tithe and offerings. Develop a budget and choose which one of you is a better manager to administer the day-to-day outlay once you are married. Review your spending on a regular basis. During times of stress, remember that God has given us many good promises and "a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know none" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 330).

In addition to finances, it's very important to manage your time: Make time for yourself. Make time for each other. Make time to prepare for the Sabbath. And make time to stay fit and care for your health.

6. Maintain outside friendships. Stay in touch with those who encourage you spiritually and emotionally. But remember to set a protective barrier—a sacred circle—around your relationship that you will not cross. Refrain from talking to friends about things that would violate your beloved's trust or embarrass him or her. This is the foundation of an ever-growing love that will last a lifetime.

7. Learn to communicate. Communicating your strengths and weaknesses develops channels of openness and trust that are crucial for a lifelong relationship. Relate at levels that you have feared to engage in with others. Talk things through. Don't try to fix it before you share it.

Give your marriage a fighting chance by implementing these seven tips *before* you tie the knot. You will bring honor and glory to God and give yourselves the joy of oneness for a lifetime.

Gaspar F. Colón, PhD, MPH, is interim president at Columbia Union College, in Takoma Park, Md., and a member of the Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals. May-Ellen Colón, PhD, is an assistant director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries department for the worldwide Church, as well as the current vice president for membership of the Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals. Married 35 years, they often collaborate on marriage seminars, using the concepts shared in this article. They have two adult children, one who is soon to be married.

Q&A MARRIAGE

Q: What's wrong with marrying outside of our faith?

A: For Christians, marriage is a sacred covenant made between two persons publicly and before God. It goes beyond a human agreement or a legal contract. Sooner or later every couple will have to face moral and ethical decisions. Without common spiritual ground, these decisions will be difficult or impossible. Marriage is hard enough; the more values you share, the stronger your foundation.

Q: What's wrong with living together before getting married?

A: Commitment is the most crucial element, or the keystone, of a lasting marriage. It holds two individuals together in a covenant of oneness. Living together before marriage demonstrates a lack of commitment and insecurity. There is no common long-term horizon. Each has dreams and aspirations that are temporary and often exclusive of the other. When a breakup occurs among unmarried couples, those broken bonds may make it difficult to bond with another person in the future (like twice-used tape) for fear of getting hurt again.—*Gaspar and May-Ellen Colón*

When Divorce HAPPENS

Members Share What it's Like

STACEY BONDURANT

A comedian once said, “Researchers have found that the number one cause of divorce in America is ... marriage!” While this may draw a laugh, the sobering reality is that 50 percent of marriages end in divorce. But this doesn't mean that 50 percent of couples that marry get divorced. It's those who get divorced two, three, four, or more times that actually inflate the percentage of “failed” marriages.

“In recent years the divorce rate has dropped to 40 percent, its lowest since the 1960s,” says Willie Oliver, Family Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. “This is due to a 10 percent drop in marriages and a 10 percent increase in co-habitation.”

Are Adventist divorce rates the same as the general public? “No,” states Oliver. “About 25 percent of Adventist marriages end in divorce. And some of those occurred prior to the individual joining the Adventist Church.”

Painful Experience

Despite a lower rate, members, pastors, and counselors say the impact of divorce is severely painful, and no less so for Adventists. “It's like having major surgery with no anesthesia—there's nothing to numb the pain,” says Jack Anders, a Silver Spring, Md.-based family therapist who has specialized in marriage and divorce counseling for over 50 years. “Starting over can be very hard—financially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Their dreams and plans are lost forever.” Vinnie,* a divorcé from Maryland, agrees. “It's a painful process that's very frustrating,” he says.

Apart from being difficult for spouses, Anders

says divorce can rip families apart emotionally. “Children can develop trust issues, rebellious behavior, depression, guilt, shame, and falling grades,” he says. Jay from Ohio, who divorced after 19 years of marriage and four children, has seen it firsthand. “My kids thought they had done something wrong to cause our divorce,” he shares. “People say kids are resilient, but that's not always true! I had to pick up my son from school numerous times because he was crying hysterically about the divorce.” Though he remarried 18 years ago and fathered two more kids, he still sees the effects of divorce on his family. “They still panic whenever my second wife and I have a mild disagreement. ‘Oh no! they say. ‘Are you getting a divorce?’”

That often causes another side effect of divorce—regret. “So many people say they wished they had worked out their problems instead of getting a divorce,” Anders says.

But not everyone gets divorced because of adultery, abandonment, or irreconcilable differences. For those who dealt with emotional, physical, substance, or sexual abuse, divorce was a life-saving decision. Naomi,* a fourth generation Adventist from Maryland, suffered years of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse. “I was taught that adultery was the only biblical reason for divorce,” she says. “But when I saw how broken my son was becoming, I finally got the courage to leave. I was very scared, but God took care of us.”

Alcohol was the captor in the home of Joyce* from Maryland. “Looking back at my parents' divorce, I was relieved,” she says. “It meant I wouldn't have to suffer the emotional trauma of

my father's abusive alcoholism. Though my mom waited until I was 18 (for my sake) to get a divorce, it would've been better had she done so sooner.”

Getting Support

No matter the reason for divorce, it often comes with a stigma. “Before I went through divorce, I had a rather superior attitude,” Naomi admits. “I believed they just didn't try hard enough or have enough faith in God.”

“Divorced members experience many emotions: grief, anger, guilt, failure, depression and—almost always—a loss of self esteem,” says Steve Willsey, who recently retired as associate pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. These feelings worsen, he explains, when others are more interested in “disciplining than healing.”

Fortunately, many members *are* finding support in their church families. Divorcé Charles Battles attends the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., and belongs to their Suddenly Single support group. “About 25 of us meet once a month—at all sorts of places—and do all sorts of things like sharing Sabbath potluck,” he says. “It's hard trying to go on without a partner; we support each other spiritually, emotionally, and socially.”

Lessons Learned

So what have divorced members learned from their experiences? “I really love my wife, but a second marriage is even harder,” says Jay. “People rush into divorce too quickly; it should be avoided at all costs! The grass is *not* greener on the other side.” Naomi learned that no one is exempt from divorce. Now happily remarried, she says, “I never knew a marital relationship could be so beautiful! My husband is like pure gold to my

son.” Recognizing the hard work involved in marriage, Vinnie notes, “Behavior doesn't lie. The only person I can change is myself.”

How to Help, Not Hurt

They all have suggestions for how members can effectively minister to divorcés: “Don't avoid them,” says Anders. “Ask if they want to talk about it; they'll know you care.” But “don't take sides,” adds Battles. Pastor Willsey agrees: “Listen to their story with compassion and a non-judgmental attitude. Listening is the most important gift you can offer.”

“Include them in as many church and social activities as possible,” Battles suggests. Also, try to remember what this person has been through. “Be sensitive about how you talk about divorce and divorcés,” says Naomi. Willsey offers the last word: “Encourage them to look ahead and plan for the future.”

**Pseudonyms were used to maintain confidentiality.*

Stacey Bondurant is Children's Ministries coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference.



Resource Guide

LAVERNE HENDERSON

Adventists and Marriage

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has issued several statements and guidelines on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. These documents, along with the following resources and events, are designed to affirm healthy unions, mend hurting marriages, and heal individuals ravaged by divorce:

STATEMENTS

Seventh-day Adventists Believe

Published by Pacific Press; to order, visit www.adventistbookcenter.com or call (800) 325-8492; cost: \$12.95.

Updated following the 2005 General Conference (GC) Session, this book outlines the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Marriage and the Family" is fundamental belief number 23. This single volume shows how each belief is grounded in the Bible and focused on Jesus Christ. More than 230 Adventist men and women were involved in the production of this book. Many contributed insights gained from years of study, prayer, and their personal walk with Jesus.

To see all of the beliefs online, visit www.adventist.org and click on "Adventist Beliefs" and "Fundamental Beliefs."

Church Manual

Published by Review & Herald Publishing Association; to order visit www.adventistbookcenter.com or call (800) 325-8492; cost: \$8.99 (paperback)/\$11.99 (hardcover).

Every church library, pastor, secretary, and lay leader should own a copy of this newly revised 17th edition. Chapter 15 outlines the Church's position on "Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage." This edition includes all updates from the 2005 GC session.

To view the chapter online, visit www.adventist.org, click on "Adventist Beliefs" and "Church Manual."

Statements, Guidelines & Other Documents

This 2005 edition is compiled by the Communication Department of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. Designed to answer the question, "What does the church say about ... ?" it has become a useful tool for church leaders and clergy seeking guidelines on a variety

of issues and circumstances. The statement titled "An Affirmation of Marriage" outlines the Church's biblical view.

To read the statement online, visit www.adventist.org and click on "Adventist Beliefs," "Official Statements," and "Marriage."

BOOK

Celebrate Marriage!

Authored by Ron and Karen Flowers; to order visit, www.adventsource.org or call (800) 328-0525; cost: \$14.95.

The 2005 Family Ministries plan book emphasizes marriage and its effect on the whole family. You'll also find useful articles on love, biblical passages, premarital resources, divorce and remarriage, sexual identity, and many other topics pertinent to family health. Pastors, elders, and family ministry leaders will benefit from this collection of tools. This resource is packed with valuable program helps from sermons, to seminars, to children's stories.



COUNSELORS

To find an Adventist marriage counselor, visit the North American Division's Family Ministries website at www.adventistfamilyministries.com. Click on "North America," "Resources," and "Directory of Counselors." Select your state/province and indicate your preference for an Adventist counselor.

MARRIAGE RETREATS

Allegheny East Conference - October 5-7, Pine Forge, Pa., call (610) 326-3946; **Allegheny West Conference** - September 28-29, Danville, Va., call (614) 252-5271, ext. 30; **New Jersey Conference** - Feb. 1-3, 2008 (English), call Avis Jackson at (609) 646-7363; March 7-9, 2008 (Spanish), call Jorge Agüero at (201) 460-1559; **Pennsylvania Conference** - February 22-24, 2008, Bethlehem, Pa., call Jeanne Hartwell at (610) 374-8331.

Profiles in Caring



Unforgotten Wisdom

Tucked into the wise sayings of Ecclesiastes is this little story: "There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siegeworks against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man" (Ecclesiastes 9:14,15).

Imagine a small city with enough of a defense parameter to withstand an attacking army—home to just a few, but a home worth defending.

Against this small city came a great military force. The scripture doesn't say why the city was under attack. It does say that it was saved by one poor, wise man who was soon forgotten.

We don't know his name. We don't know what he did or said. We know nothing about his life or his history. The man isn't commemorated as a hero. We know just one thing about him: through his wisdom he saved his city, his home.

What do you suppose was the saving wisdom?

It could have been his experience—maybe he was a soldier who understood the weakness of the siege being laid against his city. Perhaps he possessed great insight and could puzzle through the motives of the attackers. I suppose he could have possessed a great talent for diplomacy, somehow showing the wisdom of letting the city survive.

The storyteller leaves us to our own guesses. The man is forgotten, the city he saved is forgotten, even the great king who was attacking is forgotten. What did his wisdom achieve? In the moment of greatest need, his home was saved. And that is enough.

We all live in a small city—our earth is a very small place in a very big universe, and our time here is but a moment. Power and strength—and all the other tools we customarily wield defensively—are ultimately less useful than the stirring in the heart and mind called wisdom. In the end what matters most is that we are wise enough to save the things that matter most. This is true wisdom, and our calling.

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



Working to End Disparity

Minorities and poor people in the United States have more health problems and are less likely to receive quality health care. These inequalities in health outcomes and in access to healthcare are known as "health disparities."



The newly formed Center on Health Disparities at Adventist HealthCare is looking at ways to remove barriers for those who do not have access to health care. The Center has three areas of focus:

- increased services for underserved populations;
- a research program to identify and promote best practices;
- and an education initiative to improve the ability of caregivers to provide quality care to those populations.

One of its first projects is an annual Health Disparities Report Card. Although disparities exist throughout the United States, the situations are different in each community. For now the focus is on learning about local deficits and issues in three counties in Maryland. Which ethnic groups are present? What languages are spoken?

What attitudes and customs do people have towards health care? Before the gaps can be closed, they have to be discovered.

The report card will provide guidelines as to what to do next to help resolve the disparities and improve access for everyone to quality health care. Not only will an agenda be developed for Adventist HealthCare, the Center will also get involved with the government and become a catalyst for change. It is an *annual* report card because communities never stop changing. The systems need to remain flexible.

The Center on Health Disparities has also begun working on raising the quality of interpretative services. Interpreters—both volunteers and bilingual staff—are being trained in effective interpretative skills. For example, care needs to be taken that the health provider relationship is developed between the doctor and the patient rather than between the patient and the interpreter.

Training and education are a big part of the Center's mandate. Health care providers and support staff are being trained to become more culturally sensitive to the diverse traditions and cultural norms of patients from around the world. Misunderstandings can lead to incorrect diagnoses and improper use of medications. Awareness of cultural differences can improve communication between

Some Reasons for Disparities in Health Care

- Lack of insurance coverage
- Lack of a regular source of care (less likely to have a doctor and more likely to use emergency rooms and clinics)
- Poverty
- Legal barriers
- Transportation barriers
- Language barriers
- Health illiteracy—a poor understanding of good health and basic health information
- Cultural differences between health care providers and minority patients



health care workers and patients.

"We in the health care field need to connect with our patients at a deeper level to understand what will inspire different individuals to follow a treatment plan, to perceive open access, and to believe that we as practitioners truly care," explains Marcos Pesquera, the Executive Director of Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities. "This kind of knowledge and flexibility is what is going to positively impact the health of all our communities."

Bringing People Together

Marcos Pesquera, the Executive Director of the newly formed Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities, has been given a pretty big assignment: equality, justice, and health care for all.

He wasn't even looking for a job when a friend told him about the new initiative Adventist HealthCare was launching to address and eliminate health disparities in all communities served. He was intrigued by the honesty and courage that required. "Very few health care systems are willing to call it what it is," Pesquera says of health disparity. He investigated and became convinced that this new Center was aiming to do more than just bridge the gap—it wanted to close it.

Pesquera arrived in Boston from his native Puerto Rico when he was 18 to study at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. He was interested in both health care and business, and he figured pharmacy was a career that would allow him to pursue both interests. After he and his wife moved to the Washington, D.C. metro area he



worked as a pharmacist at a drug store, then as a clinical pharmacist and administrator, then he moved into managed care administration.

Because he could speak Spanish, he sometimes was called upon to translate for patients. He soon discovered that communication involves more than words. Once he was asked to help when an elderly Hispanic woman refused to listen to the advice of young female doctor. He found that the patient felt the doctor was too young. He located an organizational chart showing that the doctor was head of the department, and finally convinced the woman that the doctor knew what she was doing.

"I wasn't just interpreting words," Pesquera explains. "I was a cultural broker."

Now, in his new role with the Center on Health Disparities, he aspires to bring cultural competence to the health care providers at Adventist HealthCare facilities. "Through training and education of all health care providers and support staff, we address the issues that knowingly or unknowingly affect the way we perceive and treat each other," Pesquera says.

At a recent training seminar held during lunchtime at Washington Adventist Hospital, the room filled up quickly and more chairs had to be brought in. There were plenty of Power Point charts documenting facts about health disparities and detailing the different ways minorities are left out of health care. There were handouts demonstrating how cultural difference affect communication. In the semi-darkness, as many attendees made notes in the margins of their handouts, Pesquera tried to include everyone in the presentation. The title of the seminar, "Culturally Competent Care," must have appealed to many, because more and more people crowded in.

This is gratifying. The health care



workers obviously want to learn how they can better provide quality health care to everyone. They want to be able to deal competently and empathetically with individuals from different cultures and backgrounds.

Pesquera's goal is even more ambitious: he'd like to put himself out of business. He envisions a time and place where everyone receives the same high quality care, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or insurance provider. His dream is that someday there will be no need for a Center on Health Disparities because there is no disparity.





Buscando poner fin a las disparidades de salud

cuidado de la salud? Las grietas tienen que ser descubiertas para poder ser resanadas.

El informe proveerá pautas de qué hacer después para ayudar a resolver las disparidades y mejorar el acceso a atención médica de calidad para todos. No solamente se desarrollará un plan de trabajo para Adventist HealthCare, el

traducción. Por ejemplo, es necesario que se haga previsión para que se desarrolle una relación entre el doctor y el paciente y no entre el paciente y el traductor.

Entrenamiento y educación son una gran parte de la labor del Centro. Los proveedores de servicios de salud y el resto del personal están recibiendo entrenamiento para ser más sensitivos culturalmente a las diversas tradiciones y normas culturales, de los pacientes de todas partes del mundo, que hay en nuestra comunidad. La falta de comprensión puede llevar a diagnósticos erróneos y al uso incorrecto de medicinas. El conocimiento de las diferencias culturales puede mejorar la comunicación entre los trabajadores de salud y los pacientes.

“Quienes trabajamos en el campo de la salud necesitamos estar conectados con nuestros



Centro también se involucrará con el gobierno local y se tornará en un agente de cambio. Se trata de un informe anual porque las comunidades nunca dejan de cambiar. El sistema necesita permanecer flexible.

El Centro para Disparidades de Salud también ha empezado a trabajar para mejorar la calidad de los servicios de traducción. Se está dando entrenamiento a los traductores —tanto a los voluntarios como al personal bilingüe— para mejorar sus habilidades de

pacientes en un nivel más profundo para comprender qué animará a los individuos a seguir un plan de tratamiento, para que ellos puedan percibir que el acceso está disponible y para saber que, como profesionales, nos preocupa su salud”, explica Marcos Pesquera, director ejecutivo del Centro para Disparidades de Adventist HealthCare. “Este tipo de conocimiento y esta flexibilidad es lo que va a crear un impacto positivo en la salud de todas nuestras comunidades”.

Las minorías y la gente pobre de los Estados Unidos tienen más problemas de salud y es más probable que reciban atención médica de menor calidad.

Estas desigualdades en atención médica y en la falta de acceso a la atención médica son conocidas como “disparidades de salud”.

El recientemente formado Centro para Disparidades de Salud de Adventist HealthCare está buscando maneras de remover esas barreras de quienes no tienen acceso a la atención médica. El Centro tiene tres áreas de enfoque:

- 1) aumentar servicios médicos para poblaciones desfavorecidas;
- 2) un programa de investigación para identificar y promover mejores prácticas de atención médica;
- 3) una iniciativa de educación para mejorar la habilidad de los profesionales de la salud de proveer atención

médica de calidad a esas poblaciones. Uno de sus primeros proyectos es un informe anual sobre disparidades de salud. Aunque las disparidades existen en todos los Estados Unidos, la situación es diferente en cada comunidad. Por ahora el enfoque es descubrir los déficits y temas de salud de interés en tres condados de Maryland. ¿Qué grupos étnicos están representados? ¿Qué lenguajes hablan? ¿Qué actitudes y costumbres tiene la gente acerca del



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

AUGUST 2007

People Worldwide Learn Value of Listening

Scores of individuals and groups in 28 states and 19 countries recently discovered the importance of listening and experienced the joy of being heard during the second annual I Love to Listen Day. This observance was created in 2006 by Marva Shand-McIntosh (pictured), a member and education leader at the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md.



These students from the George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., were awarded for poems best reflecting the theme “I Love to Listen.” They are (left to right) Richard Cunningham, Renita Mwangaehuehu, and Alexander Felder.

Shand-McIntosh has laid the groundwork for an enduring family listening tradition where participants make a commitment to improve their listening skills by sending a thank-you card to a good listener, compiling a list of positive listening habits, or visiting with an elderly person to “just listen.” Her many years as a certified speech language pathologist have convinced Shand-McIntosh that if people want to succeed, they must be effective listeners. “Listening is the foundation of all communication skills, and it also sends a powerful message of respect and understanding,” she says.

During the past two years, individuals and groups from numerous countries—including the United States, South Africa, China, Brazil, England, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Kenya—were engaged in listening activities. Next year, the day will focus on listening poems from children all over the world. Teachers and parents are encouraged to support children in this project. For more information, visit www.ILoveToListen.com or email ILoveToListen2@yahoo.com.

Ephesus Member Appointed to State Board

Penny Johnson of Richmond, Va., was recently appointed by Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine to serve a four-year term on the state’s Fair Housing Board. Johnson is vice president and senior community development officer of community relations for the Wachovia Corporation. She is also a member of the Housing Planning Committee and the Chesterfield County Affordable Housing Task Force.

“I am honored, humbled, and excited,” responded Johnson about the appointment. She believes much of the reason she earned the position is “through my work in the community promoting affordable housing and bringing together key players, and my ability to easily form relationships and build innovative partnerships.”

Johnson is a Sabbath School teacher and communication director for the Ephesus church in Richmond. In her board position, she will be assisting anyone who believes they have been discriminated against in housing because of their race, color, religion, sex, elderliness, national origin, disability, or because they have

children. “I pray before each meeting for God’s wisdom—like he gave to Solomon—in making decisions that affect people’s lives,” she states.—Beth Michaels



Penny Johnson of Richmond’s Ephesus church gets sworn into Virginia’s Fair Housing Board by Secretary of the Commonwealth Katherine K. Hanley (far right). Also present are Deputy Secretary of Commerce Trade David Smith (far left) and Penny’s mother, Doris Johnson.

Upcoming Event ■ Men’s Ministries Retreat ■ August 17-19 ■ Virginia Beach, VA
Contact: Sheryl Reeves ■ (800) 830-0224, ext. 227 ■ sreeves@myallegheyeast.com

Breath of Life Member Speaks in India

It always amazes me how God arranges circumstances in our lives to do His good pleasure," said Hercules Pinkney, EdD (pictured), an elder, Small Group Ministries



and Bible study leader, and spiritual gifts facilitator for the Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md. "Would you believe that, in a 15-day span, it was possible for me to meet and speak with the president and the 2007 graduating class of Spicer Memorial College;

the president of Andrews University; the governor of Haryana, India; and the congregation of a Seventh-day Adventist church in New Delhi, India?"

Pinkney is vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College in Montgomery County, Maryland. Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai, PhD, governor of the State of Haryana, India, invited him to lead a six-member delegation from the Maryland school in order "to discuss the feasibility of replicating our community college model in the 53 technical colleges within the State of Haryana," explained Pinkney. Montgomery College is in the process of constructing a bioscience and technology business park and a technology business incubator on the Germantown campus. Pinkney added, "The secondary purpose was to gain access to India-based businesses



Hercules Pinkney, EdD (front row, far right), was recently invited to lead a delegation to India to discuss a community college model he is leading at Montgomery College in Maryland. He sits with delegation members and Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai, PhD, governor of the state of Haryana (front middle).

interested in expanding into America and, more specifically, in Montgomery County."

Hearing of Pinkney's upcoming visit, Spicer Memorial College (India) invited him to be the Consecration speaker for their 2007 graduation ceremony. Pinkney not only addressed the seniors but also participated with Niels-Erik Andreasen, DMin, Andrews University (Mich.) president and the Commencement speaker, in Spicer's College Day Program, a dedication ceremony for missionary ministers, and a class lecture.

Pinkney was also asked to share God's Word with the Adventist church in New Delhi during their recent communion Sabbath and afternoon Adventist Youth program. Pinkney—named 2003 Educator of the Year by the African American Chamber of Commerce—and his wife, Patricia, have three children: Nicole, Craig, and Robert; and one granddaughter, Jordan.—Beth Michaels

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Philadelphia Women "Learn to Love"

Women of the Southwest Philadelphia church recently stole away on a weekend to "learn to love." Participants of the Loving Well Retreat learned of four people types: the person who is a "joy" to love; the person who is "testy" and therefore difficult to love; the person described as "foe" who is humanly impossible to love; and the person named "far" because they are a stranger. Following video



Southwest Philadelphia members Mazie Linton (left) and LaVonda Jenkins enjoy a moment at the Loving Well Retreat.

presentations, the ladies had in-depth discussions and were led through a series of exercises that assisted in the development of trust, understanding, and love. Each attendee left with a fuller understanding of God's love for them.—Janice D. Jenkins

Melrose Avenue Member Promoted at Virginia Tech

Kevin G. McDonald (pictured), member of the Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, Va., was recently promoted to vice president for Multicultural Affairs at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va. McDonald has served at the university as director of the Office for Equal Opportunity since 2005. He assumed his new responsibilities on June 25.

"In his role as director of the Office for Equal Opportunity, Kevin exemplified the university's commitment to furthering an inclusive campus community," said Charles W. Steger, Virginia Tech president. "After an extensive national search, we found that the very best candidate with the vision, the leadership, and the character needed for this very important position was right here among us."

As vice president for Multicultural Affairs, McDonald will provide leadership in the development of university policies and practices related to intercultural relations, diversity, and equity issues, and programs that strengthen and sustain a more diverse and inclusive campus community. In addition, the Office for Equal Opportunity will now report to the office of the vice president for Multicultural Affairs.

"I'm truly grateful for the opportunity," expressed McDonald. "Although I'm sure the challenges will be plentiful, I look forward to working collaboratively with cross-functional partners that will move the university forward in its diversity and inclusion efforts." He adds, "At the end of the day, I hope that people can still see Christ in me and the work that I do."

McDonald earned a bachelor's degree from Andrews University (Mich.) and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from The Ohio State University College of Law. He is a certified mediator in both traditional and transformative/social justice models of mediation and holds an affirmative-action certificate from Cornell University. He is a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution.—Mark Owczarski



Columbus Adventist Academy Promotes Health, Safety

Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) embarked on its fifth year of operation with the theme "Service to God and Man." Students participated in several community service activities throughout the 2006-07 school



Second-graders Khari Dixon (left) and Legend Hunt wait their turn to participate in the Jump Rope for Hearts event held this school year.

year to promote the theme. In November students and teachers purchased and distributed 9-volt batteries to 100 homes in the school neighborhood. The batteries were accompanied by a Thanksgiving poem and

facts about smoke detectors and fire safety. At Christmas time, an angel tree party was hosted in order for CAA students and nearby Ephesus church members to distribute donated Christmas gifts to 100 children who have one or more immediate family members incarcerated. The gifts are given in the name of the prisoner.

In April 41 of the school's 68 students participated in Jump Rope for Hearts, raising \$1,388.41 for the American Heart Association. A visitor was so impressed by their efforts that they wrote a check for \$11.59 in order to bring the fund-raiser total to an even \$1,400. The final event for the year was Walk of Diabetes. Students invited parents, church members, and community neighbors to take their lunch hour and join them in walking the 3.8-mile path at a nearby park. Local vendors and doctors provided water and sunscreen for the participants.

All of the school's events this year were linked to health, safety, and social issues that have a profound impact on the community. The activities also helped students learn important information while having fun.—Sharon L. Lewis

Brazilian Congregation Growing in Pittsburgh

The young Brazilian Temple congregation (pictured) in Pittsburgh recently held their first Sabbath service in their new building. Since their first meeting in July 2006, the 40-member group has been worshipping in a home in Moon, Pa. Their new, small facility is a former bank.

The group's new pastor, Paolo Von Neutegem, with his wife, Sara, and their two adult sons, Guilherme and Paulo Enrique, have been leading the congregation since their move to the area in February. The pastor proclaims his vision is simply "to increase the Brazilian work in the Pittsburgh area so that it results in a large congregation."

Libny H. Dubreuze Sr., Multicultural Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference, and his wife, Sara, first organized the group. Dubreuze was happy to address the growing congregation again, this time as guest speaker for the joyous occasion. "Since the Von Neutegems moved from Florida, the work increased very fast," stated Dubreuze. "We praise the Lord for their dynamic vision."



Churches Unite to Provide Community Health Fair

Churches from two conferences recently joined hands for their first community outreach collaboration. The Allegheny West Conference's Victory church and the Ohio Conference's Delaware church reached out to their mutual Delaware, Ohio, community, providing free health screenings and education through a joint health fair.

Tecora Rogers, PhD, from the Hilltop church in Columbus, Ohio, spearheaded the project by guiding area coordinators—Janice Fort and Brenda Sales of

pressure checks, visual screenings, and other health services. The Delaware Discoverers Pathfinders, directed by Karen Hall, distributed flyers for advertisement, and managed the juice station for those who fasted

in order to have their blood glucose level checked. A local dentist, along with students from Ohio State University, provided dental screenings while a psychologist, along with case manager/Delaware church pastor David Sullivan and Victory church pastor Lawrence Shepherd, conducted mental health screenings and follow-up surveys. Two attending Spanish interpreters proved to be very helpful.

After participants' results were recorded, Ohio Adventist physicians Kevin Banks, MD, and Steve Burks, MD, advised them according to their test results. Children weren't left out. They were entertained with balloons, face painting, popcorn, videos, and even a clown. All attendees were welcome to sample the free vegetarian food provided by church members Amy Hornsby and Pat Crampton. The two churches look forward to working together again.—*Maya Sullivan*



Two Adventist physicians advise Della Blake, a member of the Victory church.



Delaware church member and nurse Darlene Schoonard checks the blood pressure of a local resident.

the Victory church and Maya Sullivan from the Delaware church—in providing the residents with important health screening and information.

Approximately 100 local residents navigated their way through the health fair stations. Many volunteers graciously offered their talents and energy to make the event successful, including area professionals who performed blood glucose screenings, breast exams, free massages, blood

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Editor, Bryant Taylor ■ www.awcsda.com

Let's Dispense Gospel Medicine

I've been reading lately in the Gospel of Luke and imagining what it must have been like for Luke to leave his medical practice for the preaching life. The way I figure it, he did not stop carrying his black bag. He simply repacked it, taking out the scissors, scalpel, and tincture of iodine to make room for the medicine of the gospel; those healing stories of God that did more to put people back together than all the potions in the world. He told stories with power to mend broken lives and revive faint hearts. Instead of pills and potions, he carried gospel medicine; medicine that works, strangely enough, through words.

There is a multitude of ways to share the Good News. Every now and then we may be called upon to stand in some public place and give account for the hope that is in us, but nine times out of 10, our dispensing of gospel medicine is of the quiet kind. We might read the Bible to a sick friend, tell the truth to someone who has asked for it, end a quarrel with an apology, or write a note that restores hope. We are all doctors of the gospel. We are all tellers of the story. Tell it in a way that heals and restores!



Rob Vandeman
President

Pathfinders Compete at Annual Fair

Twelve Chesapeake Pathfinder Clubs met recently on the spacious lawns of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., for the annual Conference Pathfinder Fair. Club members, wearing their colorful field uniforms, gathered for a roll call and devotional and then started competing for points in lashing, log chopping and splitting, and fire building.

Pathfinders were able to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise in knot tying (lashing) by using rope to bind together four pieces of lumber in such a fashion that it would support one of their club members as they dragged the bundle across the field past the finish line. A second lashing event required the Pathfinders to build a 20-foot flagpole that would stand on its own by lashing together six pieces of lumber. In addition to the point-earning activities, there were also fun, non-competitive events such as hawk throwing, archery,



The New Hope Night Hawks from Fulton, Md., prepare to raise their flag after lashing four boards together.

paintball, and crafts, as well as a chance to share stories and display earned honors.

One of the day's highlights was the announcement of the 2006-07 Conference Pathfinder of the Year awards: Roxie Sanderson and Herbie Sweezey (pictured). Sanderson is a member of the Waldorf (Md.) Wildcat club and Sweezey is part of the Baltimore First Rangers from Ellicott City, Md. These young people were recommended by their peers for their outstanding leadership within their clubs and for service to their communities. "These young people really embody the true spirit of Pathfinding," said Ann Reynolds, conference Youth Department secretary. At days end, the Pathfinders returned to their homes tired but with smiles on their faces and with ribbons they were awarded for their individual and club performances.



Columbia Union College

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Spencerville Members Learn to Reconnect

More than 60 people from local Chesapeake churches gathered recently at the Spencerville (Md.) church for a seminar on how to better reconnect with former Seventh-day Adventist members.

The seminar presenter was Paul Richardson (pictured), the Reconnecting Ministry coordinator for the North American Division and president for the Center for Creative Ministries. Richardson shared several compelling stories about the personal struggles of former Adventists. Based on his research, he has concluded that many of these former members miss the fellowship of the church but don't know how to reconnect. He added that church members must be educated on how to gracefully receive them back. Richardson identified the most common events that trigger people to leave the church: college graduation, being single, moving to a new community, and going through a divorce.

Richardson closed the meeting by sharing what he calls the "Eight Habits of Highly Effective Reconnecting Churches." Herein he outlined the attitudinal adjustments local church leaders and congregations must make to welcome back former members. He also outlined practical steps a congregation can implement to make it easier to reconnect with them. One example was having a special Sabbath School class where former members would feel comfortable.

It has been estimated that there are between 100,000 and 150,000 former Seventh-day Adventist members in the Baltimore/Washington area. For more information, contact Richardson at www.creativeministry.org, or call (800) 272-4664.



Atholton School Continues Expansion

The corner blocks of the Atholton Adventist School gymnasium stood extended for 40 years as members waited in anticipation of the day when a new school wing would be adjoined. After 40 years, the summer of 2001 initiated the school's "extreme school makeover."

The makeover of the Columbia, Md., school ended up spanning more than five years and represented more than 10,000 hours of volunteer labor by faithful church members. It expanded the elementary program into a full junior academy, offering one of the finest ninth- and 10th-grade curricula anywhere in the North American Division.

Atholton's conversion has created 11 attractive full-sized classrooms, several smaller classrooms for breakout sessions, a completely refurbished gymnasium, a beautifully appointed library, a fully equipped science lab, and a modern computer lab. In addition to its 13 full-time classroom staff, Atholton boasts two part-time teachers, three teacher's aides, four private

music instructors, and an administrative assistant.

This fall Atholton is once again expanding its program. The new pre-kindergarten program will be housed in a brand new modular facility adjacent to the main school building. This classroom is the first phase of the future Early Childhood Learning Center. It is directed by a fully certified Adventist teacher and assisted by a full-time teaching aide. The developmental curriculum and facility are designed to excite and encourage student learning and the development of positive social skills.



Atholton members spent five years and 10,000 hours of volunteer labor to finish the school's expansion.



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

Choral Groups Perform With Acclaimed Composer

Columbia Union College's (CUC) Columbia Collegiate Chorale, directed by James Bingham, PhD, and the New England Youth Ensemble, directed by Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, recently accompanied internationally celebrated composer John Rutter (pictured). The collaboration was for Rutter's five-movement piece "Mass of the Children" during the Fifth Rock Creek Festival.

According to a review in the *Washington Post*, "Rittenhouse and her ensemble displayed boundless energy" and Bingham gave "a heartfelt rendition of Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Serenade to Music.'" The evening started in the Great Hall of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., with five lively numbers from the New England Youth Ensemble. The orchestra performed Mozart's overture to "The Marriage of Figaro," "The Bartered Bride" from "Dance of the Comedians" by Smetana, and "Trumpet Concerto in E Flat" by Franz Haydn. CUC junior Jose Oviedo's trumpet solo on the "Concerto for Four Violins" by Vivaldi received loud applause.

Bingham directed the "Serenade," performed by 16 singers in the college's chorale, who were accompanied by the orchestration of strings and harp. For the finale, Rutter's "Mass of the Children" included CUC's groups, St. Paul's professional choir, and the Bel Canto Chorus from the Children's Chorus of Washington.

"Everywhere we go, from California to South Africa, and even here in our own home, it's the response of the audience that I enjoy the most," exclaimed Rittenhouse. "It's a wonderful way to represent what we stand for in our beliefs, and it represents CUC."

The two CUC music groups, conducted by Rutter, also recently played at Carnegie Hall. The festival concert marked their last performance of the season.—PR Staff



Coach Hosts Summer Soccer Camp

Anthony Ogunsanya, head coach of CUC's men's soccer team, created a Christian-based summer soccer camp as a fun way to train and teach youth to play soccer in a safe environment. Ogunsanya developed the idea for the camp in 2005 when he noticed that many adults and youth lacked the fundamental skills common in the game of soccer.

"I feel I can impact the lives of Christian athletes by teaching discipline and the Bible," said Ogunsanya, as he looked over CUC's ballfield dotted with children, ages 6-14, in shin guards, knee-high socks, and multicolored jerseys.

"Coach O" has led several adult and youth soccer teams and has played the sport at the college level. His goal through the camp is to teach the young students new skills and refine existing skills in a nurturing and challenging camp experience. Soccer students are divided into groups according to skill level.

Ogunsanya, along with his college assistants, focused on both technical and tactical play with experienced players. More importantly, camp was started each day with a devotional, and the coach taught the students Bible memory verses.

"I loved camp. There were a lot of good players to play against, and my favorite part was when coach played against all of us," said 11-year-old camper Lydia Frierson. The camp operates in two, one-week sessions in June and July. For more information, write to msoccer@cuc.edu.—Candace Hamilton



Camp director Anthony Ogunsanya (far left) poses with some of his young soccer camp athletes.

Students Get Job Training Through COOP 210

The Center for Learning Resources is filled with tools that help prepare students for life after college. Through Introduction to Career Planning, or COOP 210, students learn resumé writing, interview skills, and business etiquette. COOP 210, along with required internships and practicums, ensure that students gain practical experience in the labor force and leave CUC with power-packed resúmes.

According to Fitzroy Thomas, director of Academic Support Programs at the center, CUC students leave a good impression on employers. "Our values make a difference in the workplace," he says. Selma Chaij Mastrapa, the center's associate director, agrees. "Internships provide background and experience. Many interns are subsequently hired at the place they intern and have an advantage over someone interviewing cold."—PR Staff

FYE Program Prepares Freshmen for Success

CUC's campus community is preparing to welcome incoming freshmen to the First Year Experience (FYE) program on August 22. This semester-long class is themed "Destinations" and will focus on preparing students to think deeply about their future.

"We want students to know that no matter where the journey takes them or where they've come from, success is possible," said Tami Shipowick Hoyt, the FYE program director.

According to Shipowick Hoyt, FYE was created to help students make a successful transition to college life. This one-credit course will outline tips in developing relationships with faculty and peers, and offer forums on how to become a successful individual spiritually, academically, and socially.

FYE will expose freshmen to the



Jean Warden (far right), vice president of Student Life and Retention, directs freshmen during the FYE Resource Fair.

various facets of academic life. With a student/teacher ratio of 15:1 at CUC, they are ensured plenty of access to their professors. Each FYE class is provided a student leader who is available to answer questions and lend personal advice to each student throughout the semester.

"My hope is to continue the tradition that kept me here and to help train the incoming freshmen to become the leaders of tomorrow," said Juan-Jose Garza, a sophomore political studies major and upcoming FYE leader.

"There are lots of people that are gifted academically, but they don't make it through college because they do not have the emotional ability and lack effective communication skills. Bottom line, FYE was created to help students have a successful transition to college life," explained Shipowick Hoyt.

The first assignment due Friday,

August 24, is to read *From the Hood to the Hill* by Barry Black, the 62nd chaplain of the U.S. Senate. Black will address students and share his personal story to encourage them to reach their potential.

Students in the FYE program are required to attend Gateway '07, a four-day orientation that includes a gateway ceremony and parent dinner. A highlight of Gateway '07 is an intense six-hour ropes course that promotes teamwork and confidence-building

August

- 22-27 Freshman Orientation
- 27 Registration
- 28 Classes Begin
- 29 Opening Convocation

September

- 3 Labor Day Holiday—
No Classes
- 7 December Graduation
Contracts Due
- 24-28 Week in Spiritual Emphasis

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



Tamar Barolette, a freshman nursing major, displays an assignment that she completed with group members for the 2006 FYE Resource Fair.

More Than We Dare Ask

The 2007-08 school year brings some changes to Highland View Academy (HVA), as each year typically does. Several new staff members are joining us, and we are adding a few new classes. We are also being blessed with a higher enrollment.

In anticipation of a new school year new and students arriving, I am reminded once again of Ephesians 3:20. I especially like the Contemporary English Version, which reads, "His power at work in us can accomplish more than we dare ask or imagine." There are some things that I've asked the Lord to provide to us this school year, and I have imagined some things that I hope will happen. But have I fully opened myself to let His power work in me so that even more than I've asked or imagined can be accomplished? I hope so!

Would you please pray for HVA faculty, students, and the parents who are sending their children to our academy? Pray for our academic success, our spiritual emphasis, and our safety. And most importantly, please pray, throughout the year, that every one of us will be open to the Holy Spirit's leading. We hope that even more than we have yet asked for or imagined will indeed become reality!



Sheri Tydings
Principal

Alumnus Makes an "Extreme" Difference

David Luecke (pictured), a 1984 HVA graduate, is the founder and president of Capitol Homes, Inc., a home building company located in Middle Tennessee. Capitol Homes was recognized in 2006 by *Builder* magazine as one of the 100 fastest growing builders in the country. The company recently accomplished another endeavor—building a home for ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Capitol Homes worked with nearly 2,000 volunteers, 100 companies, and the show's team members—including host Ty



Pennington—to build a home for the Hawkins family.

Jerrod and Amy Hawkins and their two boys lost their home to a tornado in April

2006. Amy saved her boys by rushing them to the basement and then protecting them with her body as debris covered them.

Amy was left paralyzed by the accident and will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. Her sacrifice and heroism made the

Hawkins family the most-nominated candidate family in *Extreme Makeover* history.

On the Capitol Homes website, www.CapitolHomedeas.com, Luecke mentions that he knew he had to take on the project when he remembered the first item on his company's list of core values: do the right thing. Hundreds of others felt the same. A small city had to be built around the construction site in order to organize, transport, and feed all of the volunteers.

Luecke says the best part of the project was "the incredible number of people who wanted to help. It was amazing to see kindness in people's hearts. The only frustrating moment was when people wanted to donate more than what we had the ability to accept."

Luecke has many fond memories of his two years at HVA. A lot of the core values he holds dear were formed during that part of his life. Luecke still has as much enthusiasm for life as he did then. "I hope my classmates are enjoying life as much as I am," he chuckles.—Jenny Harlow



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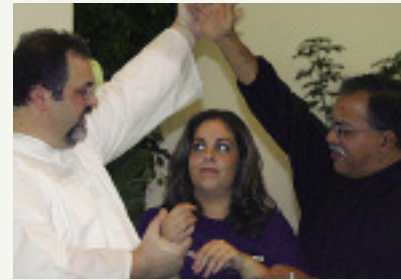
School Year Ends With Eight Baptisms

What better way to end a school year than to have students make a personal commitment to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior! During graduation weekend, eight students were baptized at the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md.



Baptized students included graduating seniors Chad Banks and Roberta Plantak; junior Angelique Bagirimvano; sophomores Laura Boyer and Mary Hostetler; and freshmen Jennifer Calhoun, Jordan Correces, and Kenji Nomura.

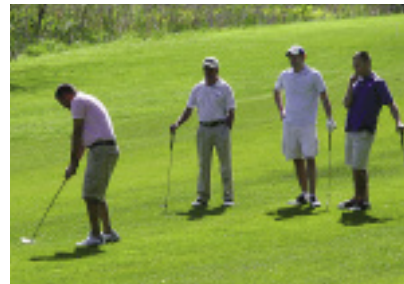
Campus Ministries director Benjie Maxson baptizes sophomore Mary Hostetler.



Zack Plantak (left), Columbia Union College Religion Department chair and the Baccalaureate speaker, was wonderfully surprised to discover that his daughter, graduating senior Roberta (center), was one of eight scheduled baptisms. Highland View church pastor Vladimir Corea assists.

Students Reconnect at Alumni Weekend

HVA's recent alumni weekend started with a beautiful day for the 10th Annual Golf Tournament at the Beaver Creek Country Club golf course in Hagerstown, Md. Although the weather cooled off for Sabbath, the warmth continued in the smiles and hugs between old friends. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the accompanying photos can attest that the weekend was enjoyed by all attendees.—*Jenny Harlow*



Joey (Norwood) Tolbert ('97) and her husband, Matt, provide special music for the church service.



The Honor Class of 1987 had the largest percentage of returning classmates.



HVA Bible teacher Stephen Herr ('97) encourages alumni to "press on" during his Sabbath sermon.

August

- 16 Registration for community students, 5-8 p.m., Admin. Building
- 19 Registration for Dormitory Students, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Admin. Building
- 20 First Day of school
- 24, 25 Commitment Weekend
- 31- Boys and Girls
- Sept. 2 Club Campouts

September

- 6-9 Columbia Union Student Leadership Conference
- 20-23 Senior Survival

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Three Sturdy Legs Support Adventist Education

Once a farmer went out early to milk his cow. In the barn he grabbed his old, sturdy, three-legged stool and hurriedly planted it into the barn floor. But as he sat down to milk he promptly fell over into the muck. He turned over the stool to discover one leg had broken completely off, making it useless. Unable to balance on the two remaining legs, he gave up in frustration.

Adventist education is like those three legs. The best education for your child involves home, school, and church working together. Perhaps you have decided to leave out Adventist education, planning to enroll your child elsewhere. There are admittedly other good school programs from which to choose. Couldn't you just enroll in public school, replace Bible class with family worship, and enjoy the same result without the added expense? Is Bible class the only advantage of an Adventist school education?

Public school provides no class discussions about God, no teacher-led prayers, and no Christian service projects. Through classes, kids are taught evolution and have to read books like Harry Potter. The cafeteria offers unclean meat entrees. P.E. is usually gym or sports based, and sporting and other activities frequently take place on Sabbath. Also, Adventist kids tend to date and marry outside of the Adventist Church.

On the other hand, Adventist schools provide Bible study in context of the three angels' messages, teachers pray often, kids learn Christian service, students learn about creation and read books appropriate for Adventist Christians, the food is vegetarian, P.E. instruction includes NEWSTART principles and a variety of fitness activities, activities are planned to honor Sabbath and Adventist lifestyle-values, and the students tend to date and marry within their faith.

There is no implied criticism of other schools or claim that only Adventist schools have qualified, caring teachers and good classes. The mission of the public school is just very different. Public schools work to prepare students to be good citizens, students, and professionals. Adventist schools, while including those good goals, are working to train leaders who are spiritually connected and excited about the three angels' messages. We are not just a little school system that adds Bible class. Our values and goals are infused throughout. Please prayerfully consider your options for this school year. We hope to see you at registration!



Cheryl Jacko
Acting Superintendent
of Schools

SCHOOL NEWS

Highland Student's Prose Earns Second Place

Brittney Thompson (pictured), an eighth-grader at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., won second place and \$75 in a recent essay contest sponsored by the regional newspaper *The Inter-Mountain*. The assignment was to write an essay about her hometown, describing not only the good things, but also ways the town could improve. Thompson's winning composition included her colorful reminiscences of the community where she was born, as well as constructive ideas for improving area services for young people. "I am very proud of Brittney," states principal Cheryl Jacko. "She has been an outstanding student in our school's creative and research writing instruction program. This honor is well deserved."



Mountain View Schools Welcome Calls

Nearly all Mountain View Conference schools are situated in beautiful rural or small-town settings. There is still time to enroll. Friendly personnel at each school will be happy to take your call and explain what you need to know about their school. All conference schools, listed below, are accredited:

- Highland Adventist School (K-12) in Elkins, W.Va.
- Greenbrier Adventist Academy (K-10) in Lewisburg, W.Va.
- Mountaintop Adventist School (K-12) in Oakland, Md.
- Parkersburg Academy (K-10) in Parkersburg, W.Va.
- Summersville Adventist School (K-8) in Summersville, W.Va.
- Valley View Adventist Academy (K-12) in Bluefield, W.Va.

School contact information is available by calling the conference Education Department at (304) 422-2581.

Youth Revival Sweeps Through Valley Vista

In its final year of service as a meeting place for conference youth, the old barn at Valley Vista Camp in Parkersburg, W.Va., was the setting for 35 young people who took their stand for Christ. Fourteen of this group were baptized on the final Sabbath of camp meeting. Other group members will continue preparing for baptism through their local Adventist churches.

All of the conference youth who participated in the baptism were submerged in the camp pool by their pastors, and those from outside the conference were baptized by the pastors with whom they had bonded during the week or in former years. Shortly after his baptism, one student exclaimed, "Man, camp meeting is almost over, and then it will be back to the same old world, with its same old things. Everything will be the same, except me!"

Conference youth director Geoff Starr reacted, saying, "I thought to myself, 'He gets it! He knows what it means to be a new creation in Christ!' And I think they all 'got it.'" Lives were changed in the old barn.



Fourteen of the 35 youth who committed their lives to Christ during camp meeting got baptized by their pastors at the Valley Vista Camp swimming pool.

Marlinton and Hinton Companies Formed

The Marlinton fellowship was recently voted into official company status by those attending Mountain View Camp Meeting held at beautiful Valley Vista Camp in Parkersburg, W.Va. The group got its start in October 2006 when Robert L. "Doc" Michael held a 10-night series of public meetings at the public library in downtown Marlinton. After the original series of meetings ended, Pastor Michael started a Bible-marking class on Thursday evenings, where five are now learning additional Bible truths. One is now preparing for baptism. Presently 17 people are regularly attending Sabbath services.

"This is a dream fulfilled through

much prayer and effort. Marlinton is my hometown, where I grew up as a Methodist. But once I became an Adventist, the Lord put a burden in my heart to help form a body of believers there committed to disseminating our unique message of present truth," states Pastor Michael. "I praise God for what He has wrought in establishing this dedicated and beautifully unified congregation in Marlinton."

Following an evangelistic series in Hinton, W.Va., several years ago, conducted by Pastor Gerald Freeman of the Michigan Conference, a branch Sabbath school became firmly established. This Hinton group has been meet-

ing faithfully for the past several years, led by their pastor, David Byrkit. The congregation has been conducting outreach in that small, but historic railroad town in southern W.Va., through Bible studies, a thrift store ministry, health and family counseling, as well as personal visitation. Hinton, a hub of Wiccan activity and publications, is seeing the darkness of spiritualism dispelled through the courageous work of the little Adventist flock in the heart of town.

Mountain View EVENTS

August

- 12 Department Council, Valley Vista Camp
- 12-15 Pastors and Teachers Retreat, Valley Vista Camp
- 26 Executive Committee

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

Teaching Students to be Christ's Example

Mahatma Ghandi once advised, "Be the change you want to see in the world." This quote encompasses what we hope to instill in our students at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). When we consider the calling the Lord has placed in our lives, it is imperative that we examine ourselves and determine if we are what God wants us to be. Our educators face an interesting daily challenge: making sure we are focused on living the change we want to see in the "MVA world." This challenge is not unique to our school, but one faced by all those who are blessed with the opportunity to educate and serve young people.

Mount Vernon Academy is committed to a challenge found in the book *Education*—to help young people develop the character of Christ and a life of selfless service. Ellen White's directive motivates our faculty and staff to help students become "change agents" in their community and to model traits they want to find in others. As Christians, we should each strive to be the example of Christ that we want to see in the world.



David Daniels
Principal

Seniors Witness Power of Prayer in Puerto Rico

Each year MVA students are offered an out-of-country mission trip as well as many in-state and local community service opportunities. This year the graduating Class of 2007 decided to make their class trip a special mission project in Puerto Rico. The seniors worked at the Seventh-day Adventist camp in the El Yunque National Rainforest.

The mission team arrived in San Juan around 9 p.m. Even that late, the heat was much more intense than the group had imagined. They started their two-hour bus ride into the mountains of the national rainforest.



Seniors Tiffany Bale and Shaun Paschal help prepare a new basketball court for cement.

The roads were curvy and steep, but the bus barreled on easily. When they arrived at camp, the students were delighted to discover an industrial fan in each room to keep them cool. Following worship the next morning, the team started their duties—painting cabins, raking leaves, mopping floors, and cleaning a basketball court.

The basketball court soon became the focus of their mission work. The dirt around the court needed to be dug out to prepare for cementing the court's surface. Students devoted the next three days to mixing and spreading. The work was not easy, and the weather provided no comfort. Many students got deep blisters on their hands, and the heat fatigued even the strongest workers. But they kept going until the task was completed. Finishing the basketball court gave the students a real sense of pride and accomplishment.

On their final morning, something very special happened. The "unstoppable" bus that had many times taken the group to and from town, without fault, could not climb the hill leading out of camp. Each time the driver attempted to climb the hill, the bus would just stop. Even after unloading the students and luggage, the bus still failed. As the bus backed down the hill again, the students got together and prayed. On the next attempt, the bus passed the praying students, slowed to a crawl, but never stopped. It was obvious that it had a Helping Hand. The most important lesson learned from the trip: prayer overcomes obstacles.

—Aaron Myers



The Marlinton congregation, organized and led by Pastor Robert "Doc" Michael (far right), was recently promoted to company status.

Students Reflect on Life at MVA

As the end of the school year approaches, students often reminisce about different activities and experiences throughout the year. When asked to share their feelings about the “MVA experience,” the students’ feedback was encouraging and will help school leaders as they continue to improve the MVA program.

Why did you choose to attend MVA?

“I liked the campus, and I have family here,” said one freshman. Another said, “I heard good things from my friends who attended, and I wanted to see for myself.”

One sophomore exclaimed, “I wanted to go to a Christian school that had a multicultural background and a loving, supportive staff.” A senior concurred, and added, “I visited campus and really liked the environment. I knew that I would fit in.”



These students participated in the Mt. Vernon Supreme Court Summit.

Sonshine Band.”

“The Belize mission trip made me grateful for what I have here,” added a junior. And “Helping flood victims in Southeastern Ohio was a really humbling experience,” claimed

one senior. Another recalled, “Christmas caroling was a unique way of giving others the gift of joy.”

How has MVA influenced your spiritual life?

“It has helped me see I need to be responsible enough to have my own relationship with Jesus,” admitted a freshman. One sophomore thinks that “having worship and prayer before class has been helpful.” Another second-year student said, “The teachers typically don’t judge us; they just encourage us to think things through before making choices.”

“I spend more time talking to God,” answered a junior. A senior responded, “I have realized God is real and wants to develop a personal relationship with me.”

As a senior, how has MVA impacted your life?

“I found myself and discovered God’s purpose for my life,” replied one. Another stated, “Along with improving my spiritual life, MVA has taught me to be independent, hard working, and responsible.”

“It gave me opportunities to succeed, nurtured new skills, and provided

an environment for me to meet friends I will value for the rest of my life,” claimed one graduating student.

What do you like about the academics provided at MVA?

“The teachers know their material,” stated one sophomore. A junior responded, “Teachers challenge us by pushing us to our limit and beyond. That means good education.” Another junior added, “We use many different types of technology in our classes.”

“I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes,” replied one senior. Another felt, “The teachers actually care about my future.”

Of the different religious and outreach programs offered, which have you enjoyed most?

“One trip to clean an old school building showed me helping others can change lives,” claimed one freshman. Two others answered, “Weeks of prayer really give everyone a chance to open up their hearts,” and “I love the nature hikes. It’s good to be in God’s nature.”

A second-year student answered, “I enjoyed going to the town square for ‘Prayer at the Pole.’” Another remembered “going to the nursing home with the



Seniors are excited to be in Washington, D.C., for their government trip.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

August

- 16 Classes Begin
- 22 Lake Day
- 24-26 Bell/Echolier Retreat
- 30-Sept. 2 Senior Survival

September

- 2 Sunday School
- 3 Fall Picnic
- 5-9 Home Leave
- 6-9 SALT
- 11 School Portraits
- 17-21 Week of Prayer
- 29-Oct. 4 CUC Government Trip

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525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone:
(740) 397-5411 ■ Principal, David Daniels ■ www.mvacademy.org
Editor, Amy Soper

AUGUST 2007

Are We Staying the Moral Tide of Evil?

We talk a good deal about being called to preach the third angel’s message—to spread the gospel of Christ and His soon return. But is it so unlikely that He would also give us the same commission and purpose that He did so long ago? What an awesome responsibility it is to hold back moral evil before it floods and drags out to a sea of degradation any more of His wandering children. What a mission, and, more importantly, what a hope He has in us.

Did we, have we, are we, fulfilling our high destiny? The children of Israel were to be an inspiration to all who saw them. By their very lives, in word and deed, they were to manifest the beauty of their God in such a way that being a part of His kingdom was a glorious contrast to the ugliness of sin. God’s laws were to reveal His love in wanting, and giving, the best for His children. Moral decay should be unmasked by the Light of Heaven shining through His people.

Have we so mingled with the world that our lives, our beliefs, and our church reflect and demonstrate more of the gods of this Earth rather than the God of heaven? Have we so identified with Canaan that we may be in danger of sowing seeds of evil ourselves? Or do our lives manifest our God in such a way that fortifies, protects, and unveils the hideousness of sin and thus stays the moral tide of evil?



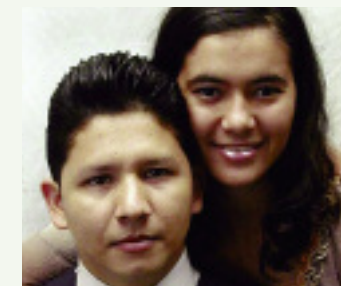
LeRoy Finck
President

NEWS

New Pastor Welcomed to Spanish District

Julio Cesar Labrador recently accepted the call to pastor the Guttenberg, Jersey City, and Union City Spanish churches. He and his wife, Ana Marcela (pictured), are fulfilling their passion to serve the Lord in this new role.

Pastor Labrador, originally from Colombia, was not raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home. But he learned the precious truths of the Adventist message through his grandmother Tulia. Labrador gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized when he was only 11 years old. Following his graduation from Colombian



Adventist University, Labrador served for a year as a chaplain at the Emmanuel Adventist High School. He later served as a pastor in four districts and was blessed by God in winning souls.

Pastor Labrado was ordained to the gospel ministry in February 2004. He and Ana came to the United States a year ago, where he served as a literature evangelist. He later voluntarily served as assistant pastor of the Belleville Spanish Company until his new assignment.

Sabbath School Leaders Educated at Workshop

The conference Adult Sabbath School Department

recently sponsored an educational workshop at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. There were 125 Sabbath School officers from about 25 churches who attended the Saturday night and Sunday morning seminar.

The Spanish presenter was Luis Fajardo, an expert in developing successful Sabbath School programs. He emphasized making the local church’s Sabbath School program inspirational and deeply spiritual. English presenter Rose Gamblin is an education specialist for



Adult Sabbath School officers get a chance to improve their leadership skills at the conference workshop.



the Review & Herald Association in Hagerstown, Md. She emphasized the need for local Sabbath School leaders to work together and to know how to relate to one another. All attendees

Cherry Hill Children Raise Money for ADRA

The Kindergarten/Primary Division (pictured) of the Cherry Hill church wanted to do something to help children around the world. The teachers and children agreed to buy one cow, two goats, and 100 chickens through ADRA to help families in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and China. Their goal was to raise \$550 this year. In January the group got permission from the church board to have a one time, special offering to start them on their way to their goal. The youngsters provided special music and took up an offering, which totaled more than \$200. They also held a "Barn Yard Bash" on a Saturday evening and raised over \$400. Within three months, the group raised more than \$1,000! They were able to purchase the cow, 100 chickens, seven goats, provide medical needs for more than 30 children and families, and nourishing food for more than 50 children. In all, the group is helping in more than 17 countries.—*Claudia Ramirez*



Hats Off to New Jersey Women



Approximately 300 ladies from around the conference came to sing, laugh, and participate in the annual spiritual retreat. And adding fun to spiritual fuel, the event included the second annual hat parade.

Ina Pryce, PhD, was the guest speaker for the Hispanic attendees. Pryce is a private Christian counselor in Texas with a doctorate in Theocentric Psychology. Donnis Johnson was the guest presenter for the English-speaking attendees.

Johnson is a member of and event planner for the Hillcrest Avenue church in Dayton, Ohio. Johnson recently retired from the Franciscan Medical Center in Dayton after 26 years as a surgical secretary. She is also the former Columbia Union Conference Women's Ministries director (2001-2004).

The Grand Hotel in beautiful Cape May has been the host facility



Keren Lebron from Pioneer Community Company in Perth Amboy won the hat parade.

for the retreat for six years. The sun's warmth, the tranquil sound of the waves hitting the shore, and the seagulls calling are a constant reminder of the Lord's ever-mindful provision and love for His children.

The Parkway South church ladies, who coordinated the hat parade, are owed much gratification for their hard work. And the conference's Women's Ministries committee has

helped make the event a reality.

The retreat attendance has gotten so large that next year the event is tentatively scheduled to take place over two weekends! There is an open invitation to all New Jersey sisters, and abroad, to attend. For more information, contact Roseann Metrisko, area coordinator, at (856) 875-5230.—*Roseann Metrisko*

dates NEW JERSEY

August

- 5 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 8-12 Columbia Union Camporee
- 12 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 21 K-12 Teachers Inservice Meeting, 9 a.m.-Noon
New Teachers Inservice Meeting, 1-3 p.m.
Mentor/Mentee Meeting, 2 p.m.
- 22 Principals Council, 10 a.m.-Noon
Teacher Assistant Volunteer Workshop, 10 a.m.-Noon
- 26 Organizing Committee
- 31 Collegiate/Young Adult Retreat

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

Leadership Couple Announces Retirement

After more than 30 years of service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lou and Bette Toscano (pictured) have announced their retirement, effective July 31. The Toscanos started their denominational service in pastoral ministry in the New Jersey Conference and also pastored in the Indiana Conference for 11 years.

Following a very fulfilling and successful time of service as a pastor, Lou was invited to serve as trust officer for the Northern New England Conference. Lou and Bette joined the Ohio Conference staff in 1996. Lou provided leadership to the Ohio Conference Association and served as director of planned giving. Lou's thoughtful, inspiring, and Christ-centered teaching and preaching ministry has been an added bonus valued by Ohio constituents. Bette served as administrative assistant to the conference president and executive secretary, and as editor of *Mission Ohio*. She has also been responsible for producing the many brochures, advertising material, posters, etc., for the conference's communication efforts.

"Lou and Bette have become very much a part of our office family and have been a wonderful blessing to God's work in Ohio," observed president Raj Attiken. "They leave a strong legacy of commitment, love, and dedicated service," he added. "We will miss them immensely."



PBS Seeks Perspective From Clifton Pastor



Broadcasting Service (PBS). Their interest in getting an Adventist perspective on creationism led them to Jeba

The recent opening of the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Ky., within the greater Cincinnati area, attracted news agency reporters from around the world. Among them was a reporter and film crew from the national Public

Moses, DMin (pictured), pastor of the Clifton church in Cincinnati. Their lengthy conversation on the Adventist understanding of the biblical record led to an interest in the local church, its mission, ministry, and diversity (over 27 ethnic groups represented). It also led to questions about the church's elementary school and its large student representation from the local community outside of the Adventist Church. The school, the interview with Pastor Moses, and other elements were filmed. (At the time of writing, the date of the national PBS broadcast of the Creation Museum program is unknown.)

Executive Committee Implements Changes

Several actions were voted recently by the Ohio Conference Executive Committee and its sub-committees. After careful examination of the scope, effectiveness, and other aspects relating to the practice of staffing Ohio churches with bi-vocational pastors, it was voted to continue the plan and to add elements designed to strengthen the ministry of such pastors. Currently the conference has 40 vocational and 30 bi-vocational pastor positions.

After reviewing several options regarding the future of Camp Mohaven in Danville, the committee voted to explore the option of developing and upgrading the present facility, and of building a retreat center on the campus. A detailed feasibility study has been requested. Students from households that are not members of

the Ohio Conference have, for many years, been required to pay an additional fee to be a part of the conference's school system. At a recent meeting of the K-12 Board of Education, an action was voted that will result in the elimination of this fee. This action supports the conference's vision that its churches and schools have a strong community-focused mission and ministry.

The committee voted to allocate increased funding for the operation of Camp Sonpower, making this ministry more affordable to churches. It is a week-long day camp operated in local churches and schools. Fifteen camps will be held in 2007.

Mission church status was granted to the Cleveland Ghanaian, Hamilton Spanish, and Peebles Community congregations.

Innovation is about being increasingly alive to God in the church and in the world. Innovation is about the creation of new knowledge, and the use of that knowledge to successfully bring ideas into value-creating outcomes in renewing church, school, and healthcare organizations for the 21st century. Join us September 30-October 2 for the third annual National Conference on Innovation—a multidisciplinary conference with keynote speakers, general sessions, in-depth interactions, and the showcasing of the best practices in innovations. For updates, agenda, speakers and registration information, visit www.sdapartnersininnovation.org.

INNOVATION

NEXT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INNOVATION
September 30 - October 2
Hilton at Easton
Columbus, Ohio

Main Sessions:
 *Global Trends in Christianity and How They Impact the West
 *Opportunities and Challenges for Western Christianity
 *Recovering Christianity's Missionary DNA
 *Jewish Renewal Movements: Lessons and Applications
 *21st Century Adventism: A Case for Renewal
 *Innovation: Going Beyond Structures and Programs

Philip Jenkins
Distinguished Professor
of History & Religious Studies,
Pennsylvania State University

Doug Pagitt
Pastor, Solomon's Porch,
Minneapolis, MN

Jon Paulen
Renowned Adventist Theologian,
Incoming Dean of the
Faculty of Religion,
Loma Linda University

Rabbi Marcia Prager
Dean of ALEPH: Alliance
for Jewish Renewal Rabbinic
Program, Philadelphia, PA



Conference Ordains Four Pastors

Gabriel Montalvo – Pastor Montalvo and his wife, Ana, have led the Philadelphia Spanish II, Grace Spanish in Chester, Lehigh Valley Spanish in Allentown, and a



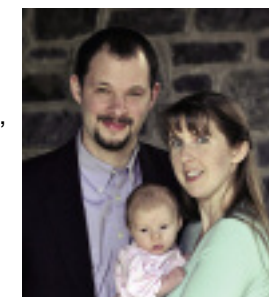
Montalvo Family

mission group in Easton since August 2005. Montalvo's childhood dreams were to become a medical doctor and/or a minister of the everlasting gospel. In 1992 he graduated with a degree in respiratory therapy. He started his ministry as a lay pastor at the Philadelphia Spanish IV church in

1997. A year later, he became the pastor of the Philadelphia II Spanish church.

In 2000, while working full-time as a supervisor for a respiratory department in a local children's hospital and leading the church full-time, he decided to enroll in Atlantic Union College's (Mass.) Adult Degree Program. He finished three degrees: theology, religion, and personal ministry. His greatest desire for ministry is for people to see Jesus in him while leading the church in meaningful ministries. The Montalvo's have three children: Gabriel II (19), Aaron (13), and Diana (10).

James Wibberding – After studying auto body repair and broadcasting, Wibberding spent a summer colporteur, which set a new direction for his life. He felt the call to ministry. Wibberding and his wife, Laura, both earned degrees from Adventist universities. He is presently working on a Doctor of Ministry through Andrews University (Mich.). Pastor Wibberding has published two books: *Learn to Preach Before Next Weekend* and *Sabbath Reflections: A Weekly Devotional*. His pastoral experience in Pennsylvania includes the Warren, Corry, Brockway, Clearfield, Distant, and Seneca churches. He now pastors at Lansdale and Souderton. The Wibberding's welcomed their first child, Kara, in January.



Wibberding Family

Brian Cassell – A native Pennsylvanian, Cassell is a fourth generation Adventist. At 11 years old, he took a personal stand for Christ. He attended Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), beginning as a business major, but then accepted God's call to study for pastoral ministry. He graduated in 2000 with a theology degree. Cassell married his high school sweetheart, Miriam, that same year, and they started their ministry at the Hampden Heights church, where he was associate pastor. They then pastored in the Kingston/Slocum/Drums district for three years before he attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Following his graduation in December 2006, Cassell is now pastoring the Hampden Heights church. His desire is to serve God by seeking and saving lost people, and disciplining others to join in.



Brian and Miriam Cassell

Preston Monterrey – Pastor Monterrey became an Adventist at age 16 and spent 17 years ministering as an active layman, sharing the Blessed Hope with thousands. During that time he traveled through Puerto Rico, Central America, and South America as a revivalist and literature evangelist. Monterrey worked as a phone-chaplain at Adventist Information Ministry (at Andrews University) for five years before joining the Pennsylvania Conference pastoral team. Monterrey has worked as an Adventist minister for nearly seven years, including his part-time work in the Lake Region and Illinois conferences. He presently ministers to the Canton and Sayre churches. His mission is to restore suffering humanity; to empower people's bodies, minds, and spirits by God's Word; and to educate them with Christian values. The pastor and his wife, Valerie, have five children: Michelle, Elizabeth, Preston Jr., Christian, and



Monterrey Family

Western Camp Meeting to Present “Unknown” Christ

Encounter the Unknown Christ” is this year’s theme for Western Pennsylvania Camp Meeting. The event will be held September 14-15 at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter.

Dave Weigley (pictured right), Columbia Union Conference president, will be the featured speaker. He will preach from the Book of Mark about trying to understand the will of God in our lives, and will review the true identity of Christ. Weigley’s passion is to witness people making a decision to follow Jesus and accepting discipleship into the Adventist movement. A graduate of Blue Mountain Academy, he has deep roots in Pennsylvania.



J.P. and Ani O’Connor (left) will provide an inspiring concert. This pastoral couple of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia has been singing together for eight years.

The weekend will also include prayer, fellowship, and activities for children and young people. Applications are available in local churches and in the August issue of the *You Making a Difference* newsletter. Apply online at www.paconference.org.



Members Invited to Arise and Build

Just as Nehemiah faced a series of challenges when the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, so has the leadership of the Everett church. But they have been faithful throughout the process, not wavering from the conviction that God has called them to arise and build. Members believe the promise, “... The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build ...” (Neh. 2:20). The new building will be erected on September 23.

During many Sabbaths, the present Everett church building is occupied wall to wall with people. This “good problem” is a result of their intentionality as they go about the Lord’s work. Part of this intentionality has been the natural Church Development Process. This process provides for regular spiritual check-ups, strategic planning for continuous spiritual development, and the



Volunteers have made the past three Arise and Build projects successful and are requested again to help erect a new building on September 23 for the Everett church.

implementation of these plans. Their new location will give more positive exposure and provide new opportunities for the members to reach their communities.

All conference members are asked to set aside two Sundays, September 23 and 30 (as a rain date), to help erect a new building for this deserving church. Generous contributions, faithful giving to the Arise and Build offering throughout the year, and time and energy given during the building process, are all appreciated. Remember, “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it” (Ps. 127:1). Please keep this project in your prayers.—*Bill Peterson*



What’s happening

August

- 3-5 Young Adult Rafting Trip
- 8-12 Union Pathfinder Camporee, Patapsco State Park, Md.
- 12 Church Planting Summit, Harrisburg First Church
- 31- Hispanic Youth Retreat, Halifax

September

- 14-15 Western Camp Meeting, Laurel Lake Camp
- 21-23 Adventurer Retreat
- 23 Arise and Build Big Day, Everett
- 30 Arise and Build Big Day (Rain Date), Everett

October

- 5-7 Pathfinder Fall Campout, Laurel Lake Camp
- 12-14 Fall Women’s Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp

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

Potomac People

AUGUST 2007

Our Teachers are Privileged

Potomac teachers were asked to complete the following statement: “I feel privileged to teach as an Adventist educator because ...” Below are just a couple of their insightful responses:

“We have the freedom to talk about that which the public school educator is gagged—God, His love for us, and how through Christ we are invited to know Him forever!” said Dewayne Boyer from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

“Nothing is more rewarding than watching my students become leaders in our churches and communities,” answered Vernon Hsu from the Beltsville (Md.) Adventist School. “I am educating my students not just for the present and immediate future, but also for eternity.”

When the teachers were asked to complete this statement: “A high point in my school this year was ...” some of their replies were:

“Our Outdoor School at Camp Blue Ridge [in Montebello, Va.]; we had a fantastic time learning, playing, and getting to know each other better,” recalls Jim Minty from Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary in New Market, Va.

“Watching God’s leading in all aspects: ITBS scores on the rise, enrollment growth, money put in savings, building project on the drawing board, and lives changed into the likeness of Jesus! And to think I get paid to do what I do!” exclaimed Grant Wolters from Tappahannock (Va.) Junior Academy.

Amy Bailey from Beltsville Adventist School pulls together the essence of Adventist education with this reflection: “In preparation for graduation, one of our eighth-graders wrote a beautiful poem that included the phrase, ‘Leaving Beltsville is like leaving home.’ I couldn’t agree more, and I think that is what Adventist education is about: building a family of believers that laughs together, learns together, and lives together now and for eternity.”



Larry Marsh
Vice President for
Education

NEWS

Vienna Academy Students Serve Community

A number of young people from Vienna Adventist Academy (VAA) recently delivered beautiful bouquets of cut flowers, as well as colorful spring flowers for Vienna (Va.) church member Evelyn Robinson. The students seemed to delight in the fact that they were doing a good deed. The flowers are now blooming throughout the yard and are a witness to others as she delights in telling her neighbors about the shining faces of the youngsters who took time out to plant them.



Vienna Adventist Academy students, led by Renee Shirra (back row, left) serve Vienna, Va., church member Evelyn Robinson (front center).

Throughout the year these youngsters also help in delivering Easter baskets, soldier care kits, toys, and Thanksgiving baskets. They have also walked for the hun-

gry. The Vienna church and VAA are very active in the community and are always willing to help others with a smiling face.—*Andre’ Richard*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southwest Virginia Camp Meeting

The event will be held September 7-9 at the Rural Retreat (Va.) Fairgrounds. Keynote speaker will be Marvin Moore (pictured), speaker, author, and editor of *Signs of the Times* magazine. Other speakers include revivalist Ron Goss, Adventist Mission planning director Homer Trecartin, and conference president Bill Miller.



Youth and Children’s Ministries Leadership Training

Reserve your space for September 7-9 to attend the conference’s leadership training at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., sponsored by the Children’s and Youth Ministries departments. The last day to register is August 27. For more information, call (540) 886-0771. Online registration is available at

Potomac People

Potomac Bids Farewell to Vice President

About a year ago Roger Weiss, Potomac Conference vice president for administration and director of Multicultural Ministries, first talked about retiring, but agreed to stay on until another president was named and to coordinate the 2007 Potomac Conference Camp Meeting. Weiss has been an integral part of this conference for the past 29 years.

Weiss has dedicated more than 43 years of service in ministry to the church he loves. During his 12-year tenure as vice president, he exemplified “servant leadership” to constituents, committee members, pastors, teachers, and co-workers. Others not only saw him as a faithful leader, but as a man who loves his Lord and Savior and tirelessly worked to save souls for the kingdom. It was not uncommon for Weiss to visit two or more churches during any given Sabbath.

Weiss’ passion for evangelism is evidenced by the growth in Potomac. Former conference president Kenneth Mittleider called Weiss to serve as pastor at the Capital Spanish church in Washington, D.C., in 1978. When Weiss first came to Potomac, there were only two Spanish congregations with 243 members. As of June 2007, there are 54 Spanish congregations with more than 8,000 members! He has planned 12 Potomac Conference camp meetings and coordinated six constituencies.

It Started in Argentina

Weiss was born in Entre Rios, Argentina, but his family moved to California when he was a teenager. He graduated from San Pasqual Academy in Escondido (Calif.), and attended La Sierra College in Riverside (Calif.) for several years. Weiss returned to Argentina to attend River Plate College to complete his education. He met Lira Neugebauer, a nursing student, and knew she was to be his life partner. Weiss completed his theology degree in 1964 and then worked for a year as a Bible



instructor in the Central Argentine Conference while Lira completed her nursing degree. They were married in April 1965 in his childhood church, and the first South American Adventist church in Crespo, Argentina.

Soon after they married, Weiss started his pastoral ministry at the Central Brooklyn (N.Y.) Spanish church where he served as assistant pastor. He also pastored the Bakersfield (Calif.) Bilingual church and the South Brooklyn (N.Y.) Spanish church. In 1973 the Weiss’ packed up and moved to Spain, where he served as departmental director for Lay Activities and Sabbath School for the Spanish Union of Churches. Weiss joined the Potomac Conference in 1978 and pastored the Capital Spanish and Washington Spanish congregations. He later served as director of the Church Ministries department before accepting his current position.

The Weiss’ have three adult children: Kenneth and Brenda Weiss; Ingrid and Leon Slikkers; and Jocelyn and Joel Bennett; and six grandchildren—Adrienne, Corbin, Ashton, Colter, Grayson, and Adaliah.

“God gave Potomac a special blessing in Roger and Lira,” says Herb Broeckel, former conference president (1994-2002). “I pray God’s blessings as you retire and enjoy more fully the blessings of grandparenting.”

“Roger’s work in Potomac will be remembered in many positive ways. It may take more than one person to fill the shoes of this hard-working servant of the Lord,” said Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president and former Potomac president (2002-2006).

S. Kurt Allen, vice president for finance, adds, “I am proud to have had the privilege of working with Roger in the trenches of administration, but I am even prouder to call him my friend. May God bless you and Lira as you enter into a much-deserved retirement.”



A younger Roger Weiss (right) interprets for former conference president Ken Mittleider (1975-1980), demonstrating one of his long-time valuable services to the Potomac Conference.

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ www.pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Editor, Don Wood

Spotlight on Spencerville

AUGUST 2007

We’re Pointing Students Heavenward

Across our nation, thousands of Adventist Schools will soon be opening their doors for another year of school. Teachers and students alike are feeling the anticipation and excitement that leads to the first day of school. Students have made their final purchases of clothing and school supplies. Teachers are putting the finishing touches on their rooms and lesson plans. Parents are anticipating the joy of having their children back in school and getting back to a more routine family schedule.

Why do so many people choose Adventist education when there is “free” education offered just down the street? I think every parent desires for their child to receive an excellent education. But, as a parent myself, I want my children to discover the saving relationship that comes with knowing Christ. When I turn my student over to a Seventh-day Adventist teacher, my heart is comforted knowing that they will continue to point my child in the same direction that I do— heavenward. At the end of the day, I know my children are getting an excellent education and learning more about Jesus Christ. Whatever the financial sacrifices may be, I cannot think of a better investment than one with eternal rewards.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

NEWS

Class of 2007 Bids Farewell

The 26 members of Spencerville Adventist Academy’s (SAA) senior class enjoyed the event-filled weekend that ended their high school career: graduation. In addition to citing their class text, Proverbs 3:5-6, the Commencement speaker, Benjamin S. Carson Sr., MD, challenged them to “be willing to work hard, ask God for wisdom in making important decisions, and work to know God.” The well-known physician also told them to remember, “God loves you and He wants what’s best for you. He is the only one you need to please.” He also reminded them to think of others first.

Many of the Class of 2007 (pictured with class sponsors) demonstrated excellence in music, drama, sports, and leadership, as well as academics. Faculty and staff know these new graduates have a successful future ahead of them and look forward to hearing from them in the future as alumni.



Junior Receives Caring Heart Award

Every year senior academies accredited by the North American Division (NAD) are given the opportunity by the NAD Office of Education to present a student with a “Caring Heart Award.” The purpose of the award is to recognize students who show dedication and commitment to serving others through witnessing, service activities, and programs. When considering which student should be nominated this year, the clear choice was Erin Davidson (pictured), Class of 2008.



Two years ago, Davidson and her family helped to establish the Lord’s Lunch program—first implemented at the Takoma Park (Md.) church—at the Spencerville (Md.) church. On the first and third Friday of each month a diverse group of people get together to prepare food to feed the hungry and homeless. On Sabbath morning they distribute the food. Davidson is always seeking to involve others in the program. At SAA she is involved in chapels and other ministries. In addition to her award plaque, Davidson received a Bible engraved with her name and a \$500 scholarship that can be used for tuition assistance at SAA or to participate in a mission service activity inside or outside the country.

Students Return to Belize to Finish Building Projects

This past March—for the third year—a group of youth, young adults, and sponsors from Spencerville Adventist Academy made the six-hour plane ride to the country of Belize. Their mission: to minister and help those in need. Their goal: to touch lives. Many things were accomplished on this trip, including construction at three churches, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and village visits.

The three villages where church construction was carried out were Buena Vista, Benque, and Bullet Tree. At Buena Vista, the task was painting the church pews. This had been done last year, but was needed again. At Benque, the frame construction was only beginning. From wood, cut and hauled by the workers, the roof rafters were built and the forms put into place.

The Spencerville Bullet Tree Church was started last year, and, upon the group's return, was nearly finished. But many jobs still needed to be done. The inside and outside of the building had to be painted, the ceiling needed to be dry-walled, and a sidewalk needed to be poured to connect the road to the entrance of the church.

The Bullet Tree School was also a big construction job. The students needed a new sewer system and bathroom facility. In order for this enormous job to be completed, a new sewage tank had to be dug out, and then cinder blocks laid. This required seemingly endless amounts of cement, all mixed by hand.

While most of the construction workers stayed on the job all day, a small group stayed back and had the opportunity to work with local children through VBS. They interacted with the children and teens



After finishing one of the churches in Bullet Tree, local members were able to worship there on Sabbath.

through songs, Bible stories (turned into skits), and crafts, which soon became one of the highlights of the day for many.

During the afternoons, small groups of seven or less people would head out into the villages, carrying with them hygiene kits—containing shampoo, soap, toothpaste and a toothbrush, and a comb—blankets, and Spanish Bibles. Conversations would ensue at nearly every home, and all were very appreciative of what they had been given.

Many things were accomplished while this group of dedicated workers was in Belize. Most importantly, they reached out—once again—to the people of the villages.—Sarah Dodge ('09)



SAA students lead the song service at the Vacation Bible School in Buena Vista.

CALENDAR

August

- 9 New Parent Orientation
- 13 Middle School Orientation
High School Orientation
- 15 First Day of School
- 24-26 High School
Spiritual Retreat

September

- 3 Labor Day—No School
- 9 SC Beach Day
- 24-28 ITBS/ITED Testing
- 29 Senior Dedication

October

- 7 SAT's
- 8 Columbus Day—No School
- 9 Teacher Inservice—
No School
- 10-14 New England History Tour
- 19 Grandparent's Day
- 20 Alumni Sabbath
- 21 Fall Festival

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by the Spencerville Adventist Academy 15930 Good Hope Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905 • Phone: (301) 421-9101 www.spencervilleacademy.org Principal, Brian Kittleson Editor, Heidi Wetmore

Academy Says Farewell to Class of 2007

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) recently graduated 54 seniors (most pictured). This class has shown amazing strengths and abilities over the past year. Three graduates tied as valedictorians with a GPA of 4.0: Heather Blackburn, Jace Coston, and Jeralyn Wile. There were 12 seniors that finished their education as second-generation graduates, two as third-generation, and two as fourth-generation. Fifty-two seniors are planning to attend college in the fall. This class has bonded together especially well since 55 percent of the seniors were four-year SVA students and five have gone to school together since they were in kindergarten.

These seniors will be missed next year. They join the SVA alumni of nearly 5,000 graduates since 1911. The coming



school year will mark the 100th year of operations by SVA. We are proud of our heritage and traditions and look forward to a burgeoning group of new students that will replace them on August 12.

PHOTO: BERT WILLIAMS

Further Renovations Scheduled for Price Hall

For the past 44 years, Price Hall (pictured) has anchored the west side of SVA's beautiful campus. It recently received an impressive facelift that makes it appear even statelier, but it only covers the work that needs to be completed inside.

Beginning in mid-August, a team from Maranatha Volunteers International will visit the campus to begin the removal of the built-in furniture and beds that have been in place since 1963. As soon as the volunteers leave in early September, the construction crews will initiate the expensive remodeling of good old Price Hall, the boys' dorm.

All of the old bathroom interior walls and fixtures will be removed and replaced with new private showers, fixtures, and sinks. Each of the rooms will be gutted and receive new dressers, closets, desks, chairs, and beds. The floors, walls, and ceilings will all be renewed and/or replaced. The entire electrical and plumbing systems will be replaced, and individually controlled heating and A/C units will be installed in each room. The lobbies, kitchens, laundry rooms, and common spaces will all be renovated, making Price Hall virtually new.



Such a renovation comes at a price. The price tag for this project is projected to be \$2 million. Approximately \$1.2 million of the funds have been committed as of this writing. Fund-raising efforts are continuing and leadership is hopefully optimistic that the work will begin and be completed as scheduled, in April 2008. If any friends and/or alumni of SVA are willing to help fund this project, please call Jan Strickland Osborne at (540) 740-2202.

www.ta.edu TATODAY AUGUST 2007

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Working in His Vineyard

Matthew 28:19-20 is well known as the "gospel commission." It states, "Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you ...". Takoma Academy (TA) is in the "business" of educating for eternity, which is fulfilling the gospel commission. How blessed we at TA are to have such cultural and racial diversity. Truly we are making disciples of "all the nations" and baptizing them and teaching them. Another school year begins soon and with it comes another opportunity to share Jesus Christ. We must *all* be about hastening the Lord's coming, and I thank the Lord for giving us, TA, the opportunity to work in His vineyard.



C. Dunbar Henri
Principal

NEWS

First Mary L. Banks Scholarships Awarded

Mary L. (Bostick) Banks was the fourth child born to Clyde and Leila Bostick on December 29, 1943. She married James L. Banks in 1968, and from this union was born four children, all Takoma Academy graduates: Julie ('87), Jason ('88), Lori ('91), and Landon ('96). In September 1982, Banks was laid to rest. Her desire for education continued on in her children. All four have undergraduate degrees and one a master's. A scholarship fund recently developed in Banks' honor now supports TA students. To contribute to the Mary L. Banks Scholarship Fund, donations can be mailed to TA.



Jason Banks ('88) returns to his alma mater to present \$500 checks to the first two recipients of a scholarship created in his mother's memory. Winners are Elyssa Nascimento (left) and Maria Sage.

one a master's. A scholarship fund recently developed in Banks' honor now supports TA students. To contribute to the Mary L. Banks Scholarship Fund, donations can be mailed to TA.

CUC Education Department Shows Appreciation

During the 2006-07 school year, several TA teachers took in Columbia Union College (CUC) education majors as student teachers in their classrooms. In appreciation for their assistance to the college, Dale Johnson, PhD, of CUC's Education Department, recently awarded a small donation to TA. TA's following teachers are appreciated for their cooperation: Tom Ballard, social studies; Laura Benn and Vashon Williams, physi-

cal education; and DeWayne Boyer, religion. **Graduates Plan Future Education**

Takoma Academy recently graduated 67 seniors. On Friday evening of graduation weekend, there were teacher and parent tributes. For the first time, all TA teachers surrounded the seniors and gave them a prayerful blessing. On Sabbath Randal Wisbey, DMin, former president of Columbia Union College, addressed the seniors. On Sunday morning, the spiritual feast was continued with Charles D. Brooks, speaker emeritus and former speaker/director for the *Breath of Life* television ministry, as he encouraged the graduates to remember their spiritual roots. It was a blessing to note that every senior plans to receive higher education.



Student Council president Collier Rowe enjoys graduation ceremonies.

Calendar

August

- 15 Open House, 6-8 p.m.
- 17 Making it Count, 8 a.m.-Noon, All Freshmen
- 19 Orientation Day
- 20 School Starts, Noon Dismissal
- 24 Spiritual Dedication Service, 7 p.m.
- 25 SC Handshake

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



SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2007
Host Hotel- Sheraton BWI



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



Dr. James Doggette
Oakwood College,
Madison Mission Church



Alvin Slaughter
Concert



Dr. Cedric Dent
Luncheon Speaker

3RD ANNUAL

UCAAA Music Conference

Miracle Temple Worship Center & Ministry Complex
100 S. Rock Glen Road Baltimore, MD 21229

Conference Host - Paula Morris

Host Pastor - Fredrick Russell

WWW.UCAAONLINE.ORG

Registration

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

- \$139.00 for UCAA members
- \$169.00 for NON UCAA members
- \$119.00 for a UCAA member student
- \$129.00 for a NON UCAA member student
- \$119.00 for a UCAA member Group
- \$139.00 for a NON UCAA member Group

Online Registration ends August 31, 2007

Contact Info

Email: Infoplease@uccaonline.org

Call: 678-732-7983



NAD CHURCH RESOURCE CENTER



GospelCity.com

Miracle Temple Church
A Seventh-day Adventist Congregation

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Food Festival

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CHECK AND CIRCLE ONE

YOU BUY	YOU SAVE	WE DONATE	SUPER DONATION
5-7 Cases	\$6 Instant Cash Back	\$1.50 to School of Your Choice	\$7.50 to School of Your Choice
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EMPLOYMENT

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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 wcc.edu/services/employment/facpos.html.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time professor in the School of Business/Management starting June 2008. Candidates should have a terminal degree, preferably in marketing, or 18 hrs. of graduate marketing classes. Experience in marketing preferred. Successful college teaching experience required. The successful candidate will be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Please send CV and letter of interest to Don Van Ornam, Dean, School of Business and Management, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370, (423) 236-2527, vanornam@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time professor in the School of Journalism & Communication. Anticipated courses include audio/video production, photography, new media, and speech. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching, and/or professional work experience, and a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master's degree is required, a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, rumsey@southern.edu, School of Journalism & Communication, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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Cleveland	8:33	8:24	8:13	8:02	7:50
Columbus	8:35	8:26	8:16	8:05	7:54
Jersey City	8:01	7:52	7:42	7:31	7:19
Norfolk	8:03	7:54	7:45	7:35	7:25
Parkersburg	8:28	8:19	8:09	7:59	7:48
Philadelphia	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:34	7:23
Pittsburgh	8:24	8:15	8:05	7:54	7:43
Reading	8:08	7:59	7:48	7:38	7:26
Richmond	8:09	8:00	7:51	7:41	7:30
Roanoke	8:18	8:10	8:00	7:50	7:40
Toledo	8:41	8:32	8:21	8:10	7:58
Trenton	8:03	7:54	7:44	7:33	7:20
Wash., D.C.	8:09	8:01	7:51	7:40	7:30

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 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 credentials and licensed employees of the conference, and members of the executive committees of the Columbia Union and the General Conference who may be present.



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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 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

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST SOCIAL WORKERS (IAASW) announces a conference for its members to be held Friday, October 26, at the Holiday Inn Civic Center, San Francisco, Calif. For more information, contact Lindsey Pitts at celiidh_zee@yahoo.com, and visit www.iaasw.org.

BELTSVILLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI REUNION.

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

ADULT SINGLES RETREAT

October 12-14, Mt. Aetna Retreat Center, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Guest speakers: James H. Dotson, Jr., PhD, health educator, founder and CEO/president of Training for Transformation, Inc. (TFTI). The principal focus of this ministry is helping individuals to learn God's principles for healthy sexuality and apply those principles to their lives. Roger W. Coon, PhD., was formerly senior pastor at Takoma Park (Md.) church and associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate. He is now retired and living in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. Pastor William Fagal is an associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate. He served as a district pastor in the Southern New England Conference and taught at Atlantic Union College. For more information and registration, contact Fred: fmthomas1950@yahoo.com, tel. (410) 992-9731 or Janet: dwellerinthelane@hotmail.com. Deadline: September 25. Please visit www.asamchesapeake.com.

THE EASTERN REGION FEDERATED KING'S DAUGHTERS

38th Annual Convention will be held October 24-28 at the Embassy Suites in Columbus, Ohio. For more information, contact Brenda Palmer at bpalmer50@wowway.com or (614) 778-1365.

OAK PARK ALUMNI REUNION

October 5-6, at Gates Hall in Nevada, Iowa. For more information, go to www.opainiowa.com.

ANYONE ATTENDING WAUKEGAN (ILL.) ADVENTIST CHURCH:

If you have memories, pictures, and/or articles we can use for the completion of a church and school history profile, please contact Shirley Coulter at (847) 244-7318. Thank you and God bless.

80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

The Linden church in 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.lindensdchurch.org.



Association of Adventist Women

The Association of Adventist Women will hold its

25th Anniversary Conference

on

October 24-28, 2007

at the

Hilton Hotel

in

Silver Spring, Maryland

Be sure to see our Web site at www.aaw.cc for more details.

ADULT SINGLES RETREAT

Presented by the Chesapeake Conference

Mt. Aetna Retreat Center Hagerstown, Maryland
October 12-14, 2007

Guest Speakers:
James H. Dotson, Jr., PhD.
Roger W Coon, PhD.
Pastor William Fagal

Contact:

Fred Thomas
fmthomas1950@yahoo.com,
Tel. 410-992-9731
or

Janet:
dwellerinthelane@hotmail.com

Deadline:
September 25

Please visit us at the web:

MARYLAND MEN OF FAITH

Second Annual Conference

October 6, 2007

Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center Hagerstown, Md.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men ... men who in their inmost souls are true and honest ... men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall!" (Education, p. 57).

Single and married men of all ages are invited.

For details on topics, speakers, and registration (required) visit:

www.mmof.org

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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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Happily and Unhappily Married

My wife and I have been happily and unhappily married for 12 years. Why do I say "happily and unhappily married?" Because there is no such thing as a fairytale marriage. I think if we could all get that straight, we would be a lot happier even when we are not happy about what's going on in our marriage.



I met my wife, Veneth, while studying at Columbia Union College. She caught my eye during an intense summer of study when I was taking 18 credits and she 21. We were both very busy but not busy enough for love to enter the picture. After a few months of friendship, courtship, and serious prayer, we decided to get married. I still remember the day I knelt down and proposed. I have never regretted it although the days ahead would test every fiber of my being.

NO GUARANTEES

Has our marriage been perfect? I can honestly say, yes. Our marriage is perfectly ours—and perfectly what God means for it to be—a day-by-day, character-testing, 1-Corinthian-13, learning ordeal with constant reminders and daily tastes of Christ's suffering for our salvation. In that sense it has been perfect—*perfect for us*.

Over the years, I have had to learn to keep anger under a tight lid, do more listening than talking, compromise, and step up to higher heights in the area of home management. There have been days when I preferred to leave certain things to somebody else (funny how that "somebody else" always ends up being my wife). Fortunately, I have also learned that carrying the load *together* is much more profitable and considerate.

Learning to love is a job only the courageous need apply for, especially when children come along. Our two sons, Timothy and Taylor, have helped me experience a previously unexplored dimension of God—patience. I may be a minister by title, but learning to be a man after God's own heart has truly been a growing experience. I've learned a lot, and now I encourage couples to remember that we are all sinners, we all go through tough times, and we all have the available help of an awesome, loving God.

While there's no guarantee that you'll live happily ever after, pray frequently, learn to love truthfully, and decide that no matter what, you can make it.

Vernon Waters pastors Allegheny East Conference's Walnut Street Community church in Pottstown, Pa., and Grace Tabernacle in Norristown, Pa.



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