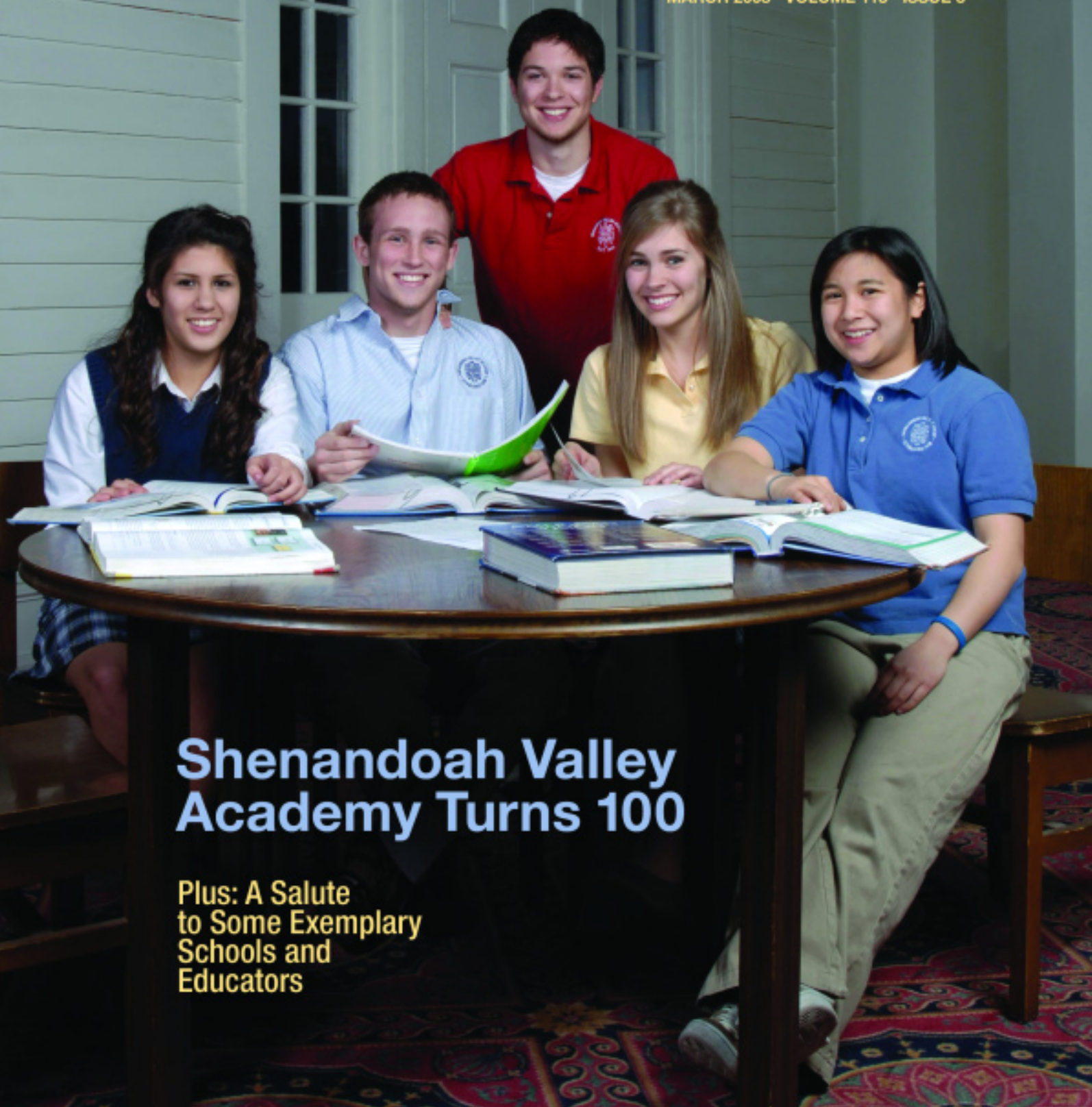


CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

MARCH 2008 • VOLUME 113 • ISSUE 3



Shenandoah Valley Academy Turns 100

Plus: A Salute
to Some Exemplary
Schools and
Educators



News & Features

10 | A Salute to Exemplary Schools



Four Columbia Union schools are in the spotlight this month—Shenandoah Valley Academy for turning the enrollment tide in time for its centennial celebration, Pine Forge Academy for its practical homeland mission emphasis, Spring Valley Academy for its bold tech-

nology initiative, and Vineland Regional Adventist School for answering the clarion call to provide Christian education in southern New Jersey.

16 | A Salute to Exemplary Elementary Educators



While *all* educators deserve our thanks and recognition, meet eight—one from each conference in the Columbia Union—who serve as principals *and* teachers. Discover why, for them, the phrase “all in a day’s work” is an understatement!

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On the Web

Podcast: *March 1* – Education vice president Hamlet Canosa, EdD, discusses results of the study on Adventist education. *March 15* – Vice president/general counsel Walter Carson, Esq., shares how he helped a public school student get her Sabbath volleyball playoffs rescheduled so she could participate. They won!

About the Cover:

Freshman Sophia Rodriguez, sophomore Chad McLennan, seniors Peter Holler and Rachel Knittel, and sophomore Janice Cosme were photographed at Shenandoah Valley Academy by Bert Williams.

CognitiveGenesis: “Just the Facts, Ma’am”

She was frank, if not blunt. But she seemed sincere: “Well, Dr. Canosa,” she said, approaching me after a school board meeting. “I read your article about CognitiveGenesis a year or so ago, and I want to know what you can tell me now. I’m not interested in anything but the facts!”



Instantly my mind’s eye fancied a youthful recollection of Sergeant Detective Joe Friday. Yes, for those of my generation, Sergeant Friday of the *Dragnet* television series in the early 1960s and 70s, popularized the phrase, “Just the facts, Ma’am. Just the facts.” I watched the program occasionally as a youngster, even though my parents, with good reason, subscribed to Newton Minow’s 1961 description of television as “a vast wasteland.” They carefully monitored what would and, more importantly, would not appear on our television screen. But that phrase, “Just the facts, Ma’am,” which actor and Joe Friday character creator Jack Webb delivered so effectively, stuck with me.

The woman, a valued church member and school board member, also stuck with me. She seemed in no hurry, perhaps believing that she caught me off guard and that it might take a moment or two for me to prepare a response.

ABOVE AVERAGE

Fortunately, I was not at a loss for the facts—facts I was pleased to share with her then, and that I am equally pleased to share with you now. CognitiveGenesis, the nationwide study assessing academics of 30,000+ students in Seventh-day Adventist schools, grades 3-9 and 11, is in its second year. Standardized test results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS for grades 3-8), Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED for grades 9 and 11), and Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT for grades 3-9 and 11) preliminarily indicate the following, as noted at www.cognitivegenesis.org:

1. Students at all levels of ability, on average, have higher achievement scores than predicted by their ability.
2. Overall achievement (composite) was above the national norm in *all* grades (3-9, 11).
3. The scores were above average by almost one half of a standard deviation.
4. Achievement was above average for *all* subjects including Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Sources of Information.
5. Achievement in the different subject areas ranged approximately between the 60-65 percentile ranks.
6. Actual achievement scores were above predicted achievement based on ability for *all* grades.
7. Actual achievement scores were $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of a grade level above predicted achievement, based on ability for *all* subject areas.
8. Overall achievement (composite) was above predicted achievement for all eight unions in the United States.
9. Achievement was very similar no matter the size of the school, the number of students per grade, the number of students per teacher, the number of grades per teacher, or the grade range within the classroom.

These, my friends, are the facts! Though preliminary, they show that academics in Seventh-day Adventist schools are of a high quality and that students attending our schools are receiving a quality education.

Hamlet Canosa, EdD (hcanosa@columbiaunion.net), serves as vice president for Education in the Columbia Union where there are 101 elementary and secondary schools and two colleges. Visit his photo blog at www.columbiaunion.org.

Union Sets Priorities

Late in 2006, Columbia Union Executive Committee members met in Hershey, Pa., and spent time identifying and discussing what they deemed were the greatest ministry needs in the Mid-Atlantic region. Discipling members, engaging younger generations in the Adventist mission, and finding innovative ways to do evangelism were themes commonly noted. At each President's Council and Executive Committee meeting in 2007, they worked to organize those needs into a list of priorities. They were voted at the union's 2007 year-end meetings and will be implemented throughout the remainder of the 2006-2011 quinquennium:

- Foster a culture where discipleship, mission, service, and evangelism are priorities at every level
- Encourage and support innovation in ministry
- Seek and create opportunities to disciple and empower members to minister and share our faith
- Engage new generations in the Adventist mission
- Foster excellence in education and support programs that promote increased enrollment in Adventist schools
- Foster excellence in ministry and support initiatives and programs that promote increased attendance in Adventist churches

"These parameters will guide our work, and we will dedicate our time, talents, and monetary resources toward implementing them," says union president **Dave Weigley**. "They are broad enough for varied adaptation at

each level of the church, but will feed into our overall vision to see members across the Columbia Union become more engaged in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When that happens, more of the 50 million people in our territory will come to know, understand, and experience the life-saving and -transforming grace of Jesus Christ."—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*



Union ASI Chapter Plans Spring Convention

The Columbia Union Conference's chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (CUASI) will hold its spring convention in Bridgeport, W.Va., March 28-29. Keynote speaker Barbara Taylor, ASI's national vice president for membership and recruitment, will highlight "101 Ways to Share Christ."

Chapter president **Gayle Clark** expects a good attendance: "There'll be lots of fellowship, inspiring speakers, and everyone can look forward to learning many ways to witness in the marketplace," she said. For more information or to register, call (304) 266-7794.



Adventist Testifies Before Congress

James D. Standish, Esq., Seventh-day Adventist Church director of Legislative Affairs,

recently testified at a U.S. Congressional hearing where he and five others urged legislators to sponsor the Workplace Religious Freedom Act. Originally introduced 10 years ago, it now garners broad, bipartisan support in both houses of the U.S. Congress. If enacted, Standish said it would protect and expand rights first introduced 40 years ago when Congress passed workplace freedom legislation under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act. "This is a common sense, reasonable bill that requires



PHOTO BY DAVID E. HITTLE

employers to show they have a good reason to refuse time off for Sabbath before they fire [a person of faith]," Standish said. Workers, he noted, should not be required to choose between fulfilling job requirements and practicing their respective faiths.

"This very important bill will add some teeth to defining the terms 'religious accommodation' and 'undue hardship,'" states Columbia Union Conference vice president and general counsel Walter Carson. "It will help us better aid persons who require workplace religious accommodations."

According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claims of religious discrimination climbed 83 percent between 1992 and 2006. —*Adventist News Network*

Kettering College Opens Nursing Education Center

Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA) in Ohio recently celebrated the opening and dedication of its Anna May Vaughan Center for Nursing Education. Named in honor of the longtime nursing faculty member and college supporter (pictured), the center features a state-of-the-art nursing skills lab, meeting spaces, and faculty offices.



On hand for the dedication were (below, left to right) Jack Burdick, KCMA's chief business officer; Cherie Rebar, chair of the Associate of Science in Nursing program; Charles Scriven, college president; Brenda Kuhn, vice president and chief nursing officer of Kettering Medical



Center; Beverly Cobb, director of the Division of Nursing and dean for Students & Learning at KCMA; and Sharon Millard, chair of the college's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

"Twenty-seven years ago, we clustered in our tiny skills lab around a bed to learn basic care, using ourselves as surrogate patients," said Cobb, a 1972 graduate of the program.

At a price tag of \$630,000,

the new center includes such technology as virtual IV, computerized charting, and programmable interactive mannequins that can mimic symptoms of real-life patients. More than twice the size of the old nursing skills lab built in the 1960s, the center is set up to imitate an emergency department, with each bed space providing the same amenities found in a hospital, including suction and oxygen. Cameras and monitors placed at each station allow faculty members to remain at one bed while instructing an entire class, ensuring continuity of training. For more information, visit www.kcma.edu.—*Mindy Claggett*

WGTS Raises Funds for Ministry, Makes Friends for Christ

Radio station WGTS raised \$1.6 million last month during its annual four-day fundraising event called Sharathon. But vice president and general manager John Konrad says the "Prayer and Praise" program that kicked off the event was every bit as exciting as the money—and maybe even more important to the ministry.

With the help of Adventist ministers like Sligo church pastors **Debbie Eisele** and John Wagner in Takoma Park, Md., and Beltsville (Md.) church pastor Kermit Netteburg, he started a chaplaincy ministry. Led by Sligo pastor and WGTS chaplain Terry Johnsson, their objective was to meet the spiritual needs of Sharathon callers in a more personal way through one-on-one conversations and prayer. One caller

said her Christian experience was just barely beginning. She expressed gratitude when Johnsson promised to help her find a church. "Your station, through the *Voice of Prophecy* and music, finally led me back to Christ," said another.

The phones rang constantly, and in just six hours, more than 500 people called for prayer.



"People called to share their hopes and fears," Konrad said. "It showed that they view us as an important resource in their spiritual life, and that reminds us our mission is to share Jesus, not just raise money."

During the remaining three-and-a-half days, another 5,500 people called to make a contribution. Konrad, who says the station reaches an estimated 250,000 people in the Washington, D.C., area each week, hopes to use those funds to extend the ministry to another 100,000 listeners. To learn more or listen live, visit www.wgts.org.—*Kermit Netteburg*

Correction

Columbia Union College (CUC) president Weymouth Spence's correct phone number is (301) 891-4128. Also, senior Public Communications major Michael Martell compiled the student spotlight "Home Away From Home."

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

News from the Office of Education

Associate Director Earns Doctorate

Ian Kelly, Columbia Union Conference associate director of Education for 10 years, recently earned a Doctor of Ministry, in Christian Education, from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Dr. Kelly who will be marching in graduation exercises in May.



geared to enhance teaching methodologies. "I've been to several conventions before, but this one was exceptional," said Wayne Edwards of Waldwick Jr. Academy in New Jersey. "We went there as a team of Adventist teachers, and the unity was evident. I especially enjoyed the class on Shakespearean plays. I learned how to better motivate and present Shakespeare to my students." To help teachers attend, the Columbia Union Conference substantially subsidized the cost.

Takoma Academy Teacher Honored

Myrna Candalera, English teacher at Takoma Academy, in Takoma Park, Md., will receive the Alumni Awards Foundation's Teacher of Excellence Award at the foundation's annual convention in Scottsdale, Ariz., March 8. Candalera has served at Takoma Academy for 18 years and is highly respected and much appreciated by students, parents, and fellow faculty.



Leaders Host Webpage, Blog, and Forum

The Office of Education's webpage (www.columbiaunion.org/go/education) is now significantly more robust and user-friendly. It includes education forms, a photo blog with video/audio clips, and message boards that facilitate the discussion of various issues. The page also links to educational organizations across North America—Adventist and others—that promote professional growth for leaders and teachers.

Educators Participate in Technology Convention

Twenty-five educators, including Office of Education directors, attended the recent Florida Education Technology Convention (FETC). The FETC is believed to be the most highly



respected and best attended education technology convention of all similar state-sponsored conventions across America. Participants included curriculum and educational leaders from across the Columbia Union.

Distance Education Possibilities Explored

The Office of Education recently met with Alayne Thorpe and her associates at Griggs University to explore



distance education possibilities for interested conferences and schools within the Columbia Union. Three models were examined and one, currently being modified, will be presented to the union Board of Education later this year.

Consultant Addresses Curriculum Committee

Shirani Dealwis-Chand, EdD, a Seventh-day Adventist educational consultant, recently made a presentation to committee members who are focused on invigorating K-12 classroom

environments. Chosen for her fresh, practical, and productive ideas, this was not Dealwis-Chand's first visit to the Columbia Union. It is hoped that the principles and methodologies cited will further expand available teaching tools for local educators.



The Office of Education annually funds a professional growth seminar for committee members as part of its commitment to foster professional growth among conference curriculum leaders.

Vice President's Article Published

An article written by Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president for Education, has been printed in the spring edition of *The Journal of Adventist Education*, which is published by the Adventist World Church's Office of Education. Canosa says the article provides an overview of his doctoral research findings



on higher education board governance practices and behaviors. During the last 12 months,

Canosa has used his research to develop and provide several leadership and governance seminars and workshops.

School Board Manual Revised

A new school board manual, in preparation for nearly six

months, will soon be presented to the Columbia Union School Administrators Council for recommendation to the Union Board of Education. The manual includes contemporary governance principles and insights, which, if employed, can make the work of school boards more effective and productive. The new edition will replace the existing manual, which has not been revised since 1997.

Three Superintendents Elected

J. Wayne Hancock, EdD (New Jersey), Pastor Collin Parkinson (Allegheny West), and David Morgan



(Pennsylvania), have recently been elected to serve as their conference education superintendents. Both Hancock and Parkinson



bring pastoral and educational experience to their new roles, while Morgan has provided extensive educational service for well over a decade.



Potomac Education VP Accepts New Position

Larry Marsh, Potomac Conference vice president for Education, recently announced that he has accepted a call to



return to the Upper Columbia Conference in Spokane, Wash., to serve in the

same role. He previously

worked at Upper Columbia Academy. Marsh and his wife, Patty, who



currently serves as his assistant, have been at Potomac since 2000.

"For the last seven and a half years, Patty and I have enjoyed a richly rewarding experience as part of Potomac's team of educators," Marsh said. "This has been a difficult decision for us, Potomac still offers many challenges and opportunities."

Ian Kelly, Columbia Union Conference associate Education director, expressed gratitude for Marsh's leadership. "Larry had to navigate some turbulent waters in Potomac's educational system, but he stepped up to the plate and made strong decisions."

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

K-12* Education in the Columbia Union

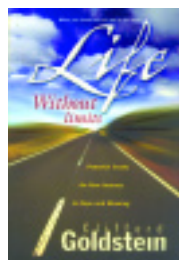
101 Schools
554 Teachers
5,842 Students

*Does not include college statistics.

What's New?

Book > Life Without Limits Clifford Goldstein

This isn't just another thought-provoking book from Clifford Goldstein, the well-published author, *Adult Bible Study Guide* editor, and member of an Allegheny East Conference church in Maryland. Designed for sharing, it is a complete message book that addresses a number of issues, including the Sabbath,



Christ's divinity, and the second coming. "The book is an attempt to make basic Christianity—with a distinctive Adventist slant—logical and reasonable for folks," explains Goldstein.

The book is published in two formats. The less-expensive version is a pocket-sized paperback that presents the author's core message and is designed for mass distribution. The deluxe version—featuring a hard cover with dust jacket, full-color illustrations, and an unabridged message—is designed to be a special gift for friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Pick up a single copy or order in bulk at your local Adventist Book Center.

Music > On My Way (The Prelude) In Touch

This introductory recording by young people from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, is just a foretaste of more musical blessings to come. The "cosmopolitan" group, comprised of Seventh-day Adventists from several area churches, as well as two members from other denominations, calls the Allegheny East Conference's Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., their home base.

The album's four songs "give people an introduction to our music ministry while we work on our full-length CD, due out this fall," states manager Jared Renaud Taylor. He explains that their style has been referred to as gospel-jazz. "But we think it's really just gospel—the good



news of Jesus with a touch of Heskey," he says, referring to chief songwriter and musician Colville W. Heskey.

To get a copy of the CD—with songs penned by members—visit www.myspace.com/beintouch or email jaertee@gmail.com.

WholeHealth

Caring for Caregivers

She's exhausted, both physically and emotionally, and way behind in work. Her life is "on hold" as she puts the needs of an aged parent first. Church activities have been scaled way back, and she can't remember the last time she took time for herself. With no family support, she could really use a break, but whom could she ask?

Sound like someone you know? The typical caregiver is a 46-year-old woman who works and spends more than 20 hours a week caring for a parent who lives nearby. A recent study by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP found that 44.4 million Americans, aged 18 or older, are providing unpaid care to an adult. This added responsibility and stress puts caregivers at an increased risk for depression and illness.

What can you do? Pick up the phone. Even 15 minutes can help recharge their batteries. Offer to provide "respite care" so they can attend to other things. Invite yourself over, and bring snacks and games. Caring for caregivers is one way a modern Christian can live out Isaiah 58:6,7.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

5 Minutes With > Sabbath School Lesson Author Bertram Melbourne

If life had gone as planned, Bertram Melbourne, PhD, might not have written this quarter's *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* on discipleship. He would have been a medical missionary doctor



halfway around the world. Forty years ago, when he completed an undergraduate degree in theology, the leaders of his native West Jamaican Conference asked him to put off medical school and teach for two years. That was followed by a stint as a district pastor and several years as a departmental director. "Ten years later, I realized I was not in medical school, but I was enjoying ministry," he laughs. He's still enjoying ministry—teaching at Howard University's School of Divinity in Washington, D.C., and serving as interim pastor at the Potomac Conference's Rockville (Md.) church. Along the way, this husband and father of three completed a Doctor of Religion at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Mich.), taught in, and chaired, the Religion Department at Columbia Union College (Takoma Park, Md.) for a total of 15 years, and published three books.

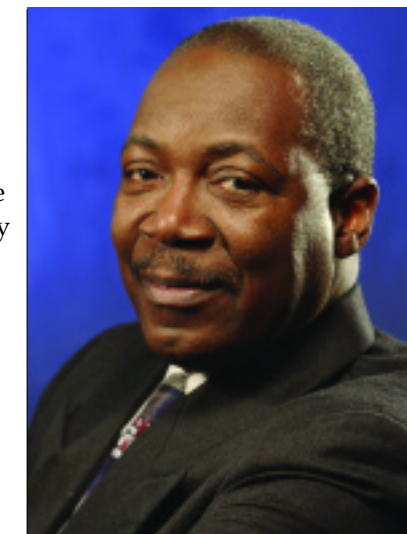
Melbourne says his extensive study and dissertation on New Testament Studies (see www.bertrammelbourne.org) has aided his work as an educator and minister, and was the impetus for this quarter's study of discipleship. Naturally, we wanted to know more:

Q: What is discipleship?

At its essence, discipleship involves following Jesus and learning from Him; it is neither a beautiful concept nor a nice sounding task for church members to perform. It is a relationship with Jesus that has a personal ring to it and involves what we do on behalf of Jesus, as well as how we represent Him in the world through our life, words, and actions.

Q: How does becoming a disciple of Christ change a person's life?

Throughout Scripture everyone who encounters Christ does not remain the same; instead there is tremendous change. Isaiah saw himself and said, "Woe is me," then upon being cleansed, he volunteers for service (Isa. 6). Peter said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Zaccheus not only gave half of his possessions to the poor, but he restored fourfold what he had defrauded from others. Saul of Tarsus said, "Lord, what will you have me to do?" then made a 180-degree change to support the cause he had once so devastatingly persecuted.



Q: What's the difference between a member and a disciple?

Membership involves acceptance of Jesus' teaching and commitment to them through baptism. Discipleship involves acceptance of the call to follow Jesus, learning from Him and moving on to a deeper relationship with Him, by allowing His teachings to become normative for our lives and decisive for our actions.

Q: What should we take away from this quarter's study?

Jesus is more interested in discipleship than membership; he values quality relationship over longevity of membership or tenure of office. He has given a mission to disciples for which He needs commitment from each member for its fulfillment. This means we must be open to His Lordship and leadership in our lives.—Celeste Ryan Blyden

Did You Know?

Columbia Union young people, aged 16-20+, can now advance to a new service level upon completing Pathfinder requirements.

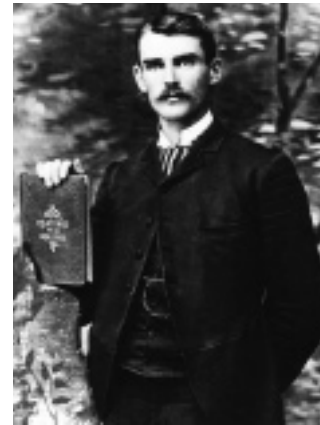


The Ambassador level, recently unveiled by the Youth Ministries department of the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters, "was developed specifically for senior youth and their needs," explains Robert Holbrook, Oklahoma Conference Youth Ministries director, who spent the past five years developing the program. Download the *Administrative Manual*, see the new patch (pictured) and pin, and find out more at <http://youth.gc.adventist.org/ambassador>.

shenandoah valley academy counts the years—and the blessings

DON WOOD

from the bedroom where he lay dying, evangelist Charles Zirkle (pictured)—the son of Elizabeth Zirkle, the first Seventh-day Adventist in Virginia—peered through the window. A short distance away he watched family members stake off 42 acres of the Zirkle farm—his inheritance—



to build a school to educate students in the Shenandoah Valley. Though he didn't live to see it, his dream was realized in 1908 when church leaders dedicated Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) first building. Over the decades, SVA has built on Zirkle's dream, educating thousands in a

Christ-centered environment. But like many Adventist schools, enrollment declined and the Potomac Conference boarding academy fell on tough times. Enter Dale Twomley, PhD, SVA's former principal (1974-78). During the last 15 months, he and his staff have worked tirelessly to turn things around. As they prepare to celebrate their centennial, Don Wood visited the New Market, Va., school to find out how things are going:

"SVA has survived for 100 years because it is the Lord's school; He is leading it through all the

ups and downs, good times and hard times," says Jan Strickland Osborne, Alumni and Development director. The walls of her office, lined with the diplomas of her parents, grandparents, and others—dating back to the earliest days of SVA—are a visible reminder of her family's commitment to Christian education and that of many others. "The fact that we have so many second-, third-, fourth-, and even fifth-generation graduates speaks to the fact that families hold SVA in high esteem and value the experiences that can be obtained [here]," she adds.

That value has been noted in the community as well. Twenty-two years ago, an article in the *Shenandoah Valley Herald* stated, "For a



SVA CELEBRATES A CENTURY

SVA will celebrate its centennial during Alumni Weekend, April 18-20. Highlights include alumni golf, soccer, and basketball games; a music festival; a benefit brunch; and guest speakers George Akers and Karl Haffner. For more information, visit www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.



small secondary school in rural Virginia, Shenandoah Valley Academy has a decidedly cosmopolitan flavor." The article then quoted principal W.G. Nelson: "Religion plays an important part in every aspect of the school. SVA teaches that all studies are approached with an attitude of reverence and devotion to God. The school helps students discover what it means to have a relationship with Jesus."

casting a big net

Today, led by Twomley, SVA presents that same cosmopolitan flair and spiritual commitment. And as it marks 100 years, Twomley recognizes that celebrating this centennial will be a special victory. When he grasped the helm of SVA in September 2006, the campus was in crisis. Of the 135 students enrolled during the 2005-06 academic year, 55 were seniors. "SVA needed to throw out a big net and mount an aggressive recruitment effort," he says. This involved remodeling the dorms and student center, visiting churches and schools of prospective students, and increasing the money earmarked for financial aid.

Twomley's marketing campaign offered two key attractions: a strong academic program and a powerful spiritual climate. To that end, he hired 10 new faculty members, including two Bible teacher/chaplains to ensure that every student has an effectual spiritual experience.

The big net also involved a successful fundraising campaign, which brought in \$2.9 million in contributions in just 15 months. Of that money, \$700,000 is being used for financial aid.

The strategy worked and resulted in 110 new enrollees for 2007-08, including 45 from public schools. That brings the student body to 175. How do they feel about the revamped SVA? "I think the school is great, and you can really grow spiritually here," states senior Peter Holler. Sophomore Chad McLennan loves the "warm environment, great baseball program, and awesome teachers who are involved in your daily life and go far beyond [the call of duty]." And seniors Kanasha Thulla and



Left: Students photographed in 1924 stand in front of SVA's first building, which was built in 1908. Above: For today's SVA students and faculty, things are looking up.

Rachel Knittel appreciate the opportunity to "express" and "be open" about their spirituality.

Academically, SVA now offers dual credit courses, where students earn high school and college credit; foreign travel for language classes, mission trips, music programs, and an exchange program; an ESL program; and service opportunities locally and abroad.

All of this has made such a positive difference for SVA and is helping ensure the continuance of Charles Zirkle's dream. It also makes a difference to Twomley who cut short his retirement because he saw the school's critical needs as a "spiritual call" he couldn't resist. Osborne and the other faculty and staff share that call, as well as a vision for SVA's future. "We want to reach enrollment of 300 students again," she says. "We are equipped to handle that many, and that's where we want to be."

Don Wood is communication director for the Potomac Conference, headquartered in Staunton, Va.

PHOTO BY BERT WILLIAMS

pine forge academy targets the mission field at home

LATASHA BETTS HEWITT

We want to show the community that we're not just a school sitting on a hill; we are concerned about what goes on in the valley," says Lawrence Perry, Religion teacher and co-chair of Pine Forge Academy's (PFA) Community Service Committee. "We also want to provide an avenue for PFA students to become involved in service,"

Bryant, Religion instructor and Perry's co-chair. There's also an annual Crop Walk Against Hunger where students recently raised \$500 to feed hungry people—locally and abroad.

Every other month, students volunteer with the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. Here they serve food, donate clothes, and collect canned goods for those who are less fortunate.

Although each student is required to complete 25 hours of community service per school year, many exceed that number. "Once they start volunteering, they see how it benefits their character and want to do more," Perry notes.

charity begins at home

Because students know that charity begins at home, they engage in ongoing efforts to clean up and beautify their campus, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad. Some also tutor students at the Jesse Wagner Elementary School across the street.

Other activities include a nursing home ministry, witnessing door-to-door, canvassing for Bible studies, helping with blood drives, and conducting children's church for Pottstown's Walnut Street congregation.

Formerly Pine Forge Institute, PFA was founded in 1946 as a result of an initiative of Black Seventh-day Adventists in the Mid-Atlantic United States. Today 172 students in grades 9-12, who hail from several states and countries, are reaping the benefits. For more information, visit www.pineforgeacademy.org.

LaTasha Betts Hewitt writes from Royersford, Pa., where she edits a healthcare journal. She attends the Germantown church in Philadelphia.



adds headmaster Cynthia Poole-Gibson of the 62-year-old Allegheny East Conference institution located just outside Pottstown, Pa.

In years past, PFA seniors would take a mission trip to such places as Trinidad, Barbados, or Puerto Rico. Now, armed with the motto "Treating Pottstown as Our Mission Field," all the students help to serve their community.

Every October they participate in the local Unity Walk, which demonstrates against racial hatred and promotes tolerance with its "No Place for Hate" theme. "It makes a statement that although we are from different walks of life, we can still learn to live together," says Edward

spring valley academy embraces e-learning

CAROL MARKEL

Spring Valley Academy, in Centerville, Ohio, is in the midst of exciting times. Not only are they celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, they're embarking on a bold new initiative to bring technology to all their classrooms. Principal Jeff Bovee and technology instructor Ed Lyons' quest to take this Ohio Conference K-12 school into the electronic era is quickly becoming reality.

The goal is threefold: teach students about technology, give them life skills to be successful as adults, and do all of it in a Christ-centered environment. "We want to surround our students with technology and, combined with our religious beliefs, use it as a tool to prepare them to be servants of Jesus," Bovee states.

getting equipped

The first step was to obtain a new server to manage network services and traffic. Spring Valley's local partner, Kettering Adventist HealthCare, helped with acquiring this much-needed component.

Next came software installation. Primary programs include Microsoft Office 2007 and Adobe Creative Suite 3, which includes Photoshop and InDesign. Students, like eighth-grader LeChae Nelson (pictured), are already enjoying and benefiting from these e-learning tools. The new technology emphasis has helped to peak her interest in becoming an artist/graphic designer. "I like to be creative," she beams. "With Photoshop, you can [design] your own website."

practice makes perfect

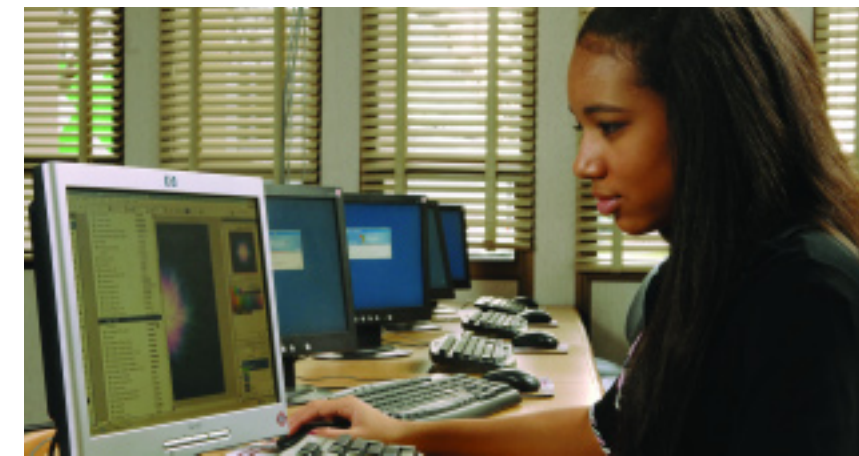
Lyons wants to ensure that students are well prepared for college and future careers where

working with technology is a given. To that end, he's teaching them about Open Source and other free software that can be downloaded from the Internet. Students work on various projects like the school calendar, yearbook, or website. "I also assign projects where they must keep track of their grades, as you would money, on a spreadsheet," he says.

How do parents feel about this technology focus? "They like the direction in which the school is heading," says Bovee who became the school's administrator last fall.

Located on 50 beautiful acres of property outside Dayton, Spring Valley Academy opened in 1968 after Dayton Junior Academy closed. Today five constituent churches—Beavercreek, Centerville, Kettering, Miamisburg, and Dayton's Ethan Temple—support the school, which enrolls 275 students. For more information, visit www.sva.pvt.k12.oh.us.

Carol Markel is a corporate writer at Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio.



vineland regional adventist school fills a void

RON TAYAM

For years Seventh-day Adventist parents in the southern New Jersey town of Vineland had a dream. They wanted an Adventist school—one that wouldn't require them to travel 25 miles south to Delaware or 35 miles north to the center of their Garden State.

Then in January 2006, three visionaries—pastors Joel Soto (Bridgeton Spanish and Vineland Pan-American churches), Carlos Torres (Vineland Spanish and Atlantic City churches), and José Guevarra (Hammonton church)—met to spearhead a plan. Eighteen months later, with the support of their constituent congregations, they opened Vineland Regional Adventist School at 2724 South Main Road.

Just shy of its first year in existence, this New Jersey Conference elementary/middle school has 36 students, including two from the community. There are 13 preschoolers and kindergartners taught by Naomi Torres; 14 first-through fourth-graders taught by Shiomara Larriu and Miriam Chavez; and nine fifth-through seventh-graders taught by Sandro Vera and principal Esther Grey.

using Christ's method

Since most of the students came from various public schools, a major challenge is helping them adapt to a Christ-centered educational environment. "Just as Christ does, we use redemptive discipline," Grey explains. "We pray with them, find a text or scripture, and point them back to Jesus." Grey, who teaches English, Bible, and Social Studies, pulls resources from the Bible at every opportunity.

In addition to meeting spiritual needs, the faculty is committed to enhancing the

educational experience of every child—most of whom are bilingual in English and Spanish. They encourage parents and often ask, "What can we do to help you get involved?"

They're also looking for ways to help their community. This past Thanksgiving, students collected and distributed canned goods, presented a program, and provided food for their neighbors. "We visit all churches in the area, introduce ourselves, and let them know who we are and what we're doing," Grey notes. "We want to grow and add 30 or 40 more students next year. That would be really nice."

For more information, contact Grey at (856) 691-9393.

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



Vineland Regional Adventist School opened its doors in September 2007. All students, including these preschoolers and kindergartners, receive a Christ-centered education.



Right: Pine Forge Academy teacher LaRonda McKnight engages her senior English class in discussion. Founded in 1946, several of its buildings were once part of the historic Underground Railroad system.



Pine Forge Academy

In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one.

—Ellen G. White, Education, p.30



Vineland Regional Adventist School



Spring Valley Academy



Center: Vineland staff members (left to right) Naomi Torres, Miriam Chavez, principal Esther Grey, Sandro Vera, and Shiomara Larriu involve parents in their children's education.

Left: Spring Valley Academy principal Jeff Bovee (on left) and technology instructor Ed Lyons are incorporating e-learning into all classrooms.

doing double duty

a salute to exemplary elementary educators

This month we salute elementary school educators. They often serve small schools, wear multiple hats, and spend more waking hours with our kids than we do. Each conference education superintendent was given the difficult task of featuring *one* educator in this article. While we can only honor eight, we hope you'll take time this month to thank and recognize *all* of your school's teachers:

Sharon Lewis modeling excellence

Sharon Lewis, a visionary educator in the Allegheny West Conference, has given 30 years of outstanding service. In her first position she worked in a one-teacher school in Newtownville, N.J. After marrying Pastor James Lewis (now conference president), she taught in various places throughout the Columbia Union touching



Thank you

PHOTO BY BERT WILLIAMS

the lives of students in Trenton, N.J.; Baltimore, Md.; and Worthington and Columbus, Ohio.

For nearly four years, she's been the head teacher/principal at Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) where enrollment has increased from 45 to 64 students. In 2006 CAA was granted a six-year certification by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD) and certification as a non-public charter school by the state of Ohio. Last year, as evidenced by improved Ohio Achievement test scores, she successfully spurred her school toward greater academic excellence.

Lewis, who has served on the NAD's curriculum and executive committees, maintains that "Christian education doesn't cost, it pays." Truly, this committed Christian, team player, and skilled educator is a choice model for new teachers.—Collin Parkinson

Karohn Young making her mark

Karohn Young makes a significant difference at the Chesapeake Conference's Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md. "There's nothing here that doesn't have her mark on it," states Robert Blake, school board chair. "She has been instrumental in physically restructuring the school and redesigning the curriculum. With limited funds,"

Blake continues, "Karohn and her faculty employed innovative ways to clean and repair worn hall carpet, paint classrooms, and refurbish the library to create an attractive learning environment.

She also composed a school song, initiated a school-wide discipline program, selected colorful attractive student uniforms, tweaked the curriculum to provide academic excellence, and established three-year goals—all in the *first month* after she was hired!" In addition, Young and Blake placed community ads and faithfully recruited in students' homes. Their efforts paid off and enrollment doubled.

"To me, teaching is a wondrous and weighty responsibility," says Young. "A teacher wields the

power to facilitate growth or decimate lives. It is of the utmost importance that we instill in each individual the marvelous fact that God really loves us, so we should in turn love others *and* ourselves." To that end, she lives by the acronym "ICE," which stands for Industry (determination, discipline, and goal-setting); Creativity (life-affirming innovation and passion); and Excellence (pursuing one's personal best academically, professionally, physically, and artistically).

"Karohn's high standards for herself, the faculty, and students make a huge impact at Crossroads," says Chesapeake's associate superintendent Jacqueline Messenger. "She is one of the most dedicated, energetic principals I've ever met." —Carole B. Smith

Kells Hall honoring God's call



all children, when given high expectations and ample encouragement, can

achieve more than we usually give them credit," declares principal and upper grades teacher Kells Hall, "even those we might consider at risk." With this belief, it's no wonder that students at the Ohio Conference's Toledo Junior Academy demonstrate superior academic growth.

A spiritually focused, mission-driven leader, Hall shares the passion of his board and strategically provides students with the opportunity to experience a distinctive Adventist education. "As a Christian teacher, it is my duty to sometimes gently nudge, and other times outright *push* students to be all that God wants them to be," he states. "Any less would be doing them—and God—a disservice."

His commitment to excellence in the context of mission, coupled with a gracious, purposeful, progressive leadership style, honors God and all who are privileged to partner with him. It's with a keen sense of gratitude that we acknowledge Hall's response to God's call to the ministry of Adventist education in Toledo, Ohio.—E. Jay Colburn

Leona Bange scoring above average

I want the community and churches to view our school as one where students grow academically as evidenced by above average scores in standardized tests," says Leona Bange, principal/teacher of Pennsylvania Conference's York Adventist School. She also envisions a school where "a relationship with Jesus is first and foremost for teachers and students, and social growth and service to others is demonstrated by involvement in community projects and evangelistic outreach."



Her drive to create a Godly learning environment has led to a new challenge—increasing enrollment! Under Bange's direction, York has grown to over 40 students and plans are underway for a building project.

York church pastor Dave Woodruff, the school board, parents, and church members, led by school board chair Dean Thoman, have fervently embraced this vision. Pennsylvania is truly blessed to have this exemplary educational leader on our team!—David Morgan

Nicole Agbonkhese making the vision a reality

Nicole Agbonkhese came to the Potomac Conference's Vienna Adventist Academy (VAA) in the summer of 2006. Immediately this principal and kindergarten teacher set out to strengthen the academic program and make spiritual values a focus.

She organized a group of prayer warriors from the school board to pray for students, teachers, and challenging issues. She also visited constituent and



nonconstituent churches to share her vision for the school. It didn't take long before the Vienna, Va., school was reaping the rewards. In two years, there's been an enrollment increase of nearly 30 students, the addition of two teachers, and a pre-kindergarten program, which has a waiting list.

Agbonkhese considers "parent and school board support and a genuinely Christ-centered program" key to Vienna's recent success. She has served as an important catalyst, sparking renewed energy in a local community that wants to see VAA expand its mission to reach more young people for Jesus.—Robert Smith

Keith Wallace thankful for the opportunity to serve

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Office of Education is proud to profile Keith Wallace as an outstanding elementary school educator. Wallace has taught in the Adventist school system since 1978. In 1986, after spending time in the South Central and Lake Region conferences, he was hired to teach at Ephesus Junior Academy in Richmond, Va. Wallace has served as principal/teacher at this AEC school for 16 of the past 22 years.



His consistent and steady leadership—as a teacher, administrator, and role model—has greatly aided his success. Wallace's students, teachers, constituents, and community have confidence and a high regard for his leadership.

"Christ is the reason for the passion that drives me," states this award-winning musician and published poet who recently earned a Master of Education Technology. "It may sound simplistic and somewhat cliché, but when you evaporate the labyrinth and complexities of my life, I am so thankful that God allows me to serve and enjoy my work."—James Willis

Catherine Tomlinson

my inspiration for becoming a teacher

New Jersey Conference Education superintendent J. Wayne Hancock recently announced that Catherine Tomlinson, principal of Cohansey Christian School, has been chosen as their 2007-08 Principal of the Year. Her daughter wrote the following tribute:

STACY TOMLINSON

I attended Cohansey Christian School, a small, one-room Adventist school in a rural community in the New Jersey Conference. It was a friendly and inspiring place to learn. My teacher, Catherine Tomlinson, whom we affectionately called "Mrs. T," spent hours painting rainbows, lighthouses, trees, and animals all over our classroom and hallway. Our motto, "Cohansey School, Pathway to Eternal Learning" was displayed in various places throughout the building.

Mrs. T's love of learning was contagious. Every detail became interesting because she was so excited about it. Each day held new creative ideas, projects, and activities that fed our hunger to learn and molded our young minds into the people we are today. In class, we read and she read to us. We learned to work together in small groups and she encouraged us to find independent success. We took walks in nature and explored the various historic sites of our hometown, county, and state.

no limits

Though we were a small school, in Mrs. T's eyes, there was no limit to what we could accomplish. She scheduled swimming lessons, biking, walking, and reading marathons. She took us to nursing homes and the homes of shut-ins to sing to them about Jesus' love. We did programs honoring local veterans and annually entered floats in the Memorial Day Parade, for which we received many commendations. She organized outstanding



school programs at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and graduation with unbelievable decorations and props that demonstrated her artistic talent.

Through it all, Mrs. T expected academic excellence from everyone. And now, as I look back, I recognize that she made learning possible for everyone, regardless of our levels, abilities, and differences.

Truly Mrs. T was one of the most dedicated people I knew. Some years she was the only teacher, as well as the principal, nurse, janitor, cook, recess supervisor, fundraiser, and driver. Yet, she still found the energy to change into her sneakers and play kickball with us! She picked students up on the way to school and dropped others off on the way home, adding many extra hours and miles to her day. Day after day she continued to have a major impact on our lives and fulfill her many responsibilities with amazing dedication, determination, and grace.

Cathy Tomlinson, my teacher from 1985-1993, will forever be one of the great heroes in my life, not just for being my teacher, but for being my mom. Though I did not always enjoy being a teacher's child, I am—and always will be—proud of her for the teacher she was and is today. Her dedication to excellence in education has inspired me to also guide my students down a "pathway to eternal learning."

Stacy Tomlinson currently teaches English and History at Collegedale Academy in Tennessee.

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YOUR HEALING
MINISTRY

MARCH 2008

Going Through the Cycle of Life

Mario Ceballos

It was an unusually sunny and warm Monday morning in southern Ohio. Monday mornings are when I visit patients at Southview Hospital in Dayton. I stopped at the nurse's station on the Intensive Care Unit and asked them which patients would benefit from a chaplain's visit. They indicated two individuals. But there was one woman, in particular, who was living what they perceived to be the last hours of her life.

As I walked into her room, the sun was shining brightly through a large window, and the color of the foliage was clearly visible, indicating the fast approaching winter. "Mrs. B" was lying comfortably in bed. Her head was propped up, and her beautiful white hair accentuated her face. Seated next to her, and holding her hand, was her daughter. The young woman had tears filling her blue eyes. I introduced myself. Mrs. B opened her eyes, looked at me, and began to tell me how blessed she was to have a daughter like "J." J had left her little one at home and was beside her mother who was going through "the valley of the shadow of death."

Mrs. B spoke of her wonderful life, which had been filled with sorrows and joys, and she spoke of how blessed she was to know that God was in control. She knew that her time had come, and she was at peace and ready to go. We sat there and spoke for a while. Then, with tears in all of our eyes, we held hands and prayed.

As I walked out of the room I was reminded of another patient, in the same situation, at another of our hospitals. On that occasion the patient—an elderly woman, also with her daughter holding her hand—was drifting away as a lullaby was played over the intercom system. The daughter felt her mother slip away at the moment the lullaby was playing. After a few minutes, she composed herself, called the nurse, and asked, "What was that music? Was it a lullaby?"

The nurse hesitated for a moment before realizing what had just happen. Then, in a kind and loving way, she proceeded to explain how the hospital played a lullaby at the birth of each baby. Curiosity overcame the daughter, and she asked the nurse who was born. The nurse left and after a few minutes came back and tenderly informed her that it was a baby girl.

Sitting quietly in her mother's room, the daughter began to reminisce about her mom and how much she loved life. I'm sure she also thought of how wonderful it was, that at the moment her mom died—a new life began.



Mario Ceballos is vice president of Spiritual Services and Missions at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.





“We Journey With People”

A Day in the Life of a Hospital Chaplain

Larry Kositsin

Our day begins before the delivery person has thrown the morning newspaper on the driveway. In the early morning hours, we sit quietly, drinking from the inspired pages of various writings. Then, in prayer, we wrestle and commune with the Almighty God about sin, priorities, our life purpose, passions, and weaknesses.

As chaplains, we are very aware that our effectiveness is in direct proportion to being honest about our feelings, personal problems, and challenges. There is a keen awareness of the need to be at peace with God, self, and others. And so, on our knees, before heading out to serve, we draw from the heavenly well of grace and hope.

Often, before we arrive at the Spiritual Care Department, we're already at work. Someone will approach us as we walk from the car, wait for the elevator, or greet people throughout the hospital. It might be a staff member whose colleague has been diagnosed with cancer or whose family member is having surgery. It's on their minds and their hearts, and they're just trying to get through the day.

We start wherever they are and provide curative, healing properties—often for invisible wounds—that lead to physical and spiritual well-being.



We watch their attitude and listen to their tone for any significant change or sign of pain. Sensing their needs, we often make arrangements to visit with them later. No matter the situation, we always try to be sensitive to anyone who might be facing life's challenges.

SERVING AS NEEDED

The first official meeting in the chaplain's day is the morning staff meeting. Information is shared about what happened during the night. Decisions are made about how to follow-up on certain patients and family members. Before the meeting ends, the staff shares a devotional thought and prayer requests. At that time, we especially pray for our patients, the requests retrieved from the prayer box near the hospital chapel, and employees from specific departments who ask for an outpouring of God's Spirit and grace. Every chaplain knows that in some cases, God will help the seeker overcome challenges, while in other cases, He will allow them to endure pain and suffering. But all cases—regardless of the outcome—require faith and trust in God.

After prayer, armed with printouts listing the newly admitted patients and those with special needs, we begin visiting patients. On each unit, we talk with the nurses to see if there are any immediate requests.

Like a nurse or physician, the chaplain is aware that emotional or spiritual turmoil can drain a patient to a place of hopelessness. So we look for clues in the patient's room. Are there cards with inspirational thoughts? Does the patient have a support network of family and friends?

We also listen, and listen well, to assess the patient's anxiety level. Listening to an anxious, nervous, or fearful patient is an active demonstration of love to one who is having a challenge. Being present for another who is in pain or anguish often eases the burden at that moment in life.

Though often requested, not all visits include prayer. Sometimes prayer is not appropriate for the patient unless a bridge of trust has been built between the chaplain and patient. In fact, prayer can sometimes



Ministers of Healing: Larry Kositsin, Linda Farley, Rick LaVenture, Basharat Masih (seated), along with Gordon Victorson, Richa Stevens, Sandra Pappenfus, Henry Uy, and Raúl Concha (standing) are an integral part of Kettering Adventist HealthCare's chaplaincy ministry.

create more anxiety in patients who feel unworthy, guilty, or disconnected from God. Other patients, who have trusted God, might feel they are being punished by their sickness or disease.

Sometimes, we're called upon to administer communion prior to a patient's surgery. Using a washcloth, we explain that foot washing is symbolic of a spiritual bath.

Often, we assume the role of a human comforter as a wife holds the hand of her husband who is taking his last breath. Afterwards, we hold the wife's hands while she talks about their love and how they raised, educated, and made sacrifices for their children. We learn about their trials and affirm that their past is very much a part of life, even in that moment of separation.

TOTAL HEALING MINISTRY

Throughout the day we continue, moving from room to room, patient to patient. Each has unique stories, experiences, and journeys. But all share a need for hope, forgiveness, meaning in life, and a sense of connection.

We fill those needs. But at the end of the day, we know that our hospitals are set aside for the healing ministry of the *total* person. And so we journey with people. We start wherever they are and provide curative, healing properties—often

for invisible wounds—that lead to physical and spiritual well-being.

Larry Kositsin is manager of Spiritual Care Services at Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio.

What is a Chaplain?

The word chaplain comes from the word chapel. A chapel is a place where people go to talk, think, and struggle with life's events in the presence of an all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving God.



Former Spa Provides New Health to Community

A once dilapidated structure in the north Dayton community of Englewood has been given new life. Once home to the former Holiday Health Spa, it is now the West Wenger Road Medical Building. Located at 20 W. Wenger, the building had been vacant for many years. Today it is home to Huey and Weprin OB/GYN (James Huey, MD, and Stuart



Weprin, MD) and Family Practice Associates of Dayton, which includes Marjorie Lynn Loving, MD, and Dixie Mullennix, MD. The 11,000-sq.-ft. site has room for another physician practice, which Kettering Medical Center (KMC) officials hope to fill in the near future.

The site was a mere month away from a date with a bulldozer, last spring, when city officials heard from Richard Haas, KMC vice president. "We were welcomed by the raccoons and saw the leaky roof, but what we also found a good structure and a location with great potential," said Haas.

The city provided economic development money. KMC officials provided some vision and, along with partnering physician contributions, put together \$1.7 million for the land purchase and improvements.



Seven months later, city officials, physicians, and KMC administrators marveled at the transformation during dedication ceremonies.

"Collaboration is one of our core values here at Kettering Adventist HealthCare," said CEO Frank Perez. "This was collaboration at its best ... only the city working with contractors, physicians, and our team could have accomplished this. Together we turned a negative into a positive."

Pat Burnside, Englewood vice mayor, concurred, "The council really wanted this building to come

down—and I really wanted it to come down. But I am so pleased it turned out as well as it did. Englewood is a really great place to live, work, and raise a family."

KAHC Honors Life Essentials Volunteers

Life Essentials volunteers stand ready to help Dayton's growing population of people who slip through the gaps in community services. This year alone, they have given 20,000 hours of service to the community's frail, elderly, and mentally challenged.

Kettering Adventist HealthCare's (KAHC) Pastoral Services Department reached out to honor more than 60 of these selfless volunteers with a special evening. Themed around Kettering history, the event was held at Ridgeleigh Terrace, the former home of renowned inventor Charles F. Kettering. Volunteers enjoyed dinner and entertainment from the God's Handiwork Puppeteers, under the direction of Pastor Dan Stevens from Kettering Adventist church. A CD by Charles Franklin Kettering, *As 'Ket' Sees It ... Running Errands for Ideas*, was their parting gift.

What do Life Essentials volunteers do? They provide Dayton's elderly residents with rides to doctor appointments, guidance with complex healthcare decisions, assistance with laundry, or a listening ear and conversation about news of the day.



"People get so much more than they give when they participate in Life Essentials as volunteers," said Chris VanDenburgh, faith community nursing coordinator. "I know there are many hundreds of local retirees out there who are looking for something productive to do with their time." VanDenburgh also gave guided tours of the facility, which is now home to KAHC administrative offices.

Chris VanDenburgh, faith community nursing coordinator, thanks Life Essentials volunteers for the necessary service they provide to Dayton's elderly and mentally challenged residents.

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ALLEGHENY EAST **Exposé**
MARCH 2008

Southwest Philadelphia Effort Blesses Members, Guests

Southwest Philadelphia church members are joyful about the positive outcome of a nine-week evangelistic effort they held recently in their church. The grassroots effort was led by Personal Ministries director Hazel Matthias, "who received guidance for evangelism from the Holy Spirit after much prayer by our members," reported Janice Jenkins, Women's Ministries director.

"This seminar taught each participant to personally apply biblical principles to everyday life," explained Matthias. "It taught participants how to hear when God speaks; to understand the love relationship that God wants with each of us; and how to experience God in our everyday activities."

Church participants started preparing for the evangelistic series, titled "Experiencing God," several months earlier. They held Bible studies with a twofold purpose: to help interested newcomers and frequent visitors develop a relationship with God, and to help interested church members be trained as disciples of Christ. The church is now literally abuzz with students of the Bible "studying to show themselves approved." Jenkins added, "All of the studies and training that we're engaged in is preparatory for going full blast into the neighborhood."

At the conclusion of the recent series, four of the participants made the commitment to give their lives to God. On a recent Sabbath they were baptized and welcomed into the fellowship of the Southwest Philadelphia church.



Conference's Monthly Webcast Promotes "Awesome Body"

During each month in 2008, the conference's Health Ministries department is implementing monthly webcasts dealing with the human body. A. Leah Scott, department director, announced the theme for the year following their first webcast in November 2007. That webcast, titled "Our Awesome Body," featured an interview with Reginald Barnes, MD, an area physician.

"I just think it is time that we took a good look at these wonderful, fantastic machines; God's crowning act of His creation," explained Scott. "We are definitely fearfully and wonderfully made. This is going to be a fantastic year." She added, "We plan to have a qualified health professional on each webcast to explain the function of the different organs and how—if we follow God's natural laws of health—we can live longer, happier, and healthier."



The lineup of presenters and topics are impressive. January's speaker, Jude Boyer-Patrick, MD, MPH (left), started the series with a riveting presentation on the crown of human creation: the brain. The February webcast featured the heart, with a discussion led by Theodore Watkins, MD (below), and this month Sara Osi, RN, will share her passion about how God made our skeletal and muscular systems.

"I'm just thrilled that we have the technological wherewithal to be able to bring this kind of information right into the homes of our constituents," exclaimed Scott. "It is important that they learn how to care for God's creation. And if they don't understand it or miss the webcast when it is done the first time, they can play it over and over again until they are satisfied." For details about upcoming webcasts, or to download one, visit www.fit4youretreat.org.



Capernaum Members Teach, Feed Community

The community services center of the Capernaum church in Suffolk, Va., was operational, and members were serving a hot meal each week, but they realized they were not truly addressing visitors' health and other needs. "This caused me to re-evaluate our role and see how to meet their physical

needs while stimulating their spiritual interest," explained Keith Charles, head elder. "With much prayer and biblical research, the gospel principle became our model."

Implementing Christ's method of teaching and feeding, the church started offering a two-hour session twice a week. During the first hour, they show a health video from 3ABN or the Hope Channel, followed by a question and answer session. They cover topics such as diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, obesity, cancer prevention, cholesterol, Sabbath, tithe, and marriage. All of the answers are given directly from the Bible or Ellen White's writings. Because of the teachings, visitors have started inviting others, applying the health principles, and making successful lifestyle changes. Some people even started attending church services and giving their testimonies.

During the second hour, the church's regular volunteers—three men and two women—get to



know their visitors before offering them nutritional supplement. One member assigns numbers at the door as they welcome the visitors. Next visitors go to the registration table where another member adds their names and number of family members to the list if they are newcomers. Finally guests are ushered to the table where all the food has been arranged on large tables for them to select and bag as desired. Clothes are also available if needed. The church's recorded attendance every week is approximately 60 people.



Capernaum church volunteers, along with Pastor Michael Dyson (far right), are following Christ's example by teaching and feeding those in need.

Delaware Valley Women Focus on Ministry

Approximately 50 enthusiastic women, representing eight churches in the Delaware Valley, gathered for the first Delaware Valley Women's Ministries meeting of 2008. Held at the North Philadelphia church, the event focused on the theme "Ministry for Every Woman."

Estella Jones, Delaware Valley Women's Ministries coordinator, served as hostess for the occasion. The devotional speaker for the event was Claudette Boswell, coordinator of the Rehoboth church in Reading, Pa. Her remarks were emphasized using Psalm 118:17. Boswell praised the Lord, Women's Ministries leaders, and the 2006 Delaware Valley retreat seminar pre-



sentor Joyce Royster for her physical healing. She told the story of God's remarkable delivery from certain death due to illness.

Other speakers included Minnie McNeal, conference Women's

Ministries director, who encouraged all of the ladies to work collaboratively with other departments within the church. Diane Privette, co-area leader, energized attendees with the challenge to make personal plans for evangelism and community outreach. She presented the goals and projects for the year and encouraged everyone to be supportive, be a mentor, share the good news of discipleship, and nurture all in the love of Jesus.—Audrey E. Booker

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Adhering to Christ's Mandate for Christian Education

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) is being propelled into the 21st century by a strong biblical mandate to take responsibility for the education of the church's children. Moses, in his valedictory address, exhorted ancient Israel to preserve their rich Jewish heritage by diligently instructing their offspring. The survival of modern Israel is predicated on its obedience to the divine instructions in Deuteronomy 6:6, which states, "Never forget the commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working" (Today's English Version).

The AWC Education Department challenges its entire constituency to demonstrate a whole-hearted collaborative effort in making existing schools better, as well as opening closed schools. Let's work together to carry out Christ's mandate for our children.



Collin Parkinson
Superintendent of Education

Columbus Adventist Academy Experiences Growth

Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) in Ohio opened its doors in fall 2002 with approximately 35 students housed in the Ephesus church. In February 2003, the students and staff moved into their new building just across the parking lot. Since then the school has grown, with enrollment as high as 75 students. The staff has increased from two to five full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. Test scores on both the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and the Ohio Achievement Test are improving every year. The Precious Jewels Early Learning Center has also added to the educational services offered in the building. Children from age 3 through grade 8 have the opportunity to receive a quality Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.

Over the years, the school has developed many traditions. One such tradition occurs every May, when students participate in swimming, bowling, and skating for Fitness Fever Month. Last year several parents and Ephesus church members joined students—even as young as kindergarten—on a 3.4 mile walk in the local state park as part of the Walk for Diabetes. Students also participate in

Jump Rope for Hearts, and have raised many hundreds of dollars for the Heart Association. For the past three years, CAA students and their families, along with church members, have participated in the Angel Tree Christmas Gift Program.

Area children who have an incarcerated parent or other close relative are invited to a Christmas party where they receive a Christmas gift and a gift card donated by the students and church members. The students have brightened the Christmas season for as many as 80 children through this program.

CAA's annual Christmas and Black History Month programs have become school year highlights. The children get to display their extraordinary talents in music, acting, recitation, and dance (above). Attendance at these programs has grown, and the school has been invited to bring portions of its programs to churches and other schools in central and northern Ohio. CAA's Class of 2008 will be the fifth graduating class.

"We look forward to further growth, in terms of enrollment, as well as in the services and activities we are able to offer," says principal Sharon Lewis. "It is our goal to provide the highest quality educational program possible as we continue our motto 'Education for Eternity.'"



PHOTOS BY CATHERINE DIXON



Columbus Adventist Academy students portray the miracle of Jesus' birth for family and friends during the annual Christmas program.

RAMAH JUNIOR ACADEMY NEWS

Store Field Trip Advocates Healthy Eating

The kindergarten and first-grade students from Ramah Junior Academy (RJA) in Columbus, Ohio, recently got to learn about nutrition in a fun and real environment. During a visit to a local grocery store, the students were encouraged to become more passionate about incorporating health and wellness into their daily lives.

The kids had been studying the food pyramid in class, so the outing provided practical reinforcement. "I learned that vegetables, fruits, and water are good for us; junk food—cookies, chips—and sugar are bad for us," said Me'Siah Cistrunk.

Tour guides led the classes through the store aisles that promoted healthy eating. One hands-on activity was selecting produce and discussing its nutritional value. "I had fun at the store," said Ismaela Yuill, "and I learned that, if I have a question about food, I can ask someone who works there."

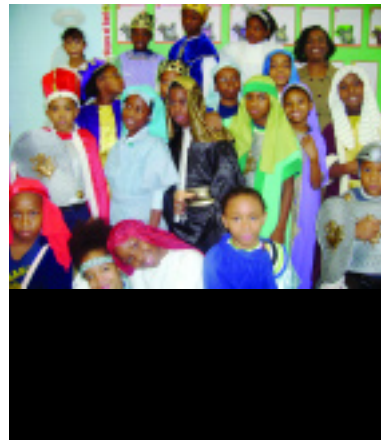


Special Day Teaches Sabbath Appreciation

RJA's fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms selected a recent Friday to experience their first Sabbath Appreciation Day. Discouraged by years of hearing students' dread for the Sabbath, "My goal was to come up with an innovative way to make this day acceptable to God and enjoyable to the students without it becoming too common," explains teacher Celeste Giles.

Every school subject was centered on the Bible. The students played math bingo with questions like "How many clean animals times nine entered the ark?" For language arts, they played Bible Scattergories. The day included a special breakfast, haystack lunch, dessert, Sabbath treats, prizes, and special Bible promises

given to each child. The children learned traditional songs such as "Don't Forget the Sabbath." Memory verses about Sabbath beauty—such as Genesis 2:2,3—were learned and recited. The students loved the day and expressed that they never knew Sabbath could be so much fun.



Second-Graders Learn About Engineering

RJA's second-grade class recently took part in a program that awarded them hands-on learning about the work of engineers. The Imagine Engineering Coloring Contest is a statewide program that includes a visit from an Ohio Society of Professional Engineers volunteer.

Chemical engineer Richard Eitel visited their classroom and engaged them in an engineering experiment using everyday items like notebook paper, drinking straws, and cellophane tape. He also talked with the kids about different types of engineers—civil, electrical, biomedical—and had them name things around the classroom that each engineer may have made. Each student received a small gift—a bookmark about engineering—and was entered into a coloring contest for their drawing depicting an engineer at work. The students really enjoyed themselves and Eitel stated he looks forward to returning to RJA next year for another educational opportunity.—*La Wanda Tolbert*



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MUSIC NEWS

Bel Canto Entertains County Leaders

The food was amazing, the event spectacular, the location elegant. The guest list read like a "Who's Who" of Berks County business persons. The entertainment was also ... well, amazing, spectacular, elegant, and presented by a "Who's Who" of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA): the Bel Canto choir members. It was the inaugural National Philanthropy Day celebration for the fledgling Berks Regional Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). Formed in 2005, the chapter met to recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals, corporations, foundations, and volunteers in Berks County.

Local radio personality Jo Painter (WEEU-AM) directed activities as mistress of ceremonies. She and the audience were impressed with the melodious sound produced by Bel Canto's 13 members, as they shared patriotic songs like "America the Beautiful." It was indeed a treat to hear these students sharing their God-given talents in such an exclusive setting. Many thanks to AFP's Berks Regional Chapter and AFP board member Kathleen Sutton—also BMA's director of development—for giving the school this opportunity.—*Spencer R. Hannah*



Students Inspire Guests at Annual Concerts

BMA's music lesson students and organized groups were busy with performances during a weekend this past holiday season. Parents and friends converged to enjoy the annual concert by the Bel Canto choir (above, right) and Sylvan Singers. The Friday evening performance included portions of *The Messiah*. "Showing everyone what we had practiced the entire semester, and seeing the smiles on peoples' faces, was priceless," commented sophomore Tauana Santos, first alto.

At the campus church on Sabbath morning, Bel Canto gave a second performance, and in the afternoon piano and organ students blessed members and visitors through a sacred concert. "I am glad I got this experi-

ence, and I'm sure the other participants were too," said junior Michael Saxton.

The La Sonnette bell choir and BMA Concert Band wrapped up the weekend with their Saturday evening performances. "There is something empowering about getting up in front of BMA students and their families and knowing that God is blessing our performance," said senior Sarah Hall. Senior Caesarinne Sprianu, violinist, agreed saying, "The band concert was a great bonding experience for me as a new kid. I love playing with other instruments and making the music come alive."—*Rebecca Ducharme ('10)*



King's Heralds, Bel Canto to Join in Concert

When The King's Heralds (below) gave a concert for alumni weekend two years ago, they realized that something special was happening at BMA and expressed their desire to return. While touring the area recently, the award-winning quartet asked director Hector Flores if they could meet with his Bel Canto choir. Unsure of how the students would receive them, the Heralds were delighted when choir members greeted them with applause.

"The students inspired me with their enthusiasm, interest, and curiosity about the Heralds and all aspects of the quartet," commented bassist Jeff Pearls. "Their questions were insightful." Baritone Russel Hospedales added, "The kids want to know how to harmonize on a higher level. The sparkle in their eyes told me so!" During their time together, the idea was born to have the quartet and Bel Canto give a joint concert. The performance is scheduled for April 26 at 4 p.m. during alumni weekend. Come and enjoy this very special event!—*JoAnn Campbell-Berke ('64)*



Learning Center Expanded to Meet Student Needs

BMA's newly renovated Learning Support and Testing Center speaks to the transformative nature of timely and appropriate gifts, especially those that keep on giving. The Commonweal Foundation recently bestowed such a gift to BMA in the form of three grants. The first grant is a four-year contract to upgrade the academy's Remedial Education Program. The grant's main purpose is to fund staff support for the learning center, providing salary, benefits, and professional development opportunities for an assistant to the center's learning specialist, Tracey Dawes (right).

The renovation of BMA's learning center was the result of the Commonweal's second grant. The center has been transformed with the addition of five computers, new desks, and chairs. The school's pride, however, is the addition of equipment that helps students with disabilities work independently. New AlphaSmarts systems help such students in taking notes and completing assignments, and provide them with special pens that scan and read documents, talking dictionaries, math manipulatives, and other scanning and reading software.

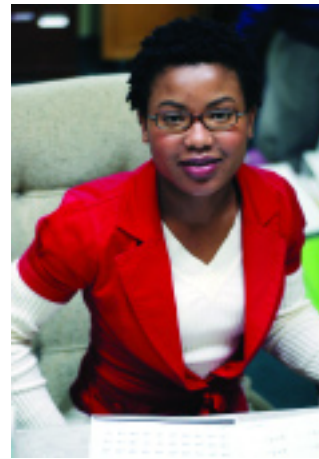
Through the grant, BMA has also added a small library of high-interest readers (books), games, and puzzles, as well as a reading program to complement the existing books on tape/CD. The school now excitedly awaits the addition of NovaNET courseware, which will allow students to access information on various subjects and be used as an adjunct to regular classes held in the learning center. NovaNET also provides instruction and practice for college prep exams.

There is another pleasant surprise to those who do a quick walk through at the learning center—its new, unlikely location just off the gym stage. This ideal location is free of distractions, and its homey feel is

more conducive to study. Three other sections have also been added to the room: one for individual testing and tutoring, one to act as a small classroom, and another as a secondary computer lab.

"The students are very grateful for the gifts, especially the two computer labs," comments Dawes. "With the advanced technology and equipment, we expect to see improved grades that will foster commitment to excellence," she adds. "This gift will keep on giving as we nurture lives spiritually and academically, and as these students share their gifts with the world."

The Commonweal Foundation supports a number of Seventh-day Adventist academies with similar grants. The foundation also asked Dawes to write a training guide for taskforce workers and tutors in order for this opportunity to be expanded to other schools. "We are thankful to the Commonweal Foundation for its generosity," adds Dawes.



Coming EVENTS

March

- 1 National Honor Society Induction
- 2 Career Day
- 4-16 Spring Break/Mission Trips
- 21-23 Community Tour Weekend
- 28, 29 Elementary Music Festival
- 30 Junior/Senior Reception

April

- 25-27 Alumni Weekend

May

- 4, 5 Academy Days
- 23-25 Graduation Weekend

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2008

With Jesus in the School of Prayer

Jesus' disciples saw the connection between the amazing power of His ministry and His prayer life and so requested, "Lord, teach us to pray." They saw that prayer was a necessity for Jesus. It was an attitude of heart and mind; the atmosphere in which He lived, the very air that He breathed. They witnessed a continual sense of expectation that the Father would be working through Him, and that, on His own, He could do nothing. This is the secret of prayer and prayer life; to practice this attitude of constant expectancy that God is at work within us to accomplish His will.

Have you heard someone say, or perhaps said it yourself, "I've lost control!" In reality what has been lost is the illusion of ever being in control in the first place. Life is really only under control when our attitude is one of continual need and constant expectation. When our church was confronted with a new challenge, I had a dear friend who would say, "I can't wait to see what God is going to do with this!" She also tested those words in the furnace blast of a disease that eventually took her life. It has served as a valuable lesson for me in the school of prayer that, regardless of what comes at us in this life, God is with us and working within us to accomplish His will.

I wonder if people who look at and listen to us get the impression that we live with a sense of expectancy. Or does the evidence suggest we are too self-sufficient? Watching Jesus pray leaves little room for self-sufficiency. In fact, let's do just that; watch Jesus pray, and, in the watching, learn how to pray ourselves!



Rob Vandeman
President

Conference Loses Two Friends

During a recent, and very unfortunate day, Chesapeake Conference leaders got the sad news that they had lost, not one but two, close friends in the ministry.

Elmer Hauck (below) was an elder at the Williamsport church and member of the Chesapeake Conference Association Board of Trustees. During the span of Hauck's 40-plus years of service to the denomination, he worked as a moving specialist, a teacher, the comptroller of Atlantic Union College (Mass.), an associate treasurer for the Afro-Mideast and East Africa divisions, a treasurer for the Southern Asia Division and Christian Record Braille Foundation, and as an undertreasurer for the Mid-America Union.

Following his retirement from denominational service in 2001, Hauck and his wife, Mary, moved to Hedgesville, W.Va., to live near two of their three children. Hauck continued to exhibit the characteristics that so marked his career—competent counsel and unselfish service—by becoming active in Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, assisting with renovation projects at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., and providing wise counsel within his home church and conference. Hauck was 72 at the time of his death.

Sharon Marsden (right), 43-year-old wife of Pikesville

International church pastor Roosevelt Marsden, lost her four-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). A native of Jamaica, Sharon immigrated to the United States with her family during her college years. During a subsequent visit to Jamaica, she met Roosevelt and they married in 1989.

In 1994 the Marsdens came to Chesapeake where Roosevelt took over the pastoral responsibilities of the Towson (now Pikesville) church, and Sharon took great pleasure in being a homemaker and mother for their three daughters: Stacy-Ann (17), Daedre-Ann (10), and Aveann (4). Sharon had recently completed her Bachelor of Arts in Health Care Administration and was beginning a career in that field when diagnosed with ALS.

Sharon was a remarkable role model for her daughters and friends. She revealed great faith in God and in the power of prayer. Friends reported that her illness never enticed her to be selfish with her prayer life. She was a true champion of the importance of family worship and frequently included that special passion in conversations with others. Her funeral service drew hundreds of people from as far away as Canada and the Caribbean, despite hazardous road conditions caused by a snowstorm.



Rocky Knoll Ornament Adorns State Tree

Kindergarten students at the Rocky Knoll school in Martinsburg, W.Va., recently got plenty of attention as a result of a crafty ornament they created. The decoration was adorned on the Christmas tree at West Virginia's Capitol Complex in Charleston as part of an annual project led by West Virginia first lady Gayle Manchin.

Rocky Knoll kindergarten teacher Alisha Boggess saw the project as a great opportunity to give exposure to her school and to help her students be involved in something outside their classroom walls. After gathering the criteria for the handmade ornaments, Boggess gathered support from parents and students and solicited their creativity to prepare a submission.

Students formed clay over a bell measuring about 12 inches tall and then decorated it. One boy drew Larry Boy, a character from the VeggieTales video series. The rest of the students made spaceships decorated with their own photographs. Their submission was among those chosen by a panel of judges to hang on a massive tree in the capitol complex.

"While the students enjoyed being a part of the project," reported Boggess, "the experience took on added meaning when they saw photographs of their ornament on display." She was referring to the fact that the school's ornament graced the front page of the Christmas Day edition of *The Journal*, a newspaper serving the eastern counties of West Virginia. Boggess hopes Rocky Knoll's kindergarteners will participate in the ornament project for years to come.



Kindergarten teacher Alisha Boggess and her students proudly display their ornament that was on display at the state capitol complex.



The Rocky Knoll ornament (inset) will be archived in the state cultural center for use each year on trees around the West Virginia capital.

Faith Step Receives Company Status

For the past several years, the Faith Step congregation in Hagerstown, Md., has been functioning on a cell church model. However, as a result of dedication, prayer, and a specialized ministry geared toward inner city residents, the members recently celebrated their new company status.

The participants of Faith Step are a mix of people ranging from healthcare and social work professionals, to blue-collar workers, to people living on the street and battling a variety of addictions. What is also instantly noticeable about them is the atmosphere of acceptance and caring that permeates their gatherings. There is an openness and freshness that is not only attractive, but

compelling. One would be hard pressed to deny the Spirit-led nature of this ministry. Conference president Rob Vandeman believes they are one of the clearest examples of "love in action" he has seen in a long time. "The journey of faith implied in their name is not

intellectual or philosophical in nature," stated Vandeman, "but a journey that takes them into very practical and needy arenas where Christ can then use them to reveal His grace."

Additional evidence of the Lord's leading is seen in the group's recent acquisition of a place to call home. Three Adventist investors donated the block from their rented quarters. Assuming the small balance on the property's mortgage and planning for additional renovation expenses, the newly formed company is borrowing \$55,000 from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund to transform the building into a ministry/worship center.



Hagerstown (Md.) church senior pastor Rick Remmers has been leading the Faith Step congregation.

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7600 FLOWER AVENUE, TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912-7796 • 800-835-4212 • WWW.CUC.EDU

Students Visit State Officials

Several students recently joined Weymouth Spence, president, for an opportunity to meet state legislators and public officials in Annapolis, Md., during Maryland Independent Higher Education Day. The CUC delegation visited the offices of elected officials who represented the local area, raising awareness of, and urging continued support for, independent schools.

At the event, Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown addressed the crowd about the vital role of Maryland's independent colleges in the state, which boasts one of the best-educated workforces in the nation.

More than 120 college students and presidents from across the state were in attendance. Adding to that number were freshman Philosophy and Religion major Roberta Plantak, senior Public Communications major Michael Martell, senior Counseling Psychology major Tatiana Kulakov, and sophomore English major Marvin Brown.

"It was really great to see, firsthand, how our state is run," said Kulakov. "These people are dedicated to their work and bettering our community."—PR Staff



Mock Trial Team Secures Win

CUC's Mock Trial Team is on a winning streak! One of their recent defeats was against the nationally ranked University of Central Florida in a competition in Orlando. "It was really exciting," recalled Davern Francis, a junior History and Pre-law major. "We had a really strong theory and a well-prepared defense. We

presented a strong case and came out victorious in the end."

This is the third year in a row that the CUC team has beaten the team representing Florida's second largest university. In addition to the team victory, CUC won the

individual awards. Senior Daniel Mackay was awarded the best attorney, while junior Juan-José Garza was best witness.

"I played a gospel reverend, which was really exciting," said Garza, a first-year member of the team. "The experience has motivated me to try out for the team next year."

The six-person team includes three attorneys, team captain Mackay, senior Ellie Barker, and junior Berry

Jacques. Juniors Davern Francis, Natalie Hynum and Garza act as three witnesses. Team coaches are Joseph Wright, a prosecuting attorney in Maryland, and Lesley Zork, an attorney practicing in Washington, D.C.

The CUC's team most recent win was against the University of Dayton in Ohio. They hope to keep their streak alive when they welcome the University of Maryland to the CUC campus this month for their annual scrimmage.—Roy Branson

ALUMNI EVENTS

■ Columbia Union College (CUC) alumni will meet Saturday, March 8, for a chapter meeting in Orlando, Fla. Current alumni president Lee Wisel, also a professor of Library Science and director of CUC's Weis Library, and college president Weymouth Spence will greet graduates and share an update on the college.

■ Everyone is invited to attend Alumni Weekend April 11-13. There will be a tour of Washington, D.C., a banquet in the campus' Sligo church atrium, a dedication of student missionaries at vespers, and Singspiration. Robert Lemon ('73), treasurer at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., will offer the Sabbath message at Sligo. CUC's New England Youth Ensemble and Columbia Collegiate Chorale will offer sacred music for the service.—Tanisha Greenidge

Upgrades Installed at Weis Library

New and much-needed technology and furniture were recently installed at CUC's Weis Library. The upgrades include 10 new computers with flat panel monitors installed in the Reference Room. "They have been heavily used since they came in," commented professor and library director Lee Wisel. "We are thrilled and delighted to be able to use our technology fund for new computers. Having the computers allows students to access Microsoft Word and other resources." Yemi Tesfaye, a senior Business Administration major in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, agreed saying, "The new computers make it a nicer place to study, plus the workers here are very helpful."



The furniture in the reference room was also updated. New lounge sofas and chairs were added to the main lobby. "I brought in the first sofa, and less than 20 minutes later, there were people all over them," chuckled Wisel. "The sofas are very comfortable and relaxing," added Tesfaye. A frequent visitor to the library, she added, "I come here often to read or just to hang out. It's one of my favorite places to study."—*Brittani Bissel*

Spiritual Emphasis Week Features Student Speakers

CUC's Campus Ministries department recently hosted its annual Student Week in Spiritual Emphasis (WISE) with daily meetings held at the campus' Sligo church. With the theme "No Yourself, Know Your Journey," student WISE offers young people an opportunity to minister to their peers through personal testimonies and music.

Theology junior Korin Galvan encouraged students to continue their Christian journey in order to see the righteousness of the Lord. Galvan's experiences brought her from a terrible past to a promising future. "It's not about where you came from; it's about knowing where you are going," said Galvan,



who explained how she once turned to drugs and alcohol as a way of coping with issues.

Heidi Lohr, a sophomore History major, shared that most Christians aren't willing to go through the fire to receive all that God has in store for them. However, she clarified, if they would just listen and adhere to His will, they would have better experiences during their Christian walk. "We have to say no to ourselves and yes to His will," Lohr explained. "We must know that every situation is a continuation of our walk with Jesus and is a way of us moving forward."

Junior Political Studies major Berny Jacques (above) spoke about his struggle to find his place on campus. He told students never to be discouraged about moving forward in the midst of hate. He concluded that not everyone shares the same dreams and visions.

Other speakers included junior Philosophy and Religion major Marvin Brown, junior Political Studies major Juan-José Garza, and sophomore Theology major Danny Garcia.—*Communication and Marketing Student Staff*

CALENDAR

March

- 3-6 Midterm Exams
- 7-16 Spring Break
- 26 Columbia Concert
Winds Spring Concert
- 28 Black Student Union
Gospel Choir Concert

April

- 5 CUC Choice Awards
Awards Convocation
- 11-13 Alumni Weekend
- 13 Tastes of Takoma
Acro-Airs Home Show
Open House

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

MARCH 2008

The Best Investment You Can Make

It took 10, long years of sacrificing, but you did it! Today you plunked down your hard-earned cash and left the dealership in your new BMW. Heads turn as neighbors watch you park. "Nothing but the finest car for me," you proudly murmur as you buff away a hint of grime.

I'm not exaggerating, am I? A new car is expensive. Your investment deserves the finest care.

It took six, long years of sacrificing, but you did it! You raised your most prized "possession," your child, to school age. Heads turn as people see his eager smile on the first day of school. Will you demand the best for this treasure, seeking out the finest environment to nurture your priceless "investment?" Will you consider the spiritual atmosphere where she will spend her days? Will you choose a nurturing, safe school that supports your values and beliefs?

I'm not exaggerating here either, am I? Isn't your child your greatest treasure? Isn't your child worth more than a new car? Can you afford to pass up a school where a God-fearing teacher continues the spiritual training you started at home?

In this issue of *Mountain Viewpoint*, you will find the quality you're looking for. If you want the outstanding education a Seventh-day Adventist school in Mountain View Conference can provide, call us at the Office of Education (304) 422-4581. Do it for your little treasure!



Cheryl Jacko
Superintendent

Summersville Students Impact Others Through Service

Summersville (W.Va.) school students have been busy making a positive impact on the lives of their community members and countrymen through a number of holiday projects. Students, along with their Pathfinder club, started this year's outreach by conducting an annual food drive. Their 2,000-plus collected food items, in cooperation with Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry, fed up to 400 families for two months. Students later participated in Campaign for Community, and five students, in grades 3 through 8, raised \$500 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Another project, Operation Phone Home, evolved from the young people's desire to do something meaningful for soldiers serving in Iraq. When they asked 1st Lt. Anthony Messenger—principal Donna Nicholas' son-in-law—what the men would really appreciate receiving, he replied, "Phone cards are like gold." Church, family, and friends filled out Christmas cards with messages of encouragement and purchased

phone cards holding 550 minutes. The cards were sent to the commanding officer who gave them to the 33 men in his platoon. The soldiers, and their families, were very grateful.—*Donna Nicholas*



Mountain View Offers Quality Schooling

Nearly all Mountain View schools are situated in beautiful, rural, small-town settings. Friendly personnel at each school will be happy to take your call and explain what you need to know about their school.

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

Contact the Office of Education for more information: (304) 422-4581.

EDUCATION NEWS

Mountaintop Students Blessed at Youth Conference

Three representatives from the Mountaintop school in Oakland, Md., were present at the Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC)—formerly General Youth Conference—meetings in Minnesota. The trio participated in a Sabbath afternoon community survey that led to a number of people signing up for Bible studies. Sophomore Nicole Seeders reported feeling God’s love “radiating throughout the building” during the event. Senior Julian Ostrogorsky felt his perspective about God change as a result of the sermons. In summary, Sarah Danielle Cowgill, pre-K to second-grade teacher, stated, “I experienced God working in my life.”—*Marie Schuberthan*



Greenbrier Valley Takes Field Trip Extraordinaire

Students from Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va., recently took a weeklong trip to



Myrtle Beach, S.C. Eighth-grader Katrina Pepper recalls the experience: “The water was cold, but we waded anyway. We went to Ripley’s Aquarium (above) where we learned about ocean life. We also visited the zoo and fed the animals, even the peacocks. At a plantation we saw alligators from just six feet away, and took a carriage ride through the city’s historic part.” All agreed it was a fun week.

Brushy Fork Students Get Fired Up

This year the six students at

Brushy Fork Christian School in Buckhannon, W.Va., have enjoyed a variety of field trips and projects to enrich their studies. Their outings have included a trip to a local bank to learn about finances and to the public library. The students have also performed many service projects. In honor of Fire Prevention Week, the students visited the local fire department. They learned about the equipment used to fight fires, and got the chance to sit in a fire truck.—*Patricia Ridpath*

Highland Studies Native American Life

As part of their extensive classroom study and independent research in American history, students at Highland school in Elkins, W.Va., recently took a closer look at Native American life. They created replicas of villages, made a life-sized wickiup (Indian home), cooked food, and created costumes typical of var-



ious Native American cultures. Each student gave an oral presentation, produced a written report, and displayed an artifact that he/she created. Project-based learning is one important strategy used at Highland, both in the elementary and high school, to promote student interest and learning.—*Cheryl Jacko*

Valley View Rings in the Holidays

Student handbell players from Valley View school in Bluefield, W.Va., were recently invited by the local library to add the joyful pealing of bells to its year-end open house. The students were (below, left to right) Amber Sarno, Daniel Byrkit, Kelcey Sarno, Paul Byrkit, Julie Glass, Janelle Glass, Mindy Lucas, James Cathey, and Tamara Stockil.—*Rosalie Stockil*



Mountain View EVENTS

- March**
- 16 Executive Committee and Annual Financial Review
 - 23-30 Mountain View Schools Mission Trip
- April**
- 6 Science Fair and Musical Festival

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MARCH 2008

Teachers Are a Living Gospel!

I would like to address the dedicated people who have the most delicate responsibility amongst all of the great responsibilities: the intellectual and spiritual growth of our children! This sublime yet difficult task has been assigned by God and by His church. Being an educator is not simply a job; it is a divine calling. Those who accept it must understand their impact on eternal character.

Yes, I am referring to our dignified educators on their multiple journeys. Teachers, you have in your hands the most valuable treasure of our church and our families. In great part your influence will determine whether these children will become successful men and women in our society, and therefore also citizens of the kingdom of God. The teacher’s impact in the life of each student is really impressive. I pray that yours will be positive and that with respect and love, you will lead them to the path of success and salvation.

Parents, pastors, and members of our church, please pray and support our educators and our schools. Anyone can teach, but only those who live by the Word can educate.



José Cortés
President

Youth Leaders “Go Wide” for God



Pastor Jason McCracken (above) director of admissions for Oakwood University (Ala.) The gathering in Long Beach Island was for the annual Youth/Pathfinder Leadership Convention. This year the training weekend for conference youth leaders was themed “Go Wide.”

“‘Go Wide’ comes from the mandate that Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20, to make disciples of all nations,” explained Laffit Cortés, conference youth director and event organizer. He added, “I need our



President José Cortés takes time during the “Go Wide” event to pray with current and upcoming youth leaders of his conference.

Youth leaders, parents, and youth from across New Jersey gathered recently for a weekend full of “fire,” as described by guest speaker youth leaders to be the quarter-backs that will throw the ‘ball’ of the gospel to our youth and allow them to run the ball into their neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces and make disciples of all nations.”

Elayna Moffit, a parent, teacher, and youth leader, observed that the convention allowed her to see how today’s youth directors are key influencers in the development of the next generation of youth leaders. Indeed, under the “Go Wide” model, Cortés has been developing a strong and diverse team of leaders who play a major role in planning and implementing the curriculum and various programs of the Youth Department. Moffit stated that it was good to see the team in action as Laffit passed “the ball” and gave them the opportunity to manage the details of the convention. One pastor noted that the event flowed like clockwork, a credit to the dedication of the team and their trainer.



Pastor Paul Graham, founder/speaker of Full Circle Ministries, teaches youth about creative evangelism during the annual Youth/Pathfinder Leadership Convention.

At the conclusion of the event, one teen shared that her favorite parts of the conference were the seminars. When asked what “Go Wide” meant to her, she replied, “To accept that God does have something in store for you and to get others and yourself to heaven. That’s our goal: to see Jesus and spend eternity with Him.”—*John Hakizimana*

Three New Conference Leaders Announced

Jorge Isaac Agüero - The New Jersey Conference Executive Committee recently appointed Agüero (left) as the director for three departments: Family Life and Adult Sabbath School ministries. The former Spanish Family Life director will also remain the pastor of the Trenton Spanish church.



A native of Venezuela, Agüero has vast experience as a pastor, theology professor, chaplain, and departmental head. Agüero earned his doctorate in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University (Mich.). His doctoral thesis was on marital communication. His vision for the department is that the families of the conference be bonded to God through prayer and Bible study, therefore becoming agents of evangelism to non-churched families.

Pastor Agüero and his wife of 25 years, Amalia, have two sons, Jorge and Samuel. The couple runs a worship ministry called Ministerio AMA.

J. Wayne Hancock - Formerly serving as Interim Superintendent of Schools, Hancock (left) accepted the conference executive committee's invitation to serve full-time in the position. He will also now serve as director of Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response.



Under Hancock's leadership, the new mission of the Office of Education is to help educators communicate one of their roles to students: they are there to make sure that students have the

resources they need to be successful. Adventist schools are where many students' dreams are birthed, grow, and become realized. "Teachers are an essential campus resource as directors of student success and retention," Hancock stated. "The creation of Adventist Student Success Centers is deliberate on the part of administration. Administration realized that to produce successful students, they must provide students with tools that will ensure that success."

During his career, Hancock has contributed to the growth of student enrollment and the success of many schools and several independent enterprises. He came with advanced administrative credentials and a substantial background in human relations and conflict resolution. Hancock received his Bachelor of Business Administration and Religion from Union College (Neb.); his Master of Secondary Teaching from Loma Linda University (Calif.); and his doctorate from Brigham Young University (Utah) in Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision with an emphasis in Rural Education K-12.

Leonel R. Pottinger - At the last constituency session, the conference elected Pastor Pottinger (right) as its new Ministerial director. Pottinger has accrued vast experience during his 30 years of serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His service record includes acting as president of the Costa Rican Conference, a multiple departmental head of the Central American Union, and evangelist.



Pastor Pottinger possesses a passion for souls and this had led him to share the gospel in other countries. He has conducted evangelistic meetings in the United States, Africa, India, Central and South America, and in the Caribbean. He is a graduate of Loma Linda University (Calif.) and has a specialist degree in Education with a major in Administration and Leadership, as well as a Master of Science in Public Health with a major in International Health. He also has a Bachelor of Theology from Central American Adventist University in Costa Rica.

Pastor Pottinger and his wife, Miriam, have two beautiful children: Hari, who is married to pastor Trevor Osborn, both of whom are ministering in Richmond, Va.; and Leonel Jr., who is currently pursuing his college education.

dates

March

- 7-9 Couples Retreat, Egg Harbor
- 15 "Go Wide!" Northern N.J. Youth Rally, *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)*
- 28-30 English Women's Retreat, *Cape May*
- 29 "Heal Our Land" Prayer Conference, *Robbinsville Church*

April

- 4-6 English Elders Retreat, *TVRC*
- 11-13 Hispanic Women's Retreat, *Cape May*
- 18-20 Hispanic Elders Retreat, *TVRC*
- 26 "Go Wide!" Southern N.J. Youth Rally, *Vineland*

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

Mount Vernon Celebrates 50 Years on "The Hill"

The Mount Vernon Hill church in Mount Vernon, Ohio, recently celebrated its quinquennium. During the commemoration, members not only acknowledged 50 years in their present building, but also conducted a special dedication of the facility's new addition. The addition houses an elevator and portico to provide out-of-the-weather and wheelchair access to all levels of the building. Member Bruce Hastilow, a local contractor, conducted the work with the help of church volunteers.



The celebration was a day of homecoming and catching up with old friends. Mayor Richard Mavis and two Knox County commissioners also addressed the group and participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Members expressed joy and thanks to God for now being able to accommodate all who wish to enter their church doors. The congregation has conducted many ministries over the years—an elementary school, thrift store and ACS center, food program, etc.—and the church has served as a place of worship for Mount Vernon Academy students.—*Dottie Lucht*



Westerville Coat Ministry Warms 340 Needy Kids

What started as a donation of eight winter coats in 1995 has grown to more than 340 during the 2007 collection by Westerville church members. The project is the church's collaboration with Westerville Caring and Sharing, a local organization providing gifts and food to families with children in need during the holidays.

The Westerville church program, coordinated by members Cliff and Karen Chapman (below), starts as soon as the holidays are over and continues throughout the year as they bargain-shop for children's coats. Members fund the program through the Buck-A-Week program, which recently yielded \$2,700. Through smart shopping, 341 coats were purchased in 2007. Based on the \$9,500 estimated retail value of the coat donation, the Westerville church has become the single largest donor to Westerville Caring. During the church's



annual coat dedication Sabbath, with all of the coats hanging throughout the sanctuary, the quantity of God's blessing came to life. Members prayed that each recipient would experience the warmth of God's love.

Summer Camp Schedule Announced

Summer sessions at Camp Mohaven in Danville will encourage children to connect more strongly with God than ever before! Plan now for the camp sessions available this year:

- June 15-22:**
Epilepsy Camp, Ski Camp 1, Horse Outpost Camp 1
- June 22-20:**
Teen Camp, Ski Camp 2
- June 29-July 6:**
Cub/Young Junior Camp, Single Moms' Camp, Ski Camp 3, Horse Outpost Camp 2
- July 6-13:**
Junior Camp, Ski Camp 4, Horse Outpost Camp 3

For more information, visit www.ohioadventist.org.

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

Historic Anniversary Celebration

Love of the Ages

May 10, 2008
Dayton, Ohio

A Vision of Hope

An exploration of how the theme of the "Great Controversy" vision informs Adventist identity and mission 150 years later

Preaching and Musical Extravaganza!

Clear Span Auditorium:

Jan Paulsen
Jon Paulien
Jim Nix
Charles D. Bradford
Smuts Van Rooyen

Youth & Young Adults:

Karl Haffner
Michael Knecht
Jose Rojas
Clar Worley Sproul
Academy Choirs

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 10, 2008

Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church Campus
3939 Stonebridge Road, Kettering, Ohio



Heritage Singers



Ponder, Harp & Jennings



Take 6

Sponsored by the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,
Kettering Medical Center, Columbia Union Conference & Able Rents, Inc.
www.ohioadventist.org --- 740-397-4665, Ext. 165

Defining the "7 Rs" of Christian Education

I have been involved with Christian education for 20 years, since graduating from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. During that time, I have taught in one- and two-room schools, a junior academy, and served as vice principal at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. In each position, I have seen the truth in the popular phrase, "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree."

As young children come to our schools, evidence shows they grow academically, spiritually, socially, and physically. As they move on to our academies, I've seen their personal growth, and it has filled my heart with joy to witness the powerful effect of Christian education in Pennsylvania.

American education is proud to say it pushes to be the best in the "3 Rs" of learning, but Christian education in Pennsylvania offers more. We offer the "7 Rs" of learning: reading, writing, arithmetic, plus responsibility, recreation, redemption, and relationships. All this in a Christian environment ensures that our children are indeed prepared, not just for this world but also for eternal life.

Whether it's learning the ABC's in the early grades; simple geometry in the middle grades; how to respect ourselves, families, and friends in junior high; or how to be an authentic leader while excelling in responsibility during high school, children in our Christian schools are learning to lead lives of service for God. What better goal is there?



Dave Morgan

Vice President of Education

SCHOOL NEWS

York – Principal/teacher Leona Bange reports that there are many exciting things happening at the York school this year. Enrollment passed 40 and continues to climb. The school's healthy vegetarian hot-lunch program received media attention recently. The local newspaper spotlighted the lunch program in a feature article, and the local TV station videotaped students for a special segment on the news.

York school students blessed church members and visitors through their holiday play. The students combined the plan of salvation with the Christmas story, making the gospel come alive. Three visitors expressed their sincere appreciation for the students and how the Holy

Spirit touched their hearts. To cap off the service, a York student was baptized.
—Dave Morgan



Julia Messina, a fifth-grader at the Lancaster school, tackles a mountain of homework.

family. This year, however, the school also decided to turn their annual Christmas program into a service project and invited audience members to bring gifts to the performance. The collected items were given to Mom's House, a local charity that provides assistance to single mothers. "We are excited about helping moms and babies stay together, and to help moms finish their education," shares principal Ann Trout (pictured above in class).



Huntingdon Valley – Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy (HVCA) students and staff recently demonstrated their generosity through the SA's canned food drive. Although considered an old-fashioned outreach effort, many HVCA students had never participated in one, let alone organized one. Event leaders placed posters throughout the school, instructing donors to place items in a wooden chest by the front door. Sophomore Alex Larracuent, SA vice president, sent a letter to parents asking for their support. For the next two weeks, people responded. "The event was successful because we believe that giving, rather than receiving, is most important," reported Larracuent.

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611-1492 Phone (610) 374-8331
June 13-21, 2008 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
FAXES AND WALK-INS NOT ACCEPTED

Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

All those who plan to stay in the Dorms and have children ages 10 and over, will be asked to stay in the respective dormitories; i.e., Girls in Girls' dorm and Boys in Boys' dorm.

Total # in your party _____. Provide information below for children.

Children	Age	Gender

Full Time Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds -Extra Mattress - Each (Dorm Only)	\$218.50 10.00	\$ \$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) -Extra single cot w/mattress - Each (Tent Only)	97.00 17.00	\$ \$
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	41.00	\$
Cabin - Keystone (5 sets of bunk beds)	98.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size _____ ft.)	112.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size _____ ft.)	101.00	\$

Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds -Extra Mattress - Each (Dorm Only)	\$27.00 6.50	\$ \$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) -Extra single cot w/mattress - Each (Tent Only)	23.00 6.50	\$ \$
Small personal tent/trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	12.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size _____ ft.)	20.00	\$
Trailer space w/limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size _____ ft.)	17.00	\$

Part time requests will be considered after full-time requests are filled.

Total Charges \$ _____
Payment Enclosed \$ _____
Due \$ _____

PROTOCOL:

1. A completed application with payment in full is required for all reservations. Checks should be made payable to **Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis only, partial payments will be returned to sender.
2. Telephone reservations for late applicants will only be accepted within the last week prior to camp meeting.
3. Reservations must be made by the party attending camp meeting. Reservations cannot be made by one party for another. Please duplicate the application if you need one for a friend. Camping in the designated areas only. No camping in the field by the ABC.
4. Children under 18 years of age **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities unless accompanied by an adult.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed on campgrounds or in camping areas! Please be aware that if you should choose to bring a pet, you will be required to remove it from the campus/campground. Names of local kennels are provided.
6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE AND GROVE CITY.** We cannot be responsible for damages sustained to your recreational vehicle due to electrical issues.
7. We regret that we are unable to provide wheel chairs and other equipment for the disabled.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

By signing this application I agree to abide by the Protocol as stated above.

Potomac People

MARCH 2008

Conference Celebrates Church Growth

The multicultural mix of Potomac members continues to intensify following the organization of nine new churches between December 2007 and February 2008: seven Hispanic, one Korean, and one Anglo-American. This new season of growth started in earnest at the recent organization service of the Oxon Hill (Md.) Spanish church. It was truly a high day of worship, led by Pastor Luis Mancebo. The 100 attending members and visitors witnessed a baptism, a wedding, and a festive celebration all in one soul-stirring day. More than 70 people signed on as charter members.

"One of the highlights of the day was the appeal at the conclusion of the baptism," commented conference vice president Jorge Ramirez. "The pastor appealed for people to accept Jesus, then waited. At first no one moved, but then one came forward." Ramirez recalled, "An elder shouted 'Don't stop, Pastor!' More time passed then another came. In all, the appeal lasted more than 20 minutes, but at the end 21 people came forward for baptism."

Since the Oxon Hill organization, conference leaders have been crisscrossing from Washington, D.C., to Southern Virginia to celebrate not only the culmination of widespread soul-winning and evangelistic effort, but also the beginning of new work to make disciples across the conference. The newly organized churches are the Chirilagua Spanish in Alexandria, Va.; Bealeton (Va.) Spanish; Roanoke (Va.) Spanish; Martinsville (Va.) Spanish; Redeeming Grace Fellowship in Chesapeake, Md.; Peninsula Korean in Poquoson, Va.; Culpepper (Va.) Spanish; and Central D.C. Spanish in the nation's capital. "We are establishing congregations who are working to build up God's kingdom!" declared conference president Bill Miller, who attended each celebration.



Pastor Fismed Omar baptizes a new member during the organization of the Roanoke (Va.) Spanish church.



Conference leaders join members of the newly organized Martinsville (Va.) Spanish church.

Hispanic Lay Festival Draws 1,800

The 2008 evangelistic work among Potomac Hispanics moved into high gear at the recent Ocean City (Md.) Hispanic Lay Festival. Conference officers joined the crowd of 1,800 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center to celebrate an explosive year of evangelism in 2007, and to kick off a major evangelistic thrust for 2008.

Department coordinator José Esposito states that Hispanic Ministries is planning to add 2,147 new converts in 2008. The first fruits of that work were the 12 baptisms performed at the festival. The guest speaker was Alejandro Bullón, international evangelist and ministerial director of the South American Division. "It is truly exciting to see the tremendous work that God is doing through our dedicated workers," notes Jorge Ramirez, vice president for administration and Multicultural Ministries. "These brothers and sisters have a passion and a plan to reach souls, and occasions like this keep the fire of faith burning in all our hearts."

Potomac Hispanic churches plan to plant 15 new congregations and establish 578 new small groups this year under the motto: "Jesus is Coming!"

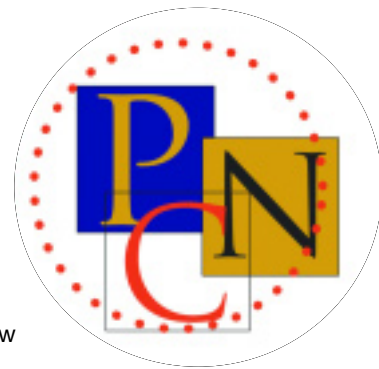


Potomac Hispanic Ministries leaders plan their evangelistic thrust for 2008 during the Ocean City (Md.) Hispanic Lay Festival.



Potomac Communicators Network Connects

If you are the communication leader, bulletin clerk, newsletter editor, or volunteer responsible for public relations in your church, Potomac's communication director, Don Wood, wants to hear from you! Wood has resources to share with you, and he would like to connect you and your church with the network of communicators across the conference through the new Potomac Communicators Network (PCN). As he says, "A healthy church communicates!" If you have the communication role, but don't know what to do, then join PCN! Email your contact information to communication@pcsda.org.



Filipino Capitol Serves at Home and Abroad

When members of the Filipino Capitol church in College Park, Md., get involved in evangelism, they do so both at home and abroad. Such was the case, recently, as the church organized both a mission trip to the Philippines and an evangelistic crusade at home.

Eleven Filipino Capitol members recently embarked on a three-week mission trip to Bacolod, Philippines. Several members who couldn't travel helped by donating supplies and/or money, which enabled the mission team to provide food, towels, vitamins, and toiletries for 400 working students at Central Philippine Adventist College.

"We spent several hours every day providing free medical attention to 780 patients," explained Pastor Marcelo "Mars" Sigue. "Then we visited the people in their homes, observed their family situations, and



Filipino Capitol church pastor Marcelo Sigue baptizes one of the 120 new believers won during their evangelistic meetings in the Philippines.

explained how adding fruits and vegetables in their diets might improve their health and living conditions." The group conducted a student week of prayer, constructed an additional room at the college's clinic, and held health and evangelistic meetings each evening. Pastor Sigue presented the health lectures and Howard Faigao, Publishing Ministries director for the Adventist World Church, presented the gospel. "Praise the Lord, we baptized 120 precious souls, including 18 college students!" declared Pastor Sigue.

One such convert was a woman paralyzed from a stroke and abandoned by her husband. She lived alone and generally fended for herself, save the food occasionally delivered by a neighbor. Then the Filipino Capitol workers taught her how practicing proper nutrition and simple exercises could improve her health. Her condition gradually improved and, to everyone's amazement, she regained mobility. She also decided to be baptized. "This lady was so happy to find Jesus," Pastor Sigue shared.

Some congregations would be satisfied with triumph in mission fields abroad, but within months of returning from the Philippines, the Filipino Capitol members held a local evangelistic crusade. Pastor Sigue encouraged each member to accomplish soul-winning by reaching one other person. "I praise the Lord for the eight new members who joined our church through baptism," the pastor commented, "and we are praying for the 10 who are still receiving Bible studies."

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

"Tornado" Storms Shenandoah Campus

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students recently experienced the Holy Spirit's firestorm of power, a result of the powerful witness of fellow students and the challenge to engage in serious prayer. "It's like we've been hit by a tornado and everything's been turned upside down," commented junior Shirley Foster.

Foster was one of the 15 courageous SVA students who shared heart-rending testimonies of family and personal tragedy and amazing answers to prayer

throughout the Week of Spiritual Emphasis. During evening seasons of prayer, the teenagers witnessed peers' hearts being moved by the Holy Spirit. Every evening, students volunteered to stay and pray, and did so for hours.



On Friday evening, students enjoyed an agape feast (above), celebrated communion, and dedicated the newly prepared Prayer Room (below). The feast helped launch the beginning of an eight-day 24/7 Prayer Revolution.

This is a ministry led by Nicola Carleton (below), an Australian native currently living in the United States. For three years she has been inspiring creative expressions of prayer and worship at numerous academies, universities, hospitals, and churches.



The prayer rooms are a unique creation designed to stimulate and inspire multiple postures, expressions, and focuses of prayer. While soft inspirational music plays, pilgrims to the room can choose from among 15 different options that range from forgiveness and victory over sin, to worship and praise to God, to intercessory



prayer for people and situations around the world. Prayers may be spoken, sung, cried, or written on paper-covered walls. Petitions for missionaries, family, and friends written on sticky notes are placed on the appropriate geographical area of a world map. A refugee shelter, an addiction wall, and a creative art table each contain a specific prayer focus.



With the help of enthusiastic students and staff, Carleton set up prayer rooms in the New Market church and in SVA's girls' and boys' dorm to facilitate

24-hour prayer. During the eight days, 106 SVA students, 11 SVA staff, and more than 50 church members prayed for well over 300 hours. Then teenage youth and leaders from around the Potomac Conference kept the prayer torch burning for another 50 hours as part of the Teen Prayer Conference hosted by SVA.



The final Friday evening program was a highly spiritual experience called "The Journey to the Cross," with 14 thoughtful stops along the way to contemplate Jesus' journey. Youth and adults alike moved reverently between the stations, silently expressing tears and prayer as they reflected on Jesus' great sacrifice for them.

This tornado born of the Spirit continues to bless the campus. SVA students are experiencing the powerful results of 24/7 prayer.

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Students Exemplify Cheerful Giving

For a second year, Takoma Academy (TA) students elected to give community families a very prosperous holiday. Once junior Tiffani Jackson, Campus Ministries leader, contacted the local community center, names of families in need were in hand. Students immediately got to work making the Christmas wishes of seven children and their parents come true.



The closer we got to the date of unveiling the gifts, the more students and teachers got involved. They purchased roller blades, coats, school outfits, shoes, gift cards, and various other items. Campus Ministries, along with other interested students, gathered the onslaught of donated items and wrapped them up.

During a special chapel service, we honored the two families, and they joined us to praise God for His goodness. One very thankful mother, who

has had 25 operations related to her debilitating disease, commented that her three sons thought the TA students were so nice. She found it a blessing to see young people worshipping God. "I don't know why God brought us to your school, but I'm sure He had a reason," she said.

The generosity of the TA students and their parents was so overwhelming that we ended up with "too much" to give to two families. That prompted us to send presents to another family. Isn't God awesome?



TA has a history of working in and out of our community. Each year we participate in the "Pennies for Patients" program, Takoma Park Community Clean-up Day, raise funds for ADRA projects, and contribute to various other programs. TA musicians also participate in Walk Through Bethlehem, a special holiday project at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. This year, TA's band, choir, and Camerata (above) performed under the direction of fine arts teacher Tim Vandeman.



seniors David Byass and Ryan Cephas performed as a saxophone trio. It was truly a time of giving, and our students, faculty, and staff put it into action.

In addition to sharing talents and gifts with others, TA staff and teachers shared their abilities with the students during a special school program. Among them, art teacher Marquita Halstead (left) drew a picture of Mary, while Vandeman and



Virginia Mathis
Applied Arts Teacher

Calendar

March

- 1 Youth Rally—*Speaker: LeClaire Litchfield*
Mission Trip Fundraising Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 SAT Testing
- 4 Women's History Assembly
- 12-23 Mission Trip to Tanzania
- 14-23 Spring Break
- 24 Finance and Board Meeting
- 27, 28 Semester Exams

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

"Mi Éxito Comienza en CUC"

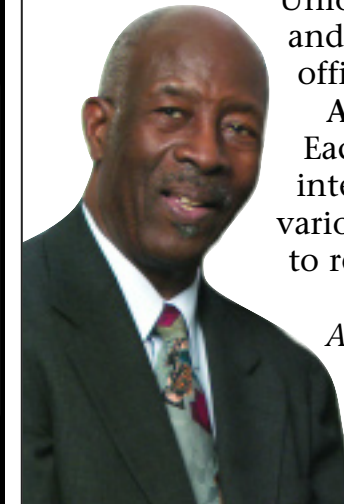
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Talking About Freedom

Did you know that the Columbia Union Conference has a religious liberty radio program? Adrian Westney, at the Columbia Union Public Affairs and Religious Liberty office, hosts **Talking About Freedom**. Each week Westney interviews guests on various topics relating to religious liberty.



Airs each Sabbath,
7:30 a.m.
WGTS-FM—91.9
www.wgts.org

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

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

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

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

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

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Adventist Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist School, Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School, Berkeley Springs Adventist Academy, Crest Lane SDA School, Crossroads Adventist School, Eastern Shore Junior Academy, Frederick Adventist

School, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Martin Barr Seventh-day Adventist School, Mount Aetna Seventh-day Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Seventh-day Adventist School, Wilmington Junior Academy

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

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

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

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

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

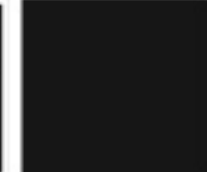
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRUISE WITH THE AEOLIANS
 and former director Alma Blackmon to Cozumel, Mexico, June 19. See our website at www.aeolianalumni.org or contact Tanja Spohn at Tanja@ClassicWorldTravel.com or call her at (800) 777-9529 Eastern Time. Prices are subject to change.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING:
 Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to come Remember When" April 3-6. Honor classes are 1938, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, and 1998. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or email alumni@ucollege.edu.

ADULT SINGLES RETREAT:
 April 25-27, at Mt. Aetna Camp, Hagerstown, Md. The theme is "Relationships and Sabbath." The guest speakers are Gaspar and May-Ellen Colón and Andrea Hicks. Gaspar is a professor at Columbia Union College and May-Ellen is associate director of the Sabbath School Dept. at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Andrea is the single's coordinator for the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information, visit www.asamchesapeake.com/ or call Fred: (410) 992-9731.

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ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES PRESENTS:
 Family Film Night, March 15 at 7:30 p.m., at the Chesapeake Conference, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044-9988. There will be a small entrance fee; concessions are extra. For information, visit: www.asamchesapeake.com/ or call: (301) 922-0047.

OBITUARIES

BRINING, James W.,
 born February 8, 1919, in Ashtabula, Ohio; died June 7, 2005, in Courtland, Ohio. He was a member of the Warren (Ohio) church. He served as head elder at Warren and various churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania. He founded Brining Water Systems in Chester Twp. in 1950 and stayed in the business until retirement in 1991. James is survived by his sons, Joseph Brining of Mentor, Ohio, Bill Brining of Dorset, Ohio, and Dan Brining of Chardon, Ohio; his daughters, Hallie Gardo of California, and Dawn Kinsey of Jefferson, Ohio; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His wife, Ruth H. Brining died in 2007. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred G. and Anna Brining, and one grandchild.

BRINING, Ruth H.,
 born October 18, 1920, in Cleveland, Ohio; died October 2, 2007, in Huntsburg, Ohio. She was a member of the Warren (Ohio) church. Ruth served as a clerk at various churches in Ohio. She was a seamstress all her life and also enjoyed collecting dolls. She is survived by her sons, Joseph Brining of Mentor, Ohio, Dan Brining of Chardon, Ohio; her daughters, Hallie Gardo of California and Dawn Kinsey of Jefferson, Ohio. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, James, son William, grandson Daniel, and sister Grace Martin.

BROOK, Daniel R.E., Jr.,
 born September 9, 1955, in Madison, Tenn.; died December 29, 2007, at his home in Gerrardstown, W.Va. He was the son of Raymond E. and Irma O'Kain Brooks of Falling Waters, W.Va. He was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Lisa Doyle Brooks; two sisters, Lutricia Whitlow of Spencer, Ind., and Karen Hansen of Nashville, Tenn.; six nieces; and eight great-nieces and great-nephews.

BUCKLAND, Viola (Vivian) M.,
 born April 8, 1929, in Roncerverte, W.Va.; died December 5, 2007, in Roncerverte, W.Va. She was a member of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church. She is survived by her son, Ronald Isom; daughters, Yvonne Michael and Sandra Spry; grandchildren, Jonathan Michael, Herbert Montgomery, and Christina

	Mar 14	Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 4	Apr 11
Baltimore	7:13	7:20	7:27	7:34	7:41
Cincinnati	7:45	7:52	7:58	8:05	8:12
Cleveland	7:33	7:40	7:48	7:56	8:03
Columbus	7:38	7:46	7:53	8:00	8:07
Jersey City	7:02	7:10	7:17	7:25	7:32
Norfolk	7:12	7:18	7:24	7:31	7:37
Parkersburg	7:33	7:40	7:47	7:53	8:00
Philadelphia	7:07	7:14	7:21	7:28	7:36
Pittsburgh	7:26	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:55
Reading	7:10	7:17	7:25	7:32	7:39
Richmond	7:17	7:23	7:29	7:36	7:42
Roanoke	7:27	7:33	7:39	7:46	7:52
Toledo	7:40	7:48	7:56	8:03	8:11
Trenton	7:05	7:13	7:20	7:27	7:34
Wash., D.C.	7:15	7:22	7:28	7:35	7:42

SUNSET CALENDAR

Rinehart; foster children, Russell Conrad and Jennis Graham; great-grandchildren, Alexis, Emarya, and Christian Montgomery, and Cadence Rinehart; and stepsons, Frank and Roger Buckland.

BURR, Harold T.,
 born January 27, 1922, in Witchata, Kan.; died December 3, 2007, in New Market, Va. He was a member of the New Market church. Harold was an 18-year missionary to India from 1946-64. When he returned to the states, he went to Reading, Pa., where he pastored two churches for one year. He was then called to Southwestern Adventist University, then known as Southwestern Junior College, where he taught for 18 years. He retired in 1985. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, John and Janice K. Henline from New Market; daughters Brenda J. Smith and Marvel L. Burr, both of New Market; grandsons, John J. Henline, Jr., of Keene, Texas, Sean T. Henline of Alvarado, Texas, Michael Smith of Moab, Utah, and Anthony Smith of Bozeman, Mont.; and a grand-daughter, April L. Henline of Silver Spring, Md.

DAVIDSON, Ruth K.,
 born February 2, 1925, in Baltimore County, Maryland; died November 4, 2007, in Hanover, Pa. She was a member of the Reisterstown (Md.) church. She is survived by her son, Gary Davidson; brothers, Roger and

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Donald Knight; sisters, Virgie Hyle, Harriet Williams, and Martha Yingling.

HOLCOMB, Emma "Ottive," born December 12, 1935, in Indore, W.Va.; died October 7, 2007, in Beckley, W.Va. She was a member of the Beckley church. She is survived by her sisters, Elise Williams, Susan Gallegos, and Donnie Young.


ROBERSON, Rosa M., born June 2, 1918, in Spaulding County, Ga.; died December 1, 2007, in Tarentum, Pa. She was a member of the Washington Heights (Pa.) church. Survivors: a daughter, Midge Patrick; a brother, George Patrick; sisters, Annie Patrick, Ruby Culpepper, Effie Turner, and Lillie Billingslea; two grandsons, Steven Patrick and John Lukas; great-grandsons, Rinaldo and Aubrey Coates; and three great-great grandsons.

SHUMATE, Glenn Roy, born November 4, 1939, in Carroll County, Va.; died January 23, 2008, in Mt. Airy, N.C. He was the son of Oscar Marshall and Annie Jones Shumate. Glenn attended the Galax (Va.) church and was scheduled to be baptized February 9. Survivors include his wife, Celene Patton Shumate of Galax, Va.; his children and their spouses: Betty and James Talbert of Kernersville, N.C., Glenda Shumate Cline of

Lexington, N.C., Reavis James and Karen Shumate of Colorado Springs, Colo., Sarah Shumate of Galax, and Jeffrey Lee Shumate of Cape May, N.J.; stepchildren and their spouses: Sherry Luper of Galax, Stacy and Chris Wojtowicz of Galax, Regina Rector of Woodlawn, Va., Rebecca Rector of Concord, N.C., and Steven and Karissa Grimes of Fremont, Ohio; a sister and brother-in-law, Wanda and Butch Byrd of Mount Airy, N.C.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Sam and Patsy Shumate of Collinsville, Va., and Harold and Linda Shumate of Woodlawn, Va.; 21 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

SOPER, Lori E. born March 13, 1961, in Takoma Park, Md.; died May 7, 2007, at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital ER, from a ruptured aneurysm. She lived in Frederick, Md., and was a member of the Spencerville (Md.) church. Lori attended John Nevins Andrews Elementary and Takoma Academy, in Takoma Park. She was very active in knitting and crochet groups, making afghans for babies and friends, as well as for area nursing homes. She is survived by her parents, Francis and Eunice Soper of Stanley, Va.; and her sister, Lois Ford, and much loved nephews, Timothy and David Ford, of Frederick, Md.

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My Journey to Excellence

I aspire to excellence in all I do. As an educator, I want to inspire my students to succeed. On a personal level, I want to become a better teacher, principal, and person. In my quest for excellence I often reflect on my early childhood days when I learned some of the most valuable, influential, and enduring life principles:



My family understood that health habits affected a child's performance at home and school. That's why adequate sleep, proper nutrition, and absolutely no eating between meals were hallmarks in our home.

Doing your best was a moral obligation. A job worth doing was a job worth doing well. Discipline and practice were essentials for success. Every chore and assignment were inspected daily; work was to be completed on time and mistakes corrected 100 percent of the time.

Daily worship was also an integral part of our family life. Morning worship was a must before leaving the house. Evening worship included animal and mission stories and the study of the Sabbath School lesson and weekly memory verse. At the end of the year, we were expected to recite all 52 memory verses. *I am still amazed at this accomplishment!*

Regular attendance at Sabbath School, church, and school was woven into the very fabric of our family. We arrived early, sat on the front row, and actively participated. I do not recall *ever* missing a weekend service or being late. To this day I catch myself saying to my students, "The A student sits on the front row."

TIME WELL SPENT

Through the years I have come to personally appreciate the training provided by my parents. The lessons they taught me at home greatly impacted my behavior at school and formed the foundation for my personal, academic, and professional success. I learned to cherish a sense of pride for work well done, a sense of accomplishment for helping a classmate, a sense of compassion toward the less fortunate, and a great sense of respect for our teachers.

Today as I stand before my students, my heart longs to give them the same gifts I received during my upbringing. But I can only build on the foundation already laid by their parents. My plea to parents is to make that foundation a strong one. Indeed, the time you devote to your children in their early years is an investment for eternity.

Marilynn Peeke, MA, MPH, is principal of the Chesapeake Conference's Atholton Adventist School in Columbia, Md., where 190 students are enrolled in Pre-K-10th grade.

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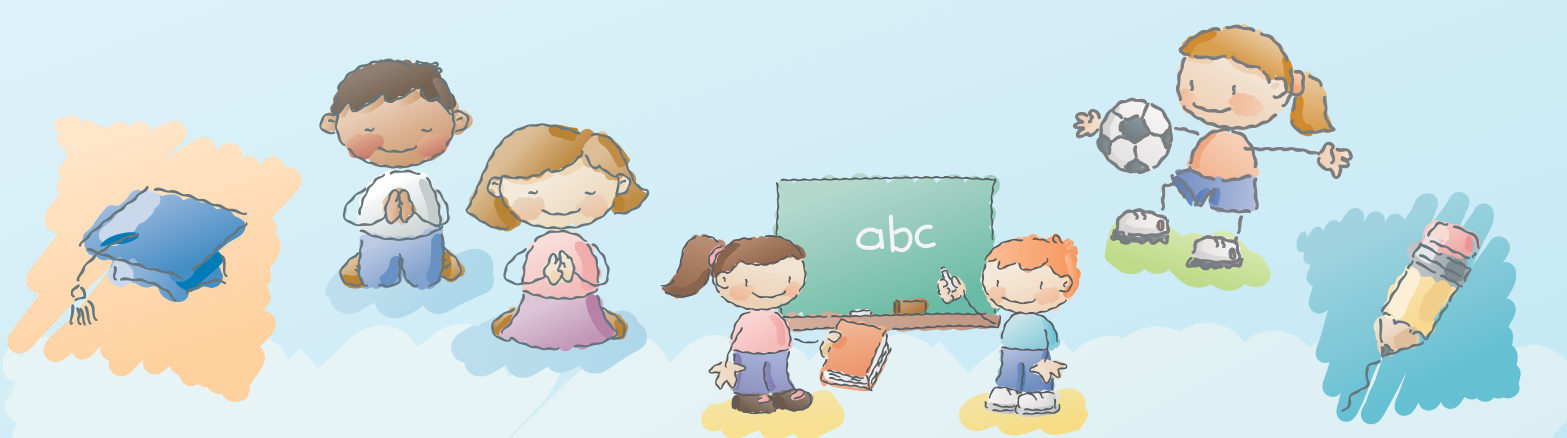
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