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VISITOR

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got hope?

Columbia
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Members
Share
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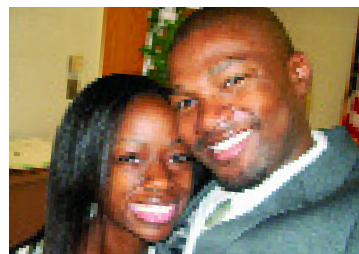
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On the Web:

Video—What happens when young adults from the Lewisburg (Pa.) church conduct an evangelism series at the YMCA?

About the Cover: A recent evangelism series prompted Colleen Lee to become a baptized member of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md. Illustration by Ralph Butler.

Got Hope?

On a recent road trip, while I was stuck in traffic and waiting for the cars to begin moving again, a bumper sticker on the car in front of me caught my eye. It was solid black with white letters that read, “Got hope?” The question is not only provocative, but it also seems prophetic to me in as much as it accurately expresses the psyche of our society at large. That bumper sticker is, quite literally, a sign of the times.



We live in a day of great pessimism. Amid our unstable economy, erratically fluctuating stock market, and soaring unemployment rates, people today are desperately looking for a reason to have hope. “In what can we hope?” is the cry of our age.

Hope is essential for human life. Within each of our hearts is a yearning, a deep hunger for hope. Hope sustains us through trials and adversity. It raises us up above the mediocrity of the present and points us to a bigger, better, and brighter future. Without hope, life quickly loses its meaning.

PURVEYORS OF FALSE HOPE

There is a scarcity of hope in our world today, but there is certainly no shortage of its purported purveyors. Hope is proffered in everything from car commercials, cosmetic products, financial institutions, and fitness and weight loss products to politics. Unfortunately, much of what is labeled as hope actually turns out to be just a lot of hype—or worse yet, a hoax. One common deficiency underlies these and countless other items that offer us hope; they all really represent a hope in ourselves, or a hope in other people, which inevitably leads to disappointment.

In sharp contrast, there is biblical hope. The Bible is a book of hope. Its promises not only address our here and now, but also our hereafter. Whereas worldly hope is based upon the ability of man, biblical hope is focused on a power outside of us, one anchored in the ability of God. Biblical hope is not mere wishful thinking or a positive mental attitude, but rather is based upon the Word of God, which cannot fail. True hope—hope that will not disappoint us—is found only in God.

SHARERS OF TRUE HOPE

I find it providential that at a time when we find “Got hope?” bumper stickers all over our nation, Seventh-day Adventists across North America are implementing a special evangelistic initiative titled “Live With Hope.” This year, in a special way, we are challenging our members to be people of hope, and our churches to be centers of hope. We are urging our pastors and administrators to be messengers of hope. Christ is calling all of us to “Share the Hope.”

In this day of hopelessness, Columbia Union Conference leadership has a goal for all of its leaders and members to lift up Jesus Christ—the source of all true hope—in every city, town, and village. We have an opportunity to weave a tapestry of hope within our union territory. Individual threads of a tapestry have their own unique color and texture, but when woven together create a beautiful picture. Likewise, our churches and individual members, using their unique, diverse, and creative expressions of outreach, will collectively create a beautiful picture—a picture of Jesus.

In response to the question “Got hope?” let us, as Adventists and believers in the True Hope, enthusiastically respond, “I have hope to share!”

Frank Bondurant (fbondurant@columbiaunion.net) serves as vice president for Ministries Development for the Columbia Union Conference.



Leadership Headlines Mid-Year Meetings

Despite the economic downturn sweeping the nation, leaders from across the Columbia Union territory say giving remains stable, and in some cases, has increased. Initiatives for the Year of Evangelism are yielding Bible studies and baptisms. New Jersey Conference pastors have already conducted 200 meetings. One Chesapeake Conference church's effort to knock on doors in their community resulted in 75 Bible studies. In several conferences, ministers of other faiths have accepted the Sabbath and been baptized.

As attendees to the Columbia Union Conference's Mid-Year Meetings, chaired last month by



President Dave Weigley (left), conference administrators also heard reports from Christian Record Services, Adventist

Mission, and eAdventist, the new database management system that's helping churches and conferences maintain membership records more efficiently.

Educational components included a presentation about the realities of mental health issues and how they are affecting church members, pastors, and employees. "It's good to pray with members," said Baltimore-based psychiatrist Jude Boyer-Patrick, MD. "But I wish pastors would also refer them to a professional counselor, and tell them it's OK to get help."

During their weeklong gathering, administrators also attended

the Columbia Union College (CUC) Board of Trustees meeting, where they voted to build a new, and much-needed, music building. The facility will be funded with a state grant and upcoming fundraising efforts.

SYMPOSIUM REINFORCES LEADERSHIP BASICS

On the fourth day of meetings, union executive committee members joined the leaders to review financial and statistical data; approve conference ordination requests; and hear reports from President Weigley, his departmental leaders, CUC, and the union's two healthcare networks. This quarter's meeting was also the beginning of the Columbia Union Conference Leadership Symposium, a three-day event designed for local conference administrators, as well as those who sit on conference executive committees and college boards.

"The leaders of our organizations oversee the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in our territory. We manage millions of dollars and make decisions that affect our members, schools, and ministries," said Weigley. "To do so effectively, we must be competent, mission-focused leaders who know how to govern in today's culture. That calls for personal growth, leadership development, and further enrichment of our leadership competencies."

Les Pollard, Gordon Bietz, Henry Wright, Lisa Beardsley, and Barry Black were among the well-known keynote speakers and

workshop presenters who discussed mission, servant leadership, diversity, education, and soul winning with the 100 leaders in attendance. "If they took away your title and authority, would anyone want to follow your lead?" asked Bietz, (right) president of Southern Adventist University, who called on attendees to practice servant leadership.



Their reactions affirmed the value of the symposium. "I was quite amazed at the similarities of leadership challenges today with the story of Nehemiah as shared by Dr. Bietz," said Charlotte Conway, a member of the CUC Board and union executive committee. "It brought home to me how valuable the Scriptures are in helping us understand servant leadership."

Cynthia Poole-Gibson, headmaster of Pine Forge Academy, in Pine Forge, Pa., was also glad for the training. "We need these types of exercises to refocus and refresh," she said. "It reinforces what we need to be doing all the time," added her colleague Gloria Perry, associate superintendent of education for Allegheny East Conference.

Listen to podcasts of the keynote speakers at columbiunion.org.



New Name Touts College's Upgraded Status

Columbia Union College (CUC) will soon adopt a new name to reflect its new university status. The name Washington Adventist University was voted last month when delegates from across the Columbia Union gathered at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., for the college's Mid-Term Constituency Session.

There were only two items on the agenda, but delegates were eager to address them both. First came the president's report by Weymouth Spence, EdD (left),



who shared his vision for the union's 105-year-old school. "At Columbia Union College, we are engaging minds

and transforming lives, and Jesus Christ is interwoven into all we do," he declared. "Our vision is to produce graduates who bring competent and moral leadership to their communities."

He also reviewed key commendations and recommendations from the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA). For example, they commended Patrick Farley, vice president of finance, for improving the financial position of CUC during the last five years and recommended that CUC continue to seek a better position of liquidity. They commended the faculty for providing a "high quality education" to its diverse and changing student population by drawing on the available resources of the Washington, D.C., area, and for fostering a "family-like atmosphere."

They recommended that the administration provide ample support for the Spiritual Master Plan and further refine the freshman orientation process. They commended the college for partnering with Adventist HealthCare and engaging community organizations in shared initiatives and recommended that it continue making capital investments for its future and pursue university status.

A UNIVERSITY IS BORN

President Spence shared how each of the accrediting committee's recommendations is being addressed. The biggest one, and the one bringing the most discussion at the session, was the move to university status. This idea grew out of the strategic plan developed several years ago. Upon taking the helm in January 2008, Spence and his team decided to follow through, engaging faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the process, and seeking the multi-level approval of the Maryland Higher Education Council. "We are more than qualified to become a university," Spence told delegates. "While schools with only two graduate degrees are at university status, CUC offers six." Additional reasons cited include potential for academic and enrollment growth, greater financial stability, the ability to attract international students, and the impressive qualifications of the school's faculty, many of whom already have doctorates or terminal degrees.

With preliminary approval from the state, the college was informed

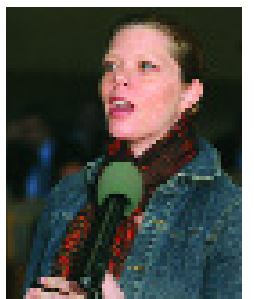
that the next step is to rename the institution, reflecting its higher status. From a taskforce that winnowed 100 suggestions to 50, to a CUC Board of Trustees-appointed subcommittee that narrowed the field to four, the decision was then put in the hands of the board. Their recommendation, which



needed to be ratified by attendees to the constituency session, was tweaked to capitalize on the college's location, a major attraction for many students. After an hour or so of discussion, constituents voted to rename the college Washington Adventist University, subject to legal review.

"It's easy to market, draws on our heritage, and proudly identifies who we are—Seventh-day Adventists," said Jim Greene, vice president for administration of the New Jersey Conference, summarizing the overwhelming sentiment of constituents.

With clear and almost unanimous support from delegates, a group which includes board members, as well as some faculty, staff, and alumni, Spence and his team are moving forward. "We must now communicate with the accrediting agencies, implement the new name, and begin to rebrand the college," he said.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD HERARD

Newsline

BETH MICHAELS

Potomac Welcomes New Treasurer

Stephen Wilson (below) joins the Potomac Conference as vice president for finance, transferring over 30 years of experience and success as a health-care executive at Seventh-day Adventist hospitals in California, Florida, and Tennessee.



Although he realizes that change is inevitable, Wilson adds, "Any change in Potomac's treasury department should contribute clear value. I want everyone to be thinking about continuous improvement." Read more in *Potomac People* on page 45.

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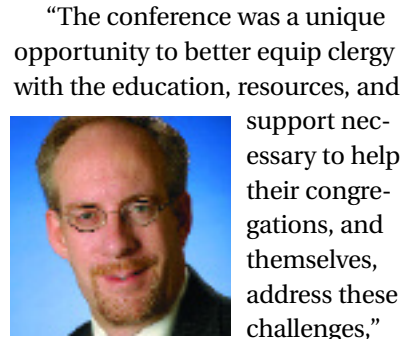
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Mental Health Summit Benefits Union Clergy

Adventist HealthCare (AHC) based in Rockville, Md., recently teamed up with the Columbia Union Conference, the North

American Division, and the Versacare Foundation for the Frontline: Mental Health Conference. The two-day event in Bethesda, Md., focused on the mental health issues that ministry professionals address as they seek to create healthy environments for the personal and spiritual growth of their members.

"The conference was a unique opportunity to better equip clergy with the education, resources, and support necessary to help their congregations, and themselves, address these challenges," said William G. "Bill" Robertson (above), AHC president and CEO.



"I was delighted that so much effort was given to recognize and proactively do something to help clergy focus on themselves as



human beings as well as servants of God," said presenter Robert Peach, DMin (left), founder/director for the Kettering Counseling Care Center of Kettering Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Faith Community Nursing Prep Planned

A training course for nurses who would like to be involved in local church health ministry is scheduled to take place at Columbia Union College and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., July 25-30. Registration for the Adventist HealthCare-sponsored event ends June 30. Contact Katia Reinhart, program coordinator, at (301) 891-6102.

Correction: Pennsylvania Conference's Reading Hampden Hawks joined Ohio Conference's Delaware Discovers as Columbia Union Pathfinder Bible Achievement winners (see May 2009 *Visitor*, p. 4).

From the Pulpit



PHOTO BY COLIN GATLAND

Plant seeds of goodness and compassion everywhere you go. Serve. Give. Love. Make this community and our world a better place. Sure, you may get bloody and bruised, but that's the only way to experience

the rush of the revolution for goodness' sake. —Karl Haffner, PhD, Kettering (Ohio) church senior pastor, speaking at the 41st Commencement of Kettering College of Medical Arts

Whatever career path you have chosen, whatever you do in your church or community, find a way to serve. Through dedicated service, we improve the quality of life of those around us, and through the process, we find real joy and ultimate fulfillment.—Frank Perez, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Dayton, Ohio, giving the Commencement speech for Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., where he was conferred an honorary doctorate



PHOTO BY CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

CAN PROGRESS BE MEASURED?

POTOMAC CONFERENCE BELIEVES SO

THEY DETERMINE THEIR GROWTH THROUGH PROJECTS LIKE THE ACQUISITION, RENOVATION, AND EXPANSION OF THE TAKOMA PARK SPANISH CHURCH

The building was occupied by the Takoma Park (MD) Spanish-speaking church, well known in the area for many years as the Potomac Adventist Book Center (ABC). When the ABC decided to move and expand, the vacant building became home to a thriving Hispanic body of approximately 60 Spanish-speaking believers.

Today, just six years later, nearly 400 people regularly worship inside the renovated building—a project made possible through a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). Now, the house of worship is a beacon of light for a community with large influxes of Hispanic immigrants. Takoma Park Spanish church's rapid expansion can be tied to small group evangelism, consistent community outreach, and numerous church activities each year.

This church's growth would not be possible without CURF continuing to fulfill its 40-year goal of promoting the mission of the worldwide church. As they have done with hundreds of churches, schools, conferences, and other ministries across the Columbia Union area, this year, CURF provided cost-effective financing to make ministry possible.



MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

COLUMBIA UNION
IS WEAVING IT INTO
(866) 721-CURF

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Book > My Porpoise Driven Wife and Other Parables of the 21st Century

Sam Darby

This first-published work by Sam Darby, a speaker and professional educator, utilizes the storytelling gifts he realized at the age of 4. Following in the footsteps of the Master Storyteller, the Allegheny East Conference



(AEC) member of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church describes the book as "a series of original Christian parables with a modern context."

The short narratives, with titles like "Breaking the DaVinci Load" and "The King of Bling," can bless anyone age 12 and above who appreciates biblical lessons in the context of "e-traders, hockey moms, professional athletes, televangelists, and desperate housewives." Order a copy through amazon.com.

Jesus used stories to explain His agenda. ... To those seeking understanding, His stories contain immortal truths, simple in nature but unfathomable in complexity. —Sam Darby in My Porpoise Driven Wife

CD > The Evolution of Jeffrey "Shorty" Johnson

This sixth release by Jeffrey Johnson, an active member of the Faithful Flock congregation in Jessup, Md., is a reflection of God's miraculous



leading of this incarcerated believer. Since being baptized in 1993



by Henry Fordham, AEC's vice president of administration, Johnson has served as elder, Bible study coordinator, and music minister, among other church positions, and has become a facilitator for the experimental Alternative to Violence Project for the Jessup Correctional Institution, where he now resides.

"I realize that singing has always been a primary ministry in my life," explains the husband and father of two. "I truly thank God for allowing me to be a blessing to others, even from behind prison walls!"

His mother and distributor, Geraldine Singleton, suggests you read more and order copies at shortyjohnson.com.

Collectible > Camporee Commemorative Geocoin

Geocaching is an Internet rave, and now Pathfinders can join this worldwide fun in time for the "Courage to Stand" 2009 International Pathfinder Camporee being held in Oshkosh, Wis., August 11-15. Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which the participants use a navigational system to hide and seek containers (called geocaches or caches) anywhere in the world—a take on the 150-year-old game of letterboxing. Read more at geocaching.com.



Did You Know?

June 13 is Women's Ministries Emphasis Day, an annual church event. "The focus of every program held over the next two years is to be outreach and evangelism," reports Shirley Benton, Columbia Union Women's Ministries coordinator. For more details, contact Benton at srbenton2@aol.com.

Joe Saadi (below), director of Pennsylvania Conference's Reading Hampden Hawks Pathfinder Club, developed a commemorative metal camporee coin as a fundraiser for his team. Saadi suggests kids use the coin as a trackable item while earning the new geocaching honor, or trade them like collectible pins.



Order at freewebstore.org/hampdenhawks by June 25 to get your coins in time for the camporee. Club/conference personalization is available.

WholeHealth

The White House or Your House?

The healthcare crisis in the United States is a hot topic these days, prompting President Barack Obama to host a health-care forum and establish the White House Office of Health Reform. Missing from many of these discussions about accessible healthcare and universal health coverage, however, is the

principle of taking personal responsibility for our own health.

The fact of the matter is that 75 percent of our Western diseases are related to lifestyle. And the consequences of our choices in diet, exercise, and personal health habits go far beyond our personal well-being to impact our relationships, productivity at work, healthcare costs, health insurance premiums, and more.

What excuses are you making about your choices? What can you do to move toward a healthier lifestyle? Taking personal responsibility will empower you to make better choices and to be proactive in getting the resources and support you need to improve your health.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "The health you enjoy is largely your choice." While discussions in the White House are good, real healthcare reform needs to start in our own homes as we initiate and sustain healthier lifestyle habits. —Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

Keeping Score

U.S. Employment

307.2
Total U.S. population in millions

13.2
Number in millions without a job (aged 16+)

5.1
Millions of jobs lost since December 2007

8.5
Percent of population unemployed

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2009 Release

What You Bring to the Table

In the Spotlight > Friendship Evangelists Dan and Dorothy Redmon

If you run into Dan Redmon and his wife, Dorothy, near their home in Beltsville, Md., do not be surprised if they invite you over. This Potomac Conference couple is big on friendship evangelism.



When they relocated from La Sierra, Calif., they wanted to recreate some evangelistic activities. So they started Destination Sabbath School, a culturally vibrant and welcoming class at their Beltsville (Md.) church.

Four years ago, with the support of their Sabbath School classmates, this art-loving couple also started hosting a summer gathering in their backyard. At Art in the Park, attendees share their artwork and musical talents, as well as refreshments. Not surprisingly, unexpected friendships and interests in God are formed.

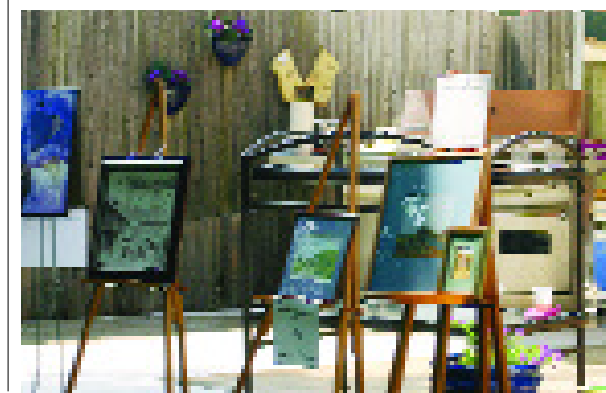
"We designed our backyard to host groups because there was

no place for people to socialize outside of the church building," Dan explains. "We wanted the space to be used for the good Lord's purpose."

Dorothy says she didn't even know that what they were doing was soft witnessing until somebody told her. "We are doing Bible studies with a few people, and that came partly from building friendships," she says.

During their first gathering, the Redmons were shocked when 60 people showed up; 30 percent were not Seventh-day Adventist, including their neighbors. The number continues to grow every year.

"We've gotten more bold and now invite complete strangers," Dan adds. This includes their mail carrier and a sales clerk at the Home Depot.—Taashi Rowe



Web Watch > adventistyouthspace.com

The North American Division Youth Ministries department recently opened a new Internet portal for young Seventh-day Adventists to socialize and network.



Sharing Hope

Columbia Union Churches Report Year of Evangelism Success

The North American Division is already reporting a 32 percent increase (above 2008) in the number of baptisms and professions of faith since officially declaring 2009 as the Year of Evangelism. Earlier this year, conference presidents around the Columbia Union conveyed their plans to join the “Share the Hope” efforts. Since then, churches in our eight conference territories have kept their promise and, through their evangelism efforts, are directing many new believers to Christ. Here are some of their stories:

Ohio Evangelism Graduates Share Through Small Groups

By the end of this year, I believe we will see a marked difference in the number of baptisms in our union,” predicts Rubén Ramos, Columbia Union Conference Multilingual Ministries director. One program he feels will play a big part in that increase is the Escuela de Teología y Discipulado (ETD), or School of Theology and Discipleship, started by the Potomac Conference Hispanic Ministries department.

Inspired by Jesus’ great commission (Matt. 28:19), and Ellen White’s appeal to turn churches into schools where Christian workers are developed, this certificate program helps believers identify and develop their gifts for evangelism. The yearlong courses provide both theoretical and practical training. During 2008 nearly 70 students



Rubén Ramos, Multilingual Ministries director, presents a School of Theology and Discipleship diploma to Aida Rivera of the Hamilton (Ohio) Spanish mission group.

graduated from the program as certified Small Group Leaders, and now conduct their own small group sessions.

Based on ETD’s success in Potomac, Ramos transferred the ministry to the Ohio and Pennsylvania conferences. Now, there are 89 Ohio

Hispanic church members enrolled in classes to become certified Bible instructors.

“I have noticed an extraordinary change in the enthusiasm of the members of my church,” states Pastor Oswaldo Magana of the Cleveland First Spanish church. “Since the start of ETD classes in 2008, the number of Bible studies and small groups has increased dramatically.”

Ramos concurs and adds, “The students are currently giving a minimum of two Bible studies a week. Statistically, we’ve seen that out of every three Bible studies, one will result in a baptism.”

Magana recalls one member who was adamantly opposed to small group ministry. But, by the time he finished the course in small group leadership, he realized its importance and now hosts a weekly small group. As a matter of fact, three of his group members are preparing for baptism.

Hector Yovanni Martin also attended the courses offered through the ETD in Ohio. He recently participated in Bible studies in which 22 individuals prepared for baptism and now conducts a weekly small group at his home.

“Besides providing me with great techniques on how to go about evangelizing to others about Christ, the classes have also been a motivator, helping me see the importance of sharing Christ with others,” expresses Martin, who now recommends the classes to every believer he meets.—*Sylvia Garcia*



Young adults from the Lewisburg (Pa.) church converted a room at the local YMCA into a place of worship for their “Mighty to Save” evangelism series.

to go for physical bodybuilding, the Lewisburg members converted the rented meeting room into a place for spiritual growth during four consecutive Sunday nights this spring. A dedicated team of volunteers had to set up and take down the room each time.

“It was worth all of the effort because the YMCA was the perfect place for our target audience of 20- and 30-year-olds,” says Ivankina, a seventh- and eighth-grade English teacher at the Shamokin Middle School in Coal Township, Pa.

Raised a Seventh-day Adventist, Ivankina attended the local public schools and had a bur-

Lewisburg Young Adults Share Their Faith at the YMCA

Once too “nervous and shy” to read Scripture in church, Christina Ivankina (right) surprised herself recently by agreeing to preach an entire series about Christ’s soon return to other young adults. She and several young people from Pennsylvania Conference’s Lewisburg church planned and conducted the “Mighty to Save” series at the Milton (Pa.) YMCA.

Although the YMCA is known locally as the place



Students from Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., help West Philadelphia church members deliver boxes of food and essential items to residents.



den to share the gospel with her secular friends. However, she knew it had to be in a way that would appeal to them. That's when she and fellow church members started planning the meetings.

The Lewisburg young people intentionally made the format casual and always started each meeting with live band music. Ivankina complemented her nightly lesson with a generous use of media, such as movie clips and Internet videos. Members Luis and Sarah Kay planned the music, coordinated the band practice sessions, and prepared the music graphics. All together, they placed a strong emphasis on meeting the social needs of the young attendees, helping them to not only connect with God, but also with each other.

"I have found it more difficult to speak to my friends about God than with strangers," confesses Ivankina, "but God gave me courage, and, at the times when I needed them most, the very words I needed. I hope that our project will help encourage other young people to be brave and try to find a way to share their faith with friends."

An average of 30 young adults attended the four meetings, several of whom were not Christian. Due to their energetic urging, the meetings are now continuing on a monthly basis.

"I was very impressed by how Christina was able to present the gospel in such a relevant way to the young adults who came to her meetings," commented Pastor Tom Grove, who will hold his own series at the YMCA this fall. "I look forward to see how the Lord continues to use her to expand His kingdom." View a video of this story at columbiaunion.org.—*Frank Bondurant*

Allegheny East Churches Share Food, Edify Souls

Allegheny East Conference (AEC) evangelist Conklin Gentry proposes that helping needy families goes hand in hand with the evangelism process. "We are finding that it is a little difficult to get into homes and sit down and give Bible studies because of the times we are living in," he explains.

With this knowledge, Gentry supported New Life church members when they decided to distribute

Allegheny East Conference volunteer Myrtle Evans directs church volunteers during a shipment from Feed the Children, a collaboration she initiated.

nearly 400 boxes of food and essential items to needy families around their Salisbury, Md., community last year. Not sure they would see the families again, members were surprised when so many of the residents went on to complete Bible studies and attend subsequent evangelism meetings. Ultimately, 70 of them were baptized.



Feeding so many families would not have been feasible had it not been for the conference's partnership with Feed the Children, a Christian, non-profit, relief organization that delivers truckloads of food to depressed communities. Myrtle Evans, a member of the United in Christ church in Baltimore and an AEC volunteer, first initiated contact with the organization around the same time the New Life church was planning their reaping meetings last year.

"This program is a really powerful tool that helps us make inroads into the community because they see that we genuinely care about them," adds Gentry.

Evans decided to try contacting the organization again this past January during the National Day of Service. Feed the Children staff reported they would be sending out 15 to 20 trucks nationwide, but were very specific about what churches and cities they

would assist. As a result of Evans' prayer and persistence, Feed the Children agreed to send a truck to the West Philadelphia church. As a matter of fact, it was the only truck sent to Pennsylvania for that effort.

The day turned out to be one of tremendous blessing to the community and West Philadelphia church members. Students from Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., also turned out in droves to help unload boxes from the truck and deliver them to the families. Volunteers also staffed health and job training tables, while pastors from the conference's Delaware Ministerium offered prayer counseling.

The special day helped lay the groundwork for Bible workers, who continue to follow up on requests for Bible studies. A reaping meeting is planned for 2010. Allegheny East's evangelism team members say adding this new dimension—their partnership with Feed the Children—to their outreach efforts has only stimulated their existing passion for soul winning.

"It is so rewarding to see people ... turn their lives around and build a relationship with Christ," Evans comments.

Excited about the partnership, Minnie McNeil, AEC director for Adventist Community Services, says, "Collaborative efforts always prove to be advantageous for the ministry and the community because we can do a lot more together than any of us can do separately."

The conference's evangelistic ministry team delivered another truck full of supplies to Hampton, Va., in May and is planning a similar trip to Wilmington, Del., next month.—*Taashi Rowe*

Pennsylvania Hispanic Members Share Christ

It thrills my heart every time I preach these messages," shared Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, following a recent evangelistic series held by the Lehigh Valley Spanish church in Allentown, Pa. "I'm reminded of how Christ-centered, how truth-centered, and how much our evangelistic series are needed. The power and beauty of God's Word grips me—there is nothing like hearing it again. This is what people are looking for."





Gabriel Montalvo, pastor of the Lehigh Valley (Pa.) Spanish church, translates a message by Pennsylvania Conference president Ray Hartwell.

Hartwell's spiritual high came from preaching at the weeklong series. However, he gives credit for the 12 baptisms to Pastor Gabriel Montalvo and his team who had mapped out an evangelistic plan for the entire year—in all six of his churches and plants. Lehigh Valley Spanish members were responsible for every detail of the series—including getting people to attend. But, they didn't mail brochures; church members personally invited every attendee.

One couple invited members of the small group that meets in their home. Three of them, two ladies and a young man, attended the series and were baptized. The young man also brought his dad several nights. At his baptism, the father responded to a call and also came forward for baptism!

Another young woman was baptized while her husband, sister, and friend watched. All three

More than 20 people made the decision for baptism as a result of the recent evangelistic series hosted by the Lehigh Valley (Pa.) Spanish church.



later joined nearly 18 other people who responded to Montalvo's appeal for baptism on Sabbath afternoon, as they watched people from the Lehigh Valley and Bethlehem Spanish churches and Easton El Camino Mission Group commit their lives to Christ.

"The goal this year is for my district to reach 150 souls," states Pastor Montalvo. "Our main focus is to keep the church moving."

Through small group and personal evangelism—as well as a new radio program—the district is fulfilling its mission. So far this year, they can proclaim more than 30 new baptisms and professions of faith. "The people are listening to God's Word, and our members are responding," adds Montalvo.—*Tamyra Horst*

Lanham-Bowie Project Shares the Great Commission

A surge of evangelistic activity is taking place in the Lanham/Bowie, Md., area as a result of a vision given to Melvyn Hayden, youth pastor for Community Praise Center (CPC) in Alexandria, Va. Birthed out of a Bible study group, the Lanham-Bowie Project (LBP) is quickly becoming God's prolific instrument to evangelize the greater southern portion of Prince George's County, Maryland.

LBP, the latest addition to the Potomac Conference, embarked on its journey in March 2007, gathering its initial small group at a local high school gymnasium. After months of organizational transitions, Pastor Hayden suggested to Henry

Wright, CPC's senior pastor, that a full-time worker be hired to lead the eager group. The Lanham-Bowie Project, as coined by its new pastor, Paul Graham, formally launched last November. Under Pastor Graham (below), the LBP congregation is establishing itself as a center for ministry and evangelism.

Now 6 months old, LBP attendance regularly tops 400 per week. A predominantly young adult church, the Lanham-Bowie Project owes much of its rapid expansion to the effective use of information technology. Once a week, the church newsletter, the *Lanham-Bowie Informer*, is emailed to a large distribution list that includes members, friends, and new acquaintances. The Internet, including Facebook, is used heavily to market the church, foster relationships, and share spiritual teachings.



Pastor Paul Graham (left) is leading Potomac Conference's new Lanham-Bowie (Md.) Project with a surge of evangelistic activity, resulting in many decisions for baptism.

Late this spring, the church held its first official evangelistic series themed "The Time is Now." The church's leaders, including associate pastors Kelvin Mitchell and Ronnie Seneque, believe that the fruit produced will contribute to the church's growth and maturity. Moving forward, LBP aims to train, equip, and mobilize Adventist Christians to establish relationships while focusing on the great commission. The message and charge is "to get active and be active in your community." View a video about LBP at columbiaunion.org.—*R.H. Stewart*

The LBP also broadcasts its Sabbath service on praisevision.com, allowing viewers to worship with them online. Notwithstanding, door-to-door efforts are employed so that direct contact can be made with the congregation's neighbors.

"Watching the people coming together and finding their purpose has been great, especially as we watch souls make decisions for Christ," says Pastor Graham.

Hashina Seneque and Naeem Newman, MD, two of the original members from the congregation's days as a Bible study group, are excited about LBP's rapid growth. "What I see for the future of the LBP is the evangelism of Bowie and the surrounding areas, and a close-knit church family," says Dr. Newman.



The Lanham-Bowie Project is a quickly expanding congregation full of young adults and young children.

Zealots for Jesus

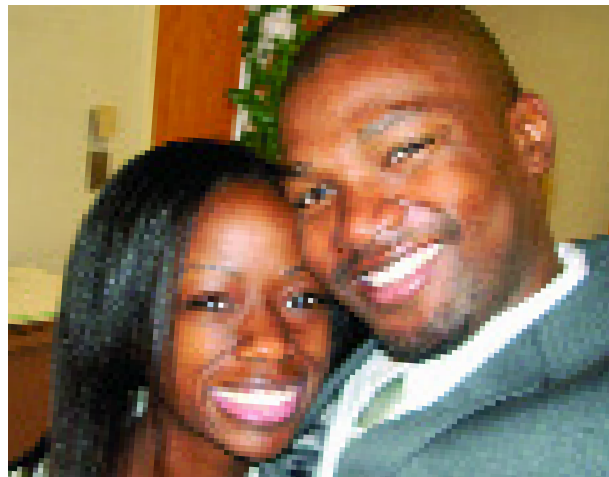
New Believers Find, Share Christ Through Evangelism Efforts

Tanisha Greenidge

In 2000 Debbie Duncan was suffering from the effects of a messy divorce when an invitation from her son, a gang member, led her to curiously attend a prophecy seminar at the Tacoma South Side church in Washington state. Duncan reluctantly walked into the evangelistic series but ended up giving her life to Jesus. In spite of this, she soon slid back into her old life of drugs.

After several years of sporadic church attendance, God intervened and moved Duncan from Washington to Virginia to care for her elderly mother. She started to miss her West Coast church family and contacted the nearby New Market (Va.) church. There she started attending prayer meetings and taking Bible studies. When Pastor Shane Anderson started a prophecy seminar, Duncan was inspired to get re-baptized.

Duncan says her “Damascus Road” experience has given new value to her life, and she willingly



Mac Pangha, of the Lanham-Bowie (Md.) Project, first heard the Adventist message through Michelle, who is now his wife.

shares her testimony with others, believing that she can help lead them to Christ. “I carry my Bible everywhere, even to work,” declares Duncan. She is currently giving Bible studies to two co-workers and planting seeds with others.

“She has a real passion for helping others prepare for the second coming of Christ,” says Pastor Anderson, who was tickled by her enthusiasm as a greeter at the church’s last evangelistic series.

Duncan also continues to pray for her ex-husband, Steve, and son, Jason, who left the gang. She uses Isaiah 26:3 to encourage him and redirect his life toward Christ.

“I will never go back in the wrong direction again,” promises Duncan, who now sees what she missed the first time. “I am so in love with Christ.”



Debbie Duncan, with New Market (Va.) church pastor Shane Anderson, once considered herself a country girl lost in bad city life.

Ready to Walk With Jesus

Macc Pangha grew up in French-speaking Gabon in Africa, and, as he puts it, had a carefree life. He and his friends often drank and partied together, that is, until one of Pangha’s partying buddies found Jesus. The positive changes he saw in his friend affected him too. He stopped partying and started listening to sermons. Those tapes told Pangha what Jesus could do in his life, and it transformed him.

While in his early 20s, Pangha gave his life to Christ. “When I came to the United States, I was ready to walk with Jesus,” he recalls.

He started attending church on the Sabbath with his future wife, Michelle. She told him about the Sabbath and why it was so important to worship God on His day. He had reservations but further researched how the day was changed and listened to other people’s testimonies. What he found amazed him.

“Now, I can’t live like I don’t know the right day to worship anymore,” remarks Pangha, a member of Potomac Conference’s Lanham-Bowie Project (LBP) in Lanham, Md. “Jesus is the most wonderful thing in this world. There’s a new beginning when you give your life to Jesus. You have a friend and a father.”

Since his baptism last December, Pangha has become a deacon and recently assisted with LBP’s latest evangelistic revival. “The enemy is always working, and these evangelistic efforts are necessary,” he comments. “God has done so much for me that now I want to give back to Him.”

Getting Serious About Christianity

“I never understood Daniel or Revelation, but when I started going [to the seminar], I was really amazed and it all started to make sense,” recalls Chesapeake Conference member Colleen Lee. “I started to become more serious about my relationship with God.”

Although Lee became a Christian at the age of 13 and regularly attended a local nondenominational church, it wasn’t until a co-worker invited her to attend a Revelation seminar at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., that she realized just how much she didn’t know about serving the Lord.

She traveled more than an hour each night to watch the series, and was blown away by the truth.

Lee attended the seminar each night and was impacted by the Bible truths the workshops revealed. However, keeping the Sabbath holy required the biggest lifestyle change. She worked hard during the week and anticipated the weekends, where she spent Friday evenings out with friends and Saturdays shopping or at the mall. But when

Lee realized that she needed to reserve sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday for God, she quickly altered her routine.

“Once I committed myself to God, I became more peaceful and more content,” recalls Lee, now an Atholton member.

Mark Finley’s *Discoveries '08* series last October sealed Lee’s decision to become a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She traveled more than an hour each night to watch the series, and was blown

away by the truth about the Sabbath, the mark of the beast, and tithes and offerings. Since her baptism in December, Lee remains on fire for God.

“This was a truth that sank deep within me. It was easy for me to accept, and I am definitely a zealot for God,” says Lee, who, as she puts it, is chillin’ with her church.

Tanisha Greenidge writes from Takoma Park, Md.



New believer Colleen Lee of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., calls herself a zealot for God.

Education at its Best

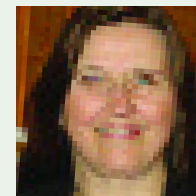
Columbia Union's Top 12 Teachers and Students Exhibit Quality Academics

The annual Columbia Union Conference Outstanding Educator Award allows the Office of Education to show recognition and appreciation to educators who demonstrate consistent excellence. Winners are nominated by their peers and awarded a plaque and \$1,000. Congratulations to this year's nominees—Laura Benn (Takoma Academy), Bruce Bellchambers (Mount Vernon Academy), Timothy Brown (Harrisburg Adventist School), Donna Nicholas (Summersville Adventist School), Carol Oster (Olney Adventist Preparatory School), and Kandace Zollman (Mt. Aetna Adventist School)—and three winners:

Jennifer Bianco is a product of Seventh-day Adventist education. She believes the Lord gave her the desire, talent, and opportunity to give back during the past 16 years, including the last four at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy in Pennsylvania as the primary teacher. Bianco believes the classroom should be stimulating and safe, and is known for maintaining a highly effective learning environment to address the needs of all students. She has done a masterful job of implementing the *Pathways* curriculum. Bianco also regularly attends and leads



professional growth seminars plus mentors and coaches other teachers.



Cheryl Jacko got her start in Adventist education 22 years ago, and has devoted each year to the Columbia Union. She was the driving force behind starting Highland Adventist Academy in Elkins, W.Va., where she now serves as principal and middle-grades teacher. Under her leadership, Highland has increased from its original six students to more than 50. She also serves as associate superintendent for the Mountain View

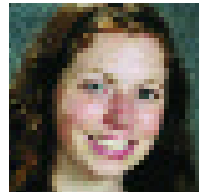
Conference. Jacko loves the creativity and autonomy teaching provides and believes that it should be creative and wholly engaging for students, particularly those with learning challenges.

Of **Ophelia Barizo's** 30 years in teaching, the past 13 have been at Highland View Academy (HVA) in Hagerstown, Md. Described as enthusiastic, innovative, and nurturing, this science teacher makes learning experiential through innovative field trips, labs, case studies, and simulations. Barizo developed alternative classes to physics and chemistry that are offered for credit. Her chemistry alternative has actually increased the pass rate of college-prep chemistry students to over 90 percent. Over the years, Barizo has also secured more than \$300,000 in grant money for HVA, which has been used for hardware, textbooks, and more.

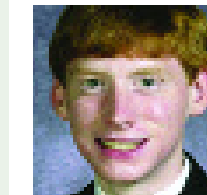


through various school groups and programs. McAuliffe's natural leadership skills positively influence students and teachers alike.

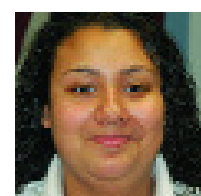
Eager to help others feel better, it's no wonder **Katie Roddy**, a four-year senior at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio, plans to pursue a medical degree. She participates in nearly all of the school's volunteer projects—earning MVA's prestigious Service Award in 2008. Roddy infuses others with her optimism and is always prepared to lend a hand.



Ethan Snider ('09) spent his high school career at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) in Silver Spring, Md., demonstrating care for others by devoting more than 1,000 hours of service. With a passion to save lives, Snider now has his first-aid certificate and rides in the ambulance for the Beltsville (Md.) Volunteer Fire Department.



Juniors or seniors from nine of the Columbia Union's 10 academies were selected for the Office of Education's annual Caring Heart Award. This Christian Service Recognition Award honors students who have demonstrated a personal commitment to service and witnessing activities. The award comes with a \$500 scholarship to be used toward college tuition or a mission trip:



Pausy Isamar Argueta ('10) from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., has amassed an astounding 664 hours of community service since 2006. From babysitting, to helping with Pathfinders and Children's Church, to delivering food baskets through her home church in Vienna, Va., her greatest satisfaction has been helping fix up a homeless shelter for women and children.

Rachel Bacon ('09) will tackle any chore with determination and a smile. She is a diligent and conscientious desk monitor in the girl's dorm at Highland View



Academy in Hagerstown, Md., and a dependable support to her peers, regularly assisting others with homework. Bacon's dorm room is where she is happy to act as a "big sister," offering advice and counsel.

Described as pleasing and respectful, **Sarina Goulding** is always eager to serve. This junior class religious vice president from Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., is the assistant worker for the Flag Pole Prayer Team, and was instrumental in continuing the Praying Falcon Club to promote school evangelism. Goulding is involved in PFA's community



service program as well as her own community's New York Relief Bus Program.

Victoria Landau ('09) always seeks ways to encourage her peers at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va. When not busy with SVA's Christian drama group or her campus family, she offers assistance to whoever might need it. Landau participated in Washington, D.C., school trips to feed the homeless, as well as the mission trip to Peru.



Not only is **Justin McAuliffe** senior class president at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., he is also a National Merit Finalist, and a dependable, talented pianist. He generously shares his musical gifts



Richmond Academy in Virginia gained a dependable and conscientious leader with **Matheus Souza**. This senior class president and yearbook editor has a real talent for media production. He found time amid maintaining a 4.0 GPA and working to pay for tuition to create a promotional show for student recruitment and participate in monthly community service projects.



Beyond serving as Student Council president for Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio, **Shelby Tanguay** exhibits a dedication to service. The four-year senior has been a member of the Spiritual Leadership Team for three years, an active mentor for elementary students, served on multiple mission trips, and is a youth elder at her church.



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Profiles in Caring

Between Two Chairs

During the course of a meal with friends the other day, we discussed how another friend was holding up under a series of unforeseen circumstances. My friend—who immigrated here from Eastern Europe—said that it sounded to her like the individual was “between two chairs.”

It was such an apt description of how we feel when we are caught in awkward circumstances, so I looked it up. Her phrase was probably based on an old saying about two stools that dates back to 1390: “Betwen tuo Stoles lyth the fal.” It refers to being in such a perplexing state about your choices that you actually fall between them.

Now this is not the same as “between a rock and a hard place,” which has its source in Homer’s Odyssey, nor is it the same as being “between the devil and the deep blue sea,” which has its roots in mariner’s lore. It’s not the same as to “fall between the cracks.” This old phrase brings to mind someone accidentally slipping between two chairs, and awkwardly, clumsily, trying to get up. Frankly, I’ve been there. Haven’t we all?

Life doesn’t follow a script. Accidents happen. Sometimes you get the short straw, and other times you get the bigger piece of pie. Sometimes we get in the wrong lane, and other times we just happen to be in the right place at the right time.

And when we find ourselves between two difficult choices, perhaps through circumstances beyond our control, we slip “between two chairs.” It happens to all of us.

The real question is, what do you do when you find yourself in an awkward situation? How do we confront a confusing future? How do we get back on our chair after slipping off?

Having faith in the future does not mean that we never find ourselves between two chairs. Having faith means that when it happens—and it will happen—we get up. From somewhere we tap the strength we need to correct the situation. We dust ourselves off and pull up to the table in spite of the mishap. Life goes on, and so do we.

William G. “Bill” Robertson
 President CEO
 Adventist HealthCare



Preparing to meet the giant Goliath, young David stopped purposefully at the brook that separated the warring armies of Israel and the Philistines to select five smooth stones. He placed them at the ready in his shepherd's bag. One would be the missile that would fell the giant. The other four? Probably just good planning. (What if one shot was not enough?) Or perhaps a stone for each of the giant's four brothers. (They ran off, apparently.) Perhaps that was all he had room for, or was all the weight he wanted to carry. Regardless, he went equipped with five smooth stones—and with one he brought the giant down and won the battle.

Mental illness is a giant. The US Surgeon General's Office reports that one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year, and that half of the population will have such disorders at some point in their lives. Mental illness affects all of us, regardless of race, age, gender, ethnicity, economic status, or religion.

A unique partnership between the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, the Columbia Union of Seventh-day Adventists, Adventist HealthCare (particularly Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health), and the Versacare Foundation led to the development of "Frontline: Mental Health," a two-day conference focused on the mental health issues that clergy address each day as they seek to create healthy environments for the personal and spiritual growth of their members. More than 80 clergy and ministry professionals participated in "Frontline: Mental Health," April 27-28, in Bethesda, Maryland. The curriculum for the conference focused on "five smooth stones" that could help clergy as they minister to their congregations.

The five areas addressed by the conference included the emotional and mental health needs of clergy; helping clergy increase their capacity for the interpersonal communication that makes them effective in their ministry; increased cooperation and collaboration between clergy and mental health communities; review of the technical

Frontline: Mental Health Addresses Issues Facing Churches and Pastors



resources needed by clergy to be effective in meeting mental health needs; and expansion of the knowledge base that clergy have about mental health issues, correlated with their theological perspectives.

Clergy face emotional problems and mental health issues on two fronts: they confront it in their church members and the families that they serve, and they also confront it in themselves (and their own families). In addition to general mental health issues, clergy must be able to respond to areas of emotional problems that were often not addressed in their training, including questions of sexual abuse; addiction, in all its forms; the impact of addiction on spouses, children, and the families of addicts; and childhood trauma, with all of the attendant implications for the emotional, behavioral, and social life of children.

The Frontline: Mental Health conference provided a professional and affirming environment for clergy of many faiths to come together for training, discussion, and discovery. The practical approach to a complex topic was particularly appreciated by participants. Said one attendee: "This has definitely given me a different perspective on my ministry and my life. There are a lot of guidelines and issues that have been talked about here that are going to help me personally as well as professionally."

Other participants identified the vital need the conference addressed: "It's a critical need. Typically we don't get training in this area or exposure to it, so we very likely (for lack of a better term) 'misdiagnose' someone and mismanage it. This gives us some sense as to the authenticity of someone's real medical or physiological mental condition that would position us perhaps to better assist them, assist their families, and understand what's going on with them."

The faculty for the conference included behavioral health professionals from Adventist HealthCare, as well as guests who are nationally known for their expertise in pastoral care and mental health. Participants noted the value of learning from individuals with a strong commitment to what can be done when clergy and behavioral health professionals

work together to meet the challenges of modern ministry. One attendee noted: "I appreciate the importance of establishing boundaries and knowing that while we are able to recognize certain things, sometimes there are things I need to refer to physicians and therapists."

An Adventist pastor who attended the conference provided an apt summary of its significance: "This conference is important because it brings awareness. When you are serving people, when you are dealing with people every day, in ministry, or being a nurse or a physician, when you are in a health care profession, you have a tendency to overlook some of the signs, some of the stress. And if you are not aware of that you may end up causing some harm to people. So I think it is

important for me to be aware, to sharpen my tools. I think for ministers in general it prepares them to deal with the people in their congregations and be aware of some of those mental health problems as well as their own mental health. I think this is very relevant for whoever is involved in a helping or caring profession."

Adventist HealthCare recognizes that some of the best partners for community health are local congregations and the pastors and clergy who lead those congregations. By responding to the needs of the communities it serves, Adventist HealthCare continues to seek innovative ways to demonstrate God's care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing.



The participants had the opportunity to practice some of the skills they had just been introduced to and found out how theory adapted to practice.



Dr. Karl Haffner, senior pastor of the Kettering Adventist Church, was one of the keynote speakers during the joint sessions.



Pastor Ann Roda, New Hope Adventist Church in the Chesapeake Conference, listens to the presentation on storytelling.

Un arma para la salud mental

La oficina del Cirujano General de los EE.UU. informa que uno de cada cinco americanos sufre de un desorden mental y que la mitad de la población tendrá uno de esos desórdenes en sus vidas. Las enfermedades mentales nos afectan a todos sin importar raza, edad, sexo, etnicidad, posición económica o religión.

Una alianza especial entre la División Norteamericana de Adventistas del Séptimo Día, la Unión de Columbia de Adventistas del Séptimo Día, Adventist HealthCare (en particular Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health) y la fundación Versacare condujo al desarrollo de "Frontline: Mental Health", una conferencia de dos días enfocada en los temas de salud mental con que tienen que lidiar los pastores cada día en el crecimiento personal y espiritual de sus miembros. Más de 80 pastores y profesionales en el ministerio participaron en "Frontline: Mental Health" el 27 y 28 de abril en Bethesda, Maryland. El currículum de la conferencia se enfocaba en cinco áreas que podrían ayudar a los pastores conforme ministran a sus congregaciones.

Las cinco áreas consideradas por la conferencia incluían las necesidades de salud mental y emocional de los pastores; ayudar a los pastores a aumentar su capacidad para la comunicación interpersonal que los hace más efectivos en su ministerio; aumento en la cooperación y colaboración entre los pastores y la comunidad de salud mental; proporcionar recursos técnicos para que los pastores sean más efectivos conforme lidian con situaciones de salud mental; y la expansión de la base de conocimiento que los pastores tienen acerca de temas de salud mental desde una perspectiva teológica.

Los pastores encaran problemas de salud emocional y mental en dos frentes: en sus miembros de iglesia y también los pueden encontrar en ellos mismos (y sus familias). Además de los temas de salud mental en general los pastores también tienen que ser capaces de responder a áreas de problemas emocionales para lo que generalmente no fueron entrenados, incluyendo temas de abuso sexual; adicciones en todas sus formas; el impacto de la adic-

ción en las familias de los adictos; y el trauma durante la niñez, con todas las implicaciones en la vida emocional y social, de los niños.

La conferencia Frontline: MentalHealth proveyó un ambiente profesional y edificante para que pastores de muchas religiones se reuniesen para entrenarse, discutir y explorar. El enfoque práctico a un tópico difícil fue muy apreciado por los participantes.

Un participante identificó la necesidad vital que la conferencia abordó: "Es una necesidad crítica. Típicamente no recibimos entrenamiento en esta área, o no nos enteramos de la misma, así que lo más probable —por falta de otro término— es que demos un diagnóstico erróneo y no sepamos qué hacer. Esto nos da un mejor sentido de la necesidad real médica, fisiológica o condición mental de una persona que nos capacita a ayudarlos mejor, atender a sus familias y comprender qué les pasa".

El personal de la conferencia incluía profesionales en el área de la salud mental de Adventist HealthCare lo mismo que invitados reconocidos a nivel nacional por su experiencia en la atención pastoral y la salud mental. Los participantes destacaron el valor de poder aprender de individuos con una dedicación firme a lo que se puede conseguir cuando los pastores y los profesionales en el área de la salud mental cooperan para hacer frente a los desafíos del ministerio moderno. Uno de los presentes comentó: "Reconozco ahora la importancia de establecer límites y saber que al mismo tiempo que podemos reconocer algunas cosas, algunas veces hay situaciones en las que tenemos que depender de un médico y un terapeuta".

Un pastor adventista que acudió a la conferencia proveyó un resumen de su



importancia: "Cuando estás sirviendo a la gente, cuando lidias con ellos cada día, en el ministerio, o como enfermera o médico, cuando eres parte de una profesión de salud, tienes la tendencia a no considerar las señales, el estrés. Si no estás alerta puedes causar daño. Así que es importante el estar alerta, el aguzar mis herramientas. Creo que prepara a los ministros en general a lidiar con los miembros de sus congregaciones y a estar alerta a algunos de los problemas de salud mental lo mismo que sus propios problemas de salud mental".

Adventist HealthCare reconoce que algunos de los mejores aliados en la salud de la comunidad son las congregaciones locales y los pastores, los ministros, que dirigen a esas congregaciones. Al responder a las necesidades de las congregaciones que atiende, Adventist HealthCare continúa buscando maneras innovadoras de demostrar el amor de Dios al mejorar la salud de la gente y las comunidades a través de un ministerio de salud física, mental y espiritual.



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

JUNE 2009

Bladensburg Member Joins White House Staff

Bladensburg (Md.) church member Paul Monteiro (right), was recently named deputy associate director of the Office of Public Engagement at the White House.

Monteiro, who joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2006, explains that as the "front door to the White House," his office is responsible for engaging "community groups, [and] religious organizations in the business of government."

How does he feel about working in the White House? "It is a privilege to be here, especially at this point in time," he says. "I don't believe in coincidences, so I take it as a blessing."

Monteiro says he became attracted to the Adventist Church while growing up just outside of Takoma Park, Md., where many of his friends were Adventists.

"I always admired my [Adventist] friends. There was a difference about them and the way they lived their lives," he says. He eventually joined the church after studying the Bible with friends.

Monteiro went looking for work on Capitol Hill after earning a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. He was inspired to work for then-Senator Barack Obama after reading a speech by the future president, which affirmed the belief that religion does not have to be divisive. He eventually moved to Chicago to work on the presidential campaign.

For Monteiro, working at the White House, in a capacity where he supports and works with faith groups, is another opportunity for him to "represent Christ in everything I do."



NEWS

Dupont Park Youth Preach the Word

Five youth, aged 10 to 18, presented sermons during Dupont Park church's youth revival in Washington, D.C. Each night of the weeklong event, youth preachers reached the more than 200 attendees with biblically

based sermons and personal testimonies. Ten-year-old Lynise Wellington shared how she never stopped praying for her father who was left unable to move his arms or legs after an accident. He is now walking today. Four young people made a decision

for Christ, six asked for Bible studies, and many more asked for prayer. Each of the young preachers received a Golden Pulpit Award certificate the following Sabbath.—Connie Mitchell



PHOTO BY RALPH GLENMORE

Pastor David Arrington presents preaching certificates to youth speakers (left to right) Diante Jenkins, Jacob Stewart, Andrew Marley, Lynise Wellington, and Kayla Durrett.

Mount Olivet Member Inducted Into Honor Societies

Sydney Freeman Jr., a member of the Mount Olivet church in Camden, N.J., and a doctoral student at Auburn University (Ala.), was inducted into the Golden Key and Delta Epsilon Iota academic societies. "I attended Columbia Union schools from pre-kindergarten to high school at Pine Forge Academy," Freeman says. "I pray that I can continue to be a light wherever I may go."



Men's Ministries to Host Father's Day Brunch

Men's Ministries will be hosting the Gospel Father's Day Brunch at the Charter House restaurant at 555 South Columbus Boulevard in Philadelphia, Sunday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Larry Wilson at (267) 237-3244, or Robert Perry at (267) 408-6734.

Correction

In the March issue of the *Exposé*, Pine Forge Academy alumnus Vincent Spelman was incorrectly identified as Vincent Murray.

Mount Sinai Deaconesses Knit Blankets for Babies

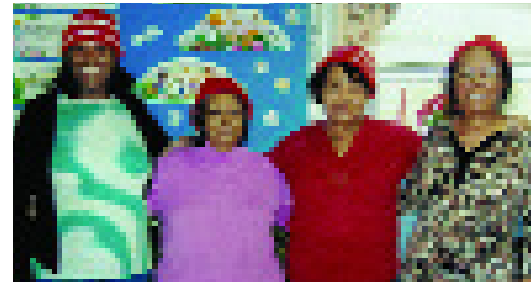
Even though they didn't know how to knit, deaconesses at the Mount Sinai church in Trenton, N.J., wanted to help needy young mothers with basic handmade items such as baby blankets.

"We felt that this would be a very meaningful way to help make a difference in the lives of young people striving to overcome difficult

odds in hospitals in our area," explained deaconess Pansy Clarke.

Undeterred by their lack of knitting know-how, the group found an eager teacher in Brenda Miller who taught them three basic crochet stitches: single, double, and the granny stitch. Learning those three stitches provided the ladies with sufficient skills to create blankets. They started off slowly, but picked up the pace as they became more comfortable with the project. Their four-person group completed a total of 14 blankets. They donated five to St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., five to Mercer Hospital in Trenton, and the remaining four blankets to Virturo Hospital in neighboring Burlington County, New Jersey.

"Our group now has a new level of confidence and enthusiasm,"



Karen McMullen, Ernestine Harris, Pansy Clarke, and Blanche McMullen, of the Mount Sinai Deaconess Auxiliary, knit and donate blankets to pediatric departments in hospitals near and far.

Clarke said. "Needless to say, our desire is to continue to nurture the small seed we planted, and tackle other projects throughout this year and beyond."



Worship and Music Conference Nurtures Hearts, Souls

Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Youth Ministries department recently hosted a Worship and Music Conference that drew more than 2,000 people for a weekend of melodious worship. The conference started on Friday evening with a concert featuring gifted soloists, groups, and choirs from throughout the conference territory. The atmosphere was bathed with the presence of God, and it set the stage for the Holy Ghost explosion.

Several workshops were offered on Sabbath, including miming with Janet Currie, Mildred Taylor, and Stacey Crawford of Ethnan Temple in Wilkensburg, Pa.; praise dance with Kesha Burden of Ethnan Temple; creating a worship experience with Jerome Hurst, pastor of Southeast church in Cleveland; music and worship with Jack McCrary, pastor of the Charlottesville church in Gordonsville, Va.; and music with David Thomas, a PhD music candidate.



Guest speaker James Doggette, DMin, senior pastor of Madison Mission church in Madison, Ala., was filled with the Spirit from his standing up to his sitting down. The power that attended his preaching overflowed and filled the room, touching each in attendance and forcing them into the aisles weeping and praying.

The pièce de résistance was a soul-stirring concert by Dynamic Praise, a student choir from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala.

NEWS

Ramah Students Showcase Talent

Ramah Jr. Academy's eighth-grade class recently hosted a talent show to raise funds for their class trip to New York City. There were musical selections from soloists, groups, and instrumentalists, and mime and drama presentations. Students choreographed the mime presentations, wrote and directed the drama presentations, and wrote original scores for the instrumental numbers. Participants included the Cuties (below), a first-grade singing group; the Cha Cha crew, who mimed Byron Cage's song "Broken But I'm Healed"; and the Kool Kiddzz, who dazzled the crowd with a gymnastics, praise dance, and acrobatic presentation.



Churches Face off in Championship Game

The AWC basketball league provides youth with an opportunity for fun and fellowship. Before each game, youth focus on fellowship through an Adventist Youth program presented by the visiting team. After a grueling season of competition and down-to-the-buzzer games, this year's division winners recently faced off in the championship game. The game included varsity teams from Southeast church in Cleveland and the Cincinnati church. Pittsburgh and Ephesus churches faced off in the junior varsity game, and Southeast and Ephesus churches played in the Pee Wee game. Cincinnati was named league champion after defeating Southeast church 61 to 54; Pittsburgh defeated Ephesus 52 to 45, and Southeast's Pee Wee team (above) defeated Ephesus 23 to 14.





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Walter Wright, Retired Church Administrator, Dies

Walter L. Wright, DD, CFLE, was an ordained minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church where he served for more than 37 years. He was a successful pastor/evangelist in the Allegheny West Conference and director of Church Ministries and vice president for the Southwestern Union Conference in Burleson, Texas. At the Lake Union Conference (Mich.), he served as executive secretary, ministerial director, and director of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries and Family Ministries. While serving at his last full-time position as Lake Union president, he was a member of various North American Division committees and boards. He conducted evangelism and family seminars in 11 countries and on four continents.



Walter Wright (74) recently passed away. After retiring as president of the Lake Union Conference last year, he returned home to his boyhood church, Dale Wright Memorial, and served as interim pastor.

After attending the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), Pastor Wright received a Bachelor of Arts in social and behavioral science from Ohio State University. He pursued further studies in that field at the universities of Pittsburgh and Kentucky. He received a

master's degree in pastoral care from Trinity Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Divinity from the International Bible School and Seminary.

He was married to the former Jacqueline Cook for almost 55 years. She joined Wright in developing their Marriage Maintenance Seminar, which was in high demand around the world. The Wrights were members of the Association of Adventist Family Life Professionals.

After retiring from the Lake Union Conference, Wright served as interim pastor for his boyhood church—Dale Wright Memorial in Germantown, Ohio. In a labor of love, Wright worked long hours and with diligence to show a shepherd's concern for the flock at Germantown. He and his wife revitalized Sabbath School and stood ready to greet the members as they arrived at 9:30 a.m. The pair, known to all as Uncle Walt and Aunt Jackie, led the way in refurbishing the building and beautifying the sanctuary. They lived out the edicts presented by the prophet Haggai, caring for and putting God's house first. They made telephone calls and sent cards to members who had not been seen for months, sometimes years. The people who received the cards, calls, and visits started coming to church to hear the Word of God.

Wright also began a series of presentations from the Revelation of Hope series by Mark Finley. These studies in Revelation kept the congregation engaged and excited about the truths in the Bible. For all who attended church during this revitalization, Uncle Walt and Aunt Jackie's enthusiasm was contagious. Members worked hard to make each service special and an effective ministry to everyone who attended. Their usual warmth and hospitality were taken up a notch. The members and leadership at Dale Wright Memorial church are committed to keeping the faith and continuing Wright's work in service to God.

Wright leaves behind his wife, three sons, one daughter, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support his last cherished project, the renovation of the Dale Wright Memorial church. Address donations to Walter Wright Memorial, Dale Wright Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, P.O. Box 86, Germantown, OH 45327.

Spirit is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny West Conference ■ 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205
Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ awcsda.com ■ President, Fredrick Russell ■ Editor, Bryant Taylor

What Makes a Church Great?

That's a great church," I've heard people say. I've said it myself and you probably, at some point, have said the same thing. But what is it that makes a church great? It is quite possible for a church to seemingly have everything, yet lack the most important quality—that of being used by God for His reconciling and redemptive purposes. Without that, no church can be great!

We must remember that the church is God's doing; it was conceived, established, empowered, and commissioned by His grace. The church is God's people, a colony of heaven set in the loneliness of a world, estranged from God, commissioned to reflect the love of God to a world full of hate, to speak the truth of God to a world torn by falsehood, to exemplify the beauty of God in a world marred by sin, and to proclaim God's willingness to redeem all who will call upon Him. The church is comprised of those who have been confronted by the claims of Christ on their lives, and who deliberately, understandingly, and voluntarily crown Him the Lord of their lives.

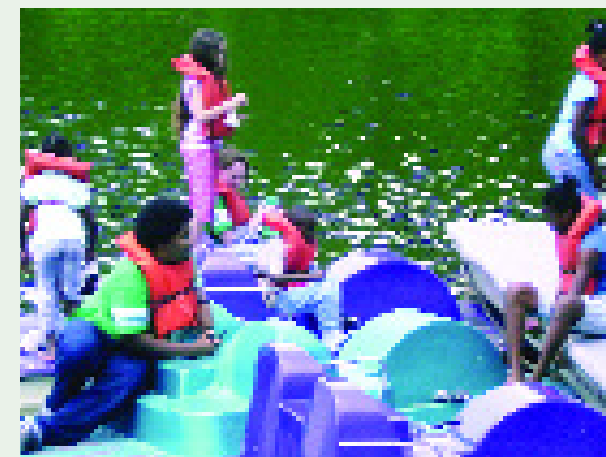
This will result in a consciousness of living a life worthy of Him, where we as members of the church will seek to reflect purity of life and genuineness of character in all of our relationships. It will also result in a greater appreciation of our high calling and a greater awareness of our shortcomings. Profound humility will characterize our efforts, and earnest longings for something better will echo in all our prayers. This has been the strength of the church, in every generation, validating before the court of the world, by transformation of life, the power of the Redeemer. This, and much more, makes a church great.



Rob Vandeman
President

Day Camp Equals Summer Fun

Staff and volunteers are busy preparing for a series of day camps for students in grades 1-8 to be held around the conference this summer. The week-long camps, dubbed FLAG Camp—an acronym for Fun Learning About God—combine worship, arts and crafts, sports, and a daily field trip to help kids connect with God, enjoy friendship, and experience educational and recreational activities.



Visits to museums and water parks are among the field trips planned for kids who attend FLAG Camp this summer.



"FLAG Camp is a ministry program," says conference Youth Ministries director Carl Rodriguez. "It's a fun, Christ-centered alternative to overnight camp for those who live outside the western region of the Chesapeake Conference, and, at \$100 per week, it's affordable."

The host sites for the camps are New Hope church in Fulton, Md.; Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md.; the Park church in Salisbury, Md.; and the West Wilmington church in Wilmington, Del. For more information, visit mtaetnacamp.com, or call Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910.

West Wilmington Member Celebrates 100th Birthday

Blanche Jones, a member of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, recently celebrated her 100th birthday at a party planned by her church family. Her daughter, Mary Ann Hunter, says, "Mom's happiest moments have been when she became an Adventist in the 1950s, and when she adopted my sister and me."

Jones has been actively involved in the church ever since, especially with Pathfinders. The highlight of the birthday party was when Pathfinder leader Tim Boyd made Jones an honorary Pathfinder Master Guide. In the past, she has helped the Pathfinders earn several honors, including the Polar Bear honor, which they received after camping under the stars in below freezing weather. She smiles at the memory of hiking with a group up to Black Rock on South Mountain in Western Maryland.

She continues to serve the church in a variety of ways. She collects supplies for the food center, helps at the local church school, and each Sabbath sits perched in her favorite chair by the door to greet friends as they arrive for Sabbath School. She says that the secret to longevity is "serving the Lord diligently and faithfully." Jones has two daughters, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.—*Jacqueline Saisi-Cole*



Centenarian Blanche Jones (center), is joined by her daughters, Rochelle Baker (left) and Mary Ann Hunter, at a surprise birthday celebration held in her honor at the West Wilmington (Del.) church.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE SAISI-COLE

Students Impact Mission Sites, Gain Blessings

Twenty-six sleepy Highland View Academy students left their campus in Hagerstown, Md., at 2 a.m. on a recent Sunday to begin their journey to the town of Santa Barbara, located in the heart of the highlands of Western Honduras. Once in Honduras, the group boarded an old school bus bound for the REACH International Children's Home. "We traveled there to build walls for people who have no place to live, but mostly to love the children there," said Vladimir Corea, group leader and pastor of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md.

Another group of 33 youth and 12 adults from the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., also went on a mission trip this time to the Dominican Republic. Each evening, after a day of hard work on the job sites, students enthusiastically led out in Vacation Bible School programs for the local children. They also distributed 220 Spanish-language Bibles purchased by Spencerville church members.

Highland View Academy music instructor Olga Bilan (center) makes new friends in Honduras. Highland View students and faculty have an ongoing relationship with the children's home, and have made several visits to enhance the facilities and conduct evangelistic outreach programs.

"My spiritual life with God has been stronger than ever because of this mission trip," blogged Maria Galeas, a Spencerville Adventist Academy sophomore. Senior Diana Straub added, "I wouldn't trade this experience for anything."

Students look forward to returning next year to complete the projects.



The Spencerville group selected the expansion of the Sandero Adventist School near the capital city of Santo Domingo as one of two building projects. This lot (above), adjacent to the existing school, was purchased on the day the group arrived, and was bare except for lines painted in the dirt to signal where walls should be built.

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PHOTO BY VANESSA LEZEAU

PHOTO BY VLADIMIR COREA

Alumni Weekend Celebrates Student Missionary Program

Fifty years ago a pastor for a Seventh-day Adventist college church was inspired. He was inspired by students who were reaching out beyond their comfort zones to address the needs of a wider community, he was inspired by their energy and enthusiasm for the gospel, and he was inspired to start something big.

The school was Washington Missionary College, now Columbia Union College (CUC). The pastor was William Loveless, EdD, and he was inspired to send the first student missionary to Mexico to spread the gospel.

Loveless, who pastored at Sligo church and served 12 years as college president, recently spoke at the college's Alumni Weekend, which celebrated 50 years of student missions. He also interviewed Marlin Mathieson—that

first lone young man to leave his comfort zone to serve the Lord—and Richard Ruhling, the second student missionary sent out from the campus. Their memories of those days illuminated just how revolutionary it was to have a student missionary program.

Loveless also invited Louis R. Preston, Jr. ('69), to the stage.

Another student living outside his comfort zone, Preston was one of the first two African-Americans to attend the college. The ensuing interview revealed a lifelong friendship between the visionary pastor and a student determined to persevere against tremendous odds.

Preston was honored with the CUC 2009 Alumnus of the Year award. Dave Weigley (left), president of the Columbia Union Conference and chair of



Corrine Galvan, a senior religion major and CUC student missionary, is presented with the Zella Holbert Service Award.

the college's Board of Trustees, was named Honorary Alumnus of the Year. Frederick church member John Kershner ('66) and theology major Corrine Galvan ('09) both received the Zella Holbert Service Award.

Richard Osborne ('69), former president of Pacific Union College (Calif.), and Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, chancellor of Loma Linda University (Calif.), provided further inspiration for the weekend.

Musical performances included CUC graduates Bella Voce, the Black Student Union eighth anniversary concert featuring gospel choirs and the group InTouch, the vocal talents of father and daughter Louis Preston, Jr., and Lauri Preston, and the college's New England Youth Ensemble and Columbia Collegiate Chorale.—*Mike Martell*



Loveless embraces CUC alumnus Marlin Mathieson (left), who became the Adventist Church's first student missionary.

PHOTOS BY AL PEASLEY

Nearly 200 Students Honored for Excellence

Jean Warden, vice president for Student Life and Retention, started the 2008-09 school year reciting to students a quote from Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit."

At the end of the year, the college community honored those students who took Warden's words to heart, making excellence a habit in both academic achievement and as student employees.

At Awards Chapel, hosted by provost Susan C. Scharffenberg, 14 academic departments honored 78 students for extraordinary scholastic achievement.

The following week, campus departments honored their student employees at the annual Student Recognition Convocation. Dan Pabon, a CUC parent, shared an inspirational message, and more than 100 awards were bestowed.

Spring is also the season of honor society inductions. Alpha Chi, a national society restricted to the top 10 percent of the junior and senior class, inducted 29 members at its ceremony. Six freshmen attained the scholastic benchmarks required by the Phi Eta Sigma freshmen honor society. Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology majors, inducted seven new members in its ceremony. The English Department also inducted three students into Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society.

Eight members of the Class of 2009 completed the college's rigorous, interdisciplinary honors program, demonstrating academic achievement in the honors curriculum, completing a capstone honors project, and engaging in leadership and service opportunities throughout their college careers.



Beulah Manuel, PhD, associate director of the Center for Learning Resources, welcomes nursing major Tiffany James into the Alpha Chi Honor Society for top-ranked juniors and seniors.

Sligo Church Welcomes 100 WGTS Radio Listeners

CUC's campus church, Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., recently pulled out all the stops to greet nearly 100 radio listeners at the congregation's first WGTS Radio Day. Guests surged into the church's atrium amid welcome banners to meet program hosts from the second-most-listened-to, non-commercial, religious radio station in the United States.

"When I heard the radio invitation I knew I had to make time to come and see the people from my favorite station," said Christina Iser of Gaithersburg, Md.

WGTS, Columbia Union College's family-friendly contemporary Christian music station at 91.9 FM, ranks first among certain demographic groups during nights and weekends in the Washington, D.C., market. The station broadcasts worship services from Sligo church at 11 a.m. each Sabbath.

"I am so happy to see our family from WGTS here for our first Radio Day," said Charles Tapp, Sligo's senior pastor, who preached about the Christian's need for a fruitful connection with Christ. Three more such events are planned throughout the year.

Smiling as she cradled an infant at lunch, Dilia Diaz of Ashton, Md., shared, "My niece [WGTS host Blanca Vega] invited me, and I'm glad I came."

Station manager John Konrad said he had hoped to ignite

precisely that spark of relationship-building energy when radio staff and church pastors envisioned WGTS Radio Day at Sligo church. "I look for ways to involve people, and radio is very good at nurturing relationships," he said.

The next WGTS Radio Day at Sligo church will take place August 8.—Kitty Evans

CALENDAR

June	
8–July 3	Summer Session II
6–Aug. 13	Summer Bridge Programs
July	
1	First Year Student Early Registration
6–13	Summer Session III
27–Aug. 13	Capital Summer Session

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 • cuc.edu President, Weymouth Spence Editor, Angela Abraham

It's About the People

At the end of the day, a school is not really about the buildings, programs, curriculum, or location. While such things are an integral part of the picture, these things by themselves do not inspire lifelong memories and affection. At Highland View Academy (HVA), our school is really defined by the faculty, staff, students, parents, and volunteers who make this place so special.

I hope that as you read this newsletter, you will see how important our people are to us. I hope this is evidenced in our daily routine of teaching and studying, as we share Christ with others through various ministries, and in our fun times together. I hope that as you read this particular issue of the Highlander, which focuses on the achievements of some of "our people," you will capture the essence of HVA. We are about adventure, service, witnessing, learning, growing, and excelling—doing all of this to God's glory.



Sheri Tydings
Principal

Teacher Wins \$10,000 Science Grant

Science teacher Ophelia Barizo recently received a \$10,000 Toyota TAPESTRY grant for excellence and innovation in science education. Barizo was honored at the national conference for the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) in New Orleans, La. The grant proposal submitted by Barizo was one of 50 grants awarded out of approximately 450 applicants.

Under Barizo's direction, students will use the TAPESTRY grant to study mushrooms and the role they play in plant decay and in helping trees get various nutrients. Students will also research how mushrooms impact medicine, ecosystems, and the carbon cycle. A part of the course project will be to publish a pamphlet on wild mushrooms of Washington County that will be made available to the general public.

"Ophelia has been such a tremendous asset in keeping our science department on the cutting edge," said Sheri Tydings, HVA's principal. "Over the last several years, we have received multiple grants that have enabled our students to have incredible opportunities."

"Supporting excellent teachers who can excite and energize their students is a great way to make an impact on future generations," said Michael Rouse, Toyota's vice president of philanthropy and community affairs.

Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by NSTA, Toyota TAPESTRY is the largest annual K-12 science teacher grant program in the United States. Award-winning projects are selected from three critical areas: environmental science, physical science, and science applications that promote literacy. Fifty grants of up to \$10,000 are awarded each year, along with a minimum of 20 grants of up to \$2,500 each. In total Toyota awarded \$550,000 in grants to 82 teachers this year. More than \$8.5 million has been awarded to more than 1,000 teams of teachers throughout the program's 19-year history.



Eric Crossley, manager, Toyota TAPESTRY Grant for Teachers; Page Keeley, president, National Science Teachers Association; Ophelia Barizo, HVA teacher; and J.L. Armstrong, national manager, External Affairs of Toyota Motor Sales, at the awards ceremony held in New Orleans, La.



Four generations (clockwise from back left) of the Vega family recently visited Sligo church's WGTS Radio Day: WGTS host Blanca Vega, aunt Dilia Diaz, grandmother Blanca Diaz, and sons Joshua and Joseph Vega.

Students' Work Published in Teen Magazine

Two Highland View Academy students were recently published in *Insight* magazine, a Seventh-day Adventist publication for teens. Jennifer Calhoun, a junior, was honored with the first-place award in the magazine's Student Poetry Contest. Her poem, titled "Little is Much," was featured in the February 28 issue of the magazine. Calhoun said with her mother's encouragement, she entered the contest at the last minute. "I'm really glad I did it!" she said.

Also recently published in *Insight* magazine was freshman Jazzmin Pride, who shared her perspective on entering high school after having had a mostly home school experience. She also wrote about some of the advantages she feels she has gained by attending HVA. Pride's story "Extreme Experience" was featured in the April 11 issue of *Insight*.



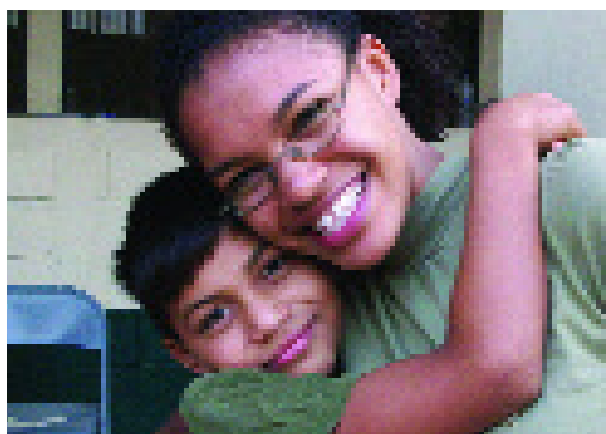
Jennifer Calhoun (left) and Jazzmin Pride display their recently published articles, which appeared in *Insight*, a weekly teen magazine.

The Mission Trip That Changed My Life

For nine days, I had the amazing experience of traveling with 26 of my HVA classmates and sponsors to work at the REACH International Children's Home, an orphanage in Santa Barbara, Honduras. I didn't know what to expect when I left home, and I had absolutely no idea that by the end of the week, I would help build a home, participate in a televised church service, stand underneath a 140-foot waterfall, and refocus my life.

When we arrived at Hogar, our group was immediately surrounded by smiling, hugging children. We fell in love with them instantly, and by the end of the first day, we were great friends.

Our group was split into three work teams. The first team worked on building a wall to help protect the orphanage. The second group built an amphitheater for the local Adventist church to use in their outreach programs. The third group—my team—was assigned to build a home for a homeless young boy and his grand-



Korrin Battle ('09) receives a warm hug from a resident of the REACH International Children's Home.

mother. And even though the work was hard, the weather hot, and we got blisters on our hands, the smiles on the faces of this boy and his grandmother made it all worthwhile.

Friday afternoon, we celebrated our hard work by visiting the 140-foot Pulhapanzak Waterfall and swimming in its spectacular pools. On Sabbath we enjoyed providing special music, reading Scripture, and telling the children's story to our friends from the orphanage.

On the plane ride back, I thought about all I had discovered: service, joy, love, and, most importantly, the Savior who showed and taught us all these things.—*Kylynda Bauer*



Kylynda Bauer ('09), former parent Bill Jackson, and Jennifer Calhoun ('10) stand in a partially finished home on a recent mission trip to Honduras.

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highlandviewacademy.com ■ Principal and Editor, Sheri Tydings

This is Your Time

In anticipation of camp meeting, I want to take a moment to share an experience from last year's camp meeting. Authors and speakers Cheri Peters and Leo Schreven presented at the youth meetings under the theme "This is Your Time." They focused on how this was our time to stand up for God and make a decision to follow Him.

Would you like a behind-the-scenes story? One student connected with Peters and shared with her his desire to attend college. The student had come from a difficult background, and he did not know what he was going to do if he had to return to his hometown after his high school graduation. Peters shared the student's testimony with one of the speakers in the adult auditorium who agreed to fully fund the student's college courses. Clearly it was this young person's time to stand for God and follow Him. This story illustrates how the power of God was present at Mountain View Conference Camp Meeting last year.

One can only imagine the exciting adventures that await the young people who attend this year's camp meeting themed "Give it Up! Give it All! And Give it Now!" I do not know what God has planned, but I do know that there are young people who have divine appointments to keep at this year's camp meeting.



Geoff Starr

Youth Ministries Director

CAMP NEWS

Youth to Let God "Drive" at Summer Camp

Attending summer camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., is a remarkable experience for all who come. This year's theme is "Let Him Drive." Young people who come to summer camp will be encouraged to let Jesus have total control of their lives.

The number-one focus of Youth Ministries staff is to bring everyone (campers and staff) closer to Christ. The campers will have the opportunity to learn new skills and crafts while

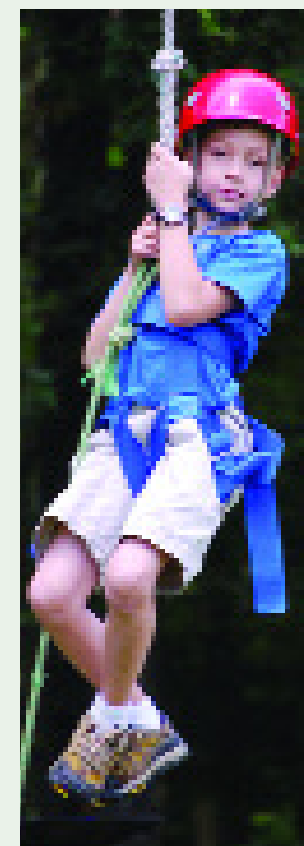
focusing on getting closer to Christ. No young person should miss the opportunity to meet Christ on a more personal level in the beautiful surroundings of Valley Vista.

This summer, for the first time in many years, horses will be at the camp. The kids are already excited and have even emailed to ask about them. Many other fun activities are planned.—*Geoff Starr*

Mountain View Plans Second Wellness Camp

After seeing lifesaving changes in attendees to Wellness Camp last year, conference Health Ministries staff are offering another 16-day Wellness Camp. All are welcome. The camp will be held July 28-August 12 at Valley Vista

Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. The early bird fee will be \$595 through June 30. After June 30, the cost is \$675. For more information, call (304) 422-4581, or go to mtviewconf.org.



A camper maneuvers the challenge course, one of the highlights of summer camp at Valley Vista.



Cumberland Children Raise Money for Needy Child

The children's Sabbath School classes at the Cumberland (Md.) church recently collected food and money for a needy child in the community. The children chose to help a 3-year-old girl who lives with her impoverished grandmother.

"I wanted my children to learn that there are children out there who are less fortunate than they are," explained Sheila Kawich, kindergarten teacher.

Every week students brought canned food and a dollar for the money box. Nine-year-old Kristen Taylor (left) contributed her coin collection of \$23.03, which took her about half a year to save. After several months of collecting, the children gave the food to the girl's grandmother. The money allowed the classes to purchase fresh fruit, clothes, a doll, and other special gifts for the girl.

"We wanted to give this little girl a gift that belongs just to her, that will make her feel special," said Kawich.



Josh Smith, Kailee Hanna, Lacy Root, and Kolton Hanna of the Cumberland church children's Sabbath School class raised money for a needy child in the community.

Adventurers Get Hands-On Flight Lesson

Adventurers from around the conference recently enjoyed an Adventurer Fun Day at the Buckhannon (W.Va.) church. Children aged 5 to 10 began the day with a veggie dog picnic lunch. Then they rotated through different stations to complete their Build and Fly Adventurer Award. They learned how to make and fly paper airplanes and gliders. The children completed a puzzle on flying,



Josh and Hunter get ready to launch their paper airplanes.

watched a video on flying frogs, learned about the Wright brothers, and drew pictures of their favorite flying animals.

The highlight of the day came when the children made their own kites. Unfortunately, because of rainy weather, they were unable to test their flying capabilities. However, this didn't hinder their spirits. One little guy said, "I don't want to fly my kite, because it will just get messed up. I'm going to hang mine in my room!"—Diane Gregg



Austin, Aaron, Lacey, Ike, Brittany, and Levi proudly display their hand-made kites.

Mountain View EVENTS

- June**
- 7 Board of Education Meets, 10 a.m.
 - 14-19 Lifeguard Camp Valley Vista
 - 19-27 Mountain View Camp Meeting Valley Vista
- July**
- 5-12 Adventure Camp (Ages 7-9), Valley Vista
 - 12-19 Junior Camp (Ages 10-12), Valley Vista
 - 13 Executive Committee 10 a.m.
 - 19-26 Teen Camp (Ages 13 and Up), Valley Vista
 - 28- Wellness Camp
 - Aug. 12 Valley Vista

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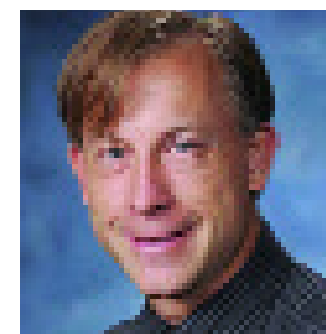
SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

JUNE 2009

Stevenson Succeeds Daniels as Principal

After serving nearly five years as principal of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), David Daniels recently announced that he will be taking the helm as principal of Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. Succeeding Daniels at MVA will be veteran administrator Robert Stevenson. With more than 20 years of experience in educational ministry, the last five spent as principal of Madison Adventist Academy (Tenn.), Stevenson is excited about coming to MVA.



"I see Christian education as intensive youth ministry," he says. "Everyday when I wake up, I have an opportunity to prepare young people for the Second Coming." This native of South Africa and fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist has served as principal of Thunderbird (Ariz.), Las Vegas Jr., and Midland Adventist (Kan.) academies. He also served as a vice principal, boy's dean, teacher, and chaplain.

Stevenson has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in religion from Andrews University (Mich.) and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is married to Kristina and they have two children, 16-year-old Alex and 14-year-old Sheree.—Taashi Rowe

Handbell Mission Trip a Blessing Despite Setbacks

On MVA's recent handbell choir trip to Jamaica, the group was short two members, lost luggage, had to cancel some concerts, and traveled to the wrong churches for concerts. Despite all these setbacks, the Lord was still able to bless them, and the Spring Valley Academy group from Dayton, Ohio, that traveled with them.

Two of those blessings came on Friday when the group headed in two different directions. One half headed to a nursing home to provide comfort to the residents through singing. The other headed to an orphanage, which was home to about 50 children under the age of 8. Students said they were touched



Senior Lance Downing helps children complete puzzles.



Mount Vernon Academy's handbell group shares music at a Jamaican church.

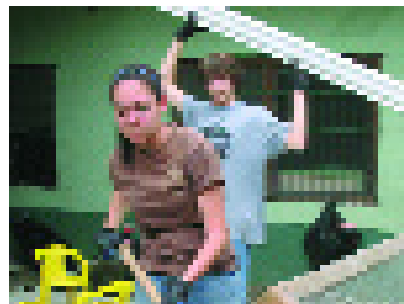
by the way the children responded, holding their hands even though the kids had never seen them before.

On Sabbath the group went out and played for a group of young people who were learning how to be ambassadors for Christ. They also participated in an afternoon-long praise service at a small church. Students reported being blessed to hear people who were unafraid to proclaim their love for Christ.

"If there was one thing we learned on this trip, it's that the harder you try to serve the Lord, the harder the devil tries to stop you," said senior Lance Downing. "But the love of Christ conquered, providing a blessing to us as well as to those to whom we ministered."

Students Upgrade Honduras School

Thirty-two students and staff from Mount Vernon Academy recently traveled to the town of Tela, Honduras, to renovate and upgrade a Seventh-day Adventist elementary school in the heart of the town. They came back with a renewed appreciation for all their blessings.



Juniors Tatianna Dunn and Jason Holmes prepare the building materials.

MVA students got to work completing the much-needed extra classrooms that were started some time ago but never finished. They built walls, painted buildings, hung gutters, and plastered walls.

Michaela Stevenson ('10)

said she "really liked being able to go to the place that needed help instead of just hearing about various projects and donating money."

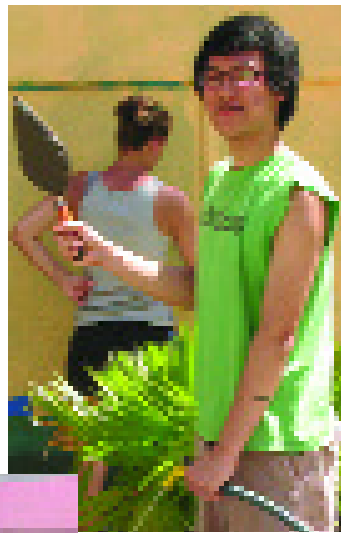
With more space and an improved appearance, local administrators hope to attract more students to the school.

While the purpose of a mission trip is to serve others, another real and sometimes more valuable experience is learning the value of helping others. While they were able to enjoy rafting, swimming, and seeing some of the local sights, the students most often commented on the joy

they got from serving and interacting with those less fortunate.

"It was very eye-opening [to see] how other Adventists have to live and worship. They have very little but are very sincere," said Alex Erskine, a junior.

"The trip helped me realize how material



Kevin Park, a junior at MVA, prepares to mix mud.



and unnecessary our wants are. It helped me realize how selfish I can be and the joy of giving to those who are less fortunate," said Briana Castillo ('10).—Tim Soper

Junior Lanai Smith stuccos a cement wall.

Worthy of Double Honor

Recently I came back from our annual elders retreat tired but happy because the Holy Spirit was poured out throughout the event. God was glorified during the prayer and training sessions. We also recognized those dedicated elders who work with our pastors on God's mission.



Along with praising and uplifting Christ, conference leaders also recognized dedicated elders at the annual elders retreat.

Ordaining the elders and the deacons was one of the most uplifting moments of the worship service. The Seventh-day Adventist Church identifies the church elder as the closest assistant to the pastor. The elder helps to look after God's flock, and also preaches, teaches, advises, and guides others. The Bible says, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17).

Dear brothers and sisters, love, respect, and take care of your elders. They are vital in our family because they, along with pastors, carry great responsibility. Pray for them and their families every day.

Dear elders, keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. Keep the torch of truth held high so that no one can take it away or try to confuse you. Never preach the word of men, nor accept pressures from enemies. Never preach sensationalist messages to attract disciples that will follow us. The disciples belong to Christ, and should follow Him only. We

belong to the church, and the church belongs to Christ because He bought it with His blood. Let us always glorify God and let us be worthy of double honor!



José Cortés
President

Retreat Restores Youth, Families

A recent youth retreat, RESTORE (Returning Every Sinner To Our Savior's Embrace), surpassed conference estimates of 100 attendees. Nearly 160 people attended an exciting weekend that included spiritual nourishment, rock climbing, and team building activities (right).

While the event focused on restoring the spiritual relationship between Christ and the individual, a separate session was offered to parents, teaching them how to restore their families to Christ and how to develop better relationships with their children. Clinical therapist Julian Anderson Martin led the session for parents. David Solomon Hall, Sr., youth director for the Nevada-Utah Conference, spoke to the young adults, and Florida-based evangelist Willie Ramos spoke to the teenagers.



Speaker Willie Ramos talks to the teenagers.



Parents listen to clinical therapist Julian Anderson Martin.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

August

- 12-15 Residence Assistants Training
- 16 Freshman/Parent Orientation and Registration
- 17 Freshman Classes Begin
- 19 Registration—Grades 10-12
- 20 Classes Begin
- 27 Campus Family Activity
- 28 Lake Day

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(740) 397-5411 ■ mvacademy.org ■ Editor, Amy Soper



Junior Michaela Stevenson leads a Vacation Bible School with community children.

Dignos de doble honra

Recientemente regrese de nuestro retiro anual de ancianos. Regrese cansado pero contento porque el Espíritu Santo se derramó en todo el evento. Dios fue glorificado durante las sesiones de oración y de entrenamiento. También reconocimos a aquellos ancianos dedicados que trabajan junto a nuestros pastores en la obra del Señor.



Además de adorar y glorificar a Cristo durante el retiro anual de ancianos, los líderes de la Conferencia también reconocieron a aquellos por su dedicación y trabajo.

La ordenación de los ancianos y diáconos fue uno de los momentos más elevadores del servicio de adoración. La iglesia Adventista del Séptimo día identifica al anciano como el asistente más cercano al pastor. El anciano ayuda a cuidar del rebaño de Dios, y también predica, enseña, aconseja, y guía a los demás. La Biblia dice, "Los ancianos que gobiernan bien, sean tenidos por dignos de doblada honra; mayormente los que trabajan en predicar y enseñar (1 Timoteo 5:17).

Queridos hermanos y hermanas, amen, respeten y cuiden a sus ancianos. Ellos son vitales en nuestra familia porque ellos junto a nuestros pastores cargan una gran responsabilidad. Oren por ellos y por sus familias todos los días.

Queridos ancianos, mantengan sus ojos en Jesús Cristo. Alcen la antorcha de la verdad en alto para que nadie les confunda. Nunca prediquen la palabra de hombres, ni acepten presiones de los enemigos. Nunca prediquen mensajes amarillistas para atraer discípulos que nos sigan. Los discípulos le pertenecen a Jesús, y

solo deben seguirle a Él. Nosotros pertenecemos a la iglesia, y la iglesia le pertenece a Cristo porque el compró la iglesia con su sangre. ¡Glorifiquemos a Dios siempre y seamos dignos de doble honra!



José H. Cortés
Presidente

Retiro restaura a jóvenes y familias

El reciente retiro juvenil "Restaurado" sobrepasó el estimado de la conferencia de 100 personas. Cerca de 160 personas fueron al emocionante fin de semana, que además del alimento espiritual también incluyó escalar murrallas y actividades en equipo.

Mientras el evento se enfocó en la restauración espiritual de la relación entre Cristo y el individuo, a los padres se les ofreció una sesión aparte para ayudarles a restaurar a la familia con Cristo, y también a desarrollar mejores relaciones con sus hijos. El terapeuta clínico Julian Anderson Martin

encabezó las reuniones de los padres y también sostuvo sesiones privadas. David Solomon Hall, Sr., fue el presentador de los jóvenes adultos, y el evangelista de Florida Willie Ramos se dirigió a los adolescentes.



Los jóvenes se gozan en el retiro de RESTORE.



Los padres escuchan al terapeuta clínico Julian Anderson Martin.

Local Church Leaders Learn to Grow

Sixty local church leaders and pastors gathered recently at the Sawmill Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Huron to develop small group ministries in their churches. Workshops were offered in two tracks: English-speaking and Spanish speaking, with guest presenters Jon Paulien, PhD, dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University (Calif.); Ron and Nancy Rockey, MEd, PhD, directors of the Life Renewal Institute in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.; and Ronaldo and Doroti Decuna (below with Hubert Cisneros, Ohio Conference executive secretary) who pastor Miami Temple in Florida.

The Decunas facilitated the Spanish version of the Rockeys' "Binding the Wounds" seminar. They

focused on how to become facilitators of this program in a small group setting and helping people through the process of personal healing—from past pain



Ron and Nancy Rockey lead a workshop that teaches attendees how to overcome difficult bumps in the road of life.

and giving encouragement for complete emotional recovery.

The Rockeys presented their newest program titled "The Journey," which is designed to get people around the detours of life and the bumps in their personal experience and relationships.

Paulien, who is considered the church's premier scholar on the book of Revelation, introduced his new series of lessons on Revelation that is currently in the testing phase. He shared how well Revelation and the Bible, as a whole, bring together the concepts of the gospel and relationships, with Jesus Christ at the center.

Paulien and the Rockeys have collaborated before, finding that the themes of healthy relationships and Revelation come together in an amazing way to help people experience emotional healing, while learning about the God who reveals Himself as truly loving and trustworthy.

Participants were enthusiastic in their response to a weekend well spent. One shared, "I saw how all this fits in with Scripture and how it connects with Ellen White's writings on our relationship with God, Jesus, and our fellow man. It has renewed me." Another said, "I enjoyed how the presenters linked the two themes (of relationships and Revelation) flawlessly."



Jon Paulien, PhD, dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University (Calif.), presents a new series of lessons on Revelation.



Spanish-speaking attendees learned to facilitate a small group that teaches participants to let go of past emotional pain.



Rey Everett, a pastor from Michigan, and his wife, Regina, a physician, said using the Rockeys' program at their church helped members become more interested in, and ready for, a deeper spiritual commitment, Bible study, and church fellowship.

Anderson Tapped for Chillicothe/Jackson Pastorate

Chillicothe church member Ron Anderson now leads the Chillicothe and Jackson churches as pastor. Anderson brings to the church 22 years of leadership in Adventist education in the New York and Michigan conferences, as well as public social service experience. He holds a master's degree in administration and supervision from Andrews University (Mich.). Along with the many duties of principal, he taught academy Bible classes. "The best part of my job as school principal was helping students develop a relationship with Jesus," Anderson explains.

Stepping out in faith, the Anderson family moved to Chillicothe three years ago to take care of aging parents. Anderson found work as a career counselor and computer instructor for the local job placement center. "God had a plan for us. Working at the Jobs One-Stop gave me insider status with many local social service agencies," says Anderson. "This could be invaluable as we minister to our community."

Anderson and his wife, Lori, have two children, Erin (15), and Eric (12). The Anderson family loves life on the farm and many outdoor activities including Pathfinders. Lori, a former biology teacher and naturalist, leads the Chillicothe Trailblazers.—Trish Tickle



Ron Anderson, the new pastor for the Chillicothe and Jackson churches, and his family have a passion for Pathfinders.

Messiah's Mansion Headed for Fredericktown

Messiah's Mansion, a full-scale model of the mosaic sanctuary (below), will be on display in Fredericktown from July 18-26, with tours from 1-7 p.m. daily. Oklahoma Academy students, recent graduates, and several adult volunteers, travel with the model throughout the United States each summer giving thousands of people an impressive, fresh perspective on the sanctuary.

All are invited to this free tour of the tabernacle to see a representation of what it may have looked like to Moses and the children of Israel. Tours begin every 15 minutes and last 75 minutes. There are five stops on the walk through the tabernacle, with each stop lasting 15 minutes. The stops include an overview of the tabernacle, a look at the altar and laver in the courtyard, learning about the Holy Place and its furniture and

use, seeing the Most Holy Place with the Ark of the Covenant and the lessons of salvation found there, and learning the symbolism of the high priest's garments and work.

Sponsored by the Fredericktown church, the exhibit will be located just north of Fredericktown on State Route 13 at Waterford Road, next to Kokosing Construction.

Admission and parking is free and bus and church groups are welcome. For more information, call the church at (740) 694-0530, or email news@fredericktownsda.com.



An Oklahoma Academy student re-enacts a priest in the mosaic sanctuary.

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Bethlehem Spanish, Others Gain Church Status

Even before they officially became a church, members of Bethlehem Spanish always had a passion for reaching people with the message of Jesus. Organized as a mission group in April 2003 under the leadership of lay pastor Juan Tavarez, they baptized two people their first year and soon grew to an average attendance of 60.

A year later, they attained company status as members faithfully worked to reach their community—offering seminars and friendships, and meeting needs.

Recently conference president Ray Hartwell, district pastor Gabriel Montalvo, and Tavarez were on hand as 49 members signed the charter and were welcomed into official membership of this new church. They look forward to continuing to live their slogan, "To pray, study, and work."

Phoenixville, Lancaster First Haitian, Reading Emmanuel, and Harrisburg Eben-Ezer church plants was also voted into church status. The Kennett Square Mission Group were recognized as a plant. There are currently 12 mission groups in the conference, with six more in the process of attaining mission group status.



A young man signs the Bethlehem Spanish charter as other new members watch.

Trust Services Walks With Members Toward Future

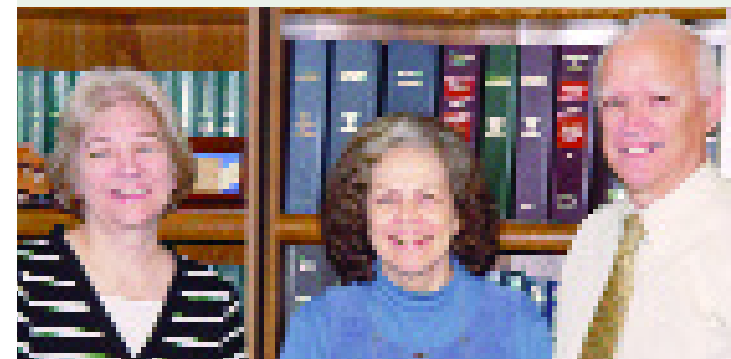
When Pennsylvania Conference members are going through financial hardships or are grieving the death of a loved one, Trust Services director Floyd Dare and his team minimize their stress by introducing them to the benefits of trusts, wills, living trusts, living wills, gift annuities, and charitable gifts. They often walk the bereaved through the financial and estate probate maze. They provide sound Christian financial services or direct them to professionals for any special needs. By providing these services free, they are helping to reduce the significant cost members would have to pay elsewhere. Dare travels across the conference

meeting members in their homes and helping them with life-impacting decisions. He also helps people discover ministries and opportunities for giving to help further the work of Christ in the conference.

As director of the Pennsylvania Conference Association, he is responsible for buying and selling church and school properties—helping congregations like the Haitian church plant buy a church home in Manheim—giving them an important resource for carrying out the work God has for them. The association is the legal entity of the Pennsylvania Conference.

"It is my privilege to be a servant in the Lord's work, where I have the pleasure of working with people on a one-to-one basis, helping to solve and mitigate their personal and business problems, praying and praising with them over battles won and prayers answered," Dare says. "As we see the last day events rapidly fulfilling, I am happy to have a small part in preparing our people for our Lord's soon return."

He also oversees stewardship, providing up-to-date stewardship materials for pastors via the Stewardship Lending Library. With the help of administrative assistant Joyce Weslotsky, the department provides the Stewpot newsletter, a pastoral newsletter and sunset calendar on the conference website. Go to paconference.org, click on Ministries and then Stewardship for these and other resources.



Barb Johns, Joyce Weslotsky, and Floyd Dare serve Pennsylvania Conference constituents through the Trust Services Department.

Four Pastors to be Ordained at Camp Meeting

Pastors Chris Buttery, Michael Goetz, Troy Haagenson, and Suk Ho Shon will be presented, prayed for, and committed to pastoral ministry on June 20 at Blue Mountain Academy.

Chris Buttery was studying architecture when he was smitten with God's love and baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During his baptismal studies, the pastor urged Buttery to consider entering the ministry. He didn't



take it very seriously at the time, however, his passion to share the captivating truth of God's Word deepened,

and he finally surrendered and served as publishing assistant for the Ontario Conference.

He has been serving as pastor of the Beamont, Montrose, and Tunkhannock churches since 2005. Buttery's vision for ministry involves leading, teaching, and growing every member to be engaged in discipling others for Jesus and instilling in each a passion for taking the everlasting gospel to every rural route.

Micheal Goetz is a graduate of Montemorelos (Mexico) and Andrews universities (Mich.). He has served in Carlisle as a pastor and police chaplain, and is currently pastoring the Bucks County church in the greater Philadelphia area. His passion in ministry is preaching and praying. Goetz sees his role of pas-



tor as part of a big picture. He says, "My vision for ministry is that I get to lead a small section of

God's people, who are a piece of the worldwide church, against who the gates of hell will not prevail."

As a young adult, **Troy Haagenson** sold most of his possessions to travel across the United States to do mission work. For two-and-a-half years, he served where he could, eventually attending the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. From there he served as a Bible worker in central Pennsylvania before attending Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) to study theology. He and his wife, Jennifer, now pastor the Drums, Kingston, and Slocum churches in eastern Pennsylvania. "Pastoral ministry is the greatest challenge and most rewarding endeavor of my life. I wouldn't change my course for a moment," Haagenson says. "My desire is to see the church family successfully leading others to Christ."



and Pennsylvania. He is passionate about reaching souls for Christ. "I want to be used by God in saving, sanctifying, and equipping souls to accomplish the great commission of Jesus Christ," Shon shares.

Suk Ho Shon has been a pastor for 15 years, serving in Korea, the Philippines, Canada,

"I am praying for a strong, world-mission-oriented, Korean-American church, serving suffering neighbors and mission fields." He and the Korean Pennsylvania church in Philadelphia have already greatly impacted their community through health programs.

What's happening

- June**
- 12-20 Camp Meeting
Blue Mountain Academy
 - 21-28 Adventurer Camp
Teen Extreme Camp
Laurel Lake Retreat
and Conference Center
 - 28-July 5 Junior Camp
Laurel Lake
- July**
- 5-12 Tween Camp
Laurel Lake
 - 11 Youth Leader Training, BMA
 - 12-19 Teen Camp
Laurel Lake
 - 14-Aug. 2 Nicaragua Evangelism Trip
 - 19-26 Family Camp
Laurel Lake

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Reclaiming the Original Meaning of Evangelism

I was recently handed an article about "corporate evangelism," which talked about the methods businesses are using to spread their message and to develop product and brand loyalty. The article describes the "customer evangelist" as "one who not only buys our products or services, but believes in them so much that he/she is compelled to spread the word and voluntarily recruit their friends and colleagues on our behalf." Guy Kawasaki popularized the idea of corporate evangelism in 1991 with a book titled *Selling the Dream: How to Promote Your Product, Company or Ideas—and Make a Difference—Using Everyday Evangelism*. Corporations have latched on to the idea to spread the evangelism concept to the customer. Today Microsoft has hundreds of employees with an "evangelist" title.

Our church founders believed in the message and mission so much that they were compelled to spread the word and voluntarily recruit their family and friends. Our mission today is not to create converts loyal to a *product*, but to create converts loyal to *Jesus Christ and His teachings*. We are to "make disciples." This is done through the act of evangelizing. This takes many forms, including opening up your home for prayer and Bible study, making connections and building relationships with friends and neighbors, getting involved in community service, or boldly telling others about Jesus and His love for us. The methods are many.

I am convinced that if we are truly committed to His mission and message, we will have the passion to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10), and follow in Christ's footsteps. Will you join Him?



Glen Altermatt
Associate for Pastoral Ministries/Evangelism

NEWS

Wilson Named Vice President for Finance

Stephen Wilson (below) has accepted a call to become the conference's vice president for finance. He has more than 30 years of experience in finance including serving as chief operating officer/chief financial officer at Adventist hospitals in California and Tennessee.

"Potomac's Treasury department has a lot of talent and experience, which will help make my transition



from healthcare leadership to church leadership go a lot smoother," Wilson said. "It will be important to me that the treasury team focuses on serving our many members and to better understand their challenges and needs. The mission of our work is sacred, and I want this to

be in our thinking in all that we do."

He is married to Kathy, and they are parents to two adult children and one grandchild.

New Associate Superintendent Chosen

Nancy Melashenko (below) will be the new associate superintendent of education for the southern region. She comes to the Potomac Conference from Orlando, Fla., where she most recently served as an associate superintendent in the Florida Conference.

While there she focused on creating new educational opportunities for teachers to enable their ongoing professional growth.

She is completing a degree in Education Media Design and Technology, which is designed to equip educators and administrators with hands-on experience in dynamic media.

Melashenko taught for 14 years in Potomac Conference, and is excited about this opportunity to work with Potomac teachers and administrators.

She has two grown children, as well as two grandchildren who all reside in Orlando.





JUNE 2009

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Elkton Adventurers Reach Community

The Adventurer Club of the Elkton (Va.) church recently participated in two community outreach programs. The first event was a community-wide food drive to benefit the Elkton Area United Services (EAUS). Members recently distributed 1,000 grocery bags on a Sabbath afternoon, and returned the following Sabbath to pick up over 300 pounds of nonperishable food. The food was boxed at a club meeting, and, along with the cash donations, presented to Susan Platt of the EAUS. After this club meeting, Platt's sons were so excited about what they had seen, that they asked if they could join the Adventurers. They have been faithful attending members ever since. The Adventurers also received several cards/notes saying how proud members of the Elkton community were that young people were willing to take the time to reach out to the community in this manner.

Their second outreach event was at their Pinewood Derby Race held at the Elkton Fire Department Activity Hall. Around 122 cars were registered with participants from the Elkton community; Elkton Boy Scouts; and Adventurers from Elkton, Stanley, and Luray. More than 200 spectators turned up to watch the race. Elkton Mayor Larry A. Bompiani served as grand marshal. Nathan Knight of Elkton was awarded first place for the fastest running car at a scaled average speed of 232.8 mph. Knight said that even though he had participated in many other races, he had never had the fun he had with the Elkton Adventurers.



Elkton Mayor Larry A. Bompiani (left) talks with Pathfinder director David Meadows at a recent Elkton Adventurer Pinewood Derby Race.

Damascus Spanish Becomes a Church

With approximately 61 members on the books, the Damascus Spanish (Md.) company was recently organized as a church under the Potomac Conference. Born in the hearts and minds of the late Oscar Ramírez and his wife, Adela Ramírez, the group first met in August 2005.

Jorge Cruz and family were the first to lead the group, followed by the hard-working Ramírez and Segura families. They also started knocking on doors to bring the message of salvation to the Hispanic community in Damascus.

Later in 2006 other hard-working families like Mario Cruz and his wife, Erlinda Guerrero; Moises Alfaro; Yesenia Matamoros; Lucy Novoa; and the Chi family joined the group. The fruits of the Holy Spirit worked through these people to bring new members, and, in August 2006, the group was officially organized as a company with 36 members on board. During this period, 16 people were baptized and joined the group.

Soon other leaders such as Javier Montoya and Angel Barrios joined the company and an additional 17 people were baptized. After Carlos Cáceres was named the company leader in 2008, he and his wife, Irene, helped bring 13 more people into the fold.



Damascus Spanish church members sign the charter officially noting them as a church.

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller
Communication Director, Dan Jensen

Students Make a Difference in Peru

The extreme poverty and incredibly primitive conditions of Iquitos, Peru, left an indelible impression on each member of the Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) team, who recently traveled to South America. The mission team included 40 students, principal Spencer Hannah, several parents, a doctor, a dentist, several nurses, a child psychologist, and a construction contractor.

Pastor Tim Harley coordinated the trip with the People of Peru Project, an independent Adventist ministry under the direction of founder and president Paul Opp. The primary focus of the People of Peru is to provide a refuge for homeless orphans and prematurely pregnant girls. The agency also provides healthcare,



Peruvian locals celebrate the Sabbath in a church with a newly added roof.



Following the mission work of SVA, community members, parents, and children of Iquitos, Peru, prepare for baptism.

education, employment, and evangelism in the bustling city of Iquitos and its multiple surrounding villages. Iquitos, located in northeastern Peru, is the largest city in the Peruvian rainforest and is accessible only by plane or boat.

The SVA team worked steadily in the humid heat of the Peruvian jungle on needed improvements to the People of Peru headquarters. "I am amazed at the tenacity and the hard work of the students and staff," said Opp. The construction jobs were secondary, however, to the interaction with the people in the villages who came out of their thatched-roof homes and walked barefoot through the mud to receive medical and dental care.

"It changed my life, because now I truly appreciate all that I have," said SVA junior Ivany Sanchez.

The evenings were filled with fun learning about God for the hundreds of children, youth, and parents who came to the meetings. Diana Kim, a junior, reflected, "The time I spent with the Peruvian kids changed my attitude about life, because I realized that I can be happy just like them, without a lot of stuff."

The students and adults had many opportunities to demonstrate love in action with the children on the streets of Iquitos, and to the 400-plus residents of a nursing home in Lima, the capital of Peru.

"The most heartwarming experience of the trip for me, as the pastor of the group, came when each member of the team agreed to give their \$20 in travel money to put a roof

on the local Adventist church," said Pastor Harley.

Today the church has a roof, the community is worshipping in it, and a number of children, youth, and their parents who attended the meetings have been baptized into its membership.



Some 40 SVA students, along with parents and medical professionals, recently visited Peru to minister to the needs of the people.

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Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org
Principal, Spencer Hannah ■ Editor, Jan Osborne

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

JUNE 2009

How I Learned Leadership, Service, and Faith

Looking back at my four years at Takoma Academy (TA), I see how much I have grown as a leader and as a Christian. As an incoming freshman in 2005, I never expected I would ever be the president of Student Council (SC). I started out that year as female representative for my class. I attended the SC meetings and saw how the upperclassmen worked to put together all of the events, making TA not only a place to grow spiritually and academically, but a place to have fun. I quickly fell in love with this school, and immersed myself in all of the activities, events, and clubs it offered.

Although this school year has been one of challenges, it has been my privilege to serve this school. The SC meetings have been full of bright minds and ideas working for a common goal: to improve an already great school. It's a tough task, but it seems that every year the aspirations grow higher and the goals—with Jesus' help and guidance—continue to be reached. The spirit I've seen in TA students has made all the hard work and dedication worth it. At the conclusion of our SC meetings, it is tradition that we sing the TA song. Whether it be at the end of a meeting, or sung by the entire school at chapel, the enthusiasm and spirit that is shown always reminds me that I am serving a school that every TA student is proud to attend.

I am so thankful to have been given a chance to serve the school that helped bring me so far in my journey with Christ. It is our relationship with Him that sustains each and every one of us here. Without His help the banquet, the Handshake, the picnics, the weeks of prayer, and youth rallies would not have been possible. We have come so far this school year because of this relationship with Christ and I praise Him for being so good to TA. I will treasure my experiences here as a leader and carry them with me wherever I go in life. I know it is here that my roots in Christ were firmly planted, and will keep me from washing away when the storms come.



Maria Sage ('09)
Student Council President

TA Hosts Conference Band and Bell Festival

Elementary students from across the Potomac Conference participated in the conference's biennial Band and Bell Festival held at TA and coordinated by TA music teacher Tim Vandeman. The three-day festival ended with a Sabbath afternoon concert.



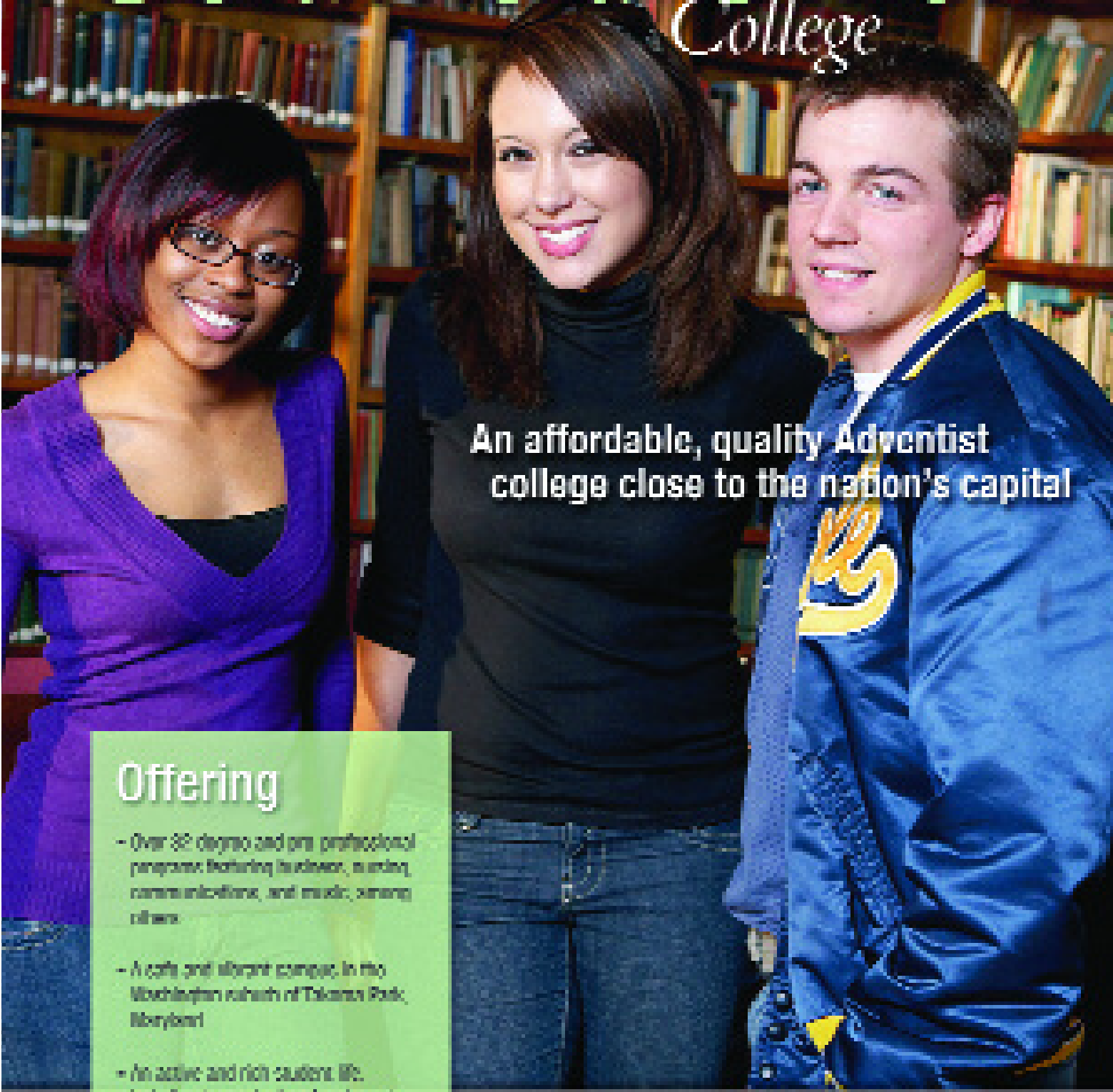
Calendar

June

- 2 Friday Schedule
- 3-4 Semester Exams
- 5 Consecration, 7 p.m., Sligo Church
- 6 Baccalaureate, 11:15 a.m., Sligo Church
Speaker: DeWayne Boyer
- 7 Commencement, 10 a.m., J.P. Laurence Auditorium (Gym)
Speaker: Robyn Jackson, PhD
- 8-11 Post School Week for Teachers
- 21 Father's Day
- 28 Registration, 12-4 p.m.

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
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click on "events," or call (800) 732-7587.

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SLIGO BY THE SEA 2009

June 27 Peter Bath/Steve Chavez	August 15 Gary Krauss
July 4 Terry Johnson	August 22 Dave Gemmell
July 11 Debbie Easley	August 29 Fred Kinsey
July 18 Don Schneider	September 5 Gary Patterson
July 25 Bill Johnson	September 12 Larry Evans
August 1 Kermit Netteburg <i>Special Music:</i> Hillhaven Choral Group Dr. Marianne Scriven, Dir.	September 19 Bill Johnson
August 8 Charles Sandefer	September 26 Nick Satelmajer

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

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Go Get 'em!

Bartimaeus' yelling distracted the crowd following Jesus that day. Known in the community for being Timaeus' blind son, he spent his days begging by the gate. On this day, Bartimaeus sat alone on the side of the road as the crowd passed. But when he learned that Jesus led them, it caused him to yell, "Jesus, have mercy on me!"



The Bible says in Luke 18:35-42 that Jesus stood still and commanded Bartimaeus to be called. Jesus asked individuals to step out of the crowd and bring the beggar to Him. Jesus consistently commissions His followers to go and have an active part in leading bystanders to Him. In obedience, Bartimaeus is taken to Jesus' feet where he receives his sight and a life changed forever. This is evangelism—bringing people to Jesus.

INTENTIONAL OUTREACH

I am a 31-year-old young adult who regularly visits churches in Pennsylvania and around the Columbia Union. I often find myself wondering where all of the kids are that I knew from Sabbath School, junior academy, academy, and summer camp? For whatever reason, they are missing, and our unintentional efforts to bring them to Jesus reveal lukewarmness.

Dan Kimball, author of *They Like Jesus but Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations*, did a study on a secular campus to reveal the feelings young adults have toward Jesus. Kimball asked them, "What do you think of when you hear the name Jesus?" Shocked by the answers, Kimball wrote, "It was as if we were talking about a friend of theirs. ... What is so important, so haunting, is that they are so open to Jesus."

Friends, half-hearted efforts are not okay! Jesus calls us to intentionally go after these young adults and support them on their journey to finding Him. They *are* open to the good news.

Last November, in response to the absence of so many of our young adults, Pennsylvania Conference opened Grace Outlet, a church plant located in Reading at the Goggle Works Center for the Arts. Each Sabbath the center's ballet studio is transformed into a space for worship. Grace's mission is to be a place where all can come, as they are, to encounter Jesus. Grace members know that it is a mission and privilege, in the name of Jesus, to go and find this missing generation.

How many of the kids from your Sabbath School class, or those you watched grow up in the church, are now missing from the crowd? In light of this, as well as Jesus' command, what will you and your church do about it? My humble advice: Go get 'em!

Kris Eckenroth serves as Youth and Young Adult Ministries director for the Pennsylvania Conference.

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