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VISITOR

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In Business to Witness

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Get news and interesting tidbits about your church family by following us at twitter.com/VisitorNews.

About the Cover:

Kimberly King was photographed at her Takoma Park, Md., store by her husband, Andrew.

Education: Charge of the Church

Education is the formal or informal process that shapes the potential of a maturing individual. The impact of this process on shaping values, skills, and habits that are beneficial to society is invaluable.



In medieval Western Europe, education was typically a charge of the church. Monastic schools and universities were the primary education centers. After the Reformation, both Protestant and Roman Catholic groups began offering formal education to more people, initiating a great increase in the number of private and public schools.

The development of scientific inquiry in the 19th century created new academic curricula and teaching methods. As elementary and secondary schools were established and attendance increased, curricula became differentiated.

It was during this period that Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White wrote the book *Education*: "True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider services in the world to come" (p. 13). She continued by clearly defining the relationship between education and redemption: "In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, 'other foundation can no man lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ'" (p. 30).

COMMITTED TO THE MISSION

Congratulations to the early leadership of the Adventist Church for their vision to establish a worldwide system of Christian education. The growth of the church and the economic well-being of its membership are due in large part to the Adventist educational system. Higher education institutions like Washington Adventist University (WAU) have contributed to the well-being of the church and its local community. Graduates are able to go into "all the world" telling the good news of Jesus' love for mankind. And they are well equipped to compete in all aspects of the workforce.

My friends, we still need Christian education. We must continue to link the work of education and the work of evangelism. Proverbs 22:6 encourages us to "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (NIV). Paul encourages parents in Ephesians 6:4 to train and instruct our children in the teachings of the Lord.

In addition to our prayers for higher education, we must implement strategic initiatives that will sustain the value of Adventist Christian education for our children. We must implement new methods of delivery and emphasize academic excellence. The continued success of the church's mission starts with today's investment in higher education.

At Washington Adventist University, where we are engaging minds and transforming lives, we are committed to the mission of Christian education. Founded in 1904, WAU is a community of faith and learning that prepares students to serve wherever they go in the world. Students excel professionally, enter competitive graduate programs, and become leaders in their congregations and communities. We offer bachelor and graduate degrees, including acclaimed programs in nursing, music, and pre-professions through our School of Arts and Social Science; School of Health Professions, Science, and Wellness; and School of Graduate and Professional Studies. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Washington Adventist University, I wish to thank the Columbia Union constituency for your continued support.

Weymouth Spence, EdD, RTR, is president of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

Adventist WholeHealth Delivers Wellness

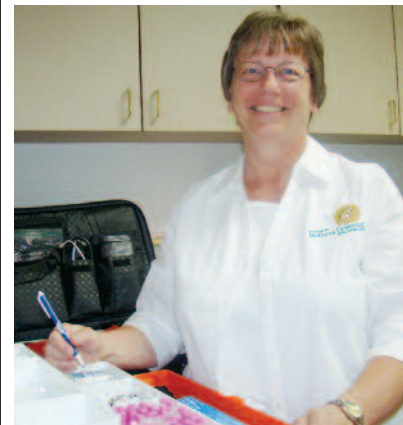
Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN), a ministry of the Pennsylvania Conference, recently launched a corporate wellness initiative called Wellness Delivered. The program, which helps companies empower employees to make healthy lifestyle choices and changes, has already attracted several major clients in the Berks County area where AWHN is based.

“Most adults spend more of their waking hours at work than anywhere else, which makes the workplace a prime venue for promoting healthful habits,” says Cheryl Goff, BSN, RN, C, AWHN administrator (below). Knowing that heart disease, diabetes, and obesity account for 75 percent of today’s health-care costs,¹ the AWHN team decided to expand their services to include corporate wellness.

After much prayer and planning, they launched Wellness Delivered. The program, tailored specifically for each company’s needs and the needs of their employees, is available online or in person. Through Wellness



Delivered, AWHN’s team of licensed health professionals offers health-risk screenings, health fairs, education classes, coaching, massage, CPR classes, fitness training, and nutrition classes. To help spread the word, Sandra Ringer, RN, AWHN’s corporate health coordinator (right), began attending the



Lynette Duman, LPN, is part of the health-risk screenings team, measuring glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, weight, BMI, and fat ratio.

local Chamber of Commerce meetings and networking with business leaders. AWHN also offered several informational breakfasts to area leaders and business owners. Those who attended enjoyed great food while learning about the programs available to their employees.

More than just another program, Wellness Delivered financially enables AWHN to offer community health ministries, like the Coronary Health Improvement Program, well known as CHIP.



It’s also a steppingstone to sharing the gospel. “Corporate wellness allows us to impact people by meeting them where they spend the most time,” states Goff. “As we help improve the quality of their health, they will be able to better hear the Lord’s voice in their lives.”

To learn more, contact AWHN at (610) 685-9900, email sringer@awhn.org, or visit awhn.org.

¹According to the American Public Health Association



Lilly Tryon, a certified wellness coach, offers group and personal coaching over the phone. Coaching has proven to offer a much higher return in employee wellness, enabling clients to become healthier more quickly and to maintain results longer.

DOES EXPANSION EQUAL PROGRESS?

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE SAYS IT DOES

THEY SEE IT THROUGH THE OUTWARD—AND INWARD—GROWTH OF THE BALTIMORE FIRST CHURCH.

Since moving out of Baltimore, Baltimore First has four times sought the assistance of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). In 1989 CURF helped them purchase their current facility in Ellicott City, Md. In 1991 CURF helped the church fund a baptistery addition. In 1999 the revolving fund provided financial assistance for the church to complete a school addition—Crossroads Adventist School. And after a fire in June 2006 destroyed their sanctuary, CURF supplied financial support to aid Baltimore First in rebuilding.

The church’s expansion has also made way for significant internal growth. School attendance has grown from eight to approximately 50. Membership has swelled from 90 to more than 220. And all are involved in opening the doors of their 23,048 sq. ft. facility to the community for VBS sessions, summer day camp, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Lifeline screenings, a financial planning conference, concerts, and more!

By helping churches, conferences, and schools be a positive influence in their community, CURF is promoting the mission of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. As it has done for 40 years, CURF makes ministry possible.



MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND
(866) 721-CURF

“Courage to Stand” Camporee Draws Record 37,000

Some 5,000 Columbia Union Conference Pathfinders were among the 37,000 youth, chaperones, and volunteers who converged in Oshkosh, Wis., for last month’s International Pathfinder Camporee. Blessed with sunny skies and cooling winds, they pitched their tents, hoisted their flags, hung their banners (below),



and enjoyed five busy days at the quinquennial event themed “Courage to Stand.” Their mission: earn honors, collect and trade pins, make new friends, engage in community service activities, march in the daily parade, worship together, make memories that will last a lifetime, and reach their peers for Christ.

“In general there are a lot of Pathfinder clubs that have

PHOTOS BY BETH MICHAELS



1. Morgan Mainess of Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope Night Hawks in Fulton, Md., handily scales the rock-climbing wall. **2.** Mya Cox from Ohio Conference’s Zanesville Y-City Buckeyes got a kick out of sumo wrestling. **3.** Harrison Mann (left) of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) Broncos distributes food



children from the community, and this makes Pathfinders a great tool for evangelism,” said Mike Stevenson (left), Ohio Conference Youth Ministries director, who also serves as Columbia Union coordinator. “We all really enjoyed camping together. The collegial atmosphere was wonderful.”

Here’s a look at some of the Columbia Union members in action:

donated by Feed the Children. Adventist Community Services reports that the Pathfinders packed 1,900 food boxes that will be used during future disaster response efforts.

4. Plenty of Columbia Union Pathfinders lent their talents to the evening worship programs, which featured music, comedy, and a musical skit about the life of Esther. Rachel Rupert, Kaiya



Kretschmar, Elyssa Nascimento, and Cheryl Simpson, who comprise the group Save our Souls, wrote, arranged, and performed a musical selection. Rupert, Nascimento, and Simpson are members of Beltsville (Md.) Broncos. **5.** Pathfinders got a treat when their conference presidents and Columbia Union leaders came to spend a day with them. The youth displayed their gratitude in a special presentation that featured a drill team demonstration from Potomac, a skit from New Jersey Conference, and a musical selection from Allegheny East Conference (AEC).



6. Julia Sulu (center), director for AEC’s First Indonesian Eagles in Plainfield, N.J., got to the camporee as an answer to prayer. After being diagnosed with cancer and having surgery in May, she



praised God to be able to take her club on their first trip to Oshkosh. **7.** Potomac Conference’s 1-year-old club, the Courthouse Conquerors from Chesterfield County, Virginia, were excited to make it. Debbie Richmond, director, with her husband, Jim (left), pauses with member Brian Omoke, whose drawing of a lion was featured on the club flag.

8. Clyde Woodley of Allegheny West Conference’s Ethan Temple Eagles in Dayton, Ohio, shows off his collection of pins and tries to bargain for more. **9.** Sabbath afternoon culminated the blessings of the camporee



when 550 Pathfinders and adults dedicated their lives to Christ through baptism. Among them was Elliott Ackman of Mountain View Conference’s Toll Gate (W.Va.) Trailblazers. **10.** Rachel Dewar and Matiana Seda are members of Pennsylvania Conference’s York (Pa.) and York Spanish Cherokees.



11. AEC’s Capitol Hill Blazers from Washington, D.C., brought 47 Pathfinders and 10 counselors all the way to Oshkosh.

For a camporee podcast and more photos, visit columbiaunion.org.



PHOTO BY RICHARD HERARD

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > Levite Praise Cheryl Wilson-Bridges

When singer Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, DSL, was asked to serve as the minister of music at



I will always remember the pivotal day I sat in church captivated by worship but wondering in my heart and mind, Does any of this musical praise please God? —Cheryl Wilson-Bridges in Levite Praise

must search Scripture to uncover worship practices that are pleasing to God." She hopes all readers will gain a better understanding of the



The book is available at major bookstores or at levitepraise.com.

Deaconess Ministry Peggy Harris

After getting elected to serve as head deaconess at the Beltsville (Md.) church in Potomac



Conference, Peggy Harris started thinking seriously about how to make it

a more vital ministry in the church. "I found that some deaconesses did not serve in any capacity and were deaconesses in name only," explains the grandmother of two.

Harris, a seasoned author and professional insurance agent, pulled from her experiences to help churches and other deaconesses understand the value and importance of this role.



Through the book, she offers suggestions, defines church positions, and provides usable forms—like a communion questionnaire and an ordinance of humility checklist.

Order the book by calling (800) 328-0525, or at adventsource.org.

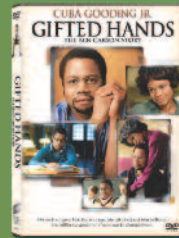
Only An Adventist...

took part in "Saturday night live" before it was the name of a popular late-night TV program.



Did You Know?

The movie *Gifted Hands*, which premiered on TNT in February, is now available on DVD. The film is based on the life and autobiography of Ben Carson, MD, a member of the Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville (Md.) church. Get copies at your local Adventist Book Center, or at adventistbookcenter.com.



The Letters of John Ekkehardt Mueller

This comprehensive work on John the Beloved, the youngest of Christ's disciples, is the companion to the third quarter



Sabbath School lesson. The author, Ekkehardt Mueller, ThD, DMin, is associate director

of the Biblical Research Institute at the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters and a member of the Chesapeake Conference's Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md.

Although John's three letters are short books in the Bible, they contain many of the descriptions of Jesus: Word of Life, Son of God, True Light, etc. They will also "help you come to a correct understanding of Jesus and the gospel and to experience an



intimate walk with Him," states Mueller. Find copies at your local Adventist Book Center or at adventistbookcenter.com.

WholeHealth

Weighed Down by Stress?

Are you stressed over economic, family, or health concerns? At the same time, do you find that despite careful attention to exercise and eating, you are *gaining* weight? There may be a connection.

The research study "Psychosocial Stress and Change in Weight Among U.S. Adults," recently published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, has for the first time linked stress with weight gain, especially for people who are already overweight. The study looked at the relationship between weight gain and various types of stress: job, finances, strained relationships, and life circumstances. Researchers found that thinner people dealing with the same sorts of stressors didn't exhibit the weight-gain pattern noted in overweight individuals.



Although you often can't change stressful situations, you *can* balance the stress to decrease its negative effect on your life. Daily physical activity will help you cope better, as well as keep those extra pounds at bay. Schedule time for activities that

What You Bring to the Table

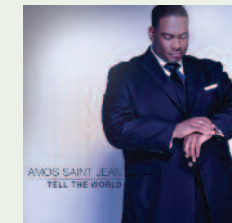
rejuvenate you—like power naps, lunch with a friend, a warm bath, or curling up with a good book. And when you feel yourself becoming stressed, focus on the

positive aspects of your life and meditate on Scripture promises instead of the situation.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

In the Spotlight > Music Producer Amos Saint Jean, Jr.

Tell the world, tell the nations, that only what you do for Christ will last. Stand for holiness, stand for righteousness, and remember what you do for Christ will last. ...

Amos Saint Jean, Jr., doesn't just sing these words on his new gospel CD, he felt impressed to write them, and he believes them. "We need to share the message of Christ, and that He loves you in spite of who you are and what you've done," he says. "We have to share the hope that He's coming back for all of us."



While his newly released sophomore album started as a song titled "Tell the World," Saint Jean says it has become a movement of evangelism. "We need to tell the world, not just verbally, but also through our actions and deeds," he says.

Saint Jean, who readily acknowledges his calling, has traveled the world in full-time music ministry for 15 years. He's worked with a myriad of gospel recording artists, as well as Adventists like John Stoddart, Terrell Hunt, and Roger Ryan. Best known as a church musician, he started playing the piano at age 6. Today he's a producer, composer, singer, arranger, and minister of music at Allegheny East Conference's Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md.

What's next? He recently started a record label, FamousAmos Music, and plans to open a recording studio so he can help and mentor other artists who've been given timely messages of hope by God. View his music video at amossaintjean.com.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden





Taashi Rowe

Entering Wedge

Located in tiny Prince Frederick, Md., an hour's drive from Washington, D.C., is a vegan, fast food restaurant. Situated at one end of the local shopping center, Eating to Live strives to do more than feed customers.

"We want to break down barriers, make friends, and then share serious truths, like the three angels' messages," explains G.W. Chew (pictured, center), the 26-year-old director of The Wedge Inc., the umbrella organization of the restaurant. Before opening in March, Chew admits they knew traffic to a health food restaurant would be particularly slow in a rural community, but that did not deter him or his fellow "tentmakers," who are in business to witness.

Eating to Live offers organic salad, sandwiches, wraps, soup, and dessert. The highlight, however, is the variety of soy meat alternatives on the menu. Developed by Chew himself, these faux favorites

come from the organization's Believe It's Not line with savory-sounding names such as Sweet 'n Sour Chicken, Pineapple Chicken, and BBQ Beef.

Rural Restaurant Makes Meals and Ministry

Educational Edge

Another factor that separates Eating to Live from other eateries in the county is that it doubles as a Christian bookstore. Adjacent to the cash register is a bookshelf with many titles focused on health. No one leaves the restaurant without a tract and/or an invitation to Bible study.

"Food is an entering wedge," shares Chew, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Prince Frederick church. "Christ's method requires that we mingle with people and find out what their needs are. There are different needs in every community, and so we use a different wedge. With heart disease and obesity on the rise, we can meet people where they

are by offering healthy foods." Chew is one of the seven young men who staff the business and consider themselves self-supporting missionaries. They are all self-taught in a variety of trades that help fund their health ministry. In addition to disciplined study of the Bible and of the Spirit of Prophecy, they are constantly learning something new: construction, landscaping, plumbing, cooking, food manufacturing, graphic design, etc.

On the Road to Damascus

Nine years ago, Chew received a track scholarship to Howard University in Washington, D.C. However, he feared he would have to compromise his beliefs and run on Sabbath. A broken leg during his freshman year radically changed his plans.

Despite doing well in school, he was convicted by the Holy Spirit to seek a different path. The business major dropped out and went to work at an organic farm. It was there that he met other young men yearning to work for the Lord. They soon became literature evangelists and knocked on every door in Frederick, Md., and later recruited more young people to canvass homes around the state. During that time, they also started making granola and breads and doing simple gardening.

In 2004 the group started developing the Believe It's Not products, as well as learning landscaping and the building trades. They also continued to pursue their ministry endeavors. "The young people in our church feel as if they have no mission," Chew states. "We'd like to change that. We are focused on becoming an army of youth rightly trained for ministry."

All About Ministry

For brothers Claudio Rodrigues (top, left) and Abner Rodrigues (top, right), restaurant staff members, this kind of mission work is something they have long envisioned. Originally from Cape Verde, a small island off the west coast of Africa, they dream of one

day returning home to continue their mission work. They are both currently very active at Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel church located in nearby St. Leonard, Md.

"I never realized that your job and ministry could be the same," Abner says. "But everything we do here is about ministering."

Claudio sees the results of their work every day. "These books and handouts are a blessing," he says, pointing to the bookshelf. "One family read *Steps to Christ*, and now their daughter wants to know more."

Other team members include 29-year-old former investment banker Beniam Astatkie and his wife, Felicia, a former engineer. They met several members of the group when they renovated their Greenbelt (Md.) home a few years ago. Astatkie was a fairly new Adventist then and looking to start a ministry.

"When I met G.W., I realized that we had a lot in common in terms of what God wanted us to achieve," he recalls. "Through this ministry, we have even taken our message to Sunday churches. We bring the food, and they open their doors."

The young men are eager to share what they've learned with others, but they are also eager to partner with local churches.

A Good Marriage

Tyrone King, the Prince Frederick church's lay pastor, is positively delighted to be doing ministry with Chew, his nephew. Pastor King says seeing these young men go door-to-door and share the Word inspires him. He is particularly excited about their three-part, Sunday afternoon Bible study and cooking school series at the restau-

rant. King leads the segment on doctrinal truths, Chew focuses on health, and Astatkie leads the prophecy segment.

"This has been a really good marriage," Pastor King says of the church's partnership with the group. "I really believe this is the beginning of the revival that our church talks about, especially among young people."

The group would like to open more restaurants in the nation's capital, and hope to offer their food at the Potomac Adventist Book & Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md., soon. They are also looking for ministry partners; contact Chew at (301) 637-4873.

We bring the food, and they open their doors.
—Beniam Astatkie

In Business to Witness

Susan Phelps Harvey



What do a “cornered” prayer cap, a cherry-apple crisp, a pink corduroy cat, and a pound of raw cashews have in common? In the hands of dedicated Seventh-day Adventists in the Columbia Union, they are all witnessing tools.

Plainly Dressed

The prayer cap belongs to Kimberly Moll (above), a member of the Lewisburg (Pa.) church, who witnesses for Christ through her online, mail-order company named Plainly Dressed. A health professional with a background in sewing, Moll started the business seven years ago to provide modest clothing to local Amish and Mennonite groups.

The business has grown into a thriving cottage industry, employing more than 30 home-based seamstresses and tailors, most of whom are Amish or Mennonite. Some are Moll’s neighbors; others are scattered throughout Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

A look at plainlydressed.com reveals an astonishing variety of items. Styles of dresses, suits, caps, and bonnets vary by geographic region and from group to group. By pulling together a workforce of her target audience, Moll has cornered the market on items you can’t buy over the counter. “I want to be the ‘plain people’s Wal-Mart,’” she explains. Her business has attracted clients worldwide, plus restaurants, the movie industry, and even Broadway.

From the start, Moll knew the business would provide a unique opportunity for ministry. Her website showcases Adventist beliefs—especially the Sabbath—as well as conservative doctrinal points historically held in common by Adventists and “the plain folk.”

Moll includes literature, such as a copy of *The Great Controversy*, in every shipment. She often hears from plain families who have studied themselves into some aspect of Adventism. Some, she says, are now keeping the Sabbath in secret. Putting these Sabbathkeeping plain folk in touch with each other has become part of her ministry.

Moll sees herself as a missionary and embraces the culture within which she works. She has adopted the plain dress herself, and has gained the support of fellow church members. “We think it is great that Kimberly shares our message with a group of people that most of us could never reach,” says Pastor Tom Grove.

The Pajama Squid

Visit The Pajama Squid, a children’s store in Takoma Park, Md., or go to thepajamasquid.com,



PHOTO BY ANDREW KING

and you’ll find a pink corduroy cat, along with other thoughtfully chosen merchandise, including toys, clothing, and books.

The woman behind this children’s paradise is 26-year-old Kimberly King, the daughter of Kenyan missionaries and a member of the nearby Sligo church. Since opening her store two years ago, she has endeavored to live her faith in quiet, gentle ways by giving good customer service and showing kindness to the store’s patrons. But her greatest opportunities to witness have occurred for one simple reason—she’s closed on Sabbath, the busiest retail shopping day of the week.

This has led to many questions from customers and fellow shop owners, giving her countless opportunities to share her faith and explain her lifestyle. “Why did you even open a shop?” one customer asked.

“Because I believe God will take care of my store,” she responded. And He has.



Cheri’s Vegan Restaurant

Cherry-apple crisp is a frequent menu item at Cheri’s Vegan Restaurant in Hinton, W.Va., an Appalachian mountain town on the banks of the New River. Cheri and Mark Shipowick (above) opened the restaurant in April, and they say the reception has been warm and positive.

Looking much like a 1950s diner—which it once was—the restaurant serves tasty vegan meals buffet-style, and everything is freshly made, every day. And when customers check out, they get a piece of literature with their receipt.

A large, flat-screen TV in the restaurant is used to show DVDs on healthy living, and a cooking school is in the planning stages.



The Shipowicks view their ministry as a way to share Jesus with the people of Hinton, using the health message as an “entering wedge.” They belong to a small but active Adventist company, whose 10 to 15 members meet each week in the restaurant.

Wholesome Fare

Selling healthy foods is the obvious mission of Wholesome Fare Health Food Store in Hermitage, Pa. But talk to owners Bob and Helen Brown (above), and you’ll quickly learn that the store is a ministry. Drop in for some cashews, and Bob will engage you in friendly conversation. You’ll soon find yourself signed up for a cooking class or a healthy living seminar. Next thing you know, you’ll be volunteering in the store or attending church with Bob and Helen.

Bob (84) and Helen (79) attend the Shenango Valley church in West Middlesex, and have owned Wholesome Fare for 14 years. They attribute their own good health to following the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy.

Recently, after much prayer, they took over the nearby Clune Vitamin Center from its owner, who was dying of cancer. Now they find themselves working 10-hour days. How do they do it? Bob says they’re doing what they’ve always done; they put themselves in God’s hands, and take things one day at a time.

I want to be the “plain people’s Wal-Mart.”

—Kimberly Moll

HEALING

for the Soul

Michelle Caviness

Nurses Promote Spiritual Care as Essential to Health

There is a wave of interest in this kind of health that is peaking, and we need to catch this wave *right now*,” says Chris VanDenburgh, BSN, RN. She is referring to faith community nursing, the 19th century-born ministry (once called parish nursing) she coordinates for Kettering Adventist HealthCare based in Dayton, Ohio.

Faith community nursing is one of the fastest growing international movements in healthcare and faith-based organizations, with more than 10,000 faith community nurses (FCNs) around the world. Through FCNs, church entities are able to promote spiritual care as an essential part of the wholistic health of every individual.

“When Jesus was here, He restored people to whole health—emotional, spiritual, and physical. More than ever before, people need whole person health,” adds Katia Reinert, MSN, RN (pictured, below), who serves as the coordinator for Adventist HealthCare’s Maryland-based faith community nursing program.

“Jesus called churches to preach the gospel *and* heal the sick. FCNs can help churches meet this mission.”

VanDenburgh and Reinert are trying to raise awareness and educate pastors and church members about the benefits of having a faith community nurse on their ministry staff. If they did, whole communities and congregations could be healthier, they say. Statistically, people are more likely to regularly attend church than to visit their physician.

Healthy Members Equal Healthy Churches

Seventh-day Adventist Church founders were knowledgeable about whole health ministry. As Ellen White wrote in *The Ministry of Healing*: “It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character. Varied were the circumstances and needs of those who besought His aid, and none who came to Him went away unhelped. From Him flowed a stream of healing power, and in body and mind and soul men were made whole” (p. 17).

Although Adventists had a “head start” in whole health knowledge, Reinert says that faith community nursing is now “overlooked” by some Adventist churches, even though it is popular with other faiths. If Adventists revive their participation in this ministry, “our church can become a center for healing and wholeness; a place where people can find restoration,” explains Reinert, a member of the Capital Brazilian church in Highland, Md.

Pastor Dave Hutman of the Stillwater church in

Vandalia, Ohio, also believes that there is a strong connection between spirituality and health. He recruited Jewell Crawford, FCN, MS (pictured, right, with Hutman), to be a member of his community



outreach team. By coordinating stress management programs, health fairs, health assessments, and vegetarian cooking classes, the Stillwater church is helping meet the needs of their community.

“To me, parish nursing is not just about taking monthly blood pressures, but also about trying to assess and meet the needs in our community that can hinder a person’s spiritual, emotional, or physical health,” Crawford explains. “With all the recent job losses and financial burdens folks are facing, helping them manage stress is where we are going to try to help.”



Training Available

Although there’s currently no formal educational degree in faith community nursing, the American Nurses and Health Ministries associations are developing a taskforce to make this happen. In order to become an FCN, registered nurses with an active state license must take a special training course. Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare each offer a retreat-type setting for their versions of the intensive course. They use the same curriculum as the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, but customize it to have a strong focus on health and lifestyle change. The six-day course also teaches health promotion so that participating nurses can personally apply what they have learned.

With training readily available, VanDenburgh, a Kettering (Ohio) church member, would like to see every Adventist church work with an FCN. She feels that people in need are falling through the cracks, and that FCNs can help change the plight of the current healthcare system. Couple that goal with what she calls an “intentional care of the spirit,” and Adventist churches could see much healthier congregations and communities—spiritually *and* physically—in the near future. (Read more about VanDenburgh’s work as an FCN in *Your Healing Ministry* on page 19.)

Michelle Caviness writes from Dayton, Ohio.

Opportunities to Shine

Through media opportunities, such as the November 2005 *National Geographic* report on the longevity of Adventists, or the November 2008 highlight on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, the Adventist Church has been given windows of opportunity to show the world why whole health is a strong Adventist value.

The church was given a more recent opportunity to shine at the Global Conference on Health and Lifestyle in Geneva. One of the venues of the conference, hosted by the World Health Organization, was Saleve Adventist University, located just across the border in France.

“This was the first time they have invited a faith entity to be a part of the global conference,” says VanDenburgh, who spoke about faith community nursing at the event. “It is very exciting and quite an honor. How well the world views Adventists will depend partly on how well they thought we did there.”



One of the many ways Chris VanDenburgh, MSN, RN, fulfills her role as a faith community nurse coordinator for Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio, is by participating in health education programs.

CLICK on Faith

Internet Ministries Reach Seekers Through Cyberspace

Don Wood

Media researcher and historian Mark Poster once stated that the Internet could be used either as a television or a telephone. As a television, it transmits messages from content providers to content consumers. As a phone, it connects people. Several Columbia Union entities are using both to reach people in the growing cyberspace population.



A 2004 Pew Internet & American Life Project survey covering religion online reported that 64 percent of Internet users (nearly 82 million Americans) perform spiritual and religious activities online. This year's April survey on broadband use showed that 63 percent of adult Americans now have broadband Internet connections at home, making rich, interactive online experiences the norm. Two Columbia Union church entities are embracing TV and phone approaches to "cyber-outreach" and report how these innovative approaches to evangelism are working:

New Jersey Takes the TV Plunge

New Jersey Conference took the TV plunge in March 2008. According to Jorge Pillco, assistant to the president for Media Ministries, the conference's Internet ministry is a vision of President José Cortés (standing, with Pillco), who wants to use online programming to offer salvation to those who might not get to know the Lord through conventional means.

"The Lord has blessed us with the resources, talent, funds for manpower, and equipment upgrades as needed," reports Pillco. Initially, the conference invested \$20,000 to purchase cameras and other equipment, but the staff believes that "if just one soul is saved as a result of this ministry, no amount of money can be too much."

To that end, they're building a production studio in the basement of the new conference office. "Our goal is to equip it with brand new, high-definition video equipment. We plan to tape a selection of programming that we've designed with President Cortés, and broadcast these shows online, through the Hope Channel, and in others ways," he says.

They've already produced more than 100 videos featuring seminars, news, Bible studies, special events, music, and testimonies that communicate the importance of God in our lives. "This ministry was designed to keep New Jersey Conference members well informed and encouraged," Pillco explains. "But, there are also others from different backgrounds being blessed. The people watching us most are between the ages of 13 and 17, and 32 to 37, and speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages." So far, nearly 80,000 have viewed the programs at youtube.com/njcsda and livestream.com/adventistsnewjersey.

To demonstrate the impact of the TV method, Pillco shares the response to one program that was recorded at a local church event. "The goal was to, literally, save lives through a blood donation drive at Newark's Luzo-Brazilian church," he says. "They held a parade with music, food, and other activities to get the community involved. When the video aired online, viewers from other locations were inspired to do something similar in their communities."

Stay tuned as Pillco and Cortés continue to develop their new tool for spreading the gospel.

Ohio Church Rings in Fellowship

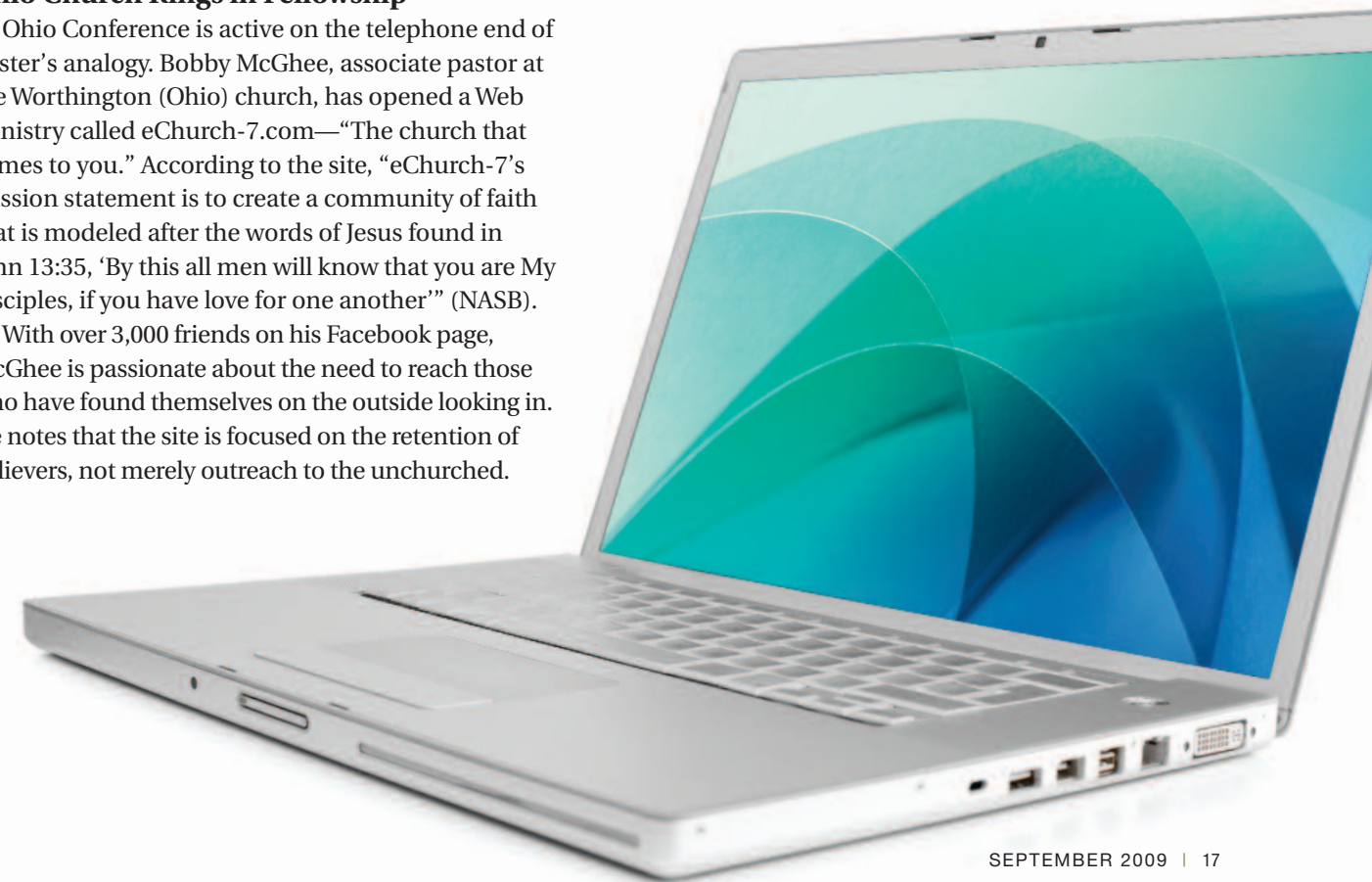
Ohio Conference is active on the telephone end of Poster's analogy. Bobby McGhee, associate pastor at the Worthington (Ohio) church, has opened a Web ministry called eChurch-7.com—"The church that comes to you." According to the site, "eChurch-7's mission statement is to create a community of faith that is modeled after the words of Jesus found in John 13:35, 'By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another'" (NASB).

With over 3,000 friends on his Facebook page, McGhee is passionate about the need to reach those who have found themselves on the outside looking in. He notes that the site is focused on the retention of believers, not merely outreach to the unchurched.

"There are Adventists out there who have separated from the church and are not able or willing to fellowship at a regular church," he explains. "They're still believers but need healing contact with a body of believers who care, and an environment that's safe. eChurch-7 provides that point of contact." The effort has the support of Raj Attiken, conference president and communication director, who understands McGhee's mission, and adds, "Church is about forming community, and more and more people are finding social networking an effective way to have that experience."

The forums on eChurch-7 offer concise devotional thoughts like the selections shared by "praisedude" and comments from forum members writing from as far as British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington. McGhee believes that this approach allows people to be real and feel comfortable as they navigate the tricky currents of returning to fellowship. Though the eChurch-7 site is usually active, McGhee is redeveloping it, so it's currently under construction.

Don Wood is a freelance writer and an instructor for the Department of Communication at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.



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Registration 8:00 a.m.
Registration cutoff: 9:00 a.m.
Race: 9:30 a.m.

Location:

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55 West Oak Ridge Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Categories:

Mini race for kids 4 and under, and kids 4 and under are free!

Ages: 5-8, 9-13, 14-18, 19-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56 and over. Trophies will be given to top overall finishers, and merchandise awards will be handed out randomly (must be present to receive award). Commemorative T-shirts will be given to the first 200 participants that check in on race day!

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Please register me for the 2009 Vibrant Life 5K Fun Run and Walk.

Gender: M F

Name _____ Age (on race date) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone (_____) _____

E-mail address _____

How did you learn about this event? _____

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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Race No. _____

J13-01-0



YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2009

The Heart of Nursing

Chris VanDenburgh

"It's all in your head!" Remember that old phrase? Certainly, we have come to understand that key connections exist between the brain and our physical and emotional health. However, in recent years, theories about heart and emotional connections are being tested through a variety of studies and observations. The conclusion: the heart actually receives emotional signals nanoseconds before those signals even reach the brain.¹ Amazing!

As a faith community nurse (also known as a parish nurse) coordinator, I have to say this is not a surprise. The faith community nurse (FCN) has an especially high calling: to administer nursing care to parishioners, often during church services; to visit homebound individuals; and to serve in a variety of leadership, spiritual, and advocacy roles. We often find ourselves in situations where the emotional and spiritual needs of our patients trump their physical needs, and we have to adapt quickly to a new set of goals and parameters.

MINISTRY IN ACTION

A few years ago, I visited a homebound widow in her late 70s who had recently lost her husband of over 50 years. She was diabetic and needed to have her blood sugars and blood pressure regularly monitored and controlled. During this visit, I had two junior nursing students with me to observe. It quickly became clear that what was most pressing was not related to her diabetes or her blood pressure. She was suffering from extreme loneliness, which was leading to her lack of proper nutrition and exercise—factors that are vital for controlling the symptoms of diabetes. She had also lost close friends recently, and the pain of all the loss was exhibited in her physical being, her expressions, and, of course, her broken heart.

Knowing her emotional state was preventing her from focusing on the diabetic educational materials we wanted to present, we switched gears and spent an hour with her, giving her the freedom she needed to express some of her feelings. She shed some tears, but didn't want to lose her composure. We listened, looked at photos, and even laughed with her when she shared some funny stories of times past. Only a small discussion took place relating to her diabetes, but we made follow-up appointments and encouraged her to come to church and get involved in some senior groups to ease her loneliness. Over the course of several months and many home visits, our patient improved and started to move forward. Consequently, her diabetes and blood pressure numbers were more easily addressed—a natural outcome of her improved emotional and spiritual condition.

Faith community nursing is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition and is consistent with the principles that we care for others and ourselves as an expression of God's love. I hope you will join me in supporting your local church health ministry programs. For more information about faith community nursing, call (937) 395-8021, or visit khnnetwork.org/spiritual/faith.cfm.



Chris VanDenburgh, BSN, RN, is the coordinator of faith community nursing and health ministry for Kettering Adventist HealthCare based in Kettering, Ohio.

¹Linda Caviness, PhD, La Sierra University School of Education; Martin A. Samuels, MD, Harvard Medical School; HeartMath Research Institute



Grandview's "Amigos del Corazón" Reach a Decade of Mission Service

Kathryn Stiles

Imagine that you are the victim of a burn, and the scar tissue has become so tight that you can't move your arms. Or imagine that you have a debilitating hernia that prevents you from farming your land, yet there is no physician to help you. This is the reality for many villagers in remote areas of Guatemala.

Villagers across this Central American country have come to know one particular blessing: a team of Grandview Medical Center doctors who venture, at their own expense, to the town of La Labor every year. The villagers named the team Amigos del Corazón, or "Friends of the Heart," a name that has come to define the group and their commitment to mission service.

"We are the only surgical team that comes to their town," 2009 team member Jeff Rogers, DO, explains. "We convert three rooms of their schoolhouse into operating rooms and do as many procedures as we possibly can in the time we are there."

Patients suffer a variety of ailments that can have life-threatening implications. Burns are common, and



Kurt Bamberger, MD, performs surgery in a converted schoolroom, using basic supplies that he and the other volunteer doctors brought with them.

because medical treatment is not available from the early weeks after the burn, the scar tissue becomes massive and debilitating. Tumors and hernias are another source of disability, and the opportunity to have surgery, to have the problems resolved decisively and effectively, is greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the residents of La Labor and outlying areas.

"Some of the older people had pain or discomfort they had put up with for years, and they are just so thankful and pleasant," Alison Clarey, DO, says.

Hand surgeon Brent Bamberger, DO, made his third trip this year, along with his wife, Jill, who provided much-needed support in the areas of cooking and cleaning. Bamberger performed hand and foot surgeries and also recruited medical support from his brother, Kurt Bamberger, MD, a general surgeon. "It worked out well because Alison [Clarey] always has so much to do with hernias, breast, and other masses, and Kurt was able to help so she could

enjoy herself a little more than in times past."

FINE-TUNED SERVICE

Connie McCarroll, DO, started the mission trip a dozen years ago, along with Sister Margo Young, MD, of the Sisters of the Precious Blood order. Ten years ago, McCarroll grew the project to include other Grandview physicians like Rogers and Clarey. This year's team included Grandview resident Rudy Linterman, DO.

Although rustic, the camp offers modern conveniences of electricity and hot water, something the medical team greatly appreciates. Clarey pointed out that each person on the trip brings two suitcases: one for personal items and one stuffed with medical supplies. Whatever they don't have, they simply have to do without or improvise.

"It makes you fine tune your basic skills and heightens your awareness of the utilization of supplies," Rogers admits. "It is pretty incredible how resourceful you can become when you work under these types of conditions. Leftovers from several dinner plates will be boxed up and become someone's lunch for the next day. There is no room for waste."

Word spreads quickly that doctors are in town, and people come from long distances. One of the hardest situations for the medical team is a finite amount of time and resources to offer. "It's painful to turn people away," Rogers admits. "It's unfortunate that we can't see everyone; the needs are overwhelming."

"The people greatly appreciate what we do, and they



Grandview Medical Center doctors pay their way and volunteer their time to provide much-needed medical procedures to Guatemalan residents.

try to pay us what little they can," Rogers adds. Items like toilet paper, rice, beans, and fresh eggs were offered for payment, along with the local currency, but the local nuns reinvest any money earned in the project.

Several members of the team this year are scheduled to return next spring, including Brent Bamberger, who says the trip helps him remain grateful. "The reward is that it helps me realize how blessed we are back in the United States."

Kathryn Stiles serves as the marketing specialist for Kettering Adventist HealthCare based in Kettering, Ohio.



Kettering Surgeons Utilize da Vinci Robot

Kettering Medical Center (KMC) in Dayton, Ohio, has adopted the da Vinci robotic-assist system, which is revolutionizing surgery as an increasing number of skilled surgeons take its controls. The innovative technology provides a less painful operation with smaller incisions, followed by a faster recovery. The robot also enhances operative technique, giving greater precision.

"With the robot, you have a 360-degree range of motion in very tight spaces, and 3-D magnification, allowing greater accuracy," states Mike McCullough,



MD (left), KMC's gynecological surgeon. Recently certified on the da Vinci robot, Dr. McCullough is a fan: "I tell my patients that instead of having the larger 'open zipper' abdominal incision, we are working

through four small button holes." He adds, "With less abdominal trauma, most patients are able to go back to work in days, rather than weeks."

Safwat Zaki, MD, performed KMC's first robotic-assisted surgery, a prostatectomy, in May 2006. He has now done more than 100 prostate procedures with the system. The da Vinci is gaining legions of fans across many specialties in the operating room. It has been utilized for thoracic and infertility surgery, hysterectomies, and the removal of ovarian tumors or cysts.

"Some patients express reservations about a robot doing their operation," said Walter Sackett, vice president for clinical services and a member of the Kettering (Ohio) church. "We explain that the robot is not doing the actual surgery but, instead, is an extension of a skilled surgeon's hands, which actually enhances the surgeons' capabilities."



Kettering Medical Center surgeons put the new da Vinci robot to good use in noninvasive surgery.

Dr. McCullough agrees, "With some additional training, an excellent laparoscopic surgeon actually improves upon his or her capabilities from the robotic enhancement."

"We have a wonderful team of physicians and nurses in our robotic-assisted surgery program," Sackett adds. "The magnification, increased precision, and added dexterity are real benefits and fit with Kettering's mission of enhancing patient care."

Kettering Nurse Presents at Global Health Conference

Approximately 600 health and spiritual care providers from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and other faith-based organizations from around the world, converged recently at Geneva University in Switzerland for the four-day Global Health Conference on Health and Lifestyle. Attendees discussed their role in supporting the health behavioral outcomes of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other national and international organizations. Mornings were devoted to plenary sessions with speakers from WHO, the United Nations, the Pan American Health Organization, the Adventist Church, and many others. Afternoons included more than 15 interactive seminars on many issues for various specialty areas of health practice.



Chris VanDenburgh, BSN, RN (above), the coordinator of faith community nursing and health ministry for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, helped provide presentations focusing on faith community nursing. "This was not only an honor, but a wonderful opportunity to expand our experiences in faith community nursing and to represent Kettering Adventist HealthCare and the Columbia Union Conference at this historic event. It also opened a door for the Adventist Church to serve in a larger capacity in the world of global health service."

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ALLEGHENY EAST Exposé

SEPTEMBER 2009

First Church Lands "Extreme Makeover" Grant

The soup kitchen at First church in Washington, D.C., recently won a \$5,000 grant from the *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* television show. The grant, bestowed on nonprofit community service organizations and their directors, was a boon to the ministry that serves between 75 and 100 people each week.

First church volunteers serve lunch three days a week and breakfast on Sundays. They generally rely on donations and local government grants to make ends meet.

"With the economic changes in our country, the grants are paying slowly this year, giving has been reduced, and the food banks have pulled back on donations," explains Marcia Fraser-Foster, director of the church's Adventist Community Services.

Lord Waters, director of operations for community outreach, envisions the money helping to not only bolster the kitchen's food budget, but also to help other areas of the church's community services. First church also distributes clothes and canned goods; hosts job fairs; makes medical, employment, and housing referrals; and runs a hypothermia shelter for homeless men at the church when temperatures drop below freezing.

James Tenor Sr. started coming to the kitchen in 2003 to eat. Overtime he became a volunteer. "Then they invited me to church," he says. "It feels like family. They are good people, and they treat me right."

Mark McCleary, DMin, who has pastored the church for the past eight years, says the grant will help the church continue to fulfill its mission. "This is part of our mission," he says. "I'm not only pastor of the church but chaplain to the community."

Volunteer Rocky Twyman, who brought the grant to the church's attention, is thrilled that it will help the church continue blessing the community.



Volunteers like Thomas Dockery are integral to the soup kitchen at First church in Washington, D.C.

Armando Reid, Prentis Park Pastor, Laid to Rest



Armando Emilio Reid (left), pastor of the Prentis Park church in Portsmouth, Va., was recently laid to rest. Affectionately known as "Fish" to his close friends, and "Mando" to his wife, Pastor Lisa Reid, this Republic of Panama native migrated to the United States as a young man. Soon after arriving, he joined the Army and served as a medical specialist. Upon completion of his

enlistment, he joined the New York City Police Department and served as an officer for seven years.

He held degrees in political science and theology, and a doctorate in counseling and psychology. After completing his political science degree, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and returned to active duty as a field artillery officer. He was stationed in Hawaii, New York, and Panama.

After surviving a near-death experience, Reid dedicated his life to preaching the gospel. He pastored churches in Panama, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia. He also conducted several evangelism campaigns in Haiti.

Reid baptized hundreds; evangelism was his passion. He counted it both a privilege and a gift to witness people giving their hearts to Christ. He felt teaching the Word was just as important as preaching the Word. He also believed it was important for church members to understand prophecy in preparation for the final days, and often focused on prophecy from his pulpit.

Reid never met a stranger. He opened his home to many family members, friends, and new acquaintances. He was known for his compassion, sense of humor, and giving nature.

His son, Armando Jr., preceded Reid in death. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife and children: Kanika, Casey, Armando III, LaVerne, Armando IV "Mandito," and Elizabeth "Tencie"; father, Roy; five brothers, two sisters, and three grandchildren.

Camp Meeting Helps Members "Totally Focus" on Christ

A severe thunderstorm passing through the Pine Forge, Pa., campgrounds on the first weekend of camp meeting, could not deter Allegheny East Conference members from their primary purpose. The storm uprooted trees, downed worship tents, and damaged several buildings, including the conference office and the administration building of Pine Forge Academy. However, after downsizing worship services the first Sabbath, meetings resumed on Sunday and members were happy to fellowship and praise God despite the damage. The following photos reflect the camp meeting theme "The Totally Focused Church: Connecting With Jesus Mentally, Physically, and Spiritually."



PHOTOS BY KEITH GOODMAN AND ALFRED JOHNSON III

A storm passed through the camp grounds on the first Friday of camp meeting causing major damage.

Pastors David Defoe, Moses Eli, Greg Nelson, and Noah Washington were ordained into the gospel ministry.



56 Complete Conference's Lay Ministry Institute

Fifty-six members of the Hispanic and Brazilian community in the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) recently received certificates of Professional Lay Ministry. After taking seven weekend seminars that taught them the finer points of giving Bible studies, preaching, public evangelism, and church leadership, participants became the first graduating class of the new Multicultural Ministries Leadership Institute.



The goal of the institute, said Libny H. Dubreuzé Sr., institute founder and former director of Multicultural Ministries for AWC, is to help lay members take hold of the ministry of the church.

"The Multicultural Ministries department in our conference is very new, and we want to help members become more effective in their ministries," he said.

Professors Ricardo Norton, DMin, director of Andrews University's (Mich.)

Hispanic Institute and its graduate program in Spanish; Armando Juarez, Hispanic coordinator for the Utah-Nevada Conference; and Panayotis Coutsoumpos, PhD, Hispanic coordinator for the Lake Region Conference, took turns providing instruction at the weekend seminars.

"It was an extraordinary moment to see this dream come true—the graduation of so many of our leaders from so many different Latin American countries: Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Haiti, Chile, and the United States," Dubreuzé said. "It is my great desire, as well as my wife, Sarah's, that these leaders will be better prepared to serve our churches in light of the many challenges this new millennium presents."

Norton, the graduation speaker, charged graduates to help fulfill the great commission.—Sarah Dubreuzé

New Pastor Named for Germantown and New Life Churches

The Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, and New Life church in Dayton, Ohio, recently welcomed their new pastor, Stephen E. Brooks. Brooks, a New York native, began his ministry in the South Atlantic Conference, where he pastored in the Travelers Rest, S.C., and Toccoa, Ga., district. He served as pastor of the Wilson, Smithfield, and Rocky Mount, N.C., district and the Trinity church of Charlotte, N.C. He also served as speaker for *The Bible Says* radio ministry in Travelers Rest and as Youth Ministries director for the South Atlantic Conference.

The Lord has blessed Brooks' ministry allowing him to witness a number of accomplishments. Under his leadership, the mortgages for the Travelers Rest and Toccoa churches were liquidated within five years, a new church school was built in Wilson, the Toccoa church purchased a piece of property that came with a house, the Rocky Mount church built another facility for ministry, and a new church was planted in Charlotte.

Pastor Brooks strongly believes in the saying, "What we are going to be, we are now becoming," which is why he has made it a priority to conduct at least one evangelistic crusade every year.



Multicultural Ministries Director Moves to Paris

Pastor Libny Dubreuzé and his wife, Sarah Aguilar Dubreuzé, who was the first director of AWC's Multicultural Ministries department, have accepted a call to the Northern France Conference. He will serve as the senior pastor of the Neuilly-sur-Seine Temple in Paris. Sarah served as the administrative assistant for the Treasury and Multicultural Ministries departments.

Together, the parents of Libny Jr., Leilah, Najeeb L.H., and Isif L.H., served Allegheny West for almost five years.

Multicultural Ministries was truly blessed during the Dubreuzé family's tenure. "This department helped trigger an explosion of baptisms in our field," Dubreuzé said. "The Lord established five Hispanic church plantings, as well as two Haitian, two English, and one Brazilian."



Ephesus Youth Focuses on Stamping Out Hunger

Coming up with solutions to stamp out global hunger may seem like a heavy topic for a high school student to tackle. But not for 17-year-old Marsalis Brown of Columbus, Ohio, who readily accepted the essay challenge presented in his honors biology class and gained more than just food for thought.



After being selected to attend a global conference on food security, Ephesus church member Marsalis Brown has found a new passion—making the world a better place.

Brown, a member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, wrote an essay titled "Agriculture in Development: Food Security in an Era of Increased Demand." Upon completion of the essay, Brown and other students were interviewed by a panel of local judges at The Ohio State University in Columbus. The result? Brown was selected to attend the three-day World Food Prize Foundation's Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa.

Each year, more than 100 exceptional high school students from around the United States and the world attend the conference, which includes several symposia and dialogue among leaders whose common goal is to find and implement solutions that fight global hunger.

Selected students and their teacher/mentors interact with Nobel and World Food Prize laureates and discuss pressing food security and agricultural issues; student delegates also present and discuss their findings with international experts and their peers.

When asked how he became interested in such issues, Brown explained, "I had already visited my mom's country of Zambia twice, so I guess I had a passion for it, know-

ing there are people out there who are less fortunate."

Brown is the son of Marvin Brown Sr., director of AWC's Ministerial and Stewardship departments, and his wife, Grace. He found himself among dignitaries and representatives from numerous countries, even eating lunch with several of them. He said the experience not only broadened his horizons but also gave him a new perspective of what really matters.

"Before this, I would have rather eaten lunch with [basketball players] LeBron James or Kobe Bryant, but now I find it more of an honor to have eaten lunch with people who are saving millions of lives," said Brown, a senior at Worthington Christian High School in Worthington, Ohio.

Brown, who was voted president of his senior class, said his participation in the youth institute has given him new goals to "help make the world a better place."—*Tamaria L. Kulemeka*

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"They Shall be all Taught of God"

For more than 50 years, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) staff has prepared young people for Christian service. As society becomes more complex and disheveled, the need for Christian role models is vital. Our staff and board will continue to fulfill the challenge of offering a Christ-centered education and to fulfill the motto: "They shall be all taught of God."

Besides modeling God's grace to students, we need to update policies, systems, procedures, and facilities to meet our changing society and norms. The BMA Board and staff will be involved in an intensive appraisal process and planning during the 2009-10 school year, with a full report prepared for the April accreditation visit. We will be soliciting help from all BMA stakeholders.

Over the summer, some of these stakeholders have helped make numerous upgrades to our plant. Thanks to generous donors and diligent efforts by the staff, the gymnasium roof has been replaced and its floor refinished. Work continues on the dorm restrooms. We are also purchasing a tour bus and readying homes for new staff. Again, these projects would not be possible without committed parents, alumni, and friends of BMA who are willing to share their talents and resources. Thank you all for helping us follow God's leading.



Craig Ziesmer
Principal

NEWS

Generous Donors and Volunteers Improve School

Even with students away, the summer months at Blue Mountain Academy were abuzz with activities as major repairs were made to the buildings. The repairs included a new roof for the gym. The roof (left) was funded by a \$6,000 gift from the Class of 2009, a matching gift of \$6,000, \$100,000 from an anonymous donor, and the support of the Pennsylvania Conference.



Phase 2 of the bathroom renovation project in the south wing of the girls' dorm was started in the summer.

Thanks to a generous grant and other faithful financial support, workmen have started repairing 129 lintels and replacing 284 windows in the dormitories (above).



Staff member Eric Engen joined volunteers to begin demolition in the girls' dormitory bathroom.



New principal Craig Ziesmer was among the first volunteers to work on the girls' dorm bathroom.

New Staff Welcomed

David Darmody is the new computer instructor/network operator. He is pictured with his wife, Kim, and daughter, Bridget.



Graduate Excels in Scholarship and Service

Justin McAuliffe, president of the Class of 2009, recently joined the ranks of some of the nation's brightest minds when he was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist. He follows in the footsteps of 2003 BMA graduate Mary Christian.

National Merit Scholar (NMS) finalists must achieve high scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, maintain top academic records, exhibit leadership, and write an essay. As an NMS finalist, he is also eligible to receive full tuition

to the college or university of his choice.

McAuliffe excelled not only in academics, but also in service and caring. He received the Caring Heart Award presented by the North American Division. Criteria for the award include demonstrating "a personal commitment to active participatory service and witnessing activities and programs" and an "overall positive example on campus." This award carries with it a cash award of \$500 to be used by the recipient



toward a mission trip or to attend the school of his choice. —Louise Corbin

Widow's Mite Inspires Fundraising

In 1953 Lydia Kester's silver dollar challenge helped to build Blue Mountain Academy. This year monies from the school's Sacagawea Dollar Challenge will help renovate bathrooms and repair window supports.

During the 1940s and 50s, Kester was a retired Bible worker in the Pennsylvania Conference who was widowed, in poor health, and dependent on the generosity of church members who opened their homes to her. She saved 100 silver dollars for surgery to restore her failing vision.

She was living in a Wescosville, Pa., camp meeting cabin in 1953, when the conference president challenged Pennsylvania constituents and friends to build the academy in Hamburg. Inspired by the youngsters thronging the front pews, Kester said, "I have been saving silver dollars, and I want to give them to help start a school."

Kester's silver dollars were distributed to volunteers who pledged to raise \$100 during the next year—an incredible sum at that time. One Norristown housewife hosted lasagna dinners to raise her \$100 pledge, while a church member in Wade braided rag rugs to earn hers. But there are many



Ed Cale, an alumnus and parent, continues in the footsteps of Blue Mountain Academy's pioneering supporters as a volunteer in a recent renovation project.

untold stories of how these silver dollars were invested.

Kester never had her eye surgery, but BMA has fulfilled her vision for 54 years. Today a new challenge is being issued in her memory. Five hundred Sacagawea dollars will be distributed to those who pledge, with the Lord's blessing, to raise \$1,000 toward the current bathroom, lintel, and other renovation projects at BMA.

Will you accept our challenge and support Christian education at Blue Mountain Academy? For information on how you can receive your coin, contact Kathleen Sutton at (610) 562-4214, kathys@bma.us, or on the Web at bma.us.

Want BMA News Fast?

We can email the *Communique* to you as soon as it is printed. Send your name and email address to Kathleen Sutton at kathys@bma.us.

Calendar

September

7-12 FOCUS Week
13-14 SportsFest

October

2-5 History Honors Tour

November

6-7 Senior Recognition

For a more detailed schedule and up-to-the-minute information on news and happenings, check out the calendar online at bma.us.

Communique is published in the *Visitor* by Blue Mountain Academy 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526 ■ Phone: (610) 562-2291 ■ Fax: (610) 562-8050 bma.us ■ Editor, Kathleen Sutton Email: kathys@bma.us ■ Copy Editor, Louise Corbin

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009

Where is the Mission of the Church?

Where is our mission? This year groups from the Chesapeake Conference took "mission trips" to such destinations as Haiti, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. Are those places our mission? Do we have to cross salt water or international boundaries to go on a "mission" trip?

Actually, the mission of the church begins right outside its doors. Wherever there is a man, woman, or child who does not know Christ, *there* is the mission of the church. Jesus mildly rebuked his disciples on one occasion with words that awakened them to this fact: "Do you not say, 'four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35, NIV). Just look around you; that is where the mission of the church begins!

The acid test of one's genuine concern for the mission of the church is his or her concern for the friend next door. Surely the interest for the unconverted half a world away is synthetic if there is no concern for the unconverted across the street. The whole mission of the church is evangelism—the winning of the lost to Christ—evangelism begins right where the church is, right where the Christian is. One certainly will not be evangelistic where he is not, if he is not evangelistic where he is.

An awareness of another's need, plus a prayerful concern to do something about it, is the true mission of the church. And it begins right now, right where you are!

But what about the foreign mission of the church; is that not important? Of course it is. It is vital. We, as Seventh-day Adventists, have the world on our hearts. We have a global mission. But it begins right where we are. Look around you—that is where the mission of the church begins!



Rob Vandeman
President

Mount Aetna Camp Adds Up to Fun

- 410 Veggie Dogs Served
- 1,890 Arrows Flown
- 60 Trips Down the Zip Line
- 188,000 Gallons of Water in the Pool
- 672 Staff Prayer Sessions
- 360 Goals Scored During 3-way Soccer
- 72 Campers Tubing
- 800 Times Campers got Tossed off the Tube



PHOTOS BY JOEL D. SPRINGER

Pathfinders Put the Fun in Fundraising

One of the highlights in the life of a Pathfinder is attending an international camporee, held once every five years, bringing together kids and teens from all around the world for spiritual enrichment and friendship. This year the "Courage to Stand" International Camporee drew more than 34,000 Pathfinders and their leaders and families, representing 100 countries, to Oshkosh, Wis. Clubs planning to attend this grand event begin preparing years in advance. Spencerville church's Polar Bears (from Silver Spring, Md.), the first Chesapeake club to order tickets for this year's camporee, began purchasing tickets in May 2007.

So just how do Pathfinder clubs raise the cash needed to make this dream a reality? Food remains the most popular choice for many clubs. The Frederick Firefoxes, from the Frederick (Md.) church, used bake sales and spaghetti dinners to help finance the trip for their youth. Several clubs offered Sunday morning car wash-and-breakfast combos. The Pikesville Tigers, from the Pikesville (Md.) church, hosted a cookout at the home of one



member. One hundred people turned out for the barbeque that included a fashion show, skits, and games.

Keith Blair, a club leader for the Atholton Trailblazers in Columbia, Md., estimates the cost of attending the camporee at about \$750 per person. The Trailblazers, led by director Rae Tunney, catered conference-sponsored meetings, held two golf tournaments, and sold tickets for Baltimore Orioles baseball games to help cover their expenses.

When the Night Hawks appealed to the New Hope congregation to help fund the trip for 46 of their Pathfinders, they set up their camp, tents and all, on the lawn of the Fulton, Md., church to help members

Members of the Williamsport Warriors Pathfinder Club stand ready to wait tables at a spaghetti dinner fundraiser the club held at their church in western Maryland. The proceeds were used to help fund a trip to attend the "Courage to Stand" International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis.

visualize the endeavor. The club raised more than \$42,000 through donations and fundraisers.

Iris Shull, who co-leads Maryland's Williamsport Warriors club with her husband, David, says their most successful approach was to offer their congregation an opportunity to sponsor the trip by the mile. The club divided the total cost of the trip by the number of miles they would travel roundtrip and arrived at \$7.50 per mile.

"It was fun to joke with the church family that we wanted to come all the way home after the camporee," laughs Shull. "We didn't want to make a permanent change of address because the funds only brought us partway home from Oshkosh!"



Pathfinders enjoy trading collectible pins at events. Rick Blondo, co-leader of the Spencerville Polar Bears Pathfinder Club in Silver Spring, Md., designed the Chesapeake Conference pin that area Pathfinders took to the international camporee last month.

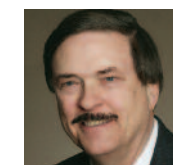
The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference
6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ President,
Rob Vandeman ■ Editor, Samantha Young

Boy, You've Changed!

A few months ago, we attended a reunion for the Seventh-day Adventist grade school I attended some 50 years ago. A big feature at this reunion was honoring our beloved principal, "Mr. Burbach," who was celebrating his 91st birthday. The reunion organizer, a former classmate, asked each of us to submit a biography with a current portrait, to place in a scrapbook for our illustrious principal. After receiving the page and pictures I sent, she sent back an email saying, "Boy, you surely have changed!" I responded affirmatively saying that I now comb my hair differently; wear contacts instead of glasses; am quite a lot taller; have a mustache; and, oh, yes, I've aged a little!

But have I meaningfully changed over the years? Have I changed in my understanding of Scripture, and am I closer to Jesus now than ever before? After all, it's not so much how we look on the outside but how we are *inside* that really matters. We must grow into His likeness when the world is growing away from His will.

But how can we make such a monumental change? The Bible tells us John was a "son of thunder" (Mark 3:17), who changed to become the beloved disciple. How did he do it? John daily walked with Jesus, witnessed His compassion, and learned of Him. By beholding Jesus each day, he became more like Him. I want to consecrate more time to behold Him, to grow into His likeness, and, thus, to prepare for His soon coming. Will you join me in dedicating quality time to beholding Him daily in His Word and prayer? As we do this, at His glorious appearing, each of us may look up and exclaim with joy, "Praise the Lord, for by beholding Him, I surely have changed!"



Kingsley Whitsett
Retired President

Union Recognizes Local Teachers

Two Mountain View teachers were nominated for this year's Columbia Union Conference Office of Education Teacher of the Year Award. Donna Nicholas (below), principal and teacher at Summersville Adventist School in Summersville, W.Va., was nominated in the K-8 teacher category. And Cheryl Jacko (right), principal and teacher at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., won the Teacher of the Year award for junior academics. Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president for

Education at the Columbia Union, presented the honors to the teachers. Both received plaques while Jacko was also awarded a crystal flame trophy.

Nicholas has taught in the Mountain View Conference for 21 years. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves as an associate in the conference's Office of Education, providing leadership in the area of school evaluations and classroom supervision.

Jacko, who also serves as acting superintendent of schools for Mountain View Conference, has taught in the conference for 22 years. In her time as principal of Highland Adventist School, she has overseen the building of a new school facility, as well as the growth of the school from seven students to nearly 40 in grades K-12.

For more information about Mountain View schools, call the Office of Education at (304) 422-4581.



Williamson Youth Sabbath Ends With Outreach

At the Williamson (W.Va.) church's recent youth Sabbath, young people led out in all aspects of the divine service. David Thaxton presented a powerful sermon on creation. Amber Thaxton and Kaitlyn Stowers read the Scriptures, and Andrew and Anja St. Clair blessed the church with special music.

After the fellowship dinner, the youth and the young-at-heart made 20 care boxes for Tug Valley Recovery Shelter, a local women's shelter. These boxes contained personal care items for the women and their children. In the afternoon the group enjoyed the film, *Indescribable*. From this movie they rediscovered how much God truly does love them. The food and fun continued with playing at a park, making individual pizzas, enjoying games, and decorating cupcakes to go along with the theme of the day—creation.

Andrew St. Clair presented vespers and an offering was taken for the Rita Mall Better Living Center and Thrift Store.—Michelle St. Clair



On a recent youth Sabbath, Williamson (W.Va.) church members pack boxes for a women's shelter.

Singles Retreat Planned for October

Mountain View Conference's annual singles retreat will be held at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., October 23-25. The guest speaker will be Terry Johnsson (below), chaplain for Washington Adventist University's WGTS radio station (wgts919.com) in Takoma Park, Md.

Before entering the ministry, Johnsson was part of the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a White House Honor Guard and had the privilege of working for several presidents. He later served as a youth and young adult pastor.

When he first started as a youth pastor at Sligo church in Takoma Park, there were only 20 youth attending the programs. When he left, that number had grown to more than 280 youth and 120 young adults in regular attendance. Johnsson has trained hundreds of young people to be leaders in their church. In 2004 he helped organize a Saturday night church service for the community, called New Community Fellowship, which ministers to more than 400 people every week, many of whom are not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Johnsson is the author of three books: *The A,B,C's of Youth Ministry*, *For His Honor*, and *Aim High*. As an inspirational speaker, Johnsson has traveled all across the United States and to 67 countries, telling fascinating stories and sharing the good news.

Registration forms for the singles retreat are available from the Mountain View Conference office. The registration fee is \$60 and includes five meals and two nights' lodging. For more information, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581.



Mountain View EVENTS

September

- 11-13 Third Annual Boot Camp
Valley Vista
- 14 Executive Committee
10 a.m., Conference Office
- 18-20 Outreach Leadership Team
Training, *Valley Vista*
- 25-27 New Believers Retreat
Valley Vista
- 29 Ministers Meeting
Huntington

October

- 2-4 Women's Ministries Retreat
Valley Vista
- 16-18 Church Planting Seminar
Valley Vista
- 23-25 Singles Retreat, *Valley Vista*
- 25 Executive Committee
10 a.m., Conference Office

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

Rekindling Man's Love

In these difficult times of distress and uncertainty, I often wonder what are we going to do about the suffering people that surround us. The answer should be simple. Ellen White says, "Sin has extinguished the love that God placed in man's heart. The work of the church is to rekindle this love. The church is to cooperate with God by uprooting selfishness from the human heart, placing in its stead the benevolence that was in man's heart in his original state of perfection" (E.G. White, Letter 134, 1902).

With this in mind, we must remember that what the world needs is not just love, but pure acts of kindness. I feel very happy when I visit our churches and see our brethren distributing food and clothing. I recently stopped in on a prayer meeting at the Burlington church and saw them distributing food. I also saw them visiting the neighborhood, and I praised the Lord for that spirit.

Remember we must do our best to help the less fortunate. We don't need to be rich to help the needy. So share your bread and give your clothes to those who are in need. Remember it is what God originally intended.



José Cortés
President

EDUCATION NEWS

Conference Gains New Superintendent

Sadrail Saint-Ulysse (below), who most recently served four years as principal for Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield, was recently named superintendent of schools for the conference. Saint-Ulysse also served as an academy chaplain and teacher.

Passionate about providing quality Adventist education to all Adventist children, he is especially proud of the growth that Meadow View has achieved. During his tenure, the school grew from 34 students to 64.

"Every Adventist student everywhere deserves a quality education," he says. "I look forward to working closely with the teachers, school boards, churches, and our pastors to ensure success for all our students."

Saint-Ulysse holds master's degrees in divinity and school administration. He is working on a doctorate in education. He is married to Malou, principal of Meadow View. They have one son, Sadrail Jr. "Sadou," a fourth-grader at Meadow View.—Taashi Rowe

Tranquility Welcomes New Principal

Tranquility Adventist School in Andover starts the school year with a new principal. Erica Santiago (pictured with her husband, Ben), a graduate of Union College in Lincoln, Neb., will also teach grades 5-8.

Santiago, who previously taught in public schools, adds, "I believe in Adventist education because I benefited from it all my life."

Ben has volunteered to teach new classes in art, sign language, and Spanish.—Taashi Rowe



Meadow View Partners With Griggs

In response to parents who do not want to send their upperclassmen to public schools, or out of state, Meadow View Junior Academy is partnering with Griggs International Academy, a provider of long distance Adventist education.



Eleventh- and 12th-grade students participating in the program will be able to study onsite at Meadow View and take long distance courses. According to new principal Malou Saint-Ulysse (left), students will work with a facilitator who will supervise their independent course work. For details, call (609) 298-1122.—Taashi Rowe

Retired Pastor's Golden Anniversary Inspires Fundraising for School

He's been an excellent pastor. We really love him and Nellie. They really care about our congregation," Marilou Zollins says of retiring pastor Robert Hoyt.

Hoyt, who along with his wife, Nellie, pastored the Browns Mill church for 11 years, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Instead of making it a private affair, the Hoyts invited members from several of the churches he pastored during his 15 years of ministry in New Jersey.

The celebration was held at the Robbinsville church and drew nearly 90 people, many of whom shared their testimonies of the couple's kindness. To top it all off, the evening doubled as a fundraiser for Meadow View Junior Academy, which is in need of a new furnace.

"We didn't need gifts," Pastor Hoyt explains. "We didn't charge an admission fee; we simply invited people to make a free-will donation to the school. We were amazed when \$1,200 came in." He added that with the many nonmembers who attended the celebration, it was a wonderful witnessing opportunity.

Hoyt previously served the Southern Union Conference as publishing director.—*Taashi Rowe*



Pastor Robert "Bob" Hoyt, and his wife, Nellie, enter the room at their 50th anniversary celebration held at the Robbinsville church.

Hungarian Bible Conference Draws Global Attendance

One of only four Hungarian-speaking churches in the entire North American Division, the Perth Amboy Hungarian church recently played host to Hungarian-speaking Seventh-day Adventists from around the world. Held at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility, the Hungarian Bible Conference was a three-day event filled with prayer, praise, and preaching.

Even though the Hungarian-speaking Adventist community is rather small, according to Csaba S. Orban, pastor of the Perth

Amboy church, some 200 people attended. Interestingly, their very first conference was held in 1955 at the Perth Amboy church.

"Although this year's event drew all different age ranges, this was especially important for many older Hungarians who do not speak English," Orban explained. "The Hungarian language is very unique—it is not based on any of the Slavic or Latin languages. Our churches are not very big but we are inspired to share the gospel with those Hungarian-speakers who do not understand English."

Based on Phillipians 4:13, the conference was themed "I can do all Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me." Speakers included Jim Greene, executive secretary for the New Jersey Conference and Iosif Suci, a Romanian pastor. In addition to inspirational speakers, attendees also enjoyed a joint orchestra and choir from all four North American Hungarian churches.

"This was a blessing for so many people," said Orban. "We are going to do all we can to His glory



Zoltan Sestak (left) translates for his father Alex Sestak, head elder of the Hungarian church in Cleveland.

and to point as many as we can to Christ so we can all arrive home together."—*Taashi Rowe*

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

Churches Find Hometown Camp Meetings a Success

Over the summer, Ohio Conference members held numerous hometown camp meetings in churches, school buildings, parks, and other venues across the state. Many enjoyed biblical preaching, gospel singing, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and food. The following are snapshots of the 2009 Ohio Conference camp meeting story:

Canton/Wooster Area

The Wooster church hosted a regional mini camp meeting amongst the stately conifer and deciduous trees of the amphitheater in the Secret Arboretum and Gardens. With support from members of the Barberton, Akron, Medina, and Canton/Wooster districts, the event drew more than 100 people.

Speaker Joseph Kidder, DMin (below)—a professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.)—told how he escaped Iraq after suffering great



persecution for his conversion to Christianity. Many attendees spoke of being spiritually fed and rejuvenated; others came forward and recommitted their lives to Jesus. Joyce Dail, a Wooster member, said, "This was the best thing that has happened to our church in a long time."—*Lori Whitted*

Chillicothe/Jackson

Chillicothe/Jackson churches held their hometown camp meeting at Pike Lake State Park. Church members camped in trailers and tents with a large canopy in the middle of the area for services. Church members led out with bluegrass gospel music, lesson study, and a scavenger hunt.

Themed "No Empty Promises," the meeting focused on God's promises. Pastor Marwood Hallett presented a study on covenants including the red heifer, salt, circumcision, and the rainbow to illustrate God's special promises to His people.—*Trish Tickle*

Portsmouth/Manchester

Ohio's Portsmouth and Manchester churches, along with Kentucky's Maysville church, came together for an outdoor camp meeting one Sabbath at Shawnee State Park.

Pastor Randy Murphy and his wife, Marty, of Grafton, W.Va., shared the message titled "These Stones: Reflections of Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going." Young people from the Portsmouth Eager Beaver, Adventurer, and Pathfinder clubs led the song service, and a number of family groups and individuals provided special music.



Spanish Camp Meeting

The Spanish camp meeting, hosted by the Cleveland First Hispanic church in cooperation with the Ebenezer and Lorain

Spanish churches, had a distinctly evangelistic flavor. The guest speaker was well-known evangelist Alejandro Bullón, who spoke on the topic "When Everything Seems Lost, Christ is the Solution." The three days of meetings culminated with a peak attendance of 700 on Sabbath, with 15 people being baptized, and another 50 making a commitment to accept Jesus as their personal Savior.



Members Blessed at Local Camp Meetings

Annual Women's Tea

The beautiful surroundings of Mohaven Camp and Retreat Center were the setting of this year's annual camp meeting women's tea, where 175 women gathered to fellowship and enjoy a delicious "Island Brunch." The bright décor and colorful food were a delight to the senses.



Newark/Zanesville/Coshocton

"Righteousness by Faith in Jesus Christ Alone" was the theme of the camp meeting hosted by the Newark church, with the Zanesville and Coshocton churches. More than 150 were in attendance to hear speakers Tom Hughes, pastor of the Newark/ Zanesville district, and Samuel Abraham (below), pastor of the Coshocton church.



The Sabbath afternoon session titled "Perfection Only in Christ," included a panel discussion with audience participation. The weekend was capped off with inspirational music presented by Harold Palmer, White House Baritone, and The Victory Singers.

Blooming Grove/Bucyrus/Galion/Fredericktown

The Blooming Grove church hosted the north central area camp meeting with the participation of the Bucyrus, Galion, Fredericktown, and Mansfield churches. Held at the Clear Fork High School in Bellville, guest speaker Richard O'Ffill spoke on the theme "Family of God." He reminded attendees that the Lord can save children and preserve marriages. Other features included a concert by guest musician David Pitt and reports from churches on their outreach projects. Many of the over 170 in attendance said the weekend was a blessing to them.

O'Ffill and Pitt were also invited to give a special sermon the next day to more than 300 inmates at the Richland Correctional Facility.



Reynoldsburg/Westerville

Members from the Reynoldsburg/Westerville district gathered in a large picnic shelter in Thompson Park, a small community park near New Albany. Raj Attiken, conference president, was the guest speaker, and he shared inspiring and encouraging thoughts about the second coming of Jesus. Cathy Matthews, a Westerville member, found the day to be particularly meaningful. She shared, "When we arrived at the park, the group was just starting to sing 'Amazing Grace.' I could feel the Holy Spirit fill me, and the beautiful park and the sunshine just added to the experience. It was a true blessing."



Kettering College and Local Youth Renovate Dayton Home

Kettering College of Medical Arts recently sponsored a three-day experience, called RENEWAL Project, which teamed middle school, high school, and college students from the Dayton and Columbus areas with staff from the college, the Ohio Conference, and local churches. The project beneficiaries were an elderly brother and sister, Thurman Chastain and Anita Chastain, who have shared a home in Dayton for the past 56 years. After taking ill, Thurman, 91, was unable to handle upkeep of the home and yard. The RENEWAL Project provided the Chastains with a freshly painted garage, attractive, low-maintenance landscaping, a new chairlift for Anita, and a modern bathroom.—Brandon Kennison



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

Equipping University Partners With ShareHim

This fall Pennsylvania Conference's Equipping University will team up with ShareHim to train members for evangelism. ShareHim, an evangelism-training program directed by Bob Folkenberg in partnership with The Quiet Hour and Amazing Facts, is designed to empower and mobilize members to do evangelism.

The first phase of the process begins in October with the following ShareHim rallies:

October 10—There will be both English and Spanish rallies at the Philadelphia Boulevard church.

October 17—English and Spanish rallies will be held at the Harrisburg First church while a second English rally will be held at the Williamsport church in the afternoon.

October 24—Rallies will be held at both the Pittsburgh and Stroudsburg churches.

Pastors will select outreach leadership teams from their local churches to attend one of these regional rallies for training on the various phases of an evangelistic process and proclamation event.

Then at Equipping University, scheduled for November 13-15 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, Folkenberg and his team will teach attendees how to lead and speak at an evangelistic series. Before leaving, teams will schedule events for their communities in 2010. As teams prepare for and plan their evangelistic series, they will receive support and resources.

Those interested in training to be speakers should contact their local pastor, who will register their church's team for the November weekend.



Bob Folkenberg, director of the ShareHim evangelism ministry, will lead Pennsylvania members in evangelism training this fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women Invited to Come Away

"Arise, My Love, and Come Away" is more than the theme for Pennsylvania Conference's fall women's retreat. It is a daily invitation Jesus extends to everyone. At this retreat, speaker Jennifer Haagenon (below) will share how every woman can experience rest and a deeper relationship with Christ.

Teens will also enjoy seminars by popular speaker

Denise Reinwald who will discuss living "Powerfully Beautiful." Reinwald will help young women look at the lies they've been told about themselves and about beauty and learn how to change the world for God with the strength He has already given them.

The retreat will be held October 30 to November 1 at Laurel



Lake Camp in Rossiter, and include small group sessions, inspiring music, and the annual pajama party vespers. For more information or an application, go to the October calendar at paconference.org, click on Ministries, and then on Women's Ministries.

Teens to Learn to Really Be Themselves

Young women—from middle school through high school—are invited to a fun and interactive day at the Holiday Inn in New Cumberland as the Pennsylvania Conference Women's Ministries staff presents the teen conference "Really Me." At this October 10 conference, teens will discover who they really are and how they can live to be the women God created them to be.

Participants will learn new things about themselves, laugh, talk, and receive a great gift to help them remain true to themselves and God. The \$35 (per person) fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch, meetings, and materials. The entry fee is waived for adult chaperones who bring four or more young people. The deadline for registering is September 5. For more information or to download applications, go to paconference.org, click on Ministries, and then on Women's Ministries.

Book Clubs Bring Women Closer to Christ

It began with a book and a dinner invitation. Tamyra Horst, conference Women's Ministries director, invited women from her Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading to pick up a copy of *Captivating* by John Eldridge. She encouraged them to read the first chapter, and then meet her at the local Olive Garden restaurant to discuss what they had read. Four years later, this small group has grown into five small groups across Berks and Lancaster counties. Two more groups are starting this fall, one of which will be in the girls' dormitory at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg.

"I thought it would be a great way to build friendships," shares Horst. "I love books, and have always thought a book club would be fun. As usual, God took a good idea and did incredible things with it."

Friendships did grow. Others saw the closeness of the group and wanted to be a part of it. People in the group began to invite friends and co-workers. "It's a great place to invite people who you might not be able to invite to church," says



Pastor Michael McCabe baptizes Marcy Bennett, whose spiritual journey was impacted by Christian book club members.

through all kinds of things," states Horst, "some devastating experiences as well as exciting moments. We've cheered each other on and supported each other in tangible ways. We pray together and pray for each other between getting together. We enjoy discussing the books, but it's what God is doing in our lives through each other that is most life impacting."

When book club members heard about a woman in another state who had a stroke and was struggling, they sent her care packages for several weeks, praying that it would give her a glimpse of God's love. Today this woman drives more than an hour to attend a small group Bible study as she's learning to walk with God again.

The group recently celebrated the baptism of college sophomore Marcy Bennett who had studied with Horst. The group presented her with a scrapbook with notes on their thoughts on what it means to live as a godly woman.

Horst says, "It always amazes me that God can take something you love doing, like discussing a good book with friends, and use it to strengthen His children and draw others into a relationship with Him."

Tina Ruf, who also attends the Kenhorst Boulevard church. Many of the women attending the meetings do not attend church regularly. Several have begun to study the Bible and attend church.

"We've walked with each other

What's happening

September

- 5-7 Hispanic Youth Retreat
Halifax
- 12 Youth Leader Training
Blue Mountain Academy
- 13 Hispanic School of Theology,
Blue Mountain Academy
- 13-14 Elementary School Sports Festival,
Blue Mountain Academy
- 18-19 Fall Camp Meeting
Laurel Lake Camp

October

- 4 Constituency Meeting
Blue Mountain Academy
- 10 "Really Me" Teen Conference,
Holiday Inn New Cumberland
- 10 ShareHim Rally
Philadelphia Boulevard Church
- 17 ShareHim Rallies
Williamsport Church Harrisburg First Church
- 24 ShareHim Rallies
Pittsburgh Church Stroudsburg Church
- Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 Fall Women's Retreat
Laurel Lake Camp

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

Potomac People

SEPTEMBER 2009

Clearer Vision

I remember the day I received my first pair of glasses. The doctor took them out of a drawer, cleaned them, put them on, and adjusted the frames. I could now see the leaves on the trees, the chalkboard, and people's faces. It is amazing what happens with clear vision.

Helen Keller once asked, "What could be worse than being born without sight? Being born with sight and no vision."

Jesus Christ gave us all a clear, compelling vision. In Matthew 28 Jesus tells us to "Go make disciples of all nations." All nations? What does that mean for the Potomac Conference? It means to take the prophetic message of a redeeming, soon-returning Savior to every person in the Potomac Conference.

What is vision? It is where we in the Potomac Conference have been challenged by Jesus to go to every town, every city, every community, every neighborhood, every person, and every people group. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14, NIV). Through His power, it can be realized in our time. Do we want Jesus to come? Please join me in praying that we will see the world through the lens of Christ, and, thus, see our mission with a clearer vision and then be His agent for its completion!



Bill Miller
President

Commitment to Evangelism Revitalizes Damascus Grace Church

You wouldn't have to go back very far in Damascus Grace Fellowship's history to see that it was struggling. The Sabbath attendance at the Damascus, Md., church had dropped to 40 to 45 people per Sabbath, and baptisms were not common.

Then God came knocking, and the church hasn't been the same since. It started when members admitted that they weren't doing a very good job of "being about the Father's business." They realized that they needed to get back to the basics if they ever wanted to grow. This meant that they would need to be persistent in the Spirit and humbly come back to God and seek His face.

That subtle change of heart was the spark that ignited a fire that is shocking to everyone who sees it—especially to the members. Here is what God is doing:

The church has committed themselves to hold not one, but four community Bible outreach meetings this year, and they have personally committed to providing \$65,000 to meet that goal!

Prayer is the cornerstone to all they're doing, and they're seeing incredible answers to those prayers. They've had eight baptisms this year, and have a family of five being reactivated into the membership.

Now more than 70 people are attending the church each Sabbath, and they have high hopes for additional growth this year. Please pray along with Damascus Grace Fellowship as they continue to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in growing disciples of all ages.



Following her baptism, Damascus Grace pastor David VandeVere welcomes Patti Miller into the fold.

Potomac People

Spanish and English Camp Meetings Bless Attendees

Potomac Conference's English and Spanish camp meetings allowed members to be refreshed with beautiful music and words of wisdom and hope. We want to give God the glory for the great things He has done! Nearly 50 people were baptized at the English camp meeting, and 41 were baptized at the Spanish camp meeting.

Thanks to all of you who took part this year; we are so appreciative of the time and effort that went into making both of these camp meetings special. For all those who attended, we so appreciate your presence. For those who weren't able to make it this year, plan now to join us next year.—*Dan Jensen*



Jorge Ramirez (left), vice president for administration for the conference, translates for Bill Miller, conference president, at the Spanish camp meeting.



Lonnie Melashenko, vice president for Spiritual Services and Missions at Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio, worships at the English camp meeting.



Multilingual singer Rudy Micelli praises God through song.



Recording artist Jennifer LaMountain sings at an afternoon concert.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HITTLE, ELMO SOTO, AND DAN JENSEN

Spotlight on Spencerville

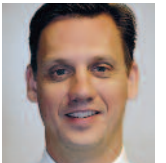
SEPTEMBER 2009

Take Time to Connect

I recently dropped my 9-year-old son off at camp. Registration went quickly. My wife and I helped him move into the cabin, and, before we knew it, we were on our way home. With my mind still at the camp, the car was quiet as we drove away. I couldn't help but wonder what my son was doing back at the cabin.

During the week, I thought often about my son. How was he doing? Did he miss me? I wanted to call him just to talk. That is no simple task because of the busy schedule and no cell phone policy at the camp. What an exciting moment the next Sunday was, when I reunited with my son. We hugged, and he told me that he missed me. I spent the next two hours listening to all of his experiences and soaking up his presence.

I can't help but think how much God yearns to hear from us. He created us because of His limitless capacity to love and be loved. When we go days and even weeks without talking with Him, it must "break" His heart. When is the last time you talked with Him? Why not stop right now and tell your heavenly Father, "I love you!" As a father, I know those are the words He loves to hear.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

English Teacher Recognized for Excellence

The Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) recently named Carrie Hess, a high school English teacher at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), one of North America's 12 finest, Seventh-day Adventist teachers. Hamlet Canosa, EdD, director of the Office of Education for the Columbia Union Conference, presented Hess with the award and a \$1,000 check,

which recognized the remarkable impact that she is making at SAA.

Hess, and 11 other finalists, were selected on the basis of classroom innovation, passion for teaching, professional growth, and commitment to Adventist education. With a goal of strengthening Seventh-day Adventist schools, AAF encourages peer teachers, principals, superintendents, and union education directors to nominate teachers for the award.

"Great teachers are the heartbeat of great Adventist schools," says Melanie Eddlemon, associate director of AAF. "We look for teachers who are leaders at their schools, and teachers who inspire both their peers and their students."

Hess certainly embodies those qualities. She not only instills in her students the necessary tools to help them succeed in all their endeavors, but also inspires them to do their best. Students report leaving her classroom feeling prepared to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

"Carrie Hess is someone who continually works to innovate her teaching style in an effort to most significantly impact her students' learning and love for literature," says Brian Kittleson, principal of SAA. "She continually strives for excellence for herself and the institution. We are extremely fortunate to have someone so talented and dedicated at our school. This award is well deserved."

PHOTO BY MATTHEW HERZEL



Carrie Hess with Hamlet Canosa, EdD, who presented her with the outstanding teacher award from the Alumni Awards Foundation.

Seniors Receive National Awards

Congratulations are in order for two recent graduates of Spencerville Adventist Academy. Richardson Chatham ('09) received a \$2,500 scholarship from the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Chatham (pictured left with principal Brian Kittleson) is one of 800 outstanding black American high school seniors who have won the award for college undergraduate study.



Benjamin Herzel ('09) was named a finalist in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Herzel (pictured above with Kittleson) was one of approximately 15,000 semifinalists who met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.



My job during the summer was to help Miss Gail Romeo in the recruiting office. I helped prepare mailings to send to those who were interested in attending SVA, and I made a lot of phone calls to follow up with people who had called with questions. I also went with Miss Gail to visit prospective students and to encourage them to attend SVA. I had a lot of fun meeting new people and sharing with them all the things that I love about this school.—*Tori Hevener ('10)*

New Staff Joins School Family

Three new staff members recently joined the SAA family. Ken Cooper (pictured right with his family) joined the administrative team as the new business manager. Cooper has most recently served as the business/facilities manager at Puget Sound Adventist Academy and Kirkland Adventist School (Wash.). He is excited to continue using his skills in a school setting. He and his wife, Stephanie, have one son, Jack.



husband, Tim, are the proud parents of Chase, Riley, and Cameron—all students at SAA.



Amber Mayer (below) has joined the elementary school staff to lead the newly added, stand-alone, Pre-K classroom. Mayer brings a wealth of experience to this position, having owned and operated her own day care/pre-school for more than nine years. She and her



Calendar

September

- 13 Beach Day
- 17-20 SALT
- 29-30 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

October

- 3 Senior Dedication
- 6-9 High School Study Tours
- 23 Grandparents Day
- 25 Fall Festival
- 31 Alumni Sabbath

November

- 2-6 Week of Prayer
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Break

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

Summer Work Helps Students With Tuition

During the summer, I worked at the Rubbermaid Industry at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) so that I could earn money to attend SVA this school year. I repackaged Rubbermaid items, and if we ran out of work to do at the industry, we went to the Plant Services department to help with weeding and mulching. I enjoyed my job and the fact that it will help me with tuition costs for this school year.—*Jordan Ross ('10)*

My job during the summer was to help Miss Gail Romeo in the recruiting office. I helped prepare mailings to send to those who were interested in attending SVA, and I made a lot of phone calls to follow up with people who had called with questions. I also went with Miss Gail to visit prospective students and to encourage them to attend SVA. I had a lot of fun meeting new people and sharing with them all the things that I love about this school.—*Tori Hevener ('10)*



Tori Hevener ('10) helps Gail Romeo, director of enrollment, with recruitment efforts.

This summer I had a crew of about six SVA students who helped me clean the dorms before the Potomac Conference's English and Spanish camp meetings, and when camp meeting was over we cleaned the dorms again to get them ready for the new school year. My crew was also responsible for making sure that the restrooms on campus were clean and stocked with supplies and to make sure that the campus looked its best.—*Mackenzie Sweeney ('11)*

I worked with Mr. William Osborne and Mr. Jim Little in the Plant Services department. I mowed the lawns, trimmed edges, changed light bulbs, collected and compacted trash, helped seed the new baseball field, and did whatever needed to be done to get the campus



Alex Wilson ('10) and William Osborne, assistant maintenance director, keep the campus grounds and facility looking their best.

ready for the new school year. I loved working outside most of the day.—*Alex Wilson ('10)*

We spent the summer working to get the campus ready for the new school year. We helped with the crew that cleaned the dorms before and after camp meeting, and we also worked in the administration building shampooing the carpets. It has been hard work, but we have enjoyed our work and are looking forward to a great school year.—*Mikayla Martin ('13) and Luke Foster ('13)*



Freshmen Mikayla Martin and Luke Foster clean campus carpets.

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org Principal, Spencer Hannah ■ Editor, Jan Osborne



Preparing Students for College and Beyond

The faculty and staff of Takoma Academy (TA) have been hard at work developing and implementing a curriculum that will not only challenge our students in the classroom, but also prepare them for academic success in the future. Recognizing that the most important part of our curriculum is fostering relationships with Jesus Christ, each class session begins with worship. This, combined with the daily worship that brings the entire Takoma Academy family together in prayer and praise, ensures that Christ is always our priority.

We are partnering with College Board (the organization which administers the SATs) and Washington Adventist University to offer advanced placement and dual credit courses, allowing our juniors and seniors to earn college credit. Because our curriculum has been aligned with the ACT/SAT standards, students select courses which will prepare them for standardized testing, making them eligible to receive scholarships and other awards based on their academic achievements.

Finally, we are also teaching our students to develop effective time management, abstract thought, and strong interpersonal skills. We prepare our students for college through valuing Christ-centered knowledge, creative expression, and academic rigor.



David Daniels
Principal

NEWS

New Educators Bring Wealth of Knowledge

This new school year has brought many changes to Takoma Academy. The school has a restructured and enhanced curriculum, a nearly completed major renovation, and seven new faculty members. They each hold master's degrees and have brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the school. They, along with 19 other faculty and staff members, believe that true education involves every phase of a person's existence, both in the present life and in the life to come. All are committed to developing the spiritual, mental, social, physical, and artistic components in each student.



New faculty members pictured in the front row are (left to right) Ed Strunk, work coordinator; Hilary Daly, science instructor; and David Daniels, principal. The back row includes (left to right) Yekaterina Unnikumaran, Spanish instructor; Jennifer Howe, English instructor; Lulu Mwangi, music director; and Leah Daniels, assistant registrar.

Dehm Invited to Speak to Students

What happens when new wine is poured into old wine bottles? According to Matthew 9:17 "... the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

Takoma Academy faculty has invited Pastor R. Vincent Dehm (right) to spend the first week of September filling its students with new "wine"—new thoughts, new goals, and a new love for Jesus Christ. Dehm, an extremely dynamic speaker, serves as the associate pastor at Miracle Temple in Baltimore.



Calendar

September

- 1-4 Week of Prayer
- 7 Labor Day—School Closed
- 17-19 SALT Conference
- 21 ITED Testing
- 25 Fall Picnic—Noon Dismissal

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (301) 434-4700 ta.edu ■ Principal, David Daniels ■ Editor, Linda McLaughlin

Fertile Ground

Close my eyes in deep meditation, Kenecia Grant carrying me to another world on the moving melody of "Deep River." I let the music wash over me as I marvel at the extraordinary vocal talent of this 2009 graduate. Our music students don't come to Washington Adventist University (WAU) ready to perform at the top of their trade. Some don't even know they have that potential. However, because of the dedication of our faculty, the persistence of the student, and God's bountiful blessing of talent, they are transformed.

This is evidenced in the lives of all of our students. Some are the first in their families to achieve a college education. Many never thought they could afford it. Some come seeking an environment where they can learn and mature in safety and security. And then there are those who come knowing exactly what they want—fertile ground in which to grow the dreams and potential they know they already have.

No matter where they come from, WAU students know that this is a diverse place—not in black and white terms, but with a worldview that welcomes students of all faiths and backgrounds and prepares them to become moral leaders in a world that is equally diverse. After all, if we want to be crossin' over Jordan, we better be prepared to meet all of our neighbors on the other side.



Angela Abraham
Assistant to the President
for Communications
and Quality Improvement

Nursing Department Lands \$1.3 Million Grant

The Edyth T. James Department of Nursing is preparing to expand enrollment, increase faculty, increase scholarships, and purchase the latest patient-simulation technology, thanks to a \$1.3 million grant from the Maryland Hospital Administration made possible by Adventist HealthCare, one of the Columbia Union Conference's healthcare networks. Washington Adventist University is one of 17 schools receiving grants from the Who Will Care Fund, part of a statewide initiative meant to stave off a serious nursing shortage in Maryland.

Adventist HealthCare donated the first \$1 million of the grant to the Who Will Care Fund earmarked for WAU, with the remainder coming from private donors. The grant will be paid out over a five-year period.

With these funds, Renee Winkfield, PhD, chair of the department of nursing, would like to grow the graduating class from 30 students to around 50. The department will address this goal in two ways—retaining students and increasing the number of admissions.

According to Winkfield the discipline's inherent academic rigor is one reason students leave nursing programs in general. The department will hire qualified peer tutors in an effort to provide adequate academic support outside of the classroom.

Another plan addresses emergency absences from the classroom. "We have a lot of adult students who sometimes have emergencies, and they don't have anywhere to take their child," she says. "Students

may miss classes as a result, which means they miss valuable information that might affect test performance." Winkfield wants to add an emergency day care fund to help address this issue.

Because the current faculty count will not handle the projected increase in capacity, Winkfield's immediate goal is to fill two vacant positions and hire two additional faculty members.—Liz Anderson



Junior nursing student Marilyn Montenegro is looking forward to the added benefits that a \$1.3 million grant will bring to the nursing department.

Athletic Director Advances to Vice President

Bruce Peifer (right), who has directed the Athletic Department since 2004, recently traded in his track pants for a suit and tie when he was selected as WAU's vice president of Advancement and Alumni Relations. Peifer is now focused on strengthening the university's fundraising arm.

"Advancing the institution is anything from raising dollars to make a better baseball field, to reducing the amount of money students have to pay by raising scholarship dollars," says Peifer, whose fundraising experience includes seven years as vice president of Advancement at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala.

His goal is to raise funds for the school using a multi-pronged fundraising and friend-raising strategy, which includes building and maintaining relationships with WAU/CUC alumni and friends.

"Institutional advancement and development is a critical and essential strategic objective for Washington Adventist University," says President Weymouth Spence. "It is a joy to welcome an experienced advancement leader to the administrative team. He brings a great deal of energy and excitement to this new role."—Liz Anderson



Dean Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Gaspar Colón, PhD, Washington Adventist University's dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, and his wife, May-Ellen Colón, PhD, recently received the highest award for excellence in family life work in the North American Division (NAD). The division's Family Ministries department presented them with the 2009 Distinguished Service Award during the recent annual Family Life Celebration weekend

at Andrews University (Mich.).

The Colóns became active in family ministries nearly 30 years ago in Hartford, Conn. One of Gaspar's Catholic, Bible study students insisted he and May-Ellen attend a Marriage Encounter weekend seminar. A short time later, the couple attended an intense training seminar, which prepared them to conduct marriage enrichment weekends throughout their church district.

"We've had a lot of fun with it," Gaspar says. "And actually we're into it more because we work on our own marriage. Everything we do in marriage seminars is for us primarily, then we share."

Their years of service also include work in pastoral ministry and public health. While stationed in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in West Africa, they co-directed the Africa-Indian Ocean Division Family Ministries Department. They also founded and led the Euro-Asian Division's Family Ministries Department during their time in Moscow.

In addition to his duties as dean, Gaspar is a theology professor and directs the university's Center for Metropolitan Ministry. May-Ellen is assistant director of Sabbath School

and Personal Ministries and directs Adventist Community Services International for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.—Liz Anderson

Correction

The article "Acro-Airs Performance Delights Sick Children" in the August Gateway was written by Sarah Toth, with photos by Warren Hull and Warren Balogh.

Calendar

September

- 12 Faculty/Staff Dedication
Sligo Church
- 23 Open House and SGPS
Information Session

October

- 3-4 College Days
- 10 Singspiration Reunion Concert

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Washington Adventist University ■ 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ wau.edu ■ President, Weymouth Spence ■ Editor, Angela Abraham



Willie Oliver, PhD (left), director of the North American Division Family Ministries recognizes Gaspar and May-Ellen Colón, PhD, for their work in family ministries.


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LOT FOR SALE: 5.6 acre private wooded, perc-approved lot in Gerrardstown, W.Va., on quiet, peaceful cul-de-sac. 10 min. to I-81. Several Adventist families in neighborhood. Some covenants (no mobile homes). Call (410) 778-9590 for information. \$64,900.

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BUILDING LOT FOR SALE—NEW MARKET, VA.

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Springtime in the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, April 18-May 6, 2010. Includes tulip-time in

Holland; historic Brugge, Belgium; the French Normandy Coast, Mont-St-Michel, and Paris. Contact Merlene Ogden, (269) 471-3781, ogden@andrews.edu or Judy Zimmerman (269) 471-7004, zim41634@aol.com.

RAIN FOREST AND PANAMA CANAL CRUISE

with Christian group, December 10-20. New MSC Poesia Ship: George Town, Grand Cayman; Cartagena, Columbia; Cristobal, Panama; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. Bob & Kathie Foll, (863) 453-7196, or bobkathfoll@embarqmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE TRIENNIAL SESSION

The triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before this full conference in session at that time.

An Organizing Committee to select the Nominating Committee and nominate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2009, at the Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrisburg, Pa.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President
Barry J. Tryon, Executive Secretary

ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRIES TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Adventist Health Ministries constituency will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

This meeting is called for the election of trustees and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Every delegate to the Pennsylvania triennial constituency is a member of this session.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President
Barry J. Tryon, Executive Secretary

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue

Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect trustees and transact any other business that may come before the association at that time. Delegates to the Pennsylvania Conference session are recognized as delegates to the association meeting.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President
Barry J. Tryon, Executive Secretary

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Pennsylvania Health Services Foundation will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

This meeting is called for the election of officers and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Every delegate to the Pennsylvania triennial constituency is also a member of the session.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President
Barry J. Tryon, Executive Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTHWEST OHIO CAMP MEETING:

Bring your friends and family and enjoy a day of grace, gospel, and power at the Northwest Ohio one-day camp meeting. It will be held October 10 at the Piqua Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4020 W. Star, Route 185, Piqua, Ohio. This will be a special evangelistic program, themed "Changing Lives," presented by Pastors Joedy Melashenko and Lonnie Melashenko and family. Emphasis will be on global and local evangelism, utilizing the youth of our church. For more information, call (937) 298-3936.

NEW MARKET (VA.) CHURCH HOMECOMING:

On September 12, the New Market Seventh-day Adventist Church invites all former members and friends for a day of fellowship. Pastors Shane Anderson and Buz Menhart will present the message at 11 a.m. After an extended fellowship dinner, there will be a Concert of Praise at 3 p.m., with music and testimony featuring members of the last 60 years. To volunteer or suggest participants, call (540) 740-8550.

A SCIENTIFIC LOOK AT SIN AND SALVATION.

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SUNSET CALENDAR

	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9
Baltimore	7:21	7:10	6:58	6:47	6:36
Cincinnati	7:52	7:43	7:31	7:19	7:09
Cleveland	7:42	7:30	7:20	7:06	6:55
Columbus	7:47	7:37	7:25	7:12	7:01
Jersey City	7:12	7:00	6:48	6:36	6:25
Norfolk	7:18	7:08	6:57	6:47	6:38
Parkersburg	7:41	7:29	7:18	7:07	6:56
Philadelphia	7:16	7:04	6:52	6:41	6:30
Pittsburgh	7:35	7:23	7:12	7:00	6:49
Reading	7:19	7:07	6:55	6:44	6:33
Richmond	7:23	7:13	7:02	6:51	6:41
Roanoke	7:33	7:23	7:12	7:01	6:51
Toledo	7:50	7:38	7:26	7:14	7:02
Trenton	7:14	7:02	6:51	6:39	6:28
Wash., D.C.	7:22	7:11	7:00	6:49	6:38

come to the Dean Amphitheater, Kettering Medical Center, (lower level), Friday, Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m., and Sabbath, Sept. 12, 3-5:30 p.m. (You must attend Friday night to comprehend the final session.) For more information, call (937) 395-8565.

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- Richard O'Fall
- John Appel
- Robb Long
- Steven Jencks

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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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Volume 114 ■ Issue 9

No Regrets

It was July 31, 1985, and the sign was coming down! For 25 years it had been hanging by the gas pumps at Morgan's Texaco, my Takoma Park, Md., service station. "Closed Friday Evening and Sabbath," it read, expressing my belief in God's fourth commandment.

I had made a decision to sell my business, but leaving my customers and employees was harder than I expected. As they took the sign down, many thoughts went through my mind: Had I been a good witness? Had I completed the task the Lord had given me for this community? What would I do with my time now? How would I feel next Sabbath knowing the station would be open "under new management"?

IN THE CONTRACT

It was 1960 when I became the owner/operator of the gas station previously operated by another Seventh-day Adventist. At that time, the Adventist world headquarters was located in Takoma Park, and the community was accustomed to our beliefs. Thus, the Texaco Corporation was willing to continue the previous arrangement, allowing Sabbath observance to be written into my contract.

As time went on, however, the community changed. "Why would you give up the best business day of the week just because of religion?"



many residents asked. Their questions gave me numerous opportunities to explain the significance of the sign and the Bible Sabbath.

My sales figures remained consistent and in line with studies done by the Texaco Corporation as they considered potential sales for the area. But each year I had more difficulty renewing my contract because Texaco believed and insisted that their product sales would be higher if the business was open seven days a week.

My family did not suffer financial loss because of our decision to honor the Sabbath. My customers were faithful and would make special effort to do business with me on weekdays.

During the 25 years I was in business, the Lord blessed me, and I have never regretted my decision *not* to give in to the Texaco Corporation and open my gas station on Sabbath. My experience has shown me that Adventists *can* operate a business, and not only receive a financial blessing, but *be* a blessing by witnessing to the community.

James Morgan, and his wife, Phyllis, are founding members of Potomac Conference's Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md.

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