

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

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In Heaven
the Bells
are Ringing

Inside:
Highlights
From the
Year of
Evangelism



News & Features

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Across the North American Division in 2009, Seventh-day Adventists rallied to share Christ and the good news of His saving grace and soon return. Columbia Union leaders, pastors, and members joined the charge, reaching out to our communities in a variety of ways. From hosting traditional tent and hotel meetings, to making and sharing zucchini bread and healthy meals, and using social networking sites like Facebook, we did our best to reap a harvest. In this 19-page special report, our presidents share highlights.



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

About the Cover: Lyrics from George Ratcliffe Woodward's carol, "Ding Dong Merrily on High," express the sentiment of members celebrating baptisms during 2009, the Year of Evangelism.

Sunshine to My Heart

This past summer, I ventured into a souvenir shop where the owners showed me some of their treasured collections. I told them that I treasure, of all things, a Russian Orthodox cross—not because of any sacramental significance, but a very sentimental one. It reminds me of an experience God gave me in Russia.



In the early 1990s, my wife, Becky, and I were in Russia conducting evangelistic meetings in some of the large cities that sit on the Volga River. In many of these places, our hosts rented wonderful palaces of culture to accommodate attendees and welcomed us in their native garb (pictured). It was not uncommon for hundreds, and sometimes thousands, to attend our meetings. And many, hearing messages of hope for the first time, accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. It was an amazing time for the spread of the gospel in what was then the Soviet Union.

One of our meetings took place in Ulyanovsk, the birthplace of Vladimir Lenin, one of the fathers of 20th century communism in Russia. Before our double-session presentation, I was asked to speak to students at



Moscow University's extension school. I wondered what I should say to young people who were raised in a climate of atheism with little or no knowledge of the Word of God. Thankfully, the Lord led me to present the story of the prodigal son. There is a marvelous picture of God's grace and love depicted in the father running toward his wayward son, embracing him, and welcoming him home.

After the presentation, many students wanted to meet us and shake the hands of Americans—people they had never met but only heard about. I noticed a young woman waiting patiently to speak with us, and after most of the others had left, she approached me. In broken "Russian English" she told me that she had never read the Bible and knew little about God. And then she said the words that will live in this preacher's heart for eternity: "The words you shared with me today from the Bible have brought sunshine to my heart."

That evening when she came to the evangelistic meeting, she gave me a little Russian cross, a memento to symbolize her newfound faith in Christ.

MY TURN

Earlier this fall, I had a similar experience, not in Russia, but right here at home in the Columbia Union. I conducted a nine-day evangelistic meeting at the Middletown Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jefferson, Md., and enjoyed a wonderful time with the dedicated members and their pastor, Dick Thomas. No one brought me a cross of any sort, but we did experience that same "sunshine" the Russian university student experienced. And this time I believe I was the one who experienced it the most.

Please don't misunderstand me; I enjoy and feel rewarded in what God has called me to do administratively. But I must say that I sense the most joy and fulfillment in ministry when I can share Jesus Christ and His last-day message embodied in the three angels of Revelation 14. People express to me how much the preaching blesses their heart, and, while I can sense that, I must also testify that sharing this message brings sunshine to my heart as well!

That's my testimony, but there are many more from what has been the Year of Evangelism. But let's not let our efforts end this month. Let's double our efforts during next year's focus on lay evangelism and share the light of Christ every year until He returns. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, with headquarters in Columbia, Md.

ARM President Dies

Adventist Risk Management (ARM) president Robert L.



Sweezey, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore First church in Ellicott

City, Md., passed away.

Sweezey became the executive director for the church's insurance and risk management services, based in Silver Spring, Md., in December 1992. He had 28 years of risk management experience with the Adventist Church and was qualified to handle the full range of church risks—managing exposures in liability, property, and employee benefits.

A man of vision and direction, Sweezey moved the organization from challenging financial deficits in 1992 to a financially strong company. He worked to provide a full-service structure for the worldwide church, underwriting policies that insure more than 90 percent of its facilities and institutions in countries all around the world.

Sweezey was a valued member of Baltimore First for more than 14 years. He served as head elder and as a church board member since about 1996, and was a member of the church's Crossroads Adventist School Board from 1996-2005.

"It's a shock to everybody!" said Ben Boggess, pastor of Baltimore First, about Sweezey's sudden death. "We talked weekly about what needed to be done at the church and school. Rob loved his church and family. He was very much a team player.

We're going to miss him and his leadership."

Sweezey, 52, leaves behind his wife, Karen "Muffy" Piper, a family practitioner, and three children.—*Paula Webber*

Washington Adventist University Enrollment Soars

Weymouth Spence, EdD (below), president of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., reported a 17 percent enrollment increase for the 2009-10 fall semester (over the same period in 2008) with 1,178 students. A significant increase came in the freshman class, with 144



first-time students enrolling in the School of Arts and Social Sciences and the School of Health Professions, Science, and Wellness. The highest upturn is seen with 119 transfer students. The School of Graduate and Professional Studies also saw a 17 percent increase.

"This increase speaks to the confidence that people are placing in our excellent institution, its faculty, and administrative leadership," comments Dave Weigley, board chair. "We predicted there would be an increase after changing the status from college to university, and are pleased to see it."—*Angela Abraham*

Former Visitor Editor Honored

Don A. Roth, the first person to serve as public relations secretary for the Columbia Union Conference, received the Lifetime



Celeste Ryan Blyden, current Visitor editor and 2007-2009 president of the Society of Adventist Communicators, presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Don Roth.

Achievement Award from the Society of Adventist Communicators. Roth accepted the award at the society's 20th annual convention in Newport Beach, Calif.

"I was totally surprised at the award, and appreciated the recognition," said Roth, who thanked the Columbia Union for giving him his start in communication.

During his nearly 60 years of professional service, Roth served as editor of the *Visitor* (1954 to 1965) and significantly contributed to church communication efforts. The reporter, editor, press relations specialist, book author, and special events organizer has worked at every level of the church organization.—*Karen Porter*

Potomac ABC Hosts Health Fair

As part of an ongoing effort to minister to the Silver Spring, Md., community, and beyond, the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store (ABC) regularly hosts mini health fairs. At their most recent fair, approximately 200 visitors benefited from four

seminar presentations, food and supplement demos, and a very popular foot detoxing station.

According to Jan Yakush (below), ABC food department manager and one of the event organizers, the seminars focused on overall health—how to boost the immune system, live a healthy lifestyle, and properly detox, as well as reasons to avoid caffeine.



Patrons got an opportunity to sample coffee alternatives and learn how to make healthy soups and chowders. "In this economy, we hear more and more that people are eating out less and cooking more at home," she says. "We like to encourage eating healthfully."

The next fair is scheduled for January 10. Learn more at potomacabc.com.

Ohio to Host World Prayer Congress

More than 15,000 youth and young adults, aged 14-35, and their leaders are expected to converge in Columbus, Ohio, April 7-11, 2010, for the Just Claim It 2 Prayer Congress. Workshops, service projects, worship, training, 200 exhibits, a 1,000-voice mass choir, and a Bible reading marathon are among the many features of the four-day event.

"Adult youth leaders should bring their youth. At the same time, they can receive training," explains Mike Stevenson, Ohio Conference Youth Ministries director and Columbia Union coordinator. "The benefit will be better-trained leaders and kids that are enthused because they have met with like-minded young people and had Jesus' mission clarified in their lives."

For more information, and to register by the March 16 deadline, visit jci2.org.

Year-end Meetings Reveal Tithing Increase

At the year-end meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee, attendees learned that tithing rose 1.7 percent in the Columbia Union. "In every other union in North America, tithing declined," said union treasurer Seth Bardu. "But we are thanking God for His blessings and for sustaining His church during this difficult time."

Membership is also up, said Neville Harcombe, union executive secretary. There are 130,277 baptized members in the union's eight-state territory, and, as each conference president reported during the meeting, thousands more were added during the Year of Evangelism.

Ohio Conference Youth Ministries director Mike Stevenson, who also serves as union coordinator, gave the morning's devotional. He also announced plans for a unionwide Pathfinder camporee to be held in West Virginia in 2012.

Committee members also discussed women's ordination and how to engage young adults. "We need to involve young adults in



Pathfinder representatives Pam Schieb (left) and Mike Stevenson (right) present Columbia Union officers—Dave Weigley, Neville Harcombe, and Seth Bardu—with a plaque displaying patches from all eight conferences in the union.

the work of the church, and communicate with them in the way they communicate—with technology," suggested New Jersey Conference president José Cortes.

Before the meeting ended, attendees met by conference (below) to select delegates for the upcoming General Conference Session. The Columbia Union has been allotted 28 delegates. Next meeting: March 18.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*



Correction: Chaplain Andre Ascalon was incorrectly identified in the November 2009 issue. The *Visitor* staff regrets the error.

What's New?

BOOKS >
The Busy People's Bible Study Plan
Bertram L. Melbourne

Bertram Melbourne, PhD, interim pastor at Potomac Conference's Rockville and Gaithersburg (Md.) churches, wants to help "put God on your calendar." For his fourth published work, Melbourne, an instructor at Howard University's School of Divinity in Washington, D.C., pulled from his experiences teaching a college course about studying God's Word. "I gained insights that are not only invaluable for young adults but also for adults



Read the Bible as literature, if you wish; read it as history, if you so desire; read it for spiritual guidance, if you so choose, so long as you read it.—Bertram Melbourne, PhD, in *The Busy People's Bible Study Plan*

of all age groups," he explains. The book and companion journal act as a road map of sorts, helping readers sift through their numerous excuses and responsibilities to find precious time—whether it is 10 or 60 minutes—with the Lord.

Develop a routine appointment with God today. Order the set at urbanministries.com, or by calling (800) 860-8642.



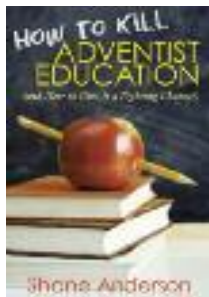
How to Kill Adventist Education
Shane Anderson

"What fool would presume to write a book on the challenges facing Adventist education—much less how to actually meet those challenges—when they've never been a professional educator?" asks Shane Anderson, pastor of Potomac's New Market (Va.) church. Although he claims to be "the fool," Anderson has extensive experience in the education sector as the pastor of numerous constituent churches, a conference executive committee member, and the member of many school boards—not to mention an Adventist school student from first grade through seminary.

Anderson takes a hard look at the troubles plaguing our education system and has a few not-so-foolish suggestions that, when implemented, have proven successful. Order a copy from your local Adventist Book Center or at adventistbookcenter.com, and get inspired!

DVD > The Pastor's DVD, Vol. 14—Special Worship Chorus Edition

The North American Division Church Resource Center produced 13 prior versions of *The Pastor's DVD*. This special edition, however, could jump-start a praise



and worship experience at your church. While beautiful displays of God's nature play on your church's movie screen, congregants can sing along to professionally recorded songs written and performed by Adventist musicians around the world.

The Columbia Union is well represented on the DVD with songs written by Potomac members Angela Bryant-Brown and Joseph Davis, Allegheny East Conference (AEC) member David Doggette, and Chesapeake Conference member Chris Howell. AEC member Duawne Starling and Potomac's Denise Barclay also lent their vocals to two of the songs. With various musical genres to choose from, there is something for each congregation. Find out more, order copies at advent-praise.com, and get your members singing today.

WholeHealth

Timing Matters

A common trend of our modern lifestyle is to eat the majority of our daily calories at night. We skip breakfast, grab a quick lunch at work, and don't get a chance to sit down to a meal until late in the evening. Afterward, we unwind in front of the television with our favorite snack. Although eating late at night has long been associated with weight gain, a recent study published in *Obesity* may have identified a cause—calories eaten at night are actually more likely to be stored as fat than the same amount of

calories eaten during the day. Researchers from Northwestern University found that mice fed during their normal sleeping hours gained more than twice as much weight as mice that ate during their typical wakeful hours, even though they ate the same amount of calories. "Eating at night is contradicting your body's natural circadian rhythm," reports researcher Deanna Arble



about the rhythm that governs our sleep/wake cycle. Consequently, the calories are treated differently and we gain weight. If you are struggling with weight gain, pay attention to *when* you are eating. The timing of our meals matters!—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

Did You Know?

Hand-knit scarves sent to Chesapeake Conference by January 31 will help Adventists witness to international visitors at the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more details, call Evelyn Gates at (410) 995-1910.

In the Spotlight >
Adventist Artist KM Hammond

Most days of the week, you can find Katherine "KM" Hammond capturing on canvas the glorious nature God originally painted. Whether using a palette of vibrant colors, pen, or charcoal, she enjoys having nature "parade herself before me in all her regal robes ... and my paintings to be a silent song of praise to God."

A second-generation member of Chesapeake's Dover (Del.) First church, Hammond recently celebrated 50 years of painting professionally with a month-long Retrospective Art Exhibit at the Delaware Agriculture Museum and Village. Her Impressionistic Realism style includes paintings of various sizes and encompasses landscapes, still life, portraits, and florals.

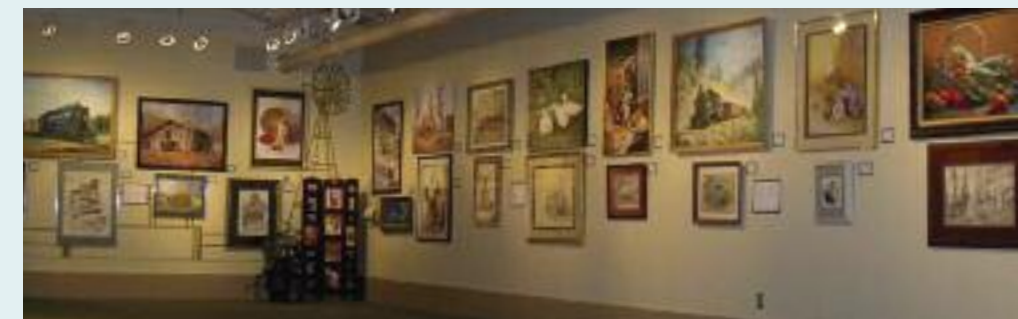
"I would like each work to speak peace into people's lives and homes," declares Hammond. "By God's grace and with His help as my CEO, I paint each and every painting with my whole heart." And she never makes duplicates.

As a philanthropist and humanitarian, Hammond has decorated the walls of charities such as the Breast Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity. She especially enjoyed creating artwork for Seventh-day



Adventist churches in her hometown as well as Chestertown, Md. In 2005 she contributed a portrait of W.C. Moffett, Chesapeake Conference president from 1934 to 1940, to Eastern Shore Junior Academy's 50th anniversary celebration.

Hammond also conducts art classes and publishes books and videos with daughter and manager Joyce Lewis. Among her latest releases is an art inspirational book, which highlights many of her paintings along with the Scriptures that inspired each piece.—Amy Garvick



busy life?

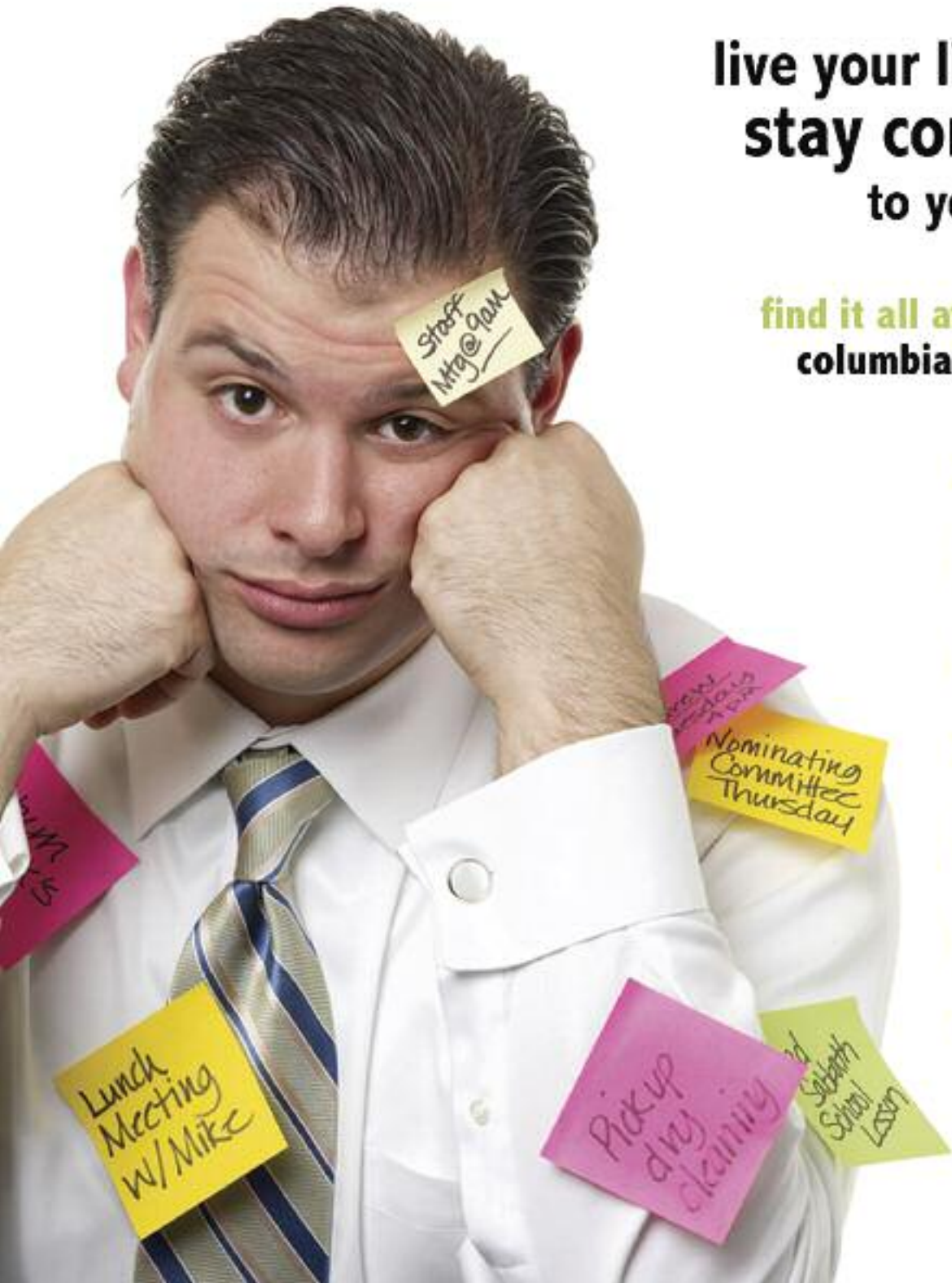
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TENT

M E E T I N G S

ZUCCHINI BREAD

& FACEBOOK

Highlights From the Year of Evangelism
Across the Columbia Union





Dave Weigley
President

Taking Evangelism to Heart

When the North American Division designated 2009 as the Year of Evangelism, leaders across the Columbia Union took to heart this initiative and set forth objectives for the year, as noted in the February 2009 *Visitor*. I also invited my leadership team and office staff to accept the call and participate in some way. Our goal was twofold: reach the community with the good news of the gospel and reacquaint the local church with the unique message that God has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church—those kindred truths that make us particular.



Dick Thomas (second from right), pastor of the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md., enjoys a light moment with Bible workers and visitors to his church's recent evangelistic series led by Columbia Union president Dave Weigley.



The pastoral leadership team of the North East Baltimore Company pray over their guest speaker, Neville Harcombe, executive secretary.

Although we prioritize evangelism every year, here is a summary of this year's efforts:

SHARING HOPE

I was blessed this year to lead a nine-day event for Chesapeake Conference's Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md. The meeting intrigued many visitors and resulted in 77 Bible study requests and at least 10 baptisms. In addition to being good for the community, Pastor Dick Thomas was especially glad that "it brought revival to the church."

Much of the success of the series goes to the members' hard work and preparation. Lillian Torres, the union's trainer for Bible workers, should also be credited. Prior to my meeting, she spent in-depth time training interested members how to develop and start a Bible study, gather interests, and prepare for the meetings. The individual who benefited the most—me. It was so refreshing to share the good news of Christ, His hope, and the hope we have in His soon coming. I host one evangelism series every year and plan to continue my efforts in 2010 with a homeland and international series.

SPREADING ENTHUSIASM

With the goal of helping Chesapeake's young North East Baltimore Company grow its body of

believers, Neville Harcombe, executive secretary, led a weeklong series last month titled "Steps to Successful Living." Using creative titles like "Divorce for Success" to cover the Adventist Church's core beliefs, Harcombe reported a good turnout. Six people accepted the Lord as their Savior.

To garner interest in the meetings, members distributed flyers to the neighborhood but were most successful at inviting friends and family. As a result, 80 people made up the average nightly attendance. "The enthusiasm of this group is strong," Harcombe comments. "They are eager to spread the gospel." Those leading the North East group are Pastor Sedley Johnson and trained ministers Nick Riley and Iheanacho Odinma.

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development, participated in three evangelism projects this year for Chesapeake. He coordinated



Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development, shares the gospel with attendees of the Pasadena (Md.) church series.

two of them with Pastor David Glass of the Pasadena and Linthicum (Md.) churches. Referred to as "friendship evangelism," Bondurant trained church members how to use their unique spiritual gifts for personal witnessing and how to prepare for the meetings. Pastor Glass then organized members into outreach leadership teams to give Bible studies to interests. At Pasadena, Bondurant presented the first weekend of lectures while Pastor Glass finished the series. Two ladies were baptized.

"For the Linthicum meeting we did not mail

Columbia Union Conference



After attending the Roanoke Spanish church in Roanoke, Va., for many years, Cornelio Alegria finally has Rubén Ramos, Multilingual Ministries director, baptize him.

brochures but rather advertised in a local news magazine and started the meetings in a motel," Bondurant explains. So far, three have been baptized and others are studying.

Bondurant also served as one of the planners and small group leaders for the "Living With Hope" meetings at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md. "This evangelistic series was innovative in the way that it combined public lectures with small group meetings," Bondurant reports. "I had a small group meet at my house every Monday night for about 10 weeks." Twelve attendees were baptized.

REAPING THE HARVEST

The Multilingual Ministries department, in partnership with conference leaders, has been particularly busy this year, with director Rubén Ramos leading 18 weeks of revival throughout all eight conferences. So far, as a result of these meetings, more than 119 people have chosen to join the Adventist Church through baptism or profession of faith.

"It has been very refreshing and uplifting to see people touched by the Holy Spirit and making decisions for Christ," Ramos comments. "It has been a year filled with stories of forgiveness, deliverance, and transformation. I strongly believe the fields are ripe for harvest."

Ramos also reports that the School of Discipleship in Pennsylvania, which requires all of its students to host small groups, has 206 active Bible study groups. These have produced 61 baptisms to date.



Charles Cheatham
President

Targeting the Urban Areas

Since much of our assigned territory includes major urban centers, where more than 34 million people live and work, our evangelism efforts are typically focused on metropolitan ministries. This year our pastors have held meetings across five states, resulting in more than 1,000 baptisms. Here are a few of our stories from 2009:

PHILADELPHIA

“We’re just so excited about what the Lord did for us,” says Pete Palmer, pastor of the Germantown church in Philadelphia. Still basking in the glow that comes from leading people to Christ, he added, “This is our fourth baptism this year; we’re growing, and we’re energized. It’s a good time to be at Germantown!”

His fall evangelism series, themed “Messages of Hope From the Book of Revelation,” focused attendees on Jesus and His victory in end times and yielded 21 baptisms.



While most of the new members had been coming to church for awhile, Darlene Oliver (right), who hadn’t been to church in many years, came at the invitation of her sister, Denise Mathuthu (second from right). After that first night, Oliver said, “I really didn’t expect to enjoy myself; the idea of the book of Revelation did not sound interesting, but it was.” She continued to attend the meetings, which were held five times a week, and at the end took her stand for baptism, along with her niece, Sithembile Mathuthu (second from left). “It was so moving,” recalls Pastor Palmer (left). “Afterward, she came to me and said, ‘The first night I came, I came for my sister. Now I’m coming for me.’”

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

A monthlong effort at the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., resulted in 26 baptisms. Before entering the pool, senior pastor Anthony Medley (far left), who led the “Living With Hope” series, told the congregation that anyone who gave his or her heart to the Lord that day could also be baptized, as at Pentecost. Following the scheduled baptism of 14 new believers, he made a call for others desiring baptism to come forward and asked the prayer warriors to pray earnestly for those who were wavering. “We’ll wait for you,” he said lovingly. As he and associate pastor Moses Eli (on right) waited, one brave, young woman raised her hand and came forward. Seeing that the Holy Spirit was moving, Pastor Medley continued his appeal. “Another person came

forward and another,” recalls Iris Kitching, communication director. They kept coming, and before the service ended, another nine people joined them.

WILMINGTON

Sharon Temple in Wilmington, Del., held a traditional tent effort—led by conference evangelist Conklin Gentry—that yielded 127 baptisms (right). Indeed, God was working in that city, and, afterward, everyone had a story to tell:

For some reason, Kenneth Brown’s name was on the contact list for interests. When Bible workers found him, they discovered that he was not the person they were seeking. But Brown was interested anyway, attended the meetings, and was baptized.

Mary Bradley and her daughter, Shaera Lloyd, were also baptized. They came in contact with Adventist Community Services members who gave them bread and invited them to a class on stress relief. Soon the pair began attending the tent meetings and taking Bible studies. After a study on stewardship, Lloyd asked, “What do you do if you don’t have a church to return tithes to?” Needless to say, our Bible worker helped her find a church.

Margie Eaves, a young mother of two, also attended the meetings. One night she brought her daughter forward for prayer and anointing. Her daughter, who had a brain tumor, passed away on her fourth birthday. Eaves got baptized anyway because her newfound relationship with Jesus helped get her through the ordeal and changed her life.

A man suffering from AIDS started attending the meetings but passed away. The Bible worker comforted his mother with the knowledge that her son heard the Word of God during his last days. Before the meetings were over, the mother was baptized.

Allegheny East Conference



NEWARK

At Trinity Temple, assistant pastor Carl Brewer, supported by senior pastor Norman K. Miles and several Bible workers, led members in a major evangelism effort. They fasted, prayed, and canvassed their neighborhood, inviting everyone to their family-friendly series themed “Hope ... You Can Believe In.”

After a kickoff concert by pastor and recording artist Wintley Phipps, Pastor Brewer opened the meetings to a full house. “The people were so enthusiastic, attentive, and engaged—it was amazing,” reports communication director LaFayette Trawick. “The nightly presentations were powerfully presented, and everyone was encouraged to bring someone to the 21-night series.”

The Spirit of God was poured out, and the entire congregation got involved, even the teenagers who helped conduct a meeting for children that yielded two baptisms. By the end of the series, 33 people had accepted Christ, and many more rededicated their lives to His service.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES

Ramon Escalante (left), Hispanic Ministries director, is rejoicing over the work of our Spanish-speaking members who have 28 churches across Allegheny East Conference. This year they planted the New Horizon church in Reading, Pa., with 18 charter members. They baptized 10 people during the EbenEzer church series in Union City, N.J. They also baptized five people into the Emmanuel church in Mt. Rainer, Md. In all, nearly 300 people were baptized into our Hispanic churches, and their pastors are studying with another 50 people.





Fredrick A. Russell
President

This is the Lord's Doing

“... And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47, NKJV).

Truly the hand of God has helped Allegheny West Conference (AWC) carry out its mission over the past year. Hundreds have been saved, churches have turned around, the people of God are passionate and caring about the lost, and the conference has collectively advanced God's kingdom agenda.

To start, members of the Allegheny West Conference came together and raised more than \$300,000 for evangelism. This was a faith stretch for many, but it represented an investment in the kingdom. Subsequent “praise reports” have been incredible as members share how God blessed and helped them make and keep their commitments to kingdom giving. With the funds previously earmarked for evangelism via the conference budget, and the extra funds raised, almost \$500,000 has gone toward evangelism this year. This is an historic amount for Allegheny West Conference.

With funds in hand, the conference leadership team was able to ensure that almost every church received monies for evangelism. In addition, many churches made significant contributions from their local operations to fund their soul-winning efforts.

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION

As of this writing, 99 percent of AWC churches have seen baptisms in 2009. The phenomenal thing about this is that many



churches had not experienced baptisms or new-member growth in years. Churches in Huntington, W.Va.; Waynesboro, Va.; and Uniontown, Pa., doubled and, in some cases, tripled their active membership during this evangelism season. Churches that were once on the verge of dying are now experiencing a spirit of “resurrection.” This is the Lord's doing!

Four teams of young ministerial students (some pictured above) from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., were brought in to do “groundwork” in four select cities and towns:



Meetings at the Melrose church in Roanoke, Va., drew many visitors from the community.

Springfield, Warren, and Elyria, Ohio; and Waynesboro, Va. These young “warriors” worked untiringly, knocking on doors, organizing block parties, giving away food in economically disadvantaged communities, and coordinating multiple community activities—all in an effort to lead people to the Lord, Jesus Christ.

We also made a major investment in Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, Ohio. In those cities, teams of young adult literature evangelists from Africa (below) and the Caribbean, took to the streets under the auspices of Paul Lambert, former AWC publishing director, and the Light America program (an entity of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md.). Through their



efforts, thousands of people received books and magazines that introduced them to the Savior and showed them how to live their best lives now. Their sales of truth-filled literature yielded thousands of dollars, and we are grateful for the efforts of these champions for Christ.

During the summer, the Ephesus church in Columbus had a very unique evangelistic meeting. In an effort to reach young urban, upper-mobile professionals, they invited Rupert Bushner, chaplain at Oakwood University (Ala.), to preach. His teaching of the Word effectively spoke to attendees. As a result, almost 100 people have been baptized into the Ephesus church this year. This same type of “fire” was duplicated in Cincinnati's Shiloh church where almost 40 people have been baptized to date.

The Southeast church in Cleveland experienced nothing short of an Acts 2 experience in their

Allegheny West Conference



Walter Castro, Allegheny West Conference church planting director, gives attendees to the AWC Leadership Summit an overview of the conference's plan to plant 25 churches in the next four years. The October meeting, held in Charleston, W.Va., drew hundreds who were invited to join AWC's new church planting team.

evangelistic meetings. Near the end of his series, Pastor Jerome Hurst expected to baptize 10 people. But on the appointed Sabbath, only four of the candidates showed up. Undaunted, he and his team began to pray. God impressed this Spirit-filled pastor to make an appeal for Christ like he'd never done previously. The Holy Spirit inundated the church, and before the service was over that day, almost 40 people stepped into the baptismal pool.

READY TO PLANT

At the recent AWC Leadership Summit and the subsequent pastors retreat, Pastor Walter Castro, church planting director for the conference, rolled out a massive effort to raise up 25 churches within the Allegheny West territory over the next four years. Four of those new church plants have already sprouted this year. There's a group in Clarksville, Va., African congregations in Columbus and Cleveland, and an Hispanic congregation, also in Cleveland.

These are only a sprinkling of our stories from 2009. From Pennsylvania to Virginia, West Virginia to Ohio, God has moved mightily. And with our mighty force of pastors, teachers, anointed members, and office staff, Allegheny West Conference appears to be on track to baptize more people this year than has occurred in years. Truly, it is the Lord's doing!



Rob Vandeman
President

No More Business as Usual

The Chesapeake Conference approached this Year of Evangelism with a basic assumption—business as usual was not going to be an option. We challenged congregations and pastors to be more intentional in their approach to evangelism, to become more involved in their communities, to create an atmosphere in their churches where people could flourish, to experience the joy of finding lost people, to make discipleship a priority, and to establish a strong prayer ministry. We also developed a set of prayer priorities and engaged our members in intentional, focused prayer. In addition, we committed nearly \$500,000 to evangelism and asked the Lord to give us 500 new believers. Here is a brief report about what's happened this year:

Northeast Baltimore – A church-planting project in northeast Baltimore, established with 30 mission-minded members, led by Pastor



PHOTO BY TRENT TRUMAN

Veteran evangelist Brian McMahon speaks at the Hagerstown (Md.) church prophecy series.



Baptismal candidates at Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md., stand before the congregation with pastor Ben Boggess (third from left).

PHOTO BY TONY WILLIAMS

Sedley Johnson and lay pastors Nick Riley and Iheanacho Odinma, has more than doubled in size. Members distributed Bible study enrollment cards in their immediate neighborhood. The pastors then trained members to follow up the scores of interests this approach produced. Riley conducted a three-week prophecy seminar and seven people joined the congregation as others continue their studies. Pastor Johnson reports that one Muslim family was baptized and that, through their encouragement, other family members have joined the continuing Bible study group. Last month Neville Harcombe, Columbia Union Conference executive secretary, conducted a short series of decision meetings.

Atholton – Senior pastor Steve Jencks held a prophecy seminar series at a Columbia, Md., community center near the church. More than 20 community guests attended regularly, and some are engaged in follow-up classes.

Baltimore First – The Ellicott City, Md., church hosted a series by evangelist Jason Morgan that yielded 15 baptisms.

Middletown Valley – Sixty miles to the west, this Jefferson, Md., church reaped the harvest in a rural setting. The active, 76-member congregation initiated community outreach projects on the heels of an ambitious building program. (The

grand opening of their new sanctuary was held last January.) Bible workers Lillian Torres and Evelyn Griffin shared their expertise in training members to follow up interests. Bonnie Boyd and Gail Cole signed on as part-time Bible workers to assist members as they studied with more than 70 individuals. These connections with the community paved the way for a short series of meetings by Columbia Union president Dave Weigley. Weekly studies with Samuel Thomas, Jr., marketing director for *Message* magazine, are providing participants with a deeper understanding of Scripture.

In addition to the meetings led by Weigley and Harcombe, Chesapeake was the beneficiary of meetings conducted by Columbia Union vice president Frank Bondurant and Rubén Ramos, Multilingual

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA YOUNG



Dave Weigley (right), Columbia Union Conference president, affirms Dick Thomas, pastor of the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md., where Weigley preached a series of meetings.

Ministries director. Bondurant assisted Pastor David Glass in short series at both the Linthicum and Pasadena (Md.) churches. Ramos worked with Pastor Orlando Rosales in Maryland's Baltimore Spanish and Dundalk Spanish congregations.

Hagerstown – This western Maryland church carried on a major campaign with veteran evangelist Brian McMahon. The church has a history of community involvement that includes a thriving ACTS 9 community service center, annual neighborhood block parties, and partnerships with civic-oriented groups. In anticipation of the prophecy series, two

Chesapeake Conference

Bible workers trained members to respond to more than 100 requests for studies.

West Wilmington – The fact that they were without a senior pastor throughout most of the year did not keep this Delaware congregation from having a successful year of evangelism. Using a variety of approaches, ranging from personal evangelism to public presentations by youth pastor Keith Acker and first elder Elvis Mogoi, the congregation witnessed more than 20 baptisms.

Willow Brook – Pastor Tim Crosby of the Boonsboro, Md., church said he was too busy baptizing people from his pastor's class to hold meetings. He expects to finish the year with at least 15 new members through this classic approach.

Frederick – There was an Amazing Bible Adventure at this Maryland church. Youth pastor Alvin Payne led a series designed to acquaint children with the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The meetings were held twice weekly with an average attendance of more than 30 and, for children not able to attend, the programs were broadcast on the Internet.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KOERTING



Ann Roda-Hernandez, associate pastor of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., baptizes 11-year-old Clark Smith at the "Courage to Stand" International Camporee held in Oshkosh, Wis., earlier this year. Through school worship, summer camp pastoral ministry, and Pathfinder events, numerous young people take the step to publicly declare their love for Christ in baptism.



Larry Boggess
President

Making Evangelism the Focus

For the last four years, evangelism with an *intentional* focus has been the watchword in Mountain View Conference. Our emphasis has been uniting lay evangelism with pastoral evangelism, and, in 2009, we saw lay members and pastoral staff working together to convene several public meetings. The 2009 North American Division evangelism emphasis added support to the Mountain View focus and helped our members see that we are serious about our mission. As a result, we have seen more than 50 baptisms, and many other people are interested in learning more about God's Word. Here's a look at some of our outreach efforts:



Bread Bakers: (back row, left to right) David Thaxton, Lullie Coleman, Jim Walker, and Roger Thaxton; (front row, left to right) Margie Stowers, Matthew Thaxton, Edna Stepp, Amber Thaxton, and T.W. Coleman.



THREE BAPTIZED IN WEBSTER SPRINGS/BRAXTON DISTRICT

Last April, Ed Bauder, a member of the Braxton church in Gassaway, W.Va., put his ShareHim lay evangelism training to use by holding meetings at the community center in nearby Sutton, W.Va. As a result, three people were baptized. Vicki Foster (above, left), who attended a ShareHim meeting and started worshiping at the Webster Springs (W.Va.) church in 2008, made her decision to be baptized. Carol Jackson (second from left), a member 20 years ago, had stopped attending church. She came to the meetings and was convicted that she needed to be baptized. Bill Morrison (second from right, next to Pastor Jim Buchanan), already a member, felt the need to recommit his life to Christ and was re-baptized.

WILLIAMSON SHARES LOAVES FOR LIFE

The 14-member Williamson (W.Va.) church has recently adapted a tasty form of evangelism. Members meet every other week to make banana or zucchini bread. Then, in teams of two or three, they distribute it with literature to their community. Church communication leader Lullie Coleman says the effort is designed to help the church become known in their community.

COUPLE VISITS SUMMERSVILLE ON THE RIGHT DAY

Early in the year, Danny and Sabrina Barker attended Mountain View Conference's End-Time

Symposium at the Summersville (W.Va.) church. Jim Cress, ministerial director for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, was the main speaker, and there were several breakout sessions. Danny, a former member of the Fairmont (W.Va.) church, who was attending a Methodist church with Sabrina, felt impressed to start keeping the Sabbath again. They came to church only to discover that the symposium was in progress. That day he says the Lord convicted him that Saturday is the right day of worship and that he should recommit his life to Christ. After studying with Summersville pastor Jim Buchanan (below, right), the Barkers were baptized in August.



WHEELING HOSTS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

When Amy Garvick was selected to serve as Children's Ministries director for the Wheeling (W.Va.) church, she and Patty Swart immediately began preparing to have the first Vacation Bible School (VBS) in their church for many years. Their goal was to try to get more children and their families to attend church. The entire church became involved in seeing that VBS was successful. In July, 28 volunteers presented this year's program, themed "Castles and Crowns." Twenty children attended the weekday program; 17 were not Seventh-day Adventist members. At the closing program Sabbath morning, 50 people came to church and several have since attended.

MARLINTON SOUNDS THE MIDNIGHT CRY

Recently in the quiet town of Marlinton, W.Va., a loud cry went out—the "midnight cry." On that day Pastor Stewart Pepper began a 16-day, 18-sermon series at the library across the street from the Marlinton church. There were more than 25 people in attendance, including 10 guests. Two weeks later,

Mountain View Conference

there were 16 in attendance for the Sabbath morning service, including two guests—George and Alberta Fuller. For the Fullers and their relative, Margaret Crowe—who also attended the meetings nearly every night—the Marlinton area is a home away from home.

Interestingly, they're not complete strangers to Adventism. Pastor Wintley Phipps has been to their Baptist church in Florida to give a concert, and his church is only a few miles from their home. At the end of the meetings, they told Pastor Pepper that they just might show up at Pastor Phipps' church. They'll be back in town next spring; and hopefully, God will bring them back to us.

Viola Conley and her daughter Brenda Cook also attended nearly every meeting. Conley lives in Virginia, but visits often. Cook has assured Pastor Pepper that they will be back when her mom visits again. The Marlinton church praises God for these new friends.

TOLL GATE SENDS COMMUNITY KIDS TO CAMP

Each year the Toll Gate (W.Va.) church sponsors kids from community families to attend summer camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W. Va. This past summer, six kids attended, including Lizzie, Rynn, and Katie Foster (below). Each had special memories: Katie loved the extra activities every night, especially the rodeo, carnival, and banquet. "The slip 'n slide was really awesome!" she exclaimed. Lizzie liked working for the Cabin of the Week award—her cabin won last year—and she got to enjoy staying up late and eating s'mores. Rynn said the water slide was really fun. "It was longer and soapier this year; we flew down!" she announced. The girls are also involved in Pathfinders.





José H. Cortés
President

New Jersey: Heartbeat of Evangelism

During this Year of Evangelism, our pastors, elders, lay evangelists, and small group leaders have been working with enthusiasm and dedication. We believe in a “life of evangelism,” not only during this Year of Evangelism, but throughout every year. The “heartbeat of evangelism” is what keeps the New Jersey Conference moving ahead in church growth year after year.

This year New Jersey pastors and lay evangelists completed nearly 100 evangelism efforts. Thus far we have baptized 528 people, and I expect that we will exceed 600 by year’s end.

As of June 30, conference membership stood at 12,512 members. My vision is to have conference membership reach 15,000 by the time of our next constituency meeting in 2012. With God’s help and leading, I know that the



Alex Pastor, associate pastor of the Paterson South Hispanic church, baptizes Adriana Nelson.



heartbeat of evangelism will remain strong in New Jersey. Here’s a brief look at some of our evangelism stories from 2009:

PATERSON YOUTH SMALL GROUPS BRING BAPTISMS

Senior pastor Ricardo Cala and associate pastor Alex Pastor are celebrating the success of the Paterson South Hispanic church’s youth evangelism effort. Adriana and Erol Nelson were married and then baptized in a beautiful lake in North Jersey this summer. They came to Jesus as a result of the church’s Youth Small Groups Evangelism Ministry. “The love and dedication of the teenagers and young adults are an important piece in our success during this Year of Evangelism,” says Pastor Cala, who baptized more than 20 souls this year.

MOUNT HOLLY SHAREHIM MEETINGS BRING FAITH

Earlier this year, Jane Oswari, a member in the Mount Holly English church, conducted a ShareHim evangelistic series. At the end, the church celebrated with Faith English (above with Pastor Tom Dunham) and her friends and family as she took her stand for Jesus and His last day church. English, a faithful and active member of her church for over 30 years, was intrigued by conversations she had with a co-worker about the

Bible. “I was very happy and involved with my church, but there were always some troubling topics in the Bible that I could never get answered,” she recalls. “When my friend shared a flyer about a ShareHim meeting, I could see that they were going to talk about some of the things I wanted to understand.” She attended, followed up with Bible studies, and was convicted that she needed to follow what the Bible said. Upon her baptism, Pastor Dunham told the church, “Faith will be a tremendous asset to our church family. She brings maturity, enthusiasm, and, most importantly, a dynamic love for Jesus that will help us share His message.”

TRENTON CHILDREN’S PROGRAM BRINGS MOMS AND DADS

Recently I visited the evangelistic meetings at our beautiful Trenton Spanish church. Pastor Jorge Aguero and his team presented the message of salvation to



Trenton Spanish pastor Jorge Aguero prepares to baptize Victor Edison Perez.

hundreds of people in New Jersey’s capital city. In the midst of the beautiful message, coupled with beautiful music, I sensed that the power of the Holy Spirit was there! But the secret of success for their meetings was the very special children’s program they presented. Before long children attending the meetings brought their families—moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, and uncles. The auditorium was packed, and, at the end of the week, 13 new believers were baptized. Dozens more are engaged in Bible studies as Trenton Spanish continues to prepare people for the kingdom.

New Jersey Conference

PLAINFIELD SPANISH BRINGS MEETINGS HOME

The Plainfield Spanish church does evangelism through small groups. This year the evangelism committee made plans to hold campaigns in the homes of several members. Elvin Cerritos, whose wife is a member of the Plainfield church, suggested they hold a campaign at their home too.

When church leaders agreed, Cerritos erected a canopy in his backyard to accommodate the meetings. At the end of the campaign, Cerritos and many others made decisions for Bible study and future baptism. Touched by the Holy Spirit, he was moved to ask the leaders of the church to hold a second series of meetings in his home. The leaders of the church agreed, and again he erected the canopy.

At the end of this second campaign, Cerritos, along with his brother and sister-in-law, made the decision to be baptized. In September on the same Sabbath that the Plainfield Spanish Church was dedicated to the service of God, these three precious souls were baptized. Another 15 people are studying the Bible and plan to be baptized before the end of the year.

PANAMERICANA YEAR OF EVANGELISM BRINGS NEW BELIEVERS

This Year of Evangelism has been very successful for Pastor Elvis Diaz, the youngest pastor in New Jersey Conference. Pastor Diaz (center) has already baptized several dozen new believers, including Jorge and Noemi Castillo, at the Panamericana Spanish church in Vineland.





Raj Attiken
President

Planting Seeds for the Harvest



them partner with state or local agencies to obtain food supplies. The Mansfield and Mount Vernon Hill churches conduct comprehensive and ongoing health and wellness ministries. The Peebles Community Fellowship provides instruction in home gardening and healthy diets. The Worthington church offers instruction and support to those seeking employment—with help in networking and résumé writing, etc.

Food pantry, clothing, household, and furniture distribution programs at churches in Warren, Boardman, Cleveland, and at Adventist Community Services centers in Newark, Medina, Barberton, Zanesville, Mount Vernon, Dayton, Chillicothe, Manchester, and Lakewood (above) collectively serve over 20,000 individuals annually. The Good Neighbor House in Dayton provides quality healthcare services (medical, dental, and vision) to over 1,000 “working



The unfolding story of the Year of Evangelism in the Ohio Conference emerges from Jesus’ teaching in Mark 4 about how His kingdom grows: “The kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The Earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens” (Eph. 1: 26-28, NLT). Drawing from this analogy, Seventh-day Adventists in the Ohio Conference see evangelism as an organic process that occurs through relationships. Our objective is to form and grow such relationships by looking for opportunities to serve human needs and share the good news about Jesus in inviting and credible ways.

PEOPLE HELPED, LIVES CHANGED

The Columbus Ghanaian church offered an elaborate, summer education program for immigrant children. Every weekday more than 100 children participated in this service, funded largely through a grant from a city agency.

For one week every quarter, in a ministry done with 12 area churches, the Warren church transforms a part of its building into living space for homeless families. Members provide warm meals and friendship.

An increasing number of churches operate food pantries to respond to the increased unemployment and poverty trends. Many of

uninsured” individuals. Kettering Adventist Health-Care provides over \$25 million in charity care and serves over 300,000 people through its outreach programs, health and wellness screenings, educational programs, and community sponsorships.

The Cincinnati Clifton church provides pastoral care and support to women in a facility that helps them transition from prison to responsible citizenry in society. The Ohio Conference participated with the Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending in advocating for the passage of Ohio House Bill 545, which capped the Ohio payday loan industry’s interest rate at 28 percent. (The prior rate was 391 percent.) The Toledo First church is involved in serving the needs of women and children at Aurora House, a women’s shelter. The church also holds an annual Cars 4 Kidz event to raise funds for children with cancer. The Walk of Faith Fellowship in Cleveland operates a storefront ministry and church that serves local youth and adults. They’re partnering with Hannah’s Socks and the Bread Bank to meet community needs. Agora, a used-book store and community-gathering center, operated by the Adventist congregation in Mason, attracts various segments of its community for numerous cultural and learning experiences. Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon and Spring Valley Academy in Centerville regularly schedule service days when students fan out and participate in various community projects. The Marion church hosts a neighborhood association and holds an annual open house picnic (left), etc. The Miamisburg church provides a special ministry for a retirement and assisted living community.

GOSPEL PROCLAIMED

Several churches have been involved in the public and private teaching of the Word. The Kettering church conducts Fresh Bread, a Sabbath gathering especially for young adults. For two weeks in June, the Fredericktown church hosted Messiah’s Mansion—a life-sized replica of the wilderness tabernacle—with tours that described the furniture, services, and symbolism. Over 4,000 persons from across Ohio toured the exhibit, about half of whom were not Adventist Christians. As a result, the church received some 300 requests for Bible studies. The Cincinnati Junior Academy has transformed itself into a mission outpost as over 75 percent of its students come from outside the Adventist community. Concerts held in the

Sandusky district drew several interests in Bible studies. Through exhibits at several country fairs, members have offered gospel literature and invitations for Bible study.

Public evangelistic meetings in Centerville, Newark, Cleveland, Columbus, Lancaster, and other Ohio communities have effectively introduced the teachings of the Bible to hundreds. Students of the Mayfair Junior Academy in the Akron/Canton area led one of these endeavors (below). Eighth-grader Maurice Belle (right) was one of two speakers. The Chillicothe, Lancaster, and Piqua churches are among those that have distributed or mailed DVDs or CDs to their communities as a way of inviting people to study the Bible. The Newark church has an extensive online and on-air presence. Each Friday evening, students at Ohio University gather for Bible study with their campus friends.



OUTCOMES

A study conducted by our Office of Research and Special Projects and the Center for Creative Ministry (Neb.) has revealed several indicators of success. For example, 10 percent of adults who worship in our churches on Sabbath mornings are not baptized members. This tells us that our churches are attracting a significant number of guests. In addition, 17 percent of our members have been baptized Adventists for less than five years, compared to 7 percent across North America. This shows that our congregations are effectively inviting, incorporating, and assimilating new members. Indeed, the seeds of the gospel are sprouting and developing as God continues to draw people to Himself through the life and ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ohio.



Ray Hartwell
President

Connecting With the Community

Bobbie Jo Price loves Jesus. She enjoys serving Him. So when she heard that volunteers from across Pennsylvania were coming together to build a church in her community in one day, she decided to help. She had no intention of joining the church, but the friendships she made that day created an interest. She and her husband were among the first to be baptized in the new Everett church facility.

Bill Tompkins' son, Randy, invited him to join some Bible studies he was attending. Bill's family had been Adventist when he was growing up, but he never joined the church. Today he is a member of the Lowville church and is witnessing to family and friends.

Across Pennsylvania people are coming to know Jesus as their Savior as local churches connect with their communities, build relationships, and present the gospel. We've learned that evangelism doesn't begin when handbills are sent or on the first night of a prophecy seminar. Evangelism begins as church members—individually and corporately—begin building relationships, meeting needs, and getting involved in their communities.

WHOLISTIC EVANGELISM

Wholistic evangelism is key to treating Pennsylvania as a mission field. Using this method, local churches and church plants are finding a variety of ways to reach their neighborhoods. El Camino Mission Group in Easton, Pa., is teaching English as a Second Language classes. Every guest at their scarf weaving class on Wednesday night stayed afterward for prayer meeting.



Chestnut Hill pastor Tara VinCross baptizes Grace Green.

Chestnut Hill's Smart Supper evenings in Philadelphia continue to grow with more guests coming each month to sample the vegetarian dinner and hear a health lecture. Many have thanked Pastor Tara VinCross for the evenings—and for her prayers.

Churches are also getting involved in their community fairs and hosting fairs and block parties at their facilities as a way of connecting with their neighbors. When they opened their church in a unique way—offering cookies, lemonade, blood pressure screenings, crafts for the kids, free literature, and the use of their



Pastor Chris Buttery and Terry Chilson, MD, flank new members Sheila Debrosielski and Ruth Vincenti.

bathrooms during the neighborhood's annual yard sale—the New Castle church saw more visitors on one Sabbath than they had in an entire year. The Tunkhannock church recently welcomed two new members who were baptized after attending a health evangelistic series led by Pastor Chris Buttery.

TRADITIONAL EVANGELISM

As we connect with our communities, churches are offering evangelistic series, inviting family, friends, and the new friends they've met as a result of community outreach. Five people were recently baptized after a series led by Pastor David Clevenger at the Lebanon church. Not a single handbill had been mailed; every invitation was personally distributed. Six people continue to study through the follow-up classes. Meetings



Preston Monterrey, pastor of the Lowville church, baptizes Bill Tompkins.

held by Pastor John Peters in Berwick resulted in five baptisms last spring, with meetings in Danville impacting lives during the fall. After witnessing baptisms at the Lehigh Valley church, the Bethlehem Spanish church, and El Camino Mission Group, 18 guests responded to Pastor Gabriel Montalvo's appeal. The Shekinah Haitian church in Manheim began life in their new church facility by baptizing 12 new members at the end of their evangelistic series.

BACK TO BASICS

Many of the 70-plus requests for baptism that came into the conference this year were from traditional evangelistic series; however, several churches are creating evangelistic series that focus first on the basics before approaching prophecy. Lansdale

Pennsylvania Conference

church member Chris Mourey and Pastor Jim Wibberding held four, three-night series that focused on the five essential Adventist "s" doctrines: salvation, Sabbath, state of the dead, sanctuary, and the second coming. They followed this with in-home Bible studies. So far five people have been baptized as a result of what Wibberding calls "the least expensive and most successful endeavor" they have tried in his five years in the district. After a 10-week Alpha Course, the Joy of Life home church in West Chester enjoyed five baptisms. A team of four members from the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading created "God Quest," a monthlong program designed to introduce God to the community.

As I preached our evangelistic messages at the Lehigh Valley Spanish church in Allentown and the New Castle church, I was reminded again of how much people not only need, but also are looking for these Christ-centered, truth-filled, powerful gospel messages. Across our conference we are about the mission of Jesus Christ—reaching the lost with the message of salvation and hope. We received over 70 requests for evangelistic funds for 2009 activities. Some efforts were led by pastors, some by lay people, and a few by our young people. Recently we partnered with Bob Folkenberg of ShareHim to train Equipping University attendees how to lead evangelistic meetings. In the coming year, we are excited to see what God does as lay people hold meetings—many for the first time—in their homes, neighborhoods, and communities as together we treat Pennsylvania as a mission field.



Souderton and Lansdale pastor Jim Wibberding baptizes Jerry Ivanowicz.



Bill Miller
President

Growing Disciples for the Kingdom

The Year of Evangelism is turning out to be an incredible year in the Potomac Conference. We are very excited by the response to the Spirit's call, and our prayer is that Jesus will continue to be the focus as we grow disciples for the kingdom. We have had nearly 100 reaping meetings and 1,100 baptisms and professions of faith. Here are just a few of our stories; read more in *Potomac People* on page 51.

SOCIAL NETWORKS DRAW YOUTH, 60 BAPTIZED

For one week in August, 10 youth pastors throughout the greater Washington, D.C., area made a significant effort to reach out to the youth within the Hispanic community. Through a group they call *Movimiento Joven Adventista* (Adventist Youth Movement), they specifically targeted the second- and third-generation youth who are not as active within the Adventist



community as their parents and grandparents.

After preaching and sharing their message of hope with 600 attendees at a number of locations (pictured), all 10 youth pastors made an appeal. Nearly 60 youth answered the call and were baptized in a special event held at the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md. Youth pastor Hector Perla was overwhelmed by the response: "The way in which we communicated this event is very unique. The youth were mobilized through constant, social network updates on Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, Flickr, and Vimeo," he says. "Everyone was connected as one church with one movement, taking the Message to create a Movement with a unique Method—a system we call the 3Ms." Each day they featured a church on their blog (movimientoja.com) with pictures and sermon notes. Using Google Maps, the group also created a map highlighting the meeting centers.

Based on these outcomes, the pastors are determined to push the envelope, using creative media to unify the youth. "We are a unique and contemporary ministry with a 2,000-year-old message to deliver," says Pastor Perla, "and we long to see the young people in this country take a stand for Christ and lead in the effort to win souls for Him."

MARTINSVILLE CONGREGATION ACCEPTS SABBATH TRUTH

In July 2008, one of the elders from the Martinsville (Va.) Spanish church invited Pastor Tony Lopez of the local Pentecostal church to

join them at their Daniel and Revelation seminar. Pastor Lopez consented and, after three nights, handed his business card to Pastor Fismed Omar and asked him to call. He wanted to speak further about what he had heard. What transpired next is clearly the work of the Holy Spirit.

When the pair met, Pastor Lopez began asking Pastor Omar (below, left) questions about the Sabbath, Ellen G. White, music, the secret rapture, and other topics that were weighing on his heart. Pastor Omar was very convicted that he needed to share the Seventh-day Adventist truth with Pastor Lopez.

After several meetings, Pastor Lopez announced: "I've been praying to God, and even if none of the members follow me, I feel that God has convicted my heart to follow the truth. I believe that this is the truth that you have presented to me, and I'm ready to follow."



He then opened up his church to Pastor Jose Esposito, our director of Hispanic Ministries. For three nights, Pastor Esposito presented the Adventist truth to the 70-member congregation. On the third evening, at the conclusion of the message, he made an appeal, asking all those who accepted the Adventist message to stand. Miraculously, 68 of the 70 members stood and accepted the Adventist message!

The following day Pastor Lopez called the Pentecostal church leadership to inform them of the church's decision. He was told that, if they were choosing to change from Sunday worship to Sabbath worship, they would need to look for another church facility. A few weeks later, however, they had a change of heart, and decided to allow the new Sabbathkeepers to stay and rent the facility.

Pastor Omar held the first Sabbath service in April, and the church is now working to become an official entity of the conference. Exciting things continue to

Potomac Conference

take place within this church. For example, in August over 200 people attended Sabbath worship. Please join us in praying for these new members.

TAKOMA PARK YOUTH SHARE "THE REAL WORD"

It all started two years ago, when six friends became determined to make a difference within the community surrounding the Takoma Park (Md.) church. "We realized that most people right around our church had very little knowledge of who we are, let alone that we are Sabbathkeepers," says member Sanjay Thomas. "We realized that we needed to change the perceptions of our neighbors, and we determined that one of the best ways to do this was through community outreach and service—in other words, to be the hands and feet of Christ in Takoma Park." That's when *The Real Word* ministry was born.

Just as the disciples in the New Testament, the aforementioned friends started going out two by two. But rather than asking people in the neighborhood if they knew about the Advent message, they asked them if they knew of anyone who needed help—any kind of help. "At first we were very nervous," Thomas admits. "We didn't know what to expect or how our neighbors would receive us. But we took a step of faith, and we left the rest to God."

They initially hoped to establish five solid relationships during the summer. God surpassed it, and they currently have relationships with people from 10 homes in the community. They believe—and we believe—that God is just getting started. We look forward to seeing how He plans to use them to reach more people in Takoma Park.



Members of *The Real Word* want to be the hands and feet of Christ in their Takoma Park, Md., community.

DOES LONGEVITY EQUAL PROGRESS?

POTOMAC CONFERENCE SAYS IT DOES

THEY HAVE PROVED IT THROUGH THE SUCCESSFUL HISTORY, MOVE, AND EXPANSION OF THE POTOMAC ADVENTIST BOOK AND HEALTH FOOD STORE.

The Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store managed a successful operation in Takoma Park, Md., for nearly 100 years. So successful, in fact, that they outgrew their facility. With their eyes on a more central location, a bigger building, and numerous outreach opportunities, the store's leaders contacted the organization they knew and trusted would help them finance a critical relocation and expansion: the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF).

The move to their current Silver Spring, Md., location in 2000 provided the store with approximately 20,000 square feet of outreach space. Staff can now offer more products and host frequent events, such as health fairs, book signings, and food demonstrations to reach church members and local residents alike.

By answering the store's call, CURF was living up to its 40-year goal of promoting the church's mission. As it has done with hundreds of churches, schools, conferences, and other entities across the Columbia Union, CURF provides cost-effective financing to make ministry possible.

To participate in this ministry, call CURF today!



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Profiles in Caring



Blessed are the Wise of Heart

As a faith-based healthcare organization, it is our custom to begin our meetings with a short devotional and prayer. At a recent governance committee, the devotional was presented by the committee chair, and when I heard it I knew immediately it was something to be shared.

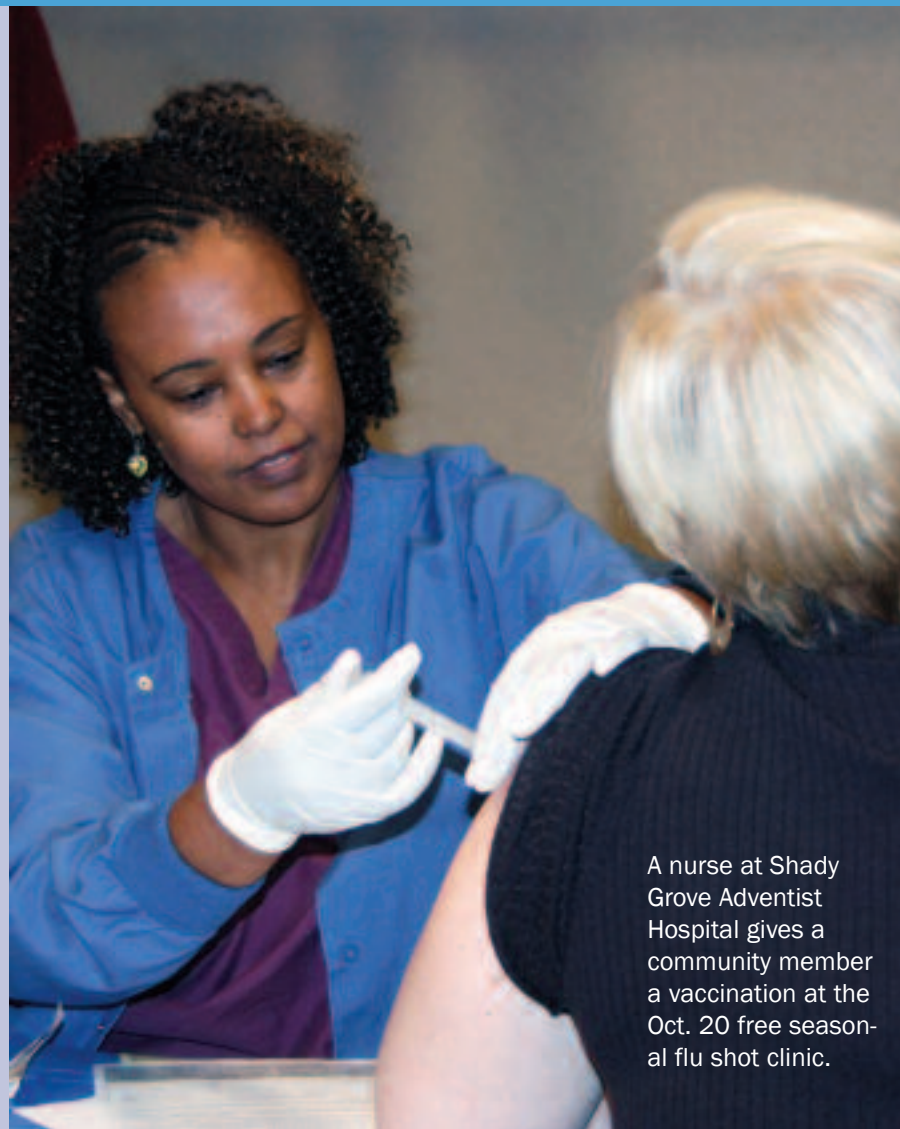
Her text came from the book of Exodus, where Moses sought the help of those who were “wise of heart” to build the Tabernacle. In his search for those who would assist in this great task, he didn’t just look for competence or technical proficiency: he sought wisdom. A task so sacred as the construction of a place for God to reside must only be done by the best of the nation—and the best of the best were those who were “wise of heart.”

“A person can be highly intelligent and have brilliant ideas about life, yet not be wise,” said the devotional speaker. “The mind is the creator of ideas, but the heart must be the place in which they reside.” These ideas come right to the heart of faith-based healthcare and address the very nature of our definition of excellence. Excellence encompasses both outstanding technical and clinical expertise as well as the guiding wisdom of empathy and compassion.

“Moses didn’t want hollow academics to build his Tabernacle, no matter how clever they were,” the speaker reminded us. “He wanted real people who felt and lived their ideas: people who were wise, not just knowledgeable.” The devotional topic was about building a Tabernacle, but the implications for healthcare are crystal clear. The wise of heart sought by Moses are not so different from the wise of heart we seek today.

William G. “Bill” Robertson
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare





A nurse at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital gives a community member a vaccination at the Oct. 20 free seasonal flu shot clinic.

Adventist Hospitals Launch Campaign to Stop Spread of Flu

Campaign Focuses on Importance of Seasonal Vaccinations and Prevention

by Marisa Lavine

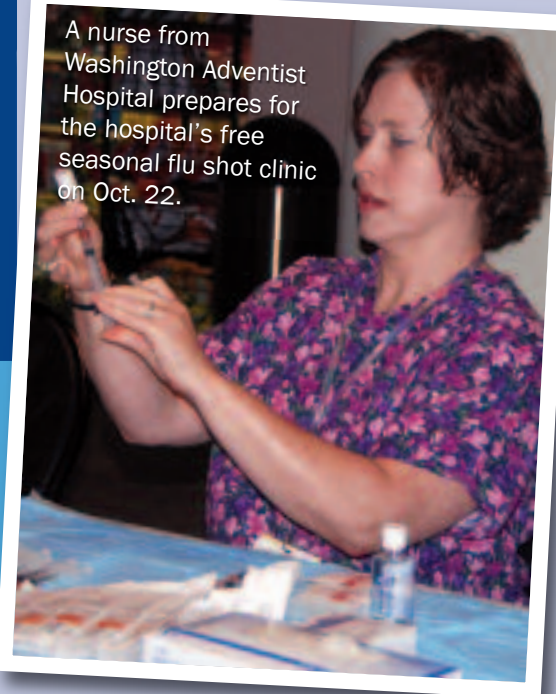
Hospitals with Adventist HealthCare in Maryland have been at the center of a campaign that began this fall to help the public take immediate protection against the flu with a seasonal flu shot and urges them to help stop the spread of the flu in the community through prevention.

Adventist HealthCare is the largest provider of seasonal flu shots in Montgomery County, outside of the county health department. This fall, through the “Help Stop the Flu” campaign, Adventist HealthCare’s Health and Wellness team will provide nearly 10,000 seasonal flu shots to the community through vaccination clinics at hospitals, churches, businesses, and other community locations.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park launched the 2009 “Help Stop the Flu” campaign with a roundtable event for the media featuring a panel of national and local experts in vaccines, pediatrics, emergency medicine, infection prevention, and community health.

It is estimated that seasonal influenza results in about 150,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths annually in the United States. A seasonal flu shot is the best defense against seasonal flu, according to many health experts.

Members of the hospitals’ Health and Wellness Departments vaccinated the com-



A nurse from Washington Adventist Hospital prepares for the hospital’s free seasonal flu shot clinic on Oct. 22.

munity at numerous clinics in October and November. Plans were in the works to start doing H1N1 clinics as soon as the vaccine became available from the government.

Last spring, H1N1 emerged as a public health threat around the world, resulting in more than 500 deaths in the U.S. through the summer. Vaccine for H1N1 has been slowly making its way to the public since late October. While the public waits for more information from the government on the H1N1 vaccine distribution, health officials are encouraging community members to obtain a seasonal flu shot as soon as possible to build immunities against other strains of flu that may circulate this fall and winter.

“The Help Stop the Flu campaign is a natural extension of Adventist HealthCare’s mission to improve the health of our community,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. “Our goal is to help the community understand their risks from flu and to take steps to stop the spread, including a seasonal flu vaccination.”

WTOP radio is Adventist HealthCare’s official partner for this year’s flu campaign. In October, Adventist HealthCare and WTOP offered approximately 400 free seasonal flu shots to the community through two clinics. The first took place on October 20, at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. The second, in partnership with Washington Adventist Hospital, took place at the Lee Building in downtown Silver Spring. Additional seasonal flu shot clinic dates and information about seasonal flu and H1N1 are available on the Help Stop the Flu Web site at www.helpstoptheflu.com

While seasonal flu shots are recom-

mended for everyone, they are strongly encouraged for those at highest risk for the flu, including:

- People over 50;
- Children between six months and two years;
- Women who are pregnant;
- Health care workers;
- Anyone living in a long-term care facility;
- Day care providers; and
- Anyone with chronic heart, lung, or kidney conditions, diabetes, or a weakened immune system.

One group that is particularly impacted by the flu is children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends seasonal flu shots for children between six months and 18 years. Children are also considered a high-risk group for H1N1.

“Children’s immune systems are less developed than adults’ so it is more difficult for children to fight off illnesses such as flu,” notes Dr. Gaurov Dayal, a pediatrician and chief medical officer for Adventist HealthCare. “Parents should know that flu shots provide an important layer of defense for children. It is also important to teach kids good hygiene such as hand washing and covering a cough.”

Children who have never had a seasonal flu shot should get two shots, spaced at least one month apart. Also, children with chronic condi-

tions such as asthma or diabetes should be a high priority for the vaccination.

In addition to a seasonal flu shot, experts also suggest a number of simple steps to help prevent the flu from spreading, such as:

- Frequent hand washing, especially after coughing, sneezing, and wiping or blowing the nose.
- Coughing into an elbow or sleeve instead of the hand.
- Staying home when ill, particularly with flu-like symptoms. This includes keeping children home from school when they are ill.
- Remaining hydrated and well-rested.

“We all play an important role in helping to stop the spread of flu—both seasonal and H1N1—in our community,” notes Judy Lichty, Regional Director of Health and Wellness for Adventist HealthCare.

“Everyone can get a seasonal flu shot now in addition to taking easy steps to stay healthy and keep our community healthy.”



Medical experts at a media roundtable in September discuss how to help the community stop the spread of influenza.

Flu Prevention Tips

President Obama declared a national emergency for H1N1 influenza in late October. It is important to take simple steps to help stop the spread of both seasonal and H1N1 flu. To help keep your community healthy, take these preventative measures:

- Wash your hands often, especially after coughing, sneezing, and wiping or blowing the nose.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to wash wrists, palms, back of hands, and under fingernails.
- Wash hands before preparing or eating food and after using the bathroom.
- When using hand sanitizer, apply product to the palm of the hand, rub hands together and make sure to cover all hand

surfaces, including fingers, until hands are dry.

- Cough and sneeze into the crease of your elbow.
- Use paper tissues when wiping or blowing your nose; throw tissues away after use.
- Stay away from crowded living and sleeping spaces, if possible.
- If you or your children are sick, stay home and avoid contact with other people to protect them from catching your illness.
- Drink adequate liquids to keep your body hydrated.

For more information on both seasonal and H1N1 influenza, vaccinations and clinics, visit www.helpstoptheflu.com

Campaña de hospitales adventistas para la prevención de la influenza

Los hospitales de Adventist HealthCare en Maryland han estado en el centro de una campaña que se inició este otoño para ayudar al público a buscar protección inmediata contra el resfriado con una vacuna tradicional y una apelación a detener la propagación del resfriado a través de la prevención.

Adventist HealthCare, aparte del Departamento de Salud, es el proveedor de vacunas contra el resfriado de más antigüedad en el condado de Montgomery. Este otoño, durante la campaña "Ayuda a Contener el Resfriado", el equipo de Salud y Bienestar de Adventist HealthCare proveerá cerca de 10.000 vacunas contra el resfriado en la comunidad a través de clínicas de vacunación en los hospitales, iglesias, negocios y otros locales en la comunidad.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital en Rockville y Washington Adventist Hospital en Takoma Park lanzaron la campaña "Ayuda a Contener el resfriado" para 2009, con una mesa redonda para los medios con un panel de expertos nacionales y locales en vacunaciones, pediatría, medici-

na de urgencia, prevención de infecciones y salud comunitaria.

Se calcula que la influenza común produce alrededor de 150.000 hospitalizaciones y 36.000 muertes anualmente en los Estados Unidos. Una vacuna es la mejor defensa contra el resfriado, de acuerdo con los expertos.

Los miembros del departamento de Salud y Bienestar, a través de clínicas, vacunaron en la comunidad durante los meses de octubre y noviembre. Hay planes para establecer clínicas contra el H1N1 tan pronto como la vacuna esté disponible.

Durante la primavera pasada H1N1 surgió como una amenaza contra la salud pública en todo el mundo, resultando en más de 500 muertes en los Estados Unidos durante el verano. La vacuna contra el H1N1 ha estado muy escasa para el público desde octubre. Dado que esta vacuna se tarda en llegar el gobierno anima a la gente a que se apliquen la vacuna regular tan pronto como les sea posible para fortalecer su sistema inmune contra otras variedades de resfriado que pueda circular durante el otoño y el invierno.

"La campaña Ayuda a Contener el Resfriado es una extensión natural de la misión de Adventist HealthCare para mejorar la salud de la comunidad", ha dicho William G. "Bill" Robertson, presidente y gerente general de Adventist HealthCare. "Nuestro blanco es ayudar a la comunidad a comprender el peligro del resfriado y tomar los pasos para contener su propagación, incluyendo las vacunas comunes".



Consejos para la prevención del resfriado

A finales de octubre el presidente Obama declaró una emergencia nacional contra la influenza H1N1. Es importante tomar estos pasos sencillos para ayudar a contener la propagación tanto del resfriado común como el resfriado H1N1. Para ayudar a tener una mejor salud se recomiendan estas medidas preventivas:

- Lavarse las manos frecuentemente, especialmente después de toser, estornudar y limpiarse o sonarse la nariz.
- Lavarse las manos con jabón y agua por 20 segundos. Asegurarse de lavar los puños, palmas y parte superior de las manos y debajo de las uñas.
- Lavarse las manos antes de preparar comida o antes de comer y después de ir al baño.
- Al usar gel de alcohol para manos aplicar el producto en la palma de la mano, frotar las manos y asegurarse de cubrir todas las superficies, incluyendo los dedos, hasta que las manos estén secas.
- Toser y estornudar en la cara interna del codo.
- Usar pañuelos de papel al limpiar o sonarse la nariz; tirar los pañuelos después de ser usados.
- Alejarse de zonas congestionadas, tanto como sea posible.
- Si usted o sus hijos están enfermos, quedarse en casa y evitar contacto con otra gente para protegerlos de su enfermedad.
- Tomar líquidos adecuados para mantener el cuerpo hidratado.



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

DECEMBER 2009

Baltimore Churches Participate in Health Study

Three Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Baltimore area were selected to participate in the Healthy Bodies/Healthy Souls study sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Center for Nutrition and the American Diabetes Association.

Joel Gittelsohn, PhD, MSc, associate professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is conducting



Health Advocates: Amber Sommers from Johns Hopkins University; A. Leah Scott, Health Ministries director for Allegheny East Conference; and Myrtle Evans, a member of the United in Christ church in Baltimore

the study to explore ways to prevent diabetes in African-Americans.

"We will partner with church health ministries to develop the best set of intervention measures that make sense for that church and their surrounding communities," Gittelsohn explains. Participants will also attend Project Power, a series of diabetes prevention workshops developed by the American Diabetes Association.

Raymonda Adams and Darla Adams from the United in Christ church, Dorothy Rose from Miracle Temple, and Damon Braxton and Hazel Peterson from the Cherry Hill church are leading the charge at their churches.

"The level of enthusiasm and participation from the Seventh-day Adventists has been enormous," Gittelsohn says. "They place a strong emphasis on a healthy lifestyle, and healthy eating is a part of that. If successful, I would love to see the Seventh-day Adventist churches disseminate their approach as well as their information [more widely]."

Myrtle Evans, who got her United in Christ church involved, believes it is a blessing. "This is an important step in sharing the wonderful health message God has given to our church," she says.

A. Leah Scott, MPH, AEC's Health Ministries director adds, "I am thrilled that Allegheny East Conference (AEC) has been invited to participate in a study that could help reduce the morbidity and mortality rates of diabetes, the disease that affects the African-American population with great disproportion."

Prison Ministry Honors Fourth Street Pastor

AEC's Prison Ministry Federation recently named Andrew Harewood (right)—pastor of the Fourth Street-Friendship church in Washington, D.C.—"Pastor of the Year." In addition to pastoring the church and shepherding many of its outreach ministries, Harewood—a husband and father—also serves as chaplain at the Pentagon.

He and other volunteers conduct a yearly revival at the Western Correctional Institute (WCI) in Cumberland, Md. He has performed several baptisms there, and when pastoral or military duties precluded his ability to be on hand, he commissioned the church's first elder, Louis Williams, to conduct the baptisms.

"We nominated Pastor Harewood for the award because he has truly made it possible for us to serve in this ministry by encouraging us to lead," Williams noted.

The award was presented at the federation's annual banquet for volunteers, hosted by the Bay Area Prison Ministry Team.—Edith E. Tucker



Sabbath Calendar Available to Share



Members seeking an unobtrusive way to share the Sabbath message with friends, family, and co-workers may be interested in the *Beauty and Truth* calendar (left). Published by Ronald Cho, special assistant to the conference president, the calendar features beautiful nature scenes and five articles on the biblical truth of the seventh-day Sabbath. Each week the calendar uses a Sabbath symbol that encourages readers to experience the Christ-centered Sabbath. For more information, visit sabbathcalendar.org.

500 Attend Women's Ministries Conference

Some 500 women from across the Allegheny East Conference and beyond, attended the Women's Ministries biennial conference in Atlantic City, N.J. Themed "Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb," the weekend featured inspirational music, fervent prayer, and eight power-packed and Holy Ghost-inspired sermons.

The conference, led by Women's Ministries director Minnie McNeil, featured 16 seminars, including "Making Relationships for Christ"; "Three Angels, One

Mark, and You"; and "Soaking in Prayer With the Master."

"We have feedback from women who experienced physical, mental, and spiritual renewal and are seeking ways to become more actively involved in their churches and communities," said McNeil. "Others gained new and healthy friendships and are keeping in touch."

Other highlights included community service and the involvement of young women whose concurrent "Fierce, Fabulous, and Faithful" retreat drew 40.



Guest speaker Augusta Olaore from Nigeria preached powerfully about the importance of dipping one's troubles in the blood of the Lamb.

Conference Members "M-o-v-v-e" for Better Health

The Health Ministries department at Allegheny East Conference is encouraging members to take better care of their health.



Celeste Boller and Cassandra Freeman, members of Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J., exercise to improve their health.

The department designed the Allegheny East Conference on the M-o-v-v-e With BuddyCheck8 program to provide tools and motivation for constituents to better their health.

"This started at the conference's camp meeting," explains A. Leah Scott, MPH, Health Ministries director. "We want everyone focused on healing our bodies so that we can be the best God would have us be."

The Health Ministries team wanted to keep support and motivation going throughout the year. Therefore, they paired the NEW-START program's eight principles for optimal health (nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, fresh air, rest, and trust in God) with accountability and encouraged members throughout the conference to get involved.

"Our mission is to support each

other in making healthier choices mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially, and to understand that we are our brother's keeper," Scott says. "With BuddyCheck8 you can call your buddy on the eighth of the month or at 8 o'clock every day and encourage them to make healthier choices."

For more information or to get your church involved, visit myalleghenyeast.com, and click on Ministries, then Health Ministries.

Allegheny East Exposé is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference ■ PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 ■ Phone: (610) 326-4610 ■ myalleghenyeast.com ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham ■ Communication Director, Robert Booker ■ Editor, Taashi Rowe

Hundreds Attend Inaugural Leadership Summit

Several hundred local church leaders attended Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) first Leadership Summit in Charleston, W.Va. The three-day event, which included general and breakout sessions as well as worship and praise, was designed to help participants encounter Jesus, change their perspective on what the local church can accomplish, and become effective leaders in their churches.

"We are trying to change the whole culture here in our conference," said Fredrick Russell, AWC president. "We recognize that in order to develop healthy churches in our conference, which is our unapologetic aim, we

have to grow healthy leaders, and that will have a direct impact on growing healthy churches."

He noted that one of the goals is to identify emergent leaders, particularly young adults, who are ready to take more active leadership roles in their churches.

Speakers included Wesley Knight, DMin, pastor of the Decatur (Ga.) church, who presented seminars titled "Playing Safe is Risky" and "Leading Yourself to Lead Others"; Jesse Wilson, DMin, a professor at Oakwood



Fredrick Russell, president of the Allegheny West Conference, says healthy leaders can grow healthy churches.



University (Ala.), who led "Becoming the Leader God Called You to Be" and "Eight Things Every Leader Should Know"; and Russell, who spoke about "Leadership From the Bottom Up."

Allison Wiles, an elder and clerk at the Rock of Faith church in Pittsburgh, found the weekend inspiring. "It showed me just why God called me to be a leader," she says. "I'm energized and motivated to go back to the marketplace to prepare others for the kingdom."

Jeneé Walker, MD, Health and Family Life director for the Berea church in Charleston, concurs. "I leave the conference excited and empowered to be used of God, sincerely dedicating my all to help our church grow."



At the end of the summit, conference pastors anointed and prayed for God's blessings on the leaders.

Pastoral Retreat Emphasizes Balance

With the theme “Striking the Balance: How We Lead, How We Worship, How We Live,” the pastors of AWC gathered for their biannual pastors retreat. The three-day event gave pastors an opportunity to worship, share, and learn how to balance leading mission-driven churches while caring for their health, spirituality, and family.

Presenters included Alex Royes, pastor of Westminster Good Samaritan church (Calif.); Gary Wimbish, vice president for ministry at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.; Joel Freeman, PhD, of the Freeman Institute; and Donna Goodman-Green, a health trainer. The pastors returned home revived and better equipped to strike the balance needed in their lives.



Joel Freeman, PhD, talks about how to deal with difficult people.



Walter Castro, Multicultural Ministries director



Choong Hwan Lee, senior pastor of the Worthington Central Korean church, in Worthington, Ohio



Derrick Moffett, pastor of Hilltop Community Praise Center in Columbus, Ohio



Greg Jackson (left), pastor of the Bethel church in Cleveland, and Lloydston Burton, pastor of the Emmanuel and Maranatha churches in Cincinnati, Ohio



Gary Wimbish, a pastor and vice president for ministry at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., presents a sermon titled “Servant of the Word.”

PHOTOS BY BRYANT TAYLOR

The Person God Uses

A person is often inclined to assume that God cannot use him or her because they have no special talent or ability. That, however, is far from the truth. God uses committed men and women—“talented” or not!

Actually, the only ability God requires is availability! When God finds a person willing to be used, there is no limit to what He can do through them. A wise person once said, “God can do a lot with a little providing He has all there is of it.” Ellen White, another very wise person, wrote it this way, “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God” (*Our High Calling*, p.151).

God works through people—committed people. That’s how He pours out His inexhaustible resources to meet the world’s needs. In fact, it is precisely here that many a person with special abilities fails; they count on *their* abilities instead of God’s. And their abilities, instead of being a help to God, get in the way and hinder the work God wants to do through them. God uses consecrated talent. But He also uses the person who is available—able or not—rather than the one who is able, but uncommitted.

As you wrap up this year, and look to the coming year, make the decision to be available for God’s use and see what wonders He will accomplish through you!



Rob Vandeman
President

Eastern Shore Convocation Uplifts Members

Chesapeake Conference members who recently converged at Eastern Shore Junior Academy in Sudlersville, Md., for the annual convocation were treated to a three-course feast—biblical preaching and Bible study, music, and a noon meal.

George Rice, PhD, a retired pastor and former associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate at the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s world headquarters, led the group in an in-depth study of the book of Numbers.

During the worship hour, Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, preached a powerful sermon about trusting in Jesus.

Soprano Karla Rivera and tenor Javier Gonzalez of



Kleyton Feitosa, Ministries Development director and evangelism coordinator, welcomes members to the convocation.



the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., and pianist Ingrid Forss from New Jersey, provided music during the morning services and performed a mini-concert following the luncheon. The day also included programming for children and youth, as well as workshops for Children’s Ministries leaders.

Eastern Shore Junior Academy staff and local organizers earned the appreciation of many for their gracious hospitality that made the day special for those who gathered to worship and fellowship.

Linthicum Church Honors 7-Year-Old Boy

On a recent Sabbath, the Linthicum (Md.) church honored 7-year-old Conrad Heinrich for taking care of his parents in times of emergency. Conrad (pictured with his parents and younger brother, Leo) received a commemorative plaque, signed by Pastor David Glass and Jack Brown, head elder.

A couple months ago, Conrad and his dad, Perry, were taking a Sabbath afternoon bike ride in their west Baltimore neighborhood. At some point, Perry headed down a hill ahead of Conrad, lost control of his bike, and crashed. The crash left Perry unconscious. A passerby stopped to help. Conrad calmly recited his home telephone number to the kind stranger, who used a cell phone to reach Conrad's mom, Michelle. Fortunately, Perry was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. He suffered a broken arm that required surgery to repair, but managed to avoid serious injury.

Conrad has a history of staying calm under pressure, says Pastor Glass. When Conrad was just 3 years old, his mom fell down the last three stairs leading to the basement, leaving her with a crushed elbow and a broken ankle. Michelle called out to Conrad to bring her the cordless phone. The small boy pushed a kitchen chair up to the wall so he could reach the phone resting in its cradle, and took it to his mom who called 911. When the paramedics arrived, Conrad let them in and led them to where Michelle lay in the basement. Needless to say, the family is proud of their little hero.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Men of Faith Affirmed at Annual Conference

Four years ago, three men with a vision formed the Maryland Men of Faith ministry for those who desire to live as men of God and study the Scriptures together. Arnold Moore and Bobby Smith of the Atholton church, and Tony Williams, a member of the Baltimore First church, generated interest in their Howard County, Maryland-

based churches and planned a one-day conference. That first meeting drew 30 men, and, each year since, the group has grown.

This year 125 men representing 24 churches spent a sunny Sabbath at Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., exploring the story of Elijah as found in 1 Kings 19. Keynote speaker Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, compared the cave Elijah was in to our own "caves," which he defined as anything that separates us from God. Weigley told of the power of Jesus to bring us out of any cave.

Men of Faith: Steve Straub and Rick Perez, members of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., and Mark Mashburn of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., were among the 125 conference attendees.



PHOTO BY TONY WILLIAMS

Alden Ho, an ordained minister from Michigan, shared how he survived a plane crash in which the pilot was killed instantly. He spoke of yielding to God's plan for our lives.

"Many men shared with me the need for this event," says Williams. "They mentioned how it refreshed them, encouraged them, and challenged them to go home and be more about God's business."

Breakout seminars imparted practical strategies for getting through tough times, deepening prayer life, and improving marriage and family life.

The men have a heart for ministry that reaches beyond their lives. That is why the group collected an offering of more than \$900 to help fund a building project in Mozambique.

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Making the Holidays Meaningful

I invite you to take a few moments and think of some of the common greetings, phrases, or clichés that you may hear as you go into this Christmas season. Do they still have real meaning to you, or have they been so overused that you repeat them without a conscious acknowledgement of the words? Are there common traditions that you keep but you can't remember why? Have they just become something else on your holiday to-do list that has to be accomplished?

My challenge for you this month is to think differently about the Christmas season this year. Spend a little time deciding how to celebrate without becoming so busy that you are glad when it is over. Maybe you could simplify your holidays by focusing more on service activities, and traveling less so you can enjoy being home more. Whatever changes it may mean for you and your family, I encourage you to *intentionally* celebrate the season this year.



Sheri Tydings
Principal

Class of 2010 "Survives" Annual Outdoor Trip

Thirty-four Highland View Academy (HVA) seniors and three sponsors recently packed up their tents, rain gear, food, and a few miscellaneous comforts of home and headed to Fort Frederick State Park in Big Pool, Md., for the annual senior survival weekend. Although seniors did not have to make their own shelter, the weekend still lacked all the comforts of home. They cooked on open fires, completed a variety of activities that tested their will and creativity—and perhaps most significantly—gave up cell phones for the duration of the event!

Laura Yeary, a class sponsor, said, "This was my first senior survival trip, and I was inspired."



The Class of 2010 endured a wet weekend that tested their survival skills and renewed their spirituality.



Devin Abshire attempts to dry his rain-soaked socks.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY TONG

Senior Katy Yeary shared her mother's feeling of inspiration, adding, "It was a great bonding time with my classmates, and the spiritual atmosphere was amazing."

Though wet tents, soggy clothes, and a couple injuries accompanied the weekend, the campers maintained a spirit of determination and an attitude of optimism. Several students expressed that even though it was a very wet weekend, they would certainly do it all over again. Filled with spiritual growth and class bonding, students not only "survived" the weekend, but thrived through the experience.

Students Inspired to Lead Through Their Stories

Each year students around the Columbia Union are invited to attend Spiritual Academy Leadership Training (SALT), a program that grows student leaders. This year's event was held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., and drew Student Association officers, class officers, and other Seventh-day Adventist academy leaders.

With the theme "Leading Through Your Story" and under the mentorship of keynote speaker, erry Johnsson, WGTS chaplain, stu-

dents not only gained knowledge, but also the inspiration to share their stories. A master storyteller, "Pastor Terry" inspired students repeatedly with his testimonies of how God used "an ordinary man" to accomplish great things.

"At the conclusion of the last meeting, Pastor Terry asked those who were truly committed to being used by God to come forward," said HVA principal Sheri Tydings. "It was an absolute inspiration and joy to see over 100 young people walk forward with decided commitment!"

In addition to learning about leadership in general sessions, HVA attendees had ample opportunities to network with other student leaders from around the union through worshipping, eating, singing, playing, and sharing together.

HVA added another avenue for growing student leaders this year—a leadership class. Though the class meets in the evenings and competes with other activities, the enthusiasm for the course was so great that not all those interested



In a new class offered this school year, Sergio Manente, pastor of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., is teaching students the importance of principled leadership.

were able to enroll this first year.

Led by Sergio Manente, pastor of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., students are learning practical, positive strategies to becoming great influencers and change agents.



These student leaders represented Highland View Academy during the Spiritual Academy Leadership Training weekend.

Freshmen Research Mushrooms

Freshmen taking Environmental Science have been involved in an in-depth study of mycology, as part of a continuing project funded by the Toyota Tapestry Foundation and directed by science teacher Ophelia Barizo.

Early in the semester, students learned not only in the classroom, but also by going on mushroom forays. They later hosted a forum for parents and other students to see the results of their research.

Hope Wootten, one of the participants, is enjoying the project. "I went on a foray recently, and we even found one of the glow-in-the-dark mushrooms. That was really cool," she said.



Hope Wootten and Molly Gavin share their findings on local mushrooms at a recent forum for students and parents.

CALENDAR

December

- 4 Messiah Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Highland View Church
- 13 ACT, 8 a.m.
- 16-18 Semester Exams
- 18-Jan. 3 Christmas Vacation

January

- 4 Second Semester Begins
- 16 Warren Miller Film Fundraiser, 7 p.m.
HVA Library
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
- 24 Art Appreciation Day
- 27-31 Home Leave

Highlander is published in the Visitor by the Highland View Academy ■ 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 Phone: (301) 739-8480 ■ Fax: (301) 733-4770 ■ highlandviewacademy.com Principal and Editor, Sheri Tydings

Setting Priorities Among Chaos

Have you ever been in a situation where there were so many things taking place around you that you were not sure what you should do next? We tend to suffer from information overload, and we sometimes need to take a step back, review our priorities, and focus on what is most important. Today as we look around the world, we are confronted with endless chaos and information on politics, wars, economics, health, and religion.

There is an old saying, "jack of all trades and master at none." What are you master of? Are you master of the art of arguing doctrinal minutia, which will only be known once we get to heaven? Are you master of the art of pointing out other people's flaws? How about mastering the art of knowing how best to reach the lost around us and point them to Jesus? The one command Jesus gave us before He ascended to heaven was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19).

I think reaching others is something we need to master and perfect. To master anything requires much time and dedication. Every person has different abilities and talents that can be uniquely utilized for reaching others. Thanks to the continued faithfulness of members, many resources are available within your church or conference, which can help you become a master at soul winning. Why don't you decide to master something new today?



Victor Zill
Secretary-Treasurer

Women "Shower" New Mothers in Need

The highlight of the Mountain View Conference Women's Ministries retreat was a baby shower for women in need. Each year the women choose to support a mission project. This year attendees brought newborn baby items to support a ministry at the Elkins (W.Va.) church. The church sends care packages to new mothers in need at a local hospital.

The women donated hand-stitched blankets, diapers, layette clothing, Walmart gift cards, and much more (right).



Lori Sipes and Josie Sprigg from Berkeley Springs, W.Va., participate in a baby shower game at the conference's Women's Ministries retreat.

Upcoming Events

Pathfinder Ski Weekend

Is your Pathfinder club interested in a fun-filled weekend? Join Mountain View Pathfinders January 22-24 at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Hut-tonsville, W.Va., for supper, vespers, and a full day of fun Sabbath programs. There will be skiing at Timberline Ski Resort on Sunday. For more information, call Jane Browning at (304) 422-4581.

Youth Ski Weekend

All youth are invited to test their "endurance" at the Youth Ski Weekend at Valley Vista Adventist Center February 5-7. This spiritually-uplifting weekend, themed "Endurance," will feature skiing on Sunday. For more information, call Jane Browning at (304) 422-4581.

Parkersburg Church Hosts Area's First CHIP



The Parkersburg (W.Va.) church recently completed the first Coronary Health Improvement Program (CHIP) to be held in West Virginia. Developed by Hans Diehl, DrHSc, MPH, FACN, CN, of Loma Linda, Calif., CHIP is a four-week, lifestyle-changing program.

Ten people graduated from the program and learned how to reverse heart disease and diabetes through diet and exercise. Overall

there was a 13 percent drop in cholesterol, 12 percent drop in blood pressure, 15 percent drop in glucose, and 11 pounds of weight lost.

"I was thinking [CHIP] would be so hard, but it really wasn't," said Dayne Thomas, a Parkersburg church member. "I didn't have cravings and was able to follow the recipes, and they tasted good."

The graduation ceremony closed with a phone call from

Several people are on the way to achieving healthier lifestyles after attending a program at the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. They include (front row, left to right) Susan Stout-Ianniciello, Sharon Jefferson, Connie Semones, Amy Fullmer, and Dayne Thomas; (back row, left to right) Peter Ianniciello, Kevin Howell, Gregg Semones, and Richard Fullmer. Not pictured: Judy Carlson-Peck

Diehl, who reiterated the program's slogan, "We are healthy by choice, not chance," and encouraged graduates to continue to choose to be healthy.

"There has been wonderful feedback on this program," shared Monica Zill, assistant director of Parkersburg church's CHIP. "Everyone is so pleased with their results and are committed to changing their lifestyle. We are really excited about having ongoing alumni meetings and are planning a follow-up program in February."

To bring CHIP to your church, contact Daniel Morikone, conference Health Ministries director, at (304) 422-4581.

Math Field Day Tests Students' Knowledge

Students from Mountain View Conference schools recently gathered at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., to participate in the second annual Mountain View Conference Math Field Day.

The first challenge given to the students was to use measurement and geometry skills, two sheets of paper, a few toothpicks, a few straws, some string, and a few other items, to construct a container that would protect a raw egg from breaking in a 25-foot drop onto concrete. Students worked in teams on the task. Of the 34 containers dropped, three were successful in protecting the egg from cracking.



Parkersburg Academy student Levi Webb uses math skills to devise a container to protect a raw egg from a 25-foot fall.

Students also participated in timed computation drills. The math event of the day included timed problem solving, which involved students working in pairs to solve as many higher-level, critical-thinking math problems as possible.

The conference's Office of Education sponsored the event to promote interest and skills in mathematics.

Mountain View EVENTS

December

- 14 Executive Committee
- 24 Conference Office Closed

January

- 22-24 Pathfinder Winter Camp
- 25 Executive Committee

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SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

DECEMBER 2009

When Our Students Pray

Can you imagine firing an academy chaplain? It is nothing short of controversial. This was the very thing we at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) were considering. Almost immediately the battle lines were drawn. As the situation was starting to go from bad to worse, two women from the community stepped forward and offered to raise \$30,000 to help save the chaplain position.

The next day, the principal called all of the students into the cafeteria and explained the school's financial situation and the need to cut the chaplain position. The students were encouraged to get together in groups and pray for the school and the staff affected by the impending pay cuts. The young people poured their hearts out to God asking Him to find a way to keep the chaplain on campus.

While the students were praying, a new student registered for school, and over the next few days, two more students came in to register. Within a week of the students praying, the Ohio Conference Finance Committee approved the money needed to keep the school family together.

The students of Mount Vernon Academy saw a miracle unfold, and they were able to recognize the movement of the hand of God on their behalf. If we want to keep our youth in our churches, we have to keep them connected and give them opportunities to put God to the test.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

Technology Aids Music

The music program, an important part of MVA student life, currently offers choir, band (pictured), handbells, piano, instrumental instruction, and courses in music appreciation and music theory. Any student, regardless of their entry level or skills in music, has the opportunity to learn, experience, and enjoy music in any of these areas.

The choral program and handbell groups have been significant in blessing those outside the campus. Both the Echoliers (the honors chamber choir) and Cascabel (a five-octave, handbell choir) tour locally and in neighboring states.

The music department is working on ways to improve the learning process in the instrumental area. In order to do this, the department is working on upgrading current computer practice rooms and installing new ones. Three stations are already running, and the goal is to reach eight workstations where the students can enjoy instrumental practice with the aid of a computer. Licenses have been acquired, and students are beginning to work with Smart Music software, an individual coaching and practice instructional aid.

There are more objectives to achieve in the coming years, and sponsors and alumni are encouraged to visit MVA's Music Department and join in helping this

project. With God's help, the music faculty will continue striving to achieve great results through a committed program in music education that proudly considers its past and confidently looks toward the future.—David Nino



Volleyball Team Raises Breast Cancer Awareness

Recently Mount Vernon Academy students realized a need to join in the fight against breast cancer. In honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness month, MVA's Girls' Volleyball team hosted a special game to raise money to support breast cancer research and find a cure. Donations were accepted as admission to the game, and snacks and T-shirts were sold to raise money for the cause. Students and

staff were extremely excited about this game and opportunity. Announcements were not only made in school assemblies, but also over local radio airwaves!

On game day, everyone at MVA wore pink. During school hours, everyone wore pink polo shirts. After classes all the students quickly changed into pink T-shirts, shoes, pants, and anything else they could find. Some even colored their hair pink! Everyone wanted to give full support.

Upon entering the gymnasium, fans could see that everything was pink. Both MVA and the opposing teams were wearing pink shirts, making it appear as if everyone was one big team. And they were. Both teams came together to have fun, play a game, and support a cause.

"We all know someone who has



MVA's junior varsity team get ready to play.

been affected by breast cancer, and we want to support them," said Emiley Evans ('12), a varsity player from MVA. "Even though we lost, we all had a good time. We were playing with each other and supporting a good cause."—*Joanna Moses ('12)*



Tatianna Dunn ('10) and Jenha Jones ('12) wait for their team member to serve the ball.

Julie Montgomery ('10), Michaela Stevenson ('10), Ashley Evans ('10), Jenha Jones ('12), and Emiley Evans ('12) played enthusiastically to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research.



Coach Joe Lee strategizes with the junior varsity volleyball team.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- December**
- 15-17 Semester Exams
 - 19 Christmas Concert
 - 20-Jan. 3 Christmas Break
- January**
- 11-16 Student Week of Prayer
 - 17 Supper Club
 - 24 SAT Test
 - 28-Feb. 7 Mission Trip
- February**
- 3-7 Home Leave
 - 21 Student Association Banquet
 - 22 Service Focus Begins
 - 28-Mar. 3 Senior Trip

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Witnessing is the True Purpose of the Church

Witnessing for Christ is not something that requires a university degree. It is not an idea created by man. Jesus taught His followers to be witnesses because a complete Christian experience cannot exist without witnessing. Sharing the truth is the practical result of believing. One cannot be complete without the other.

Witnessing is one of the great doctrines of Christianity. A personal encounter with Jesus, our Savior and Lord, is the basis and preparation needed to witness and evangelize. It is Christ in all His beauty, splendor, and love presented through the power of the Holy Spirit, who will draw man toward repentance, confession, and a life of complete surrender to the One who died for him.

The question is how to witness? God has promised, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you," (Ps. 32:8, NIV). Ellen White also counsels, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow me'" (*Christian Service*, p. 119).

As Christians, we must get in touch with the people in our community in order to bring them to Jesus. Use your common, everyday interactions with people you meet as an opportunity to share Christ's love. Let's make friends without participating in their sins. We can relate to people and open the doors of their hearts with a sincere smile, a small courtesy, a kind word, or even a simple "hello."



José H. Cortés
President

Plainfield Spanish Church Retires Mortgage

After only nine years, members of the Plainfield Spanish church made their final payment on the loan for their church building. This accomplishment was especially meaningful for members because they spent several years renting different facilities.

The Plainfield Spanish church was organized in 1985 but members were not able to truly call one place home until November 1, 2000. Jorge Garcia, pastor at the time the building was purchased, said it was the

Lord who opened the door for them to purchase the building they rented for eight years.

They previously approached the owners about buying the building, but were told that the congregation was not interested in selling. In 2000 Pastor Garcia began praying for God to lead them to have a church home. He had been praying for two weeks when, unexpectedly, he received a phone call from the leader of the congregation they were renting from asking if they were interested in buying the building. They of course said yes, and, since purchasing the building, the church have seen a steady growth in their membership. Under the leadership of Charles Gonzalez, membership now stands at 119.

At a recent celebration, the church was dedicated and José H. Cortés, conference president, preached the dedication sermon. Previous pastors Jorge Garcia and Noel Gonzalez were present for the dedication, along with conference officers.



Pastor Charles Gonzalez (left) of the Plainfield Spanish church and Modesto Vazquez, vice president for finance for the New Jersey Conference, burn the church's mortgage note. The loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund has been paid in full after only nine years.

New Software Enhances Student Learning

Students enrolled in grades K-8 at New Jersey Conference schools are utilizing a powerful tool to help them seamlessly integrate learning



Malou Saint-Ulysee, principal of the Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield, works with Dillon Deebrah who is using a new software program that enhances learning.

traditional classroom subjects and popular application software.

According to kto8.com, the software, called K to the 8th POWER, helps students develop key 21st century skills and master popular application software. The Kto8 lessons teach computer skills and apply them to core reading, writing, and math objectives.

Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield began using the software during the last school year. At the time of the school's accreditation visit, the evaluation team and conference administration were so impressed with the software and the improved academic results, that the administration voted to provide the software for every K-8 student in the conference at no cost to the schools or students beginning with the 2009-10 academic year.

"K to the 8th POWER taught me to work with [Microsoft] Excel,

PowerPoint, and Word," explains Dillon Deebrah, a ninth-grade student at Meadow View. "It was a fun experience because I like computers, and it was easy. You really learn a lot when you use this program."

Evan Gramajo, another ninth-grade student at Meadow View, says, "K to the 8th POWER helped me understand my homework and gave a good explanation [of] the work and projects I was assigned."

Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent for the New Jersey Conference, says the software is a great example of the conference's commitment to helping Seventh-day Adventist education best serve every student.

"This new software also helps our teachers increase student learning without increased workload," he says. "Parents are excited as well, because they can now track the progress of their children online."

Wayne, Paterson Churches Minister at YMCA

Edee Galvan, a member of the Wayne church, knows that going to church on Sabbath is not always an option for some who yearn to know more about Jesus' saving grace. So she and Juliet Harty of Allegheny East Conference's Paterson church, have brought church to the YMCA in Paterson.

The ministry began six years ago when Harty met a YMCA resident who requested Bible studies. Galvan became involved when Harty appealed for teachers. During those early Bible studies, residents were invited to church services. However, some wouldn't visit the churches because of physical problems or because they somehow felt unworthy.

Both churches are now partnering to hold Sabbath services and Bible studies at the YMCA. The Bible studies are held on Monday nights, and the church service is

held on Saturday evenings followed by a nutritious fellowship meal.

Those who attend consistently "see God's love extended to them in practical, tangible ways," says Galvan. "It is also unique that this ministry involves members from two different conferences."

This work has yielded results. After a recent baptism, Marion Sturdivant and Ernest Cyffie joined the Wayne church, while Cecil Hallway, and Kenneth Wiggins joined the Paterson church. Hallway is now a deacon.

Galvan encourages others to start or join outreach ministries. "Although there are always rough patches and disappointments ... [sometimes] we're just called to plant the seeds, not necessarily harvest the crop," she shares. In this case they've done both.

—Evelyn A. Nazarro-Sigler



A ministry at the YMCA in Paterson has yielded new members. Old and new members of the Wayne and Paterson churches include Efrain Avila; Keith Grant; Ernest Caffey; Paulo Macena, pastor of the Wayne church; Marion Sturdivant; Juliet Harty; Edee Galvan; and Jim Creighton.

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 H. Cortés ■ Editor, Jim Greene

Worthington Spanish Group Organized as Church

After 15 years of dedicated and faithful work for the Spanish-speaking people in the city, the Worthington Spanish group was organized as a church. The Worthington Spanish congregation began as an outgrowth of the Worthington English-speaking church. As they grew, they began meeting in the building once occupied by the English church.

On a recent Sabbath, all 160 members gathered to offer praise and gratitude to the Lord for the great things He has done for the Spanish work in Ohio. At the celebration, Felix Kelmes, a founding member, presented a history of the church. Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, challenged members to continue faithfully in their mission.

After the membership transfers were read, the Pathfinders led a march from the Worthington English church to what is now the Spanish church. Then Hubert Cisneros, Ohio Conference executive secretary, officially welcomed them into the sisterhood of churches.—Orlando Newball



PHOTO BY JOSE VALDEZ

NEWS

Barberton/Medina Practice Year-Round Evangelism

Rather than hold a one-time evangelistic series, the Barberton and Medina churches have engaged in a series of evangelism activities this year. "Since evangelism is a way of life in authentic Christianity rather than an event scheduled, we have been intentionally evangelizing in our communities in a variety of ways, including giving members an incentive to invite friends to church," Pastor Chester Hitchcock (left) shares. As a result, both churches have welcomed several new members in 2009.



are following up with additional contacts. The series is the culmination of a yearlong emphasis on member-led small groups.

Clyde/Norwalk/Sandusky District Host Evangelism Series

Pastor Marius Marton held a two-week seminar that brought one decision for baptism. Two others are studying and have expressed their desire to attend the church. In addition, three former members have returned.

Newark Series Yields 15 Baptisms

The Newark church recently completed an evangelistic series, titled "Revelation of Hope," that attracted more than 120 visitors. Led by Pastor Tom Hughes, the series yielded 15 baptisms (some pictured above). Several more are preparing for baptism, and members



Mount Vernon Hill Welcomes New Pastor

Fred Shoemaker and his wife, Heidi (below), were recently welcomed as the new pastoral couple of the Mount Vernon Hill church. He holds a master's degree in American History and a doctorate in philosophy from Ohio State University, where he was teaching when God turned his life in a different direction. After his 1994 baptism at the Worthington church, Shoemaker went on to pursue a Master of Divinity at Andrews University (Mich.). He has served in pastoral ministry for the past 11 years in Alaska, Minnesota, and, most recently, South Dakota.

Upcoming Training to Help Churches Reach Lost People, Transform Communities



Is your congregation really helping people get serious about God or just going through the same routines that it has for years? Is your local church bringing in significant numbers of lost people? Is it transforming the community where you are located?

The upcoming Ohio Ministry University is designed to help lay leaders and pastors find good answers rooted in Scripture, Seventh-day Adventist heritage, and sound research.

Speakers for the 2010 Ohio Ministry University include Allan Martin, PhD, a seminary professor at Andrews University; Milton Adams,



director of the North American Division's Simple Church Project; and Ryan Bell, senior pastor of the Hollywood (Calif.) church. The event will be held February 6 and 7 in Dublin, Ohio.

Martin (left), who has served as a pastor and family counselor, will speak about "Helping People Get Serious About God." For more than a decade, he has guided the development of God Encounters, a spiritual retreat that has made a difference in the lives of thousands of young people.

Bell (below) will lead a seminar titled "Transforming Your Community." His local church in Los Angeles is impacting affordable housing, healthcare, and community organizing in an urban neighborhood, as well as providing young



adults interested in music, cinema, and the arts opportunities to bring Christ's values into contemporary culture.

Adams (above) will present "Simple Church for the Not-Churched" based on a pilot project he is directing in Orlando, Fla., and will bring to the Ohio Conference. He is a resource person for the North American Division and coaches house churches and similar groups across the country. He served as a pastor in the Texas Conference for several years.

For more information, contact your pastor, or call the Ohio Conference at (740) 397-4665, ext. 165. —Monte Sahlin

Historical Notes: Adventism in Ohio from 1920-1947

Bessie Mount, an Ohio church schoolteacher, was among the early missionaries to go to China in 1920. She became fluent in Chinese and started the first Sabbath School there.



In 1930 Fred Pickett (pictured with his wife, Ada) was the first Adventist missionary to Cambodia. He joined the church while he was a student at Ohio University in Athens. He went on to study for the ministry at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University in Mich.), then went to Southeast Asia.

In 1939 Worthington Foods Company was founded at Harding Hospital in Worthington. It eventually became the leader in texturized vegetable protein manufacturing and purchased most of the other Adventist health food companies in the United States, including Loma Linda Foods. From 1970 to 1982, Worthington Foods belonged to Miles Laboratories, one of the largest food and drug companies in

the world. In 1982 it returned to Adventist investors and management until it was more recently sold to the Kellogg Company.

In 1947 the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-supporting Institutions was formed in Cincinnati with 25 charter members. It is known today as Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (or ASI) with an annual convention that attracts thousands of Adventist owners of small businesses and leaders of nonprofit organizations.—Monte Sahlin

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Pennsylvania Pen

DECEMBER 2009

Give the Greatest Gift

Remember how you felt as a child at Christmas as you eagerly anticipated and wondered what Christmas gifts you might receive? It is that time of year again when many of us are involved in planning gifts. Sometimes gift giving can seem almost like an obligation or a duty. Other times it brings joy to select a gift that expresses our deep care for a special loved one. We look forward to watching them open it and delight in our affection.

This month many of our churches are collecting gifts for humanitarian organizations, such as Hope for Humanity or ADRA, as a seasonal expression of giving in the name of Christ to those in need. While you and I may participate in these projects through our home churches, I invite you to also give a gift throughout the whole year—the gift of Jesus.

The greatest gift we can ever give is the gift of hope we have received from Jesus Christ in these last days, and the gift of eager anticipation of His soon return. In 1 Corinthians 11:23, the apostle Paul says, "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you" (NKJV). Pray that in 2010 God will give Himself through you to share Jesus Christ with at least one person.



Ray Hartwell
President

Eben-Ezer Plant Blossoms Into Church

What is now known as the Eben-Ezer church in Harrisburg, started as a Saturday afternoon Bible study group at Alex Ruiz's home. As the group studied and grew, so did their desire to reach the Hispanic population of Harrisburg. Soon members found a small

place to rent, stepped out in faith, and the Eben-Ezer church plant was born. Ariel Roldan led the group, with help from Jose Rivera and his family, who moved from York to Harrisburg to help them reach the Hispanic community. Servio Leger currently leads the group.

Since they began as a small group, they continue to use the small-group method to grow their congregation. They offered a two-month training program for those who wanted to lead small groups, which resulted in three small-group meetings in the homes of members. As part of their ongoing efforts to share the gospel, they invited Pastor Rubén Ramos, director of Multilingual Ministries for the Columbia Union, to lead an evangelistic series that resulted in several baptisms.

After four years, they outgrew their facility. That is when the Harrisburg First church granted the group use of their facility for worship. Harrisburg First also provided speakers for their services and helped with their church board meetings.

Recently Ray Hartwell, president of the Pennsylvania Conference, officially organized the growing group into the Eben-Ezer Seventh-day Adventist Church. They are the conference's newest congregation.



A member of the newly organized Eben-Ezer church in Harrisburg signs the church's charter.

Delegates Discuss Mission at Triennial Constituency

Below are scenes from the Pennsylvania Conference's 13th Triennial Session held at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Delegates representing 99 churches and nearly 10,500 members were present.



Delegates affirmed the faithfulness and commitment of the conference administration by voting them back into office. Pictured are executive secretary Bary Tryon and his wife, Lilly; president Ray Hartwell and his wife, Jeanne; and treasurer Ron Christman and his wife, Joyce. Youth and Young Adult Ministries director Kris Eckenroth, Trust Services director Floyd Dare, and vice president for Education Dave Morgan were also returned for the next three years.



Ron Christman, new conference treasurer, shared part of the financial report.



Throughout the day, delegates were able to share their thoughts and ask questions at any of three microphones.



When retiring conference treasurer Rudolph Pelley finished the financial report, delegates rose to their feet in applause as a "thank you" for his 22 years of commitment and integrity.



Bucks County church member and business consultant Vernon Bramble shared information about Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center.



Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, began the day with a devotional talk. This was followed by a musical selection from Blue Mountain Academy's *Bel Canto*.

Counting New Sheep

The Year of Evangelism turned out to be an incredible year in the Potomac Conference. One of our goals was to work with churches to make their soul-winning efforts successful by challenging and changing the culture from an inward focus to an outward one. To accomplish this, we encouraged our churches to become missional in their thinking and to have a strategy for their evangelism that included preparation, follow-up, and discipleship. Another goal was for every church in Potomac to conduct at least one baptism.

This might seem like a small goal, but for the past 10 years, on average, just over 30 churches have not had any. This year, by the grace of God, many of those churches have now experienced the joy that is in heaven when one comes to Jesus and is baptized into His body (see Luke 15:10). One of those churches had not seen a baptism for more than 15 years, but this year they celebrated four baptisms. Another had not had a successful meeting in a long time. This year they baptized six new members. Praise the Lord!

Why do we emphasize numbers baptized? I believe that we tend to measure the things that we value and are important to us. I also believe that by focusing on bringing new sheep into the fold, we are fulfilling Jesus' mission "to seek and save the lost" (see Luke 19:10). We exist for that same purpose—to make disciples as Jesus commanded.



Glen Altermatt
Associate Director for
Pastoral Ministry/Evangelism

Olney Church Recognizes, Witnesses to Heroes

Members of the Olney (Md.) church recently hosted their second annual Hometown Heroes Banquet to honor the community's police officers and firefighters. Nathan Krause, pastor of the Olney church, started the tradition of the Hometown Heroes Banquet in 2008. This year church members sponsored dinner at a local restaurant for 30 police officers and

firefighters, their spouses, and guests. Parents were invited to bring their children to the church for a special program while they enjoyed their meal.

"The church is a part of the community, and we want to connect with and support community members in every way we can," Pastor Krause says. "The banquet not only helped us show our appreciation for first responders in a personal way, but was also an opportunity to witness to our guests. We hope they will come through our doors to learn more about our faith."

Commemorative swords etched with the words "First Responders: America's Heroes" were presented to Lt. Jacques Croom, Montgomery County Police; George Brown, Jr., chief of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department (SSVFD); Raymond Knight, Montgomery County Sheriff; and Johnie Roth, SSVFD president.

At the banquet, Pastor Krause prayed for the guests, thanking God for their service, asking Him to protect them as they serve, and to bless their families. Several officers indicated that they would like to visit the church and speak to members.

Olney's first responders were touched by the church's recognition and hospitality and even wrote letters of thanks.—Meena Dayak



Nathan Krause (right), pastor of the Olney (Md.) church, presents a commemorative sword to Lt. Jacques Croom of the Montgomery County Police Department.



DECEMBER 2009

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

In-reach, Outreach Brings New Members to Wheaton

They knock on doors, fast and pray, host revivals, distribute clothes and food to the needy, and offer Bible studies to those eager to learn more about the Savior. The result? Twenty-one people have accepted Jesus and have been baptized into the Wheaton (Md.) church this year alone. And with members currently leading 20 different Bible studies, there are bound to be more people making decisions for Christ.

"There is no magic formula," says Steve Murphy (right), pastor of the Wheaton church. "We consistently reach out to our neighbors. Our members know that this church exists to win people to Jesus, and

everything we do, from worship to potluck, is geared toward leading people to Him."

Murphy explains that one important thing they did was change the environment so it is one where new people feel comfortable worshipping. He also added that church members play a key role in building relationships with community members. Many of the church's elders and members are leading Bible studies.

"This is a big deal because most of the people who were baptized simply studied with our members," he says. One person even became a member when he drove the bus for the church's summer camp and began asking questions.



He also mentioned that outreach in the community has brought at least two new members to Christ.

"When we reach out we raise the profile of the church so that people know we exist," he says. "If you sew the seeds, the harvest will come."
—Taashi Rowe

Some of Wheaton (Md.) church's newest members gather after a recent service.



True Education

Not much has changed since Ellen White penned the following, "In these days much is said concerning the nature and importance of 'higher education.' The true 'higher education' is that which is imparted by Him ... out of whose mouth 'come knowledge and understanding,' Proverbs 2:6" (*Education*, p. 4).

How right she was and still is. We at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) believe that true education for our students involves daily "faculty family" prayer time, Bible classes, dorm worships, and a variety of other spiritual programs. These are important opportunities for our students to be "brought into communion with the mind of God. ... [because] in this communion is found the highest education" (*Education*, p. 14).

This result was most recently seen when almost 30 students responded to the influence of the Holy Spirit to take a stand for baptism or re-commitment to Christ during our recent week of prayer. For our children to accept the salvation offered by God through Jesus Christ is the ultimate desire of every Christian parent and the goal of every Christian educator.



Tim Harley
Chaplain

NEWS

Week of Prayer Connects Students to Christ

At a recent week of prayer, SVA students connected with God in a special way. They poured out their joy, grief, praise, frustration, and even anger to Him. Students were inspired by the personal testimony of Dean Waterman, pastor of the Community Fellowship and Redeeming Grace Fellowship churches in the Chesapeake, Va., area. With the theme "Lost? Have You Found What You Are Looking For?" Pastor Waterman

also addressed some of the relevant issues that youth face today and communicated God's unconditional love and forgiveness for those who seek it.

After each evening's talk, students participated in an "after-glow" time of praise and worship, testimonies, and prayer. More than 75 students stayed until after 10 p.m. to

SVA students provide music during a recent week of prayer.



pray one Wednesday evening. "The prayer time on Wednesday evening was by far the highlight of the week," said junior Emely Umana.

Students "Adopt" Children From Community

As SVA students began preparing for the Christmas holiday, one thing that took priority for some was picking out the perfect gift for the child they "adopted" from the community for the Adopt-a-Child Christmas party.

Student Association officers worked with local social services agencies to identify families in need, and SVA students were paired with children from those families. Students then purchased, with their own money, gifts from the wish lists they had been given. In addition to toys, students also purchased needed clothing for their child.

On the day of the party, the children were brought to the administration building where they enjoyed games and snacks before opening their gifts.



Children from the community open gifts from Shenandoah Valley Academy students.

Richmond Academy Graduate Killed in Pacific Islands



Kirsten Wolcott, a 2007 graduate of Richmond Adventist Academy in Richmond, Va., and a member of the Tappahannock (Va.) church, was recently found dead on the Pacific island of Yap, Micronesia. Church officials believe that Wolcott, a missionary who was teaching at the Seventh-day Adventist school there, was a homicide victim.

Wolcott attended kindergarten through 10th grade at Tappahannock Junior Academy where her mother, Karen, still teaches. She grew up hearing her mother and brother talk about their mission

trips. "She wanted to experience that same joy," Karen said.

"We will miss her terribly, but we know that God is sovereign, and ... we look forward to [the] day when we will see her again," said her father, Hollis.

Wolcott was a junior education major at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.).

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



We Are Takoma Academy

Over the past three months, we at Takoma Academy (TA) have shared with you our deliberate pursuit of academic excellence, our strong commitment to service, and our intentional efforts to help our students develop a saving relationship with God. Below, four of our seniors share how attending TA has helped them accept Christ's ultimate sacrifice, and reflect His character, and prepare for college and a life of service:



We are Prepared for College

"My academic experience at Takoma Academy has been very enriching. This summer I interned at the Tropical Medicine Foundation of the Amazon in Brazil, and also attended a neuroscience

research program at the University of Connecticut. These sessions gave me the opportunity to put into practice the science, math, humanities, arts, and writing skills I've developed at TA in a fun and positive environment. My high school experience has definitely prepared and inspired me to further my academic career."—*Elyssa Nascimento*

We are Staying Close to Jesus

"As a senior, I'm now focused on going to college, and on helping out in my community. The most important part of my high school experience, however, is my spiritual journey. Maintaining a close relationship with Christ not only makes me aware of His soon coming, but also helps me realize that God has a plan for my earthly life and on to eternity."—*Brandon Singh*



So there you have it. Because we value knowledge, creative expression, and academic rigor, we are prepared for college. Because we understand our obligation to improve the world in which we live, we are ready for a life of service. Because we accept the ultimate sacrifice of Christ and reflect His character, we are destined for eternity. We ask for your prayers and support as we help our students fulfill their purpose.



We are Destined for Eternity

"Recently I went through a rough patch in my life when [I lost] someone who meant a lot to me. I immediately ran to [God] demanding answers. God reminded me that I could still have confidence in Him no matter how big the tragedy or how uncertain the future may seem. By looking to the cross for my source of strength and trusting in God's infinite mercy, I know my destiny is heaven."—*Cheryl Simpson*

confidence in Him no matter how big the tragedy or how uncertain the future may seem. By looking to the cross for my source of strength and trusting in God's infinite mercy, I know my destiny is heaven."—*Cheryl Simpson*

We are Ready for a Life of Service

"This summer I enjoyed performing community service during the University of Maryland's Lego Robotics Camp. As a counselor, I taught [inner city] middle school-aged children how to build and program robots using Lego blocks and systems. At the end of the two-week session, we put their projects on display and had a final program. They worked so hard, and I was happy that my volunteer service helped make that experience possible."—*Tiffany Coates*



David Daniels
Principal

Appreciating Connections

Our vision at Washington Adventist University (WAU) is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities. Our faculty and staff are committed to the task of engaging minds and transforming lives. We do not take lightly the opportunity we have to prepare leaders for success in the 21st century. Our mission is directly linked to the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of Christian education, which emphasizes the continuous development of the mind, body, and soul.

As I near the end of my second year as president, I have found it a joy to work with the board of trustees, faculty, staff, and the entire university constituency. We are united in the concept of creating an educational community that is supportive of academic excellence. I share the thoughts of Helen Keller, who said, "I thank God for my handicaps, for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God."

Thank you for your emails, letters, contributions, and prayers. It takes divine guidance to provide effective leadership and service. Please continue to pray for the university family, and keep in mind that your contributions go a long way to supporting student success. As always you can reach me at wspence@wau.edu.



Weymouth Spence
President

Missions Week Creates Excitement to Serve

Mention Tanzania and Ethiopia on the Washington Adventist University campus, and you are bound to see many faces light up with excitement about these two destinations for short-term mission trips planned for next spring.

The enthusiasm began, during the recent Missions Week, when the Office of the Vice President for Ministry coordinated an exhibit of mission opportunities and a convocation highlighting the work of Global



Jose St. Phard (right), Missions Week coordinator, interviews Frazier Mathis, founder and director of Global Vessels Inc., about the short-term mission trip to Tanzania.

Vessels, a group serving orphan children in Tanzania. By the end of the week, more than 100 students had signed up for both short- and long-term mission opportunities. "We didn't have enough room on the sign-up sheets to handle the positive response to these opportunities," said Jose St. Phard, coordinator of Missions Week. "Eighty students alone want to [participate in] the short-term mission trips."

For the first trip, May 2-16, a group of students will go to Tanzania to build group homes and join in education and evangelism outreach with Global Vessels. Leaving just three days later, from May 5-22, another group will travel to Ethiopia to join ShareHim, an organization that trains lay evangelists.

Twenty additional students have begun the application process to serve as student missionaries during the 2010 school year. "There are more people signing up than there are spaces to fill," Diana Regus, Student Missions director, reported excitedly. "It's great to see this program growing again, and so rapidly."

An emphasis on missions is a key part of WAU's spiritual master plan. The response to Missions Week activities is significant, because a number of students showing interest in service abroad are not Seventh-day Adventists nor are they familiar with the denomination's mission-focused heritage.

If you are interested in supporting missions at WAU, contact the Office of the Vice President for Ministry at chaplain@wau.edu or (301) 891-4112.

More Than 200 From Campus Help Community

More than 240 Washington Adventist University students, staff, and faculty took part in the university's annual Service Day. The campus community served more than 13 nonprofit organizations and area schools by preparing food packages for sick patients, volunteering at homeless shelters, caring for rehabilitating animals, cleaning local creeks, tutoring, packing boxes at a food bank, and volunteering at the local police station. Coordinated through the Office of the Vice President for Ministry, the academic schedule is altered on Service Day to allow students to live out the "Gateway to Service" motto.—Jose St. Phard



Filling boxes at the Capital Area Community Food Bank was quite fulfilling for nursing major *Cristal Santiago*.

Tamika Frazier (left), psychology major, and Kimberly Wright (right), accounting major, were pleased to help with cleaning and reorganizing at Pediatric HIV Care, a home that provides day and evening activities for children affected by HIV and AIDS.



Ara Mae Deriquito, nursing major, helps feed rescued donkeys at the Days End Farm Horse Rescue.



*The volunteer coordinator at Central Union Missions was so impressed by the hard work of nursing major *Jessica Dyer (above)* and the other WAU students that she invited them back to hold worship services for her clients.*



*Accounting major *Lynn Hanes* peeled potatoes while others packed boxed meals for the many recipients of meals prepared and delivered by Food and Friends.*

Save the Date Alumni Weekend – April 9-11, 2010

- Don't miss: Music Building Groundbreaking
 ■ Saturday Night Concert ■ The WAU Community Fair and Open House

More to come ...

Calendar

December

- 3 Christmas Tree Lighting
- 6 Gateway to Christmas
- 14-16 Final Examinations
- 17 Winter Break Begins
- 24-31 Offices Closed

January

- 1 Offices Closed
- 11 Registration
- 12 Classes Begin
- 18 No Classes—Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast

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

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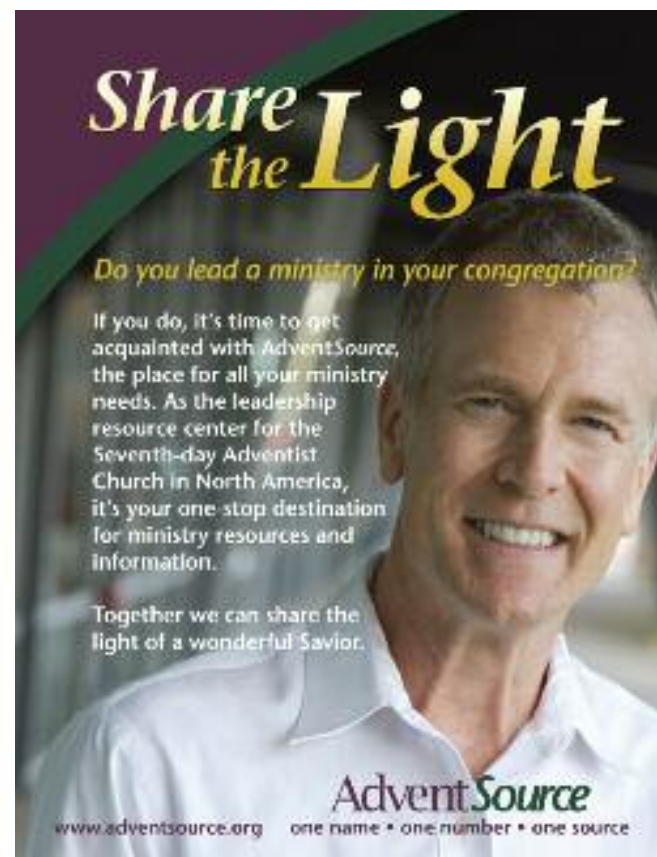


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Rates for classified advertising are calculated on a per insertion basis in our 12 issues. Minimum charge is \$45 for 50 words or less for ads originating within the Columbia Union Conference, and \$50 for all others. Additional words: 60 cents each. A 15 percent discount is given for 12 insertions, a 10 percent discount for six insertions, and a 5 percent discount for three insertions. A column ad (classified ad in a box) is \$110 inside the union and \$125 outside the union, with a maximum word count of 75. Ads must be placed a minimum of four weeks before the issue date, which is the first of every month. For more information, email sjones@columbiaunion.net or call Sandra Jones toll-free (888) 484-7486, or local 410-997-3414, ext. 571.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks faculty member for English as a Learned Language (ELL) and Basic Writing, including intermediate and advanced reading, writing, and grammar skills. Candidate will

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor in the Mathematics Department, beginning August 2010. Candidates will hold a doctoral degree in mathematics or mathematics education. Applicants with expertise in real analysis and/or geometry, and are qualified to direct secondary mathematics teacher education program. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae (including a statement of teaching philosophy), and at least three references to Kevin Brown, Mathematics Department, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY,
December 19 at 6:30 p.m., Hunan Manor Restaurant, 7091 Deepage Drive, Columbia, MD 21045. For more information, please call Fred Thomas, (410) 992-9731, or email, fmthomas1950@yahoo.com.

THIRD ANNUAL ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM CEO REUNION
will be held January 29-30, 2010, in Avon Park, Fla. For information, contact Bill Sager, (863) 452-2593, email wcsager@tnni.net; or Tom Amos, (863) 452-1979, email dtamos@gmail.com; or Jim Culpepper, (615) 415-1935.

UCHEE PINES NEW LIFESTYLE CENTER DEDICATION/40TH ANNIVERSARY
will be held January 21-24, 2010, in Seale, Ala. To RSVP, please contact Tari Jenkins at (334) 855-4781. For more information, visit ucheepines.org.

December Book Signing Events at the Potomac ABC
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Sunday, December 6 2-4 p.m.
Bruce Costen, veterinarian: *Ask the Animals*

Bertram L. Melbourne: *The Busy People's Bible Study Plan*, and *The Busy People's Bible Study Plan Journal*

Sunday, December 13 2-4 p.m.
Lennox and Ouida Westney: *Just as I am-Challenged but Confident*

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Andrea Thompson: *Forgiven, but not Forgotten.*

For directions and more information, visit potomacabc.com

OBITUARIES

BATES, Barbara Jane (Leonard), born November 18, 1933, in Andover, Ohio; died April 16, 2009, in Tavernier, Fla. She was a graduate of Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and attended what is now Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. After college she married and moved to Florida, where she spent most of her life. She worked briefly in the medical field and then worked with her husband in his contracting business. Her husband, Pat, preceded her in death. Surviving are sons Larry Bates of Winthrop, Wash., and James Bates of Coral Springs, Fla.; grandchildren: Brandon, Brittany, and Brianna Bates, and Lauren Bates; and her sister, Doris (Leonard) Hunt-Fann of Tucson, Ariz.

CERRA, Marjorie F., born July 24, 1918, in Ravenswood, W.Va.; died August 12, 2009, in Wellsburg, W.Va. She was a member of the Wheeling (W.Va.) church. Surviving are sons, James A. Cerra, Jr., and George LeRay Felix; a daughter, Patricia Evans, MD; granddaughters, Amber Cerra and April Cerra; and three great-grandchildren.

CONNOVICH, Mary L., born August 13, 1918, in Avella, Pa.; died July 11, 2009, in Weirton, W.Va. She was a member of the Weirton (W.Va.) church. She is survived by one daughter, Mary Jo Long of Weirton; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

HARRIS, Laurene F., born February 26, 1918, in Canton, Ohio; died January 21, 2009. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. She was an active church member, spending many years as bulletin board secretary. She is survived by her daughters, Beverly Fierro of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., and Shirley Jacobson of Marysville, Wash.; and a sister, Virginia Ross of Canton, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her husband and a sister, Betty Purdy.

HOLLOWAY, Robert Eugene, born July 12, 1933, at Red Line, Pa; died April 2, 2009, at his home. He was a member of the Strasburg (Va.) church. Robert is survived by his wife, Barbara; three sons: Robert R. Holloway and wife, Jacqueline; Jerry S. and Chris E. Holloway; a daughter, Faith A. Holloway Mathias and husband, Jeff; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; three sisters and two brothers.

LETTAU, Goldie (Miller), born November 30, 1909, in Jefferson, Md.; died January 10, 2009, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. She worked as a night supervisor at the Williamsport

Nursing Home and was a member of the Cumberland Valley Retirees. She served as church treasurer for 10 years at the Hagerstown church and also as treasurer for Mt. Aetna Elementary School. Goldie did welfare work for the church and packaged clothing for the Chesapeake warehouse for disaster relief efforts. Surviving are her son, George R. Miller, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her first husband, George R. Miller, Sr., in 1968, and her second husband, Charles W. Lettau, in 1994.

LEEDHAM, Lenora K., born July 2, 1925, in Saskatchewan, Canada; died July 30, 2009, in Coudersport, Pa., at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Lawrence and Darlene Leedham, where she had resided since suffering a stroke in 2007. Previous to that, she resided in Takoma Park, Md. She was a daughter of Elijah and Martha Filipchuk Kalebaba. In 1948 she married John T. Leedham, Sr., who predeceased her on December 10, 1977. She completed a two-year secretarial program in Canada and later was employed as a secretary by J.W. Marriott Corporation in the Washington, D.C., area. She then became employed for 40 years as switchboard operator for the world headquarters of the Seventh-day

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Cleveland	4:57	4:59	5:02	5:08	5:14
Columbus	5:07	5:09	5:12	5:17	5:24
Jersey City	4:29	4:31	4:34	4:40	4:46
Norfolk	4:49	4:51	4:55	4:59	5:05
Parkersburg	5:03	5:05	5:09	5:14	5:20
Philadelphia	4:35	4:37	4:41	4:46	4:53
Pittsburgh	4:53	4:55	4:59	5:04	5:11
Reading	4:37	4:39	4:43	4:48	4:55
Richmond	4:52	4:54	4:57	5:02	5:09
Roanoke	5:03	5:05	5:08	5:13	5:19
Toledo	5:04	5:06	5:09	5:15	5:21
Trenton	4:33	4:35	4:39	4:44	4:50
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:48	4:52	4:57	5:03

Adventist Church in Takoma Park and Silver Spring, Md., where she continued working full time until the age of 82, retiring only because of her stroke. She was a dedicated member of the Takoma Park and

Coudersport churches. Her greatest love was spending time and keeping in touch with her family. Surviving are two sons, John T. (Dorothy) Leedham, Jr., of Mandan, N.D., and Lawrence A. (Darlene) Leedham; one grandson, Christopher Leedham; two brothers and one sister in Canada; and nieces and nephews.

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Obituaries are placed in the order they are received, on a space-available basis.

This is a free service for our members.

MIKOLAY, Carolyn, born September 6, 1930, in Youngstown, Ohio; died February 13, 2009, in Youngstown. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio; a loving, gentle, and caring mother and great-grandmother whose sweet smile will be missed by all. Survivors: daughters, Patty Ztello of Hubbard, Ohio, Marianne Eliser of Boardman, Ohio, and Diane Mikolay of Apex, N.C.; and a son, Jon Mikolay of Sagamore Hills.

MOWRY, Irma Ruth, born May 25, 1920, in Altoona, Pa.; died July 15, 2009, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. She married Pastor George Mowry in January 1941. They pastored churches in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Iowa. She also served as a teacher and a secretary to various conference presidents. She is survived by her husband, Pastor George Mowry; and a sister, Lois Jean Reigherd. She was preceded in death by five sisters.

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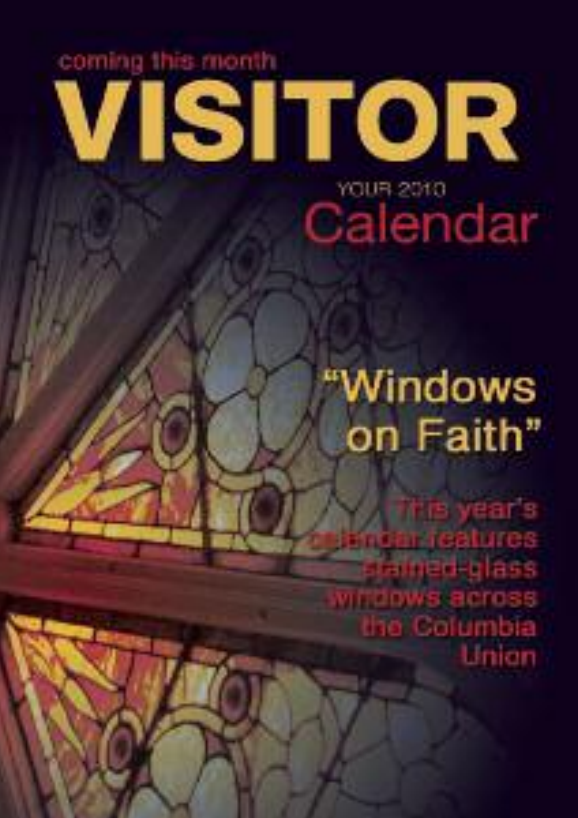
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"Windows on Faith"

This year's calendar features stained-glass windows across the Columbia Union



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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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Jesus Cleans the Fish

"... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19).



Jesus called me to be a fisherman. Thankfully, all he asks me to do is fish. He does all the work—He chooses the bait and hooks, He chooses the location where fish are plentiful, and, after I do my part, He also cleans the fish.

There was a time when I wanted to help him clean the fish, but the results were disastrous. My interference in His process only hampered His plan and sometimes caused me to lose out on His blessings.

So, now I just fish, and I let Him clean the fish.

ACT OF FAITH

I had this thought in mind when I embarked on a "fishing trip" in Northeast Baltimore recently, where our Chesapeake Conference members are working to plant a church. When I returned to the office, a staff member stopped me in the hallway. "Why did you hold a revival meeting?" she asked. "You are so busy!"

She was right. I am very busy attending and chairing boards and committees for our eight local conferences, two healthcare systems, college, university, and other entities.

So why did I do it? Because I love to fish, and this opportunity allowed me to engage in frontline ministry. It was well worth the time because, through this experience, I grew in several ways:

In the early morning hours, God woke me, and gave me timely messages designed to meet the needs of the nightly audience. Rather than focusing on the do's and don'ts, He led me to emphasize relational aspects that the postmodern mindset could understand. As I showed them God's heart and my own, their hearts were softened.

Instead of relying on my usual copious notes and PowerPoint presentations, God challenged me to use my Bible and depend on the guidance and promptings of the Holy Spirit. For the first time in my ministry, preaching became an act of faith. I preached from an uncluttered pulpit and trusted God to give me the words needed to achieve clarity and impact.

Of course, all of this enriched my prayer life. I claimed God's promise that the Holy Spirit would influence my thoughts and delivery, and I called on Him to use me to speak words of hope to people who needed assurance of His acceptance and love. He heard my cry and filled my net to overflowing.

If God is calling you, I urge you to embark on a fishing trip for Him. No doubt you'll also grow from the experience. Just remember—you only have to fish—Jesus will clean the fish.

J. Neville Harcombe (nharcombe@columbiaunion.net) serves as executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

WGTS 91.9 prayer reminder

God Listens to You


WGTS 91.9 started a full time chaplain and a prayer ministry for you this past March. Every Wednesday, a group of people with the gift of prayer, meet and pray over your prayer requests. In this short time we have seen the mighty hand of God's work.

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