

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

# VISITOR

JANUARY 2010 • VOLUME 115 • ISSUE 1



Teresa Ramirez Makes  
**A Promise  
to God**

Plus:  
**19** Members  
Share Their  
Journey  
to Christ



8

## News & Features

### 8 | A Promise to God

Sylvia Garcia

She may have a shy smile and be soft-spoken, but when it comes to witnessing, Teresa Ramirez is anything but timid. She runs 18 small groups and, out of a promise to God, is doing everything she can to reach people in Alexandria, Va., for Christ. Discover how she became a Seventh-day Adventist, and learn about her inspiring ministry.

### 10 | 19 Members Share Their Journey to Christ

Everybody has a testimony of how they came to know Christ or joined the Adventist Church. One man read his way to Adventism, another studied with a rabbi, and yet another responded to a brochure he received in the mail. And then there's the woman whose child led her to Christ, the one whose home health aide brought her in, and the one whose friendship turned heavenly. Read their stories, and then do what you can to bring someone to Christ this year!



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Lilly Tryon



Get news and interesting tidbits about your church family by following us at [twitter.com/VisitorNews](http://twitter.com/VisitorNews).

### About the Cover:

Teresa Ramirez was photographed at her Alexandria, Va., home by Drew Anthony Smith.

## 10 Things to Try in 2010

Can you believe we are already 10 years into the new millennium? Each year that passes reminds me of how very quickly time goes by and how short life really is. A well known, country music recording artist sings a song called "Don't Blink" that does a good job at expressing the speed of time in our lives. It basically says that time goes by so fast that we blink and our babies are in kindergarten, we blink and they are teenagers, we blink and we're giving them away in marriage, we blink and they're all grown up!



Scripture also describes the brevity of life, stating that we humans are like grass. It grows, flourishes, withers, dies, and the wind comes and blows the remnants of it away (see Isa. 40:6-8).

### THE BUCKET LIST

I have heard that one way to deal with the fleetingness of time is to create a "bucket list"—things you dream of doing, if Christ should tarry and time should last.

With this idea in mind, I created a bucket list of things I propose we do this year. I believe these things would make our families, our churches, and each of us better. I would challenge you to try my list and see if it doesn't make a positive difference in your life, and in the lives of those around you:

- 1. Spend at least half an hour each day for seven days reading and meditating on the Gospel of John. Then share your impressions with at least one person.
- 2. Write your parents a minimum 300-word letter expressing your appreciation and love for them.
- 3. Bake some cookies and take them to a neighbor you don't know.
- 4. Invite a friend or co-worker to a program at your church or school.
- 5. Send a card to your pastor, and tell him or her that you have been praying for them.
- 6. Spend a Sabbath afternoon walking hand-in-hand with your spouse, reflecting upon the love you have for one another.
- 7. Attend a school program and affirm a teacher for his or her sacrifice and commitment to our students.
- 8. On the one-year anniversary of a loved one's passing, reach out to his or her family and tell them you are thinking of and praying for them.
- 9. Phone your children for no other reason except to tell them how much you love them.
- 10. Make a sacrificial gift to either participate in a mission trip or send someone.



The wisest man who ever lived said there is a time for everything (see Eccl. 3:1). Why not make this the year when you took the time to connect with God, family, church, and community? And don't be surprised if I see you someplace this year and ask: "How are you doing with your '10 in 10' challenge?"

*Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net), president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is already working on his 2010 bucket list.*

## Adrian Westney, Educator and Religious Liberty Champion, Dies

Adrian Theophilus Westney, DD, 82, Columbia Union Conference associate director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, died last month after a brief illness. Westney, a pastor, chaplain, educator, and administrator, served the Seventh-day Adventist Church with distinction for more than 60 years.



Before coming to the United States in 1960, Westney planted churches and pastored in his homeland of Jamaica, as well as in Barbados and Guyana. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., a Master of Arts in Religion from the

Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), and a Doctor of Divinity from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He subsequently pastored in Virginia and directed Youth Ministries for Allegheny West Conference. In 1969 he accepted a call to serve as principal of Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., where he hosted the first alumni homecoming weekend. From 1976-89 he served as associate director of Education for the Colum-

bia Union Conference, and then went on to direct Public Affairs and Religious Liberty until his retirement in 1995.

Though retired, Westney continued his advocacy of religious liberty in an associate capacity. He helped many members in the Columbia Union obtain workplace religious accommodations and organized a number of rallies that informed church members about their constitutional rights. He also started and faithfully hosted "Talking About Freedom," a weekly radio program addressing religious liberty issues that aired on WGTS 91.9.

"We appreciated Dr. Westney so much, and will remember him for the lasting contribution he made by assisting and protecting the religious freedom of so many church members across our union," says President Dave Weigley.

"Dr. Westney will be sorely missed," added Walter Carson, union vice president and general counsel. "He was a Christian, a gentleman, a champion of religious freedom, and a dear friend."

Westney is survived by Lizette, his wife of 56 years, three adult children—Adrian "A.T." Westney, Jr., Gloria Westney Hughes, MD, and Marcel—and five grandchildren. He was funeralized at Allegheny East Conference's Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., where he once pastored and remained a member.



## General Conference Ministerial Secretary Dies

James A. Cress, DMin, Ministerial Association secretary for the worldwide Adventist Church and a member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., died on Thanksgiving night.

According to a family statement, Cress fell victim to "complications arising from a rare pathogen believed to have been contracted in the course of his travels. Despite the very best medical care and a valiant struggle ... he succumbed rapidly."

Cress always considered himself a "pastor on loan" to the world



church where he trained, encouraged, and mentored pastors, elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

He was the author of several books, and hundreds of articles for *Ministry* magazine, of which he was the publisher. Before joining the world headquarters team, Cress served as a pastor, an evangelist in the Lake Union Conference, and Ministerial secretary in the Mid-America Union Conference.

"We have lost a colleague and a friend whose commitment to the Lord and to the church was total," said Gerald Karst, a general vice president of the world church.

Cress is survived by his wife, Sharon, associate secretary of the Ministerial Association, and his brother, John C. Cress, a pastor in College Place, Wash.—*Mark A. Kellner*

## Chesapeake Secretary Retires

Charles J. Griffin, Chesapeake Conference executive secretary and trust officer, retires this month after more than 48 years of distinguished service to the Seventh-day



Adventist Church. At the conference Executive Committee's request, however, he

will continue to serve as Conference Association secretary on a part-time basis. The association is the conference's corporate entity that deals with property management, building projects, and other critical business issues.

"Elder Griffin leaves an indelible mark on the work here in Chesapeake," said Rob Vandeman, conference president. "It has been an honor to work with him."

The conference Executive Committee met last month and hopes to have a new secretary in place soon. Read more about Griffin's ministry in *Chesapeake Challenge* on page 31.—*Samantha Young*

## Ohio Secretary to Leave

After 11 years with the Ohio Conference, Hubert Cisneros, executive secretary has accepted the position of Youth and Personal ministries director for the Mid-America Union, headquartered in Lincoln, Neb.



"Hubert has been a valuable member of our leader-

ship team, and has made a significant contribution to God's work in Ohio with his many gifts and abilities," said Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president. "His deep love for the Lord and gracious spirit in relating to people have enriched all of us who were privileged to work with him."

While at the Ohio Conference, Cisneros also coordinated Hispanic Ministries and evangelism. He will take up his new post March 1.

## Philanthropy Giant Dies

Milton Murray, founder of the philanthropy program for the Seventh-day Adventist Church called Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI), died recently in Loma Linda, Calif. He was 87.

During his 40-year career in public relations and fundraising he was instrumental in raising millions of dollars for schools and hospitals. While serving as a fundraiser for the Columbia Union Conference, he raised more than \$1 million to build Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, which opened in northern New Jersey in 1973. Today it's a flagship hospital for Adventist HealthCare (AHC), one of two healthcare networks in the Columbia Union.

"Milton did a lot of work here, made a lot of contacts, and brought in a lot of support for the hospital," says Hackettstown president Gene Milton (far right). "He had a way of relating to the small business owners, farmers, and residents, and they accepted him into their homes. People still ask about him today."

In 1973 Murray launched PSI



for the worldwide Adventist Church. During 20 years there, he helped establish and nurture fundraising programs for more than 100 church institutions including Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md., another flagship AHC facility.

"I was privileged to work in four hospitals that Milton helped get started through his substantial philanthropic efforts," says William G. "Bill" Robertson, president and CEO of AHC. "What a wonderful legacy he leaves of community engagement and assistance in building the healthcare ministry of the Adventist Church."

Many remember how Murray dreamed of having a postal stamp commemorating philanthropy and spent 27 years advocating for such a creation. In 1998 he got his wish when the United States Postal Service issued a stamp themed "Giving & Sharing."



# Potluck

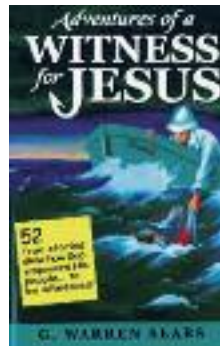
BETH MICHAELS

## What's New?

### BOOKS > Adventures of a Witness for Jesus G. Warren Sears



"I want to encourage and teach Christians to be bold and effective witnesses, and to recognize opportunities God gives us every day," says G. Warren Sears, 86, of his first book. The new Seventh-day Adventist and member of Chesapeake Conference's Bell Branch church in Gambrills, Md., conveys 52 personal experiences of witnessing, all pulled from a journal he kept for several years. He hopes to make evangelists out of all believers. An artist by trade, the book also includes Sears' own illustrations. Order a copy today at [interestingwriting.com](http://interestingwriting.com) or (866) 833-3928.



*The entertainment industry lights up the sky with the devil's tricks, while timid Christians hide their lamps under a bushel ... let us turn many to righteousness!*  
—G. Warren Sears in *Adventures of a Witness for Jesus*

### Foundation of the Fire Ricky LaVaughn



In his sophomore book, Ricky LaVaughn (nmlministry.org) of Allegheny West Conference's Ephesus church in

Columbus, Ohio, follows Christ's example of using metaphors to relay an important message. LaVaughn uses fire to inspire members to "build or renew a relationship with Jesus" because, he says, "it gives us a recognizable symbol in remembering to anchor our foundation in God." The book, as well as an accompanying 104-page workbook, are available at Target or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



### CD > Songs We Love Denise Barclay

"This CD features a variety of old classics, hymns, and contemporary praise and worship songs that are familiar to a wide range of listeners," Denise Barclay, a member of Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in

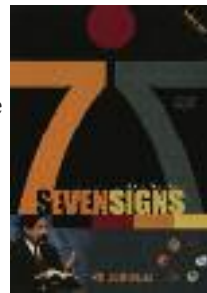


Alexandria, Va., says of her third project. She especially hopes listeners will experience a sense of "familiarity and spiritual connection" with songs like "Here I am to Worship."

Barclay dedicated track 1, a medley, to the late Reger Cutting Smith, a communication professional and fellow musician, who devoted nearly 30 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Read more and order at [watergirlmusic.com](http://watergirlmusic.com).

### DVD > Seven Signs José Rojas

The original reaping series resulted in thousands of baptisms. Now the eight, one-hour sessions—recorded by José Rojas, director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division—are available as a four-DVD set. Many people are using them in study groups to teach discipleship because they "outline the seven signs of what a true disciple looks like," explains Rojas, who also serves as pastor of Potomac's Mil-



## Web Watch >

[adventisthealthcare.com/vimandvigor](http://adventisthealthcare.com/vimandvigor)

Shady Grove and Washington Adventist hospitals, both in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, teamed up to create *Vim & Vigor* magazine. The quarterly, online, interactive publication highlights important health issues and lists classes and events for the community.



## What You Bring to the Table

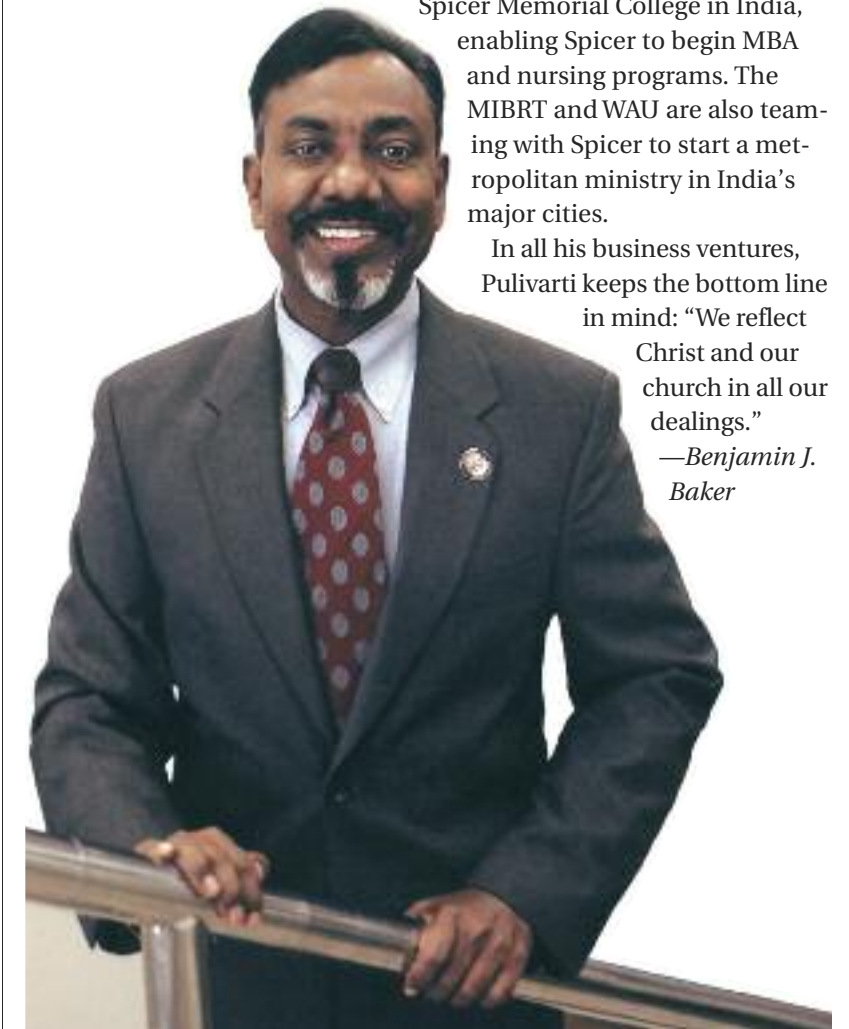
### In the Spotlight > Elisha Pulivarti

Elisha Pulivarti wants to bridge Maryland with India through business. Such an ambitious task might overwhelm some, but not Pulivarti, a member of Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church. In 2006 he founded the Maryland India Business Round Table (MIBRT) to facilitate business partnerships between the two locations. Pulivarti is perfect for the task: he is of Indian heritage and once served as the executive director of the Governor's Office on Asian-Pacific American Affairs for the state of Maryland.

The MIBRT has been successful in its goals, escorting business delegations from the Washington, D.C., area to India and vice versa; forming a partnership between Montgomery College and India; and bringing Indian businesses to Maryland. But for Pulivarti and the MIBRT this is more than just business—this is ministry. The MIBRT staff witness to the powerful individuals with whom they network. The organization also keeps close ties to the Adventist Church, with several Adventists serving as board members.

Currently the MIBRT is working to establish a partnership with Washington Adventist University (WAU), in Takoma Park, Md., and Spicer Memorial College in India, enabling Spicer to begin MBA and nursing programs. The MIBRT and WAU are also teaming with Spicer to start a metropolitan ministry in India's major cities.

In all his business ventures, Pulivarti keeps the bottom line in mind: "We reflect Christ and our church in all our dealings."  
—Benjamin J. Baker



lennium Ministries church in Silver Spring, Md. Find the DVDs at [adventistbook-center.com](http://adventistbook-center.com).

## Blogged

### Faith in Context

"Postmodern religion basically means that everyone is constructing their own theology and gathering their friends to 'worship,' including the most reactionary conservatives and the most far-out liberals, as well as ideas completely off the charts. Is the prolif-



eration of religious groups and viewpoints actually creating the upswing in people who are withdrawing from organized religion of any kind? Or, at least the general distrust of all established sources of religious information?"—From the November 11 blog entry by Monte Sahlin ([montesahlin.com](http://montesahlin.com)), director of research and special projects for the Ohio Conference

**Only an Adventist ...**  
read food-packaging labels before nutritional labeling was even available—or en vogue

# A Promise to God

**Teresa Ramirez Found Christ and now Lives to Bring Others to Him**

*Sylvia Garcia*

**W**ith a shy smile and a baby balancing on her hip, Teresa Ramirez thanks people for coming and then offers to find them a seat. Soon she assumes a position in the back of the room, blending in with her full house of visitors. She entertains the young boy so his mom can listen to the message uninterrupted.

As the speaker finishes, Teresa slips to the front of the room and leads the “small group” in song. As she sings of God’s transforming grace, passion for the Savior is evident in her eyes and with every note—passion founded in years of service and gratitude for God saving her life, both physically and spiritually.

## THE CONVERSION

Teresa remembers the day, 15 years earlier, when the spiritual advisor at her Catholic Church surprisingly suggested that she and her husband, Benacio, attend some meetings at a nearby Seventh-day Adventist church. He had attended the night before and thought the material presented would be helpful to them.

“The meetings are great!” he told them. “I suggest you attend and learn. But,” he quickly added, “don’t stay at that church. I’m not sure who the Seventh-day Adventists are. Plus, you know what church you already belong to.”

Teresa and Benacio did attend the meetings at Potomac Conference’s Alexandria Spanish church in Alexandria, Va.—that night and every night for two weeks. They were completely drawn to the information shared, and church members took notice. After the meetings, members started visiting the couple nearly every night for another two weeks. And Teresa and Benacio couldn’t say no to Pastor Fausto Salazar when he asked if they wanted to start Bible studies.



“I told Pastor Salazar that we would take the Bible studies with one condition: that he give us a ride to mass at my Catholic Church afterward,” Teresa recalls.

He agreed. Every Sunday Pastor Salazar studied with Teresa and Benacio and then drove them to mass. Just a few weeks later, when the Alexandria Spanish church was having a baptism, the couple also took their stand. However, old traditions die hard, and the couple continued with their son’s first communion at the Catholic Church the following weekend. Teresa explains, “While I was [there], I felt such uneasiness. I knew this was the last time we would attend.” But she had more difficult decisions to make.

## MAKING A PROMISE

During a prayer service at the Alexandria Spanish church several months later, some familiar head pain terrified Teresa. Her thoughts raced back a few years to a chilling diagnosis—a rare, terminal brain disease. The doctors predicted she had a few months to live. They even suggested that Benacio take Teresa back to her home country, El Salvador, to die there in peace.

Instead, Teresa started to recover and, to the medical professionals’ amazement, was completely cured. Still, they warned her that it would most likely return, and the next time she probably wouldn’t be so lucky.

“I didn’t want to die,” Teresa exclaims. “So, I prayed. I told God, ‘If you save me from this disease, I promise that I will serve you every day of my life.’ It has been 15 years, and I am completely free of the deadly disease. That is why I live to serve Him.”

## GIVING EVERYTHING

Teresa has honored that promise. Since her baptism, she has helped bring to Christ her entire family, including nine siblings and their families; her

children; and her grandchildren. However, the most miraculous baptism, she says, has been that of her father, Domingo Reyes.

“While growing up, he was a dedicated Catholic who promised never to waiver from his beliefs, and taught his family the same,” Teresa conveys. “The day he was baptized, I knew it was all due to the Holy Spirit working in his life, and I praised God for changing his heart.”

Since her conversion, Teresa has been serving as the Alexandria Spanish church’s outreach ministries director. She has also helped grow an amazing 18 small groups, including the one she hosts at her home every Wednesday night with help from her two young adult children. Up to 50 people regularly attend and, miraculously, there is always enough space. As her group grows, she splits them into two and continues to oversee them all by visiting one each weeknight.

“The key for me is to make sure that I show my support. I cannot say that I am too tired to attend one night, or that I want a break. I have to be there and help in any way I can. It’s part of my daily life,” Teresa comments.

“She is very supportive of every group and every leader,” says Blanca Sianz, Teresa’s assistant. “We try to keep unity among [the group] leaders and, occasionally, if we see that they are losing a little fire, will plan a dinner together—just to come together, fellowship, and encourage each other.”

Teresa agrees that unity is the key to the success of the small groups. But to be successful at working for God, she claims, “You have to give of yourself ... everything.”

*Sylvia Garcia writes from Mt. Airy, Md.*

# 19 Members Share Their Journey to Christ

Everybody has a testimony of how they came to know Christ or joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In this issue, 19 members—including some who were recently baptized—share their journey to Christ. Read their stories, be inspired, and do what you can to bring someone to Christ this year!



## Rosalyn Clark A Friendship Turns Heavenly

Rosalyn Clark (right) and Martha Lewis met in the early 70s, but their budding friendship turned heavenly when Lewis did *not* invite Clark to a special event at her church.

"[Martha] had put an invitation about a community guest day on the bulletin board at work," Clark recalls. "I noticed her inviting people ... but she didn't invite me, and I wanted to see what it was all about. So, I switched schedules with another nurse."

Lewis had already made an impact on Clark through kindness she showed others at work and by the modest way she dressed. "She was all business but she was very kind," Clark explains. "Employees she would fire from the job ... would leave the office laughing."

On the day Clark walked into Allegheny West Conference's Hilltop church in Columbus, Ohio, she immediately noticed members' kindness. "I felt like I had just arrived where I should have been all along," she recalls. "I felt like they had known me all my life. I was not accustomed to that."

Clark started attending regularly but wasn't always able to get Sabbaths off from work. One day Lewis and her husband offered to take Clark's six children to church. "I thought that would be so overwhelming," she says. "I had been managing [by myself], and I knew it was an awful lot, but she gladly took them. Soon the kids were involved in Pathfinders and everything."

It didn't take Clark long to stop missing church services as well and to make a decision for baptism. She and her kids got deeply involved in the church,

and five of her children went on to attend Seventh-day Adventist schools, including Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio. And the two families got so intertwined that when one of Clark's sons got married a few years ago, both ladies were listed as mothers of the groom.

"Both of us agree that our relationship was ordained by God; that we were brought together by God," Clark says. "And the Adventist Church has been a real blessing to me."—*Beth Michaels*

## John Griffin A Seeker Finds the Sabbath

"It was like I had been duped; I had been deceived all this time!" exclaims John Griffin, who at age 50 discovered the truth about the Sabbath.

Griffin's journey began while he and his wife were attending a Baptist church in Baltimore. Interested in learning Hebrew, they started studying with a messianic rabbi. For a year and a half, the couple spent eight or nine hours with him on Saturdays while continuing to attend church on Sundays. The rabbi never explicitly showed them any scriptures regarding the Sabbath, but he knew Griffin had majored in history in college. Griffin was sent to the encyclopedia to research the Sabbath, and what he found startled him. "How could I have not known this information?" he wondered.

Although Griffin's wife left their Baptist congregation first, relinquishing her position as assistant pastor, he found the decision to leave difficult. On several occasions, he asked his pastor if he was learning the wrong information. Finally the pastor told Griffin he needed to make a decision. Two weeks later, he did.

Griffin, now separated from his wife, returned to his studies with the rabbi. Although Sabbathkeeping churches were mentioned during their Scriptural



studies, Griffin had never heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church until he saw a cable television program produced by Allegheny East Conference's Sharon church in Baltimore. He attended Sharon the next Sabbath. He felt comfortable there, but "I think the Father wanted me somewhere else," he says, also noting that the church was a 35-mile drive from his home.

After his car broke down one week, Griffin recalls catching the bus to the store and getting off at the wrong stop. While walking toward his apartment complex, he was amazed to discover Chesapeake Conference's Pikesville International church in Pikesville, Md.

The next Sabbath, Griffin walked to the church, intending to drive to Sharon later. As soon as he walked in the door, however, he was attracted to the Pikesville congregation's diversity and knew it was the church for him. After 15 months of studying with an elder, Griffin became a member. "It's the closest thing to what I see in the Scriptures," he says.

—Elizabeth Anderson



### Jeimy Guerrero Sisters Find Christ One by One

Jeimy Guerrero (right) told God she wanted to join her dad in the United States, but only if he would become a Christian. If that wasn't possible, she didn't want to leave home. The Dominican Republic was where she—along with her younger sisters Jessica and Esmirna (center)—had learned about the Lord from their mother (left), who had joined an Adventist church while they were young.

Jeimy did make the move, but within a year was homeless with nowhere to go. Her father kicked her out of his New Jersey home following a heated argument. She had hoped their relationship would be different. Now she was depressed and losing faith in God.

"When [my sisters and I] came to my father's house, he said the church was garbage, that God didn't exist, that we are not going to get anywhere with church," Jeimy recalls. She remembers his command that the girls follow his wishes because *he* was their provider, not God.

Guerrero found and rented a room from a man, but he ended up fathering her daughter. Although her mother still lived in the Dominican Republic, she encouraged Guerrero through this difficult period.

In 2006 Jeimy left her boyfriend, reconciled with her father, and got baptized. She got very involved in New Jersey Conference's Paterson South Spanish church, leading the youth poetry group. Worried that her sisters would repeat her mistakes, she began to pray for them and encouraged them to stay involved with church and attend week of prayer. In 2007 her youngest sister, Esmirna, was baptized. Now both sisters worked together to lead the youth in their congregation and prayed for the spiritual well-being of their middle sister, Jessica.

In time Jessica also decided to get baptized, but put it off because she really wanted her mother present. Jeimy applied for a visa so their mother could come to the United States as soon as possible. With the help of associate pastor, Alex Pastor, Carmelina Mercedes was reunited with her daughters in August 2009, less than three months after Jeimy filed for the visa. Two months later, Jessica was baptized.

Now Jeimy and her sisters pray for their brother, who asks about their youth group activities. Jeimy also has faith that their father will one day fully surrender his life to Christ. His opinion of Christians has already changed. The same man who used to hate Christians allowed his daughters to host youth meetings in his home. Recently when Jeimy moved, her dad mentioned how much he would miss the church youth group visiting his house. "I know God is still working on his heart," she says.—Elizabeth Anderson



PHOTO BY LYNETTE WOOD

### Vincent MacIsaac From the Hood to the Pulpit

"I come from a very troubled and dysfunctional family, and my parents divorced when I was a young teenager," explains Vincent MacIsaac, pastor of Potomac Conference's Galax, Pulaski, Radford, and Pearisburg district in western Virginia. "Then, I went from living in a nice, apple orchard setting in New Brunswick [Canada] to the north end of Hamilton, Ontario, a very metropolitan city."

MacIsaac joined the wrong crowd and became a rebellious teenager. But, while participating in a cooperative education assignment at a local church,

**"Run if you can.** But, in the end, if you cannot avoid it, and you can't stay away from it, then you will know that you are truly called and will be blessed in the work."

he learned about the caring love of Jesus. He started searching for spiritual guidance in his life, which landed him in an Adventist church at the age of 19.

While MacIsaac was ecstatic with his newfound faith, he felt lost in a sea of faces and Adventist jargon—"haystacks," "Stripples," "vespers," and "lay activities." "They ate funny and dressed and talked different," MacIsaac remembers.

Despite feeling lost and lonely, MacIsaac's love for God never swayed. One day he earnestly asked God what He would have him do. The answer impressed him very powerfully: "Give my people my Word." It seemed almost audible, he says. But despite the simplicity of the message to a "babe in Christ," who just happened to be an inner city, poverty-stricken teenager, it seemed an incomprehensible task. "I had no money, no education, and I was shy and introverted—not to mention I looked like I had just walked out of a rock video on MTV," he recounts.

MacIsaac sought the counsel of a retired pastor who gave him this advice: "Vince, being a pastor is hard work. It is hard on the family. It has lots of stresses and burdens. I advise anyone who asks me this to avoid it at all cost. Do all you can to escape from it. Run if you can. But, in the end, if you cannot avoid it, and you can't stay away from it, then you will know that you are truly called and will be blessed in the work."

MacIsaac worked as a counselor, social worker, and mental health caseworker, and was sure he was doing God's work. But after following his wife, Tina, from Canada to North Carolina, he went from being a church board member to an elder, to a lay evangelist, to a new church planter and leader, and finally to a pastor.

As MacIsaac tells his congregants, he pastors "not for any reason within my own self, but simply because I have heard the voice of God ... I stand today ready to answer, for that is all I can do."

—Viola Hughes

### Welcome to the Family Ryan Rice

Hagerstown (Md.) Church

Ryan Rice became a Christian last year. After mailing in a card requesting Bible studies, he studied with Dawn Fullerton, a Bible worker at Chesapeake Conference's Hagerstown (Md.) church. He then attended the church's prophecy seminar and joined on profession of faith. Rice is taking classes at the local community college and plans to attend an Adventist college so he can become a minister.



### Welcome to the Family Dannyle Stevens

Rock of Faith Church, Pittsburgh

Watching her boyfriend get baptized last year made a very strong impression on Dannyle Stevens. She decided that she, too, wanted to be baptized and started studying with Christopher C. Thompson, pastor of Allegheny

West Conference's Rock of Faith church in Pittsburgh. She celebrated the experience with her aunt, Lisa Stevens, who was also baptized recently.





## David Negron

### A Prisoner Finds Purpose

David Negron grew up in an Adventist home in Brooklyn, N.Y., but by sixth grade decided he wanted nothing to do with God. He also dropped out of school and started experimenting with drugs.

By age 33, Negron had been in and out of a jail several times. During his last incarceration, he faced multiple charges, including disturbing the peace and assaulting a police officer. But something finally clicked. He started thinking about his life, his behavior, and what might happen if he didn't make some changes. He also recalled a recurring dream he used to have—one of him preaching. He didn't understand the dream, and when he told his friends and family about it, they just laughed.

During one pivotal night, Negron surrendered his life to God and asked the Lord to help him change. "It felt good," he says. "I felt a peace overtake me."

God answered Negron's prayers in a mighty way. The court miraculously dropped all charges, and he was literally "set free." He kept his promise to God and started sharing the good news with others in his Philadelphia "hood." Soon he was traveling around the United States, Puerto Rico, and Mexico sharing his testimony of God's transforming grace. Today he's a member of Pennsylvania Conference's Maranatha Spanish church in Philadelphia.

Negron's most recent international experience was during a ShareHim evangelistic campaign. He not only got to evangelize in Nicaragua, but also experienced firsthand how God could use him despite his lack of education. He says God reminded him, "David, it is not by strength or by might, but by my Spirit—go into all nations for I will be with you."

In Nicaragua, Negron witnessed seven people accept Jesus and get baptized. "I am so glad that God gave me this opportunity to witness to others about His greatness. If I did it, so can you.—Viola Hughes



## Scott Nutter

### Witness to the Grand Plan

Scott Nutter, DPM, a podiatrist, was in surgery, suturing a patient's foot, when his colleague, Steve Weiner, DPM, queried in front of the rest of the surgical staff, "Scott, are you religious?"

"I believe in God," Nutter responded.

"Good," Weiner said. "I want you to meet my office manager."

On a Wednesday night, late in the summer of 1980, Nutter stopped by Weiner's office to meet Debbie. The two went out to dinner that night and continued dating. "I'd only known Debbie for two weeks [when] she invited me to church," he recalls.

Nutter attended Chesapeake's Reisterstown (Md.) church with Debbie and noticed that the members carried their Bibles to church, and that Sabbath School was like a Bible study. "That made a good impression on me," says Nutter, who loves to study the Bible.

While in the church foyer between Sabbath School and the divine service, a colorful *Amazing Facts* brochure hanging on a bulletin board caught Nutter's eye. It was the same mailer he had received at his home a few weeks earlier!

"Is your church sponsoring this?" Nutter asked.

"Yes," Debbie said, adding, "If you want to learn more about the Bible, you should go."

He did. Although Nutter had accepted Christ during his undergraduate years, these meetings convicted him about Bible teachings regarding the second coming of Christ, the Sabbath, and the state of

the dead. He got baptized in October 1980. Two months later, he and Debbie got engaged. They married the following April with Joe Crews, founder of *Amazing Facts*, officiating.

Now, 28 years later, the Nutters have three children and attend Chesapeake's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Nutter and his professional partner, David Baek, who is also a Christian, run a podiatry practice with offices in Laurel, Greenbelt, and Columbia. They dub their practice "The Ministry of Healing."

Reflecting on his experience, Nutter believes nothing in life happens by coincidence. "[God] has a plan for our lives," he concludes.—Elizabeth Anderson



## Edora Pitt

### Finding a Healthy Road to God

After more than 25 years in the medical field, Elsie Jones (right), a member of Allegheny East's Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va., wanted to use her retirement to continue helping others. Her first patient as a home health aide, Edora Pitt (left), had requested Jones because of a kind act she'd provided five years earlier, when she cooked Pitt a healthy, vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner.

The two got acquainted years ago through their husbands. After Pitt's husband passed away, some unfortunate accidents and her back surgeries reunited the pair. Jones got right to work on improving Pitt's health, including her severe diabetes.

"When I started working with her, she weighed 131 pounds and was 5 feet, 6 and a half," Jones says

of Pitt. "And she didn't have any appetite whatsoever." Pitt was also taking strong medication three times a day, plus 15 units of insulin.

"Within the first week, she told me, 'Sister Jones, I want to eat like you, feel good like you, and just be like you,'" Jones recalls. "She thought I looked healthy."

With permission, Jones restocked Pitt's cabinets and refrigerator with healthy, vegetarian food, and started preparing her meals. "She had been eating whatever she wanted," Jones marvels.

Pitt started feeling better, so Jones advanced her healing strategy. "I told her that in all of my medical experience, I never knew anyone who took so much medication for diabetes," she recalls. "I told her, 'I believe this medication is part of your problem.'"

While continuing to monitor Pitt's blood pressure, Jones significantly reduced the medication. "After about four weeks, I took her off the insulin completely," Jones explains. "Her blood sugar was very stable ... and her blood pressure was normal."

Five months later, a physician told Pitt that she could reduce her medications, not knowing that Pitt had already done so. "We both laughed," Jones recalls. In three more weeks, Pitt was completely medication free and gaining weight.

It wasn't long before Pitt requested that Jones take her to church. And in April 2008, Pitt was baptized. "Ms. Elsie taught me a lot; I really enjoy her," Pitt comments. "She has been a great inspiration to me."

Humbly, Jones replies, "I give God the glory."  
—Beth Michaels

## Welcome to the Family

### Judy and Herbert Chaffin

Richwood (W.Va.) Church

After receiving a brochure in the mail, Judy Lang and Herbert Chaffin attended a ShareHim meeting at Mountain View Conference's Richwood (W.Va.) church. When the meetings ended, they continued their study with Pastor Jimmy Buchanan and his wife, Elaine, and successfully completed the church's smoking cessation class. After attending the fall evangelism series, they were married and baptized.





PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR



### Shay Price I Read My Way to Adventism

Shay Price, MD, an anesthesiologist in the United States Air Force, says some of his greatest successes were achieved, not by taking life's main

streets, but by taking the unconventional route, or even the back door.

Price's life was not easy. His childhood included living in foster homes or with relatives, physical and sexual abuse, introduction to the occult, and incarceration at a mental facility. At one point he determined, "If God exists, I hate Him."

Quite divinely, his tumultuous upbringing also included a grandmother who assured Price that Jesus loves him more than anyone.

Following 13 months in the mental rehab facility, Price started attending church again. He also returned to school and took a religion course to discover God's will for him. He ruled out all other major religions as potential pathways to spiritual fulfillment, determining that "somewhere within Christianity is where God wants me to be, so I'm going to read God's Word cover to cover," Price recalls.

While reading his way through the Bible, Price learned about biblical health and wellness principles and changed his diet. He also discovered the Sabbath while reading the book of Matthew. "I challenged all of my leaders in church and made a stand to teach others about the Sabbath," he says. After speaking about the Sabbath, the pastor didn't allow him to teach the congregation again.

"From that day forward, I've been on fire about God's truth," states Price, now a member of Allegheny West Conference's Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio. He was baptized in June 1996 without ever receiving a formal Bible study. He simply read his way into Adventism. Price soon started teaching the 28 fundamental Adventist beliefs at two churches, pastored by relatives, and has been the catalyst for at least two baptisms, including his sister's.—*Elizabeth Anderson*



### Loretta Singh Little Children Shall Lead Them

The only thing Loretta Singh and her husband wanted to find was a new day care provider for their 2-year-old son, Oscar. But, they found a lot more.

Singh remembers a day nine years ago when she was riding the bus through Takoma Park, Md., with Oscar. They saw some children exiting a building

who appeared to be his age. After Singh called the school and visited with the principal, she decided to enroll Oscar in the child development center at Potomac Conference's Sligo Adventist School.

Oscar thrived at Sligo and shared his enthusiasm with his family. He started requesting that his mother get involved with school activities and also convinced her to take him to Sabbath services at nearby Sligo church.

"All the time he was going there, I wasn't a member," Singh reports. However, Oscar really wanted her to join the church. He would read memory verses to her and ask her to study the Bible with him.

Oscar's persistence paid off. Singh eventually started Bible studies with Debbie Eisele, Sligo's pastor for congregational care. In August 2008, she publicly demonstrated her commitment to God through baptism.

"I decided to join after I understood more about the Bible and about Adventism," Singh explains. She figured it would be a good thing to do, and that it would also make her son, now age 11, happy. It did. On the day of her baptism, she says, his happiness was evident. "The decision was for both of us," she adds.

Although Singh's husband is not a member, he occasionally plays the piano during services and attends concerts at the school. "I keep talking to him," Singh says. "You never know. One day he'll make up his mind too."—*Elizabeth Anderson*

### Delores Taylor Remembering the "White People"

Delores Taylor wondered why the "white people" were in the alley behind her home in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. "Of course it was strange," Taylor recalls, "because you [didn't] see white people in a black neighborhood—especially on a Saturday. You have to realize this was back in the 50s. Segregation was still big time, you know."

The college students stuck out like sore thumbs with their folk-style music, but they were there to tutor or lead the local children in a Sabbath School style program. Taylor remembers how different the students seemed—authentic, unafraid, and no haughty looks or condemnation in their eyes. Instead, they shared worship with the residents, even when their audience just stared back. The visitors also came bearing tangible gifts, like candy and other treats.

The students, of course, were from Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, based in Takoma Park, Md.

"It was tremendous for us to have that experience with loving people, reflecting the love of Christ while the rest of the world is looking at you with fear in their eyes," Taylor states. "I remember especially the little red book, and the Ten Commandments with the fourth one highlighted," she says. Taylor kept that book for many years.

As a matter of fact, it was the sanctity of the Sabbath that kept bothering Taylor, something she eventually discussed with her church pastor. "I was so convicted about the Sabbath, and the memory of these white people would not go away," she states. "He basically blew it off, but I had given much study and prayer to the matter and informed him of my conclusions."



Approximately 10 years after her Sabbath experiences with the college students, 18-year-old Taylor looked up Adventist churches in the phone book. She caught a bus, then walked two miles to Allegheny East's Dupont Park church near the U.S. Capitol. She's been an Adventist ever since.

These days Taylor is an elder at Sligo church. She is also involved in nondenominational ministries and knows the joy of holding heart-to-heart friendships with people of different races and faiths.—*Elizabeth Anderson*

### Welcome to the Family Gwendolyn Speller-Cook Williamstown (N.J.) Church

One Sabbath morning, Gwendolyn Speller-Cook and her three children decided to try and find an Adventist church they'd heard about in their Williamstown, N.J., community. Although they had not planned to actually go into the church, they felt impressed to visit anyway. The members were friendly and invited the family to stay for potluck. After enjoying the worship, food, and fellowship, Speller-Cook was hooked and decided that this was the church for her. She attended evangelistic meetings and started studying the Bible with Pastor Caesar Sprianu. Recently she and her three youngest children—Heaven, Darrel, and KJ—were baptized.





## Brandon Tygret A Druggie Finds the Truth

"If it wasn't marijuana, it was heroin," recalls Brandon Tygret. "I tried a bit of every drug that I could get my hands on in my younger days." He originally experimented with drugs *and* alcohol, he says, to help him deal with problems and depression. "It just developed into a bigger problem," he says. So much so that the drugs nearly killed him on one occasion.

Through a series of miraculous events—including the Lord relieving him of his addictions—the Lord answered Tygret's plea for "nothing but the truth" from His Word. "My biblical knowledge was rather basic," he recounts. Although he believed God existed, he really did not "know" God.

On his 25th birthday, Tygret got a call from his friend, Kevin, who claimed he had stumbled upon "the truth" through the Three Angels Broadcasting Network. They started watching together and believed what they heard, but wondered about Seventh-day Adventists. They searched the Internet for Adventist churches in their area and found the First National church in Nashville, where they lived.

Their first Sabbath there, the two young men helped distribute 1,000 boxes of books about the Ten Commandments. A few months later, in July 2007, they helped distribute 38,000 pieces of literature at another event. "I realized I was learning the truth, and I just wanted to get out there as soon as possible to share it with others," Tygret states. It wasn't long before he made the decision for baptism.

The following May, Tygret married Dolly, a member of the First National church. The couple spent a year in West Virginia, attending Mountain View Conference's Point Pleasant church, where he learned to be a literature evangelist. They recently moved and started attending Ohio Conference's Wilmington church near Dayton. Now he is helping to train others.—*Viola Hughes and Beth Michaels*

## Keith Weaver A Heart Saved by Grace

Keith Weaver had been considering suicide for some time when he received a brochure promoting an evangelistic series at a church near his home that interrupted his plans.

Weaver, raised in a home full of abuse and pain, seethed with anger. As a teenager, his mother forced him to attend church on Sundays—both morning and evening services—but his anger continued to grow.

Sometime later he got involved in witchcraft and started battling "voices" in his head that pushed him closer to suicide. In a poem about his conversion titled "A Heart Saved by Grace," Weaver explains his thoughts during that time:

*... Where was this one called God,  
so many claimed to have known?  
His cries for help seemed answered not,  
his hopeless heart in dread.  
He thinks, yes, suicide is the answer,  
he would be better off dead ...*

Weaver received a brochure for an evangelistic series to be held at Pennsylvania's Berwick church. His girlfriend of 26 years, Judy, didn't want to go alone and kept pushing him to attend. His irritation at having to go turned to interest as he listened to Pastor Jon Peters talk about God's love and grace. Finally, God's message of hope and love broke through the pain and darkness in his heart. "Dear God," he prayed, "If it is not too late, take my heart, my all."

December 2008 was a very special and happy time for the couple. They got baptized *and* married! "I finally found healing for all of the hurt and anger," Weaver shares. "God replaced it with peace and joy."

To hear Weaver read his poem, "A Heart Saved by Grace," visit [columbiaunion.org/podcasts](http://columbiaunion.org/podcasts).  
—*Tamyra Horst*



### Is Your Church Hiding? 10 Keys for Connecting with Your Community

Presented by Celeste Ryan Blyden & Kermit Netteburg



Celeste Ryan Blyden is the assistant to the president for communication in the Columbia Union Conference.



Kermit Netteburg pastors the Beltsville Church in Beltsville, Maryland.  
**January 12, 2010 8:00 p.m. EST**

### Creation Health Not Just What We Eat

Presented by Lynell LaMountain



Lynell LaMountain works with Florida Hospital's Mission Development to bring CREATION Health to local congregations worldwide.  
**March 9, 2010 8:00 p.m. EST**

### Reaching 21st Century Parents

They Are Ready, Are You?

Presented by Willie & Elaine Oliver



Dr. Willie Oliver serves as director of Family Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Elaine is a marriage and family consultant for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.  
**February 9, 2010 8:00 p.m. EST**

### Ministry to Seniors The Fastest Growing Population Group

Presented by Marilyn Renk



Marilyn Renk is the Elder Care Ministry coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.  
**April 13, 2010 8:00 p.m. EST**

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# CAN YOU QUANTIFY SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

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Members of the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md., set their hearts on evangelism after constructing a new church building in 1997. And, they have been honoring the Lord with their efforts by steadily growing their congregation and increasing their outreach efforts. What they still needed to make the building complete was a sanctuary. Naturally, they returned to the organization that helped them make the church a reality—the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF).

The new sanctuary, which opened last January, seats 220 people. The Middletown Valley congregation got right to work utilizing their new space for evangelism. During 2009 the church held numerous evangelistic series and seminars and, as a result, saw 15 people commit their lives to Christ through baptism. As a result of the Lord's blessing, members plan more efforts this year.

As they have done with hundreds of other churches, schools, conferences, and entities across the Columbia Union during the past 40 years, CURF provides cost-effective financing to make ministry possible.

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JANUARY 2010

## Growth is the Essence of Life

Frank Perez

When you're finished growing, you're finished!" Though this statement comes from Ben Franklin, the idea that growth is an essential part of life is a universal concept that has transcended cultures and religion and stood the test of time. And what is true for the individual becomes all the more true for an organization, which has greater impact and higher visibility.

Jesus' parable in Matthew 25:14 sheds some light on the subject of growth, where, in a nutshell, a master gives three servants money in amounts that reflects their ability. The first person doubles the value of his original five talents, the second doubles his two talents, but the third buries his one talent in the ground for safe-keeping. The master is most unhappy with the third man and speaks to him in a way that would be appropriate for a reality TV show today. The man is called "worthless" and cast into the darkness where there is "gnashing of teeth." Growth, defined in this story, is taking something—whatever you have been given—and turning it into more than it was originally.

When asked about his single talent, the third man answers, "I knew you were a hard man ... so I was afraid ... and hid your talent in the ground." He reveals a sheepish fear, the basis for a choice that leaves this poor person on the outside of the community. His punishment is a most undesirable exiling, with an impact that reverberates into his immediate family and the entire community. The lessons in this parable are timeless and powerful.

### TAKING LESSONS TO HEART

At Kettering Adventist HealthCare, we take such lessons to heart daily as we press modern healthcare delivery forward, expanding our capabilities and outreach into the lives of our patients and their families. Healthcare service provides the most dynamic, meaningful opportunities to help us grow, not only personally and professionally, but also in our ability to touch lives for Christ. Ellen White got straight to the point with this statement, "Do practical work. Seek to restore the sick to health. This is true ministry. Remember that the restoration of the body prepares the way for the restoration of the soul" (*Medical Ministry*, p. 240). When we seek to connect with our patients in more meaningful ways and deliver relevant and effective treatments, we are constantly growing out of our comfort zones and seeking new, improved solutions.



This year will bring a year of exponential growth for Kettering Adventist HealthCare. A few examples include the construction of a new facility in Beavercreek; the addition of a NICU unit at Kettering Medical Center to expand our care for at-risk infants; a new west wing at Grandview Medical Center; and a new heart tower at Kettering Medical Center. We also continue to press for higher levels of quality patient care in all of our facilities. These exciting developments all center on one thing: increasing our ability to reach people when they need help the most and giving them the kind of healthcare support that leads them to the love of Jesus Christ.

Frank Perez is the CEO for Kettering Adventist HealthCare based in Kettering, Ohio.



## Legacy of Healing Goes to Africa

*Kathryn Stiles*

A group of medical and spiritual servants from across the nation, identified by their logo as Legacy of Healing, ventured on their most challenging mission trip yet. This past summer, teams from Ohio, California, Colorado, and other states converged in Zambia, Africa, at the Mwami Adventist Hospital and School of Nursing. The team encountered transportation challenges, causing them to arrive late to the hospital, and they did not receive their container full of medical supplies until the day before they left. Despite lacking helpful tools and supplies, the medical team persevered and exceeded their surgical and treatment goals. Together, they treated 969 patients, performed 110 surgeries, conducted worship services, and baptized 27 people.

Legacy of Healing participants spend months preparing for the trip by gathering donated medical supplies from various institutions and sponsors. They fund their trip privately and provide the necessary medical resources. Mafi Schmidt, from southern California, is the key coordinator and mother to Steve Schmidt, MD, a surgeon, Kettering Adventist HealthCare board member, and member of the Kettering church. Steve

organizes a great deal of the medical plans for the trip. This year the group expanded from 17 to 30 and is now in the process of planning this year's mission trip. Although mission team members come from a variety of locations and religious convictions, they always press together to accomplish as much as possible during their short visit. Here are some highlights of their trip to Zambia:



Some Legacy of Healing team members are greeted warmly at the Mwami Adventist Hospital entrance.



Jeffrey Rogers, DO, and Bonnie Shawver, both from Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, get little Rhoda, a severe burn patient, ready for surgery.



The warm African sun dries the many necessary hospital linens.



Stephanie Schmidt, a Dayton, Ohio, high school senior, enjoys time with one of the clinic's smallest visitors.



Kettering church member Becky Eldenburg, a nurse at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, spends time with some patients.



A team member connects with a young boy who has come for medical treatment and to worship.



Kettering church member Sula Mazimba, MD, an internist at Kettering Medical Center, addresses a patient's concerns.



## Kettering Medical Center Ranked Top Five for Stroke Care

Kettering Medical Center (KMC) in Kettering, Ohio, received top ratings from HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization. The nation's nearly 5,000 nonfederal hospitals were all included in the sweeping study, which examined mortality and complication rates from government data between 2006 and 2008.



As a result, KMC received the 2010 HealthGrades Stroke Care Excellence Award. They were also ranked sixth in the country for their treatment of stroke; received five star ratings for their treatment of stroke, heart failure, and women's health (2009/2010); were the recipient of the HealthGrades Women's Health Excellence Award (2009/2010); and were ranked in the top 5 percent in the nation for women's health (2009/2010).

"This independent assessment of our quality is very significant because it is based on Medicare's national database, and it charts performance for an extended period of time," said Roy Chew, PhD, KMC president. "It is our mission to improve the quality of life for the people in the communities we serve. These findings illustrate how our doctors, nurses, and support staff are taking that mission to heart and committing to quality outcomes."

## Renowned Physician Speaks at Ribbon of Hope Luncheon

Susan Love, MD (below), a dedicated breast cancer warrior, was the keynote speaker at the ninth annual Ribbon of Hope Luncheon held in October. The



2009 event attracted more than 525 guests who gave the event rave reviews. Love is president of the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation, where she oversees an active research program centered on breast cancer prevention. She has also authored several books, including *Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book*, which the *New York Times* called "the Bible for women with breast cancer."

The Ribbon of Hope Luncheon, coordinated by the Kettering Medical Center Foundation, originated in 2001. Proceeds benefit the Women's Wellness Fund, providing mammograms and breast health education for underserved women in greater Dayton. To date the luncheon has raised over \$800,000 and helped more than 7,000 area women.

Past speakers have included the late Jerri Nielsen, MD, who treated herself for breast cancer while on duty at the South Pole; former first daughter Susan Ford; astronaut Mae Jemison; Stephanie Spielman, wife of OSU star Chris Spielman; and *Today Show* host Hoda Kotb. For more information, visit [kmcfoundation.org](http://kmcfoundation.org).

## Kettering College Recognizes Outstanding Alumnus

Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA) named Gregory C. Henderson, president of Greene Memorial Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, their Alumnus of the Year. Henderson graduated from KCMA in 1971 with an associate's degree in radiologic technology. After earn-



*Gregory C. Henderson (center), president of Greene Memorial Hospital, accepts the Kettering College of Medical Arts Alumnus of the Year award from Fred Manchur, president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, and Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president and KAHC board chair.*

ing his bachelor's in healthcare administration and education through Oregon Institute of Technology in 1977, he went on to receive his master's in healthcare administration in 1997 at the University of La Verne in La Verne, Calif. Henderson most recently served as senior executive officer at Southview Hospital.

The Kettering College Distinguished Alumni Awards, including the Alumnus(a) of the Year and the Rising Star Award, are the highest honors bestowed by the Kettering College Alumni Association. The awards recognize graduates for their professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of the college.—*Cheryl Kennison*

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# ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

JANUARY 2010

## Faith Church's Outreach Feeds Body and Soul

When Faith church members decided to host evangelism meetings at their facility in Cambridge, Md., they wanted to make both a physical and spiritual impact in the community. They partnered with Feed the Children, a nonprofit organization that brings food to communities in need.



*Mother and daughter Christie Milligan and Ashley Hawkins prepare for baptism at the Faith church in Cambridge, Md.*

Weeks before the meetings, workers from the Faith church and the New Life church in nearby Salisbury, Md., visited homes and offered Bible studies. Later they distributed invitations to the six-night "Happy Family" seminars led by Pastor Paul Bryant. At first visitors were few, but, as time progressed, attendees told their friends and the numbers grew. One night the church held 115 people!

Boxes of food were distributed following the seminars. Five people were baptized during the meetings, and several more asked for Bible studies. Church members are already planning single parent and job readiness seminars.—*Annie Mae Murray*



*Gary Dashiells and Richard Jolley load a truck with food to distribute at evangelism meetings.*

## Shiloh Church Members Minister to Homeless

Every Sabbath, one hour before sunset, members from the Shiloh church can be found on the streets of Petersburg, Va. Rain or shine, these members are committed to helping the homeless in their community—a ministry they started a year ago. Depending on the weather and/or the needs of the people, Shiloh members distribute soup, sandwiches, snacks, bottled water, and personal care items.

The recipients requested and were delighted to receive a "soul food" meal. They also enjoyed a special Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas celebration. As the temperature dipped, Shiloh members distributed warm hats, scarves,

gloves, socks, coats, and clothing suitable to wear to church.

Some of the recipients responded by attending several church services. One gentleman even requested baptism and is taking Bible studies.

By spending quality time with those in need, Shiloh members say they have been accepted like family. Young people also participate in the outreach and are known by name.

"Now that we have been accepted by them as 'family,' we will be taking the gospel message to them," one member explained. "We already sing, pray, and listen to them, but we have plans for a health and Bible seminar. We are



*Lloyd Hines, a member of the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va., prays with Wayne, who is homeless.*

planning to get them off the streets and into programs that help [get them back on their feet]."  
—*Agnes Smith*

PHOTO BY JOHN SCOTT

**NEWS NOTES**

**Northern New Jersey Members Fellowship**

Thirteen churches and several hundred of their members from the northern New Jersey area recently gathered in Tranquility, N.J., for a spiritual feast. Called Unity Day, the event began with an hourlong worship service followed by social and recreational activities.

Pastor Richard Campbell, Northern New Jersey Ministerium secretary and pastor of the Community church in Englewood, N.J., says this annual gathering is an important fellowship experience. "We are energized by our synergy, and we think that in some ways our members can be lifted by a shared experience with other believers whom they may not meet otherwise," he explains.



**Dupont Park Church Provides New Members With Spiritual "Guardians"**

Twenty members of the Dupont Park church (some pictured below) in Washington, D.C., were recently designated as spiritual guardians for 20 new members. "The first year in the life of a new church member is the most crucial," explains Lula Craig, director of the church's Personal Ministries department. "It is extremely important that they immediately begin to feel like a part of the church family and quickly find their place in the service and ministry of the church."



The program is based on a passage in Ellen G. White's book *Evangelism*, where she writes, "After individuals have been converted to the truth, they should not be left alone a prey to Satan's most powerful temptations ... God requires this church to nurse those who are young in the faith," (pp. 351-352).—*Connie Mitchell*

**Southwest Philadelphia Church Hosts Community Mixer**

Four blocks of southwest Philadelphia were recently closed to motor traffic and transformed into a festive arena as the Southwest Philadelphia church hosted its second annual community mixer. This allowed church members to interact with community members and assess their needs. The church offered HIV testing, blood pressure checks, and first-time home buyers' counseling. The Pathfinders displayed their crafts while the drum corps (below) and drill team performed.



Attendees enjoyed an array of dishes as well as giveaways, and children were kept occupied with games, a bouncer, face painting, and a football game. School-aged children also received bags filled with school supplies.

Southwest church members are following up with their neighbors and plan to become more involved in their community.—*Janice D. Jenkins*

**Correction:** In the November *Exposé*, one caption in the "West Philadelphia Ministers Through Computer Training" story identified the man pictured as Derrick Long. The person in the photo is actually Keith Bell. We regret this error.

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**14 Accept Christ at Bethel's Youth Day**

During a recent Youth Day at Bethel church in Akron, Ohio, the Holy Spirit worked through the young people to bring 14 to Christ. Under the theme "Joseph the Dreamer," the youth participated in all aspects of the service. The youth chorale sang, and others presented a skit. After special music, 13-year-old Maurice Belle II took the pulpit.



He delivered a powerful message titled, "From the Pit to the Palace." Congregants noted that he possessed a calm and poise well beyond his years. He encouraged the youth, as well as the adults, to never give up on their dream. He further stated that if God puts a dream in you, He will fulfill it. The power of God was evident in the message as well as in the appeal song, "Tomorrow," which tugged at the heartstrings of the congregation.

Then Belle appealed for baptism decisions. The Holy Spirit came down in a mighty way as 14 young people and adults came to the altar, including Belle's grandmother. Afterward, there was not a dry eye in the sanctuary.

"[Maurice] is an anointed speaker, and I believe there is a serious ministry calling on his life. This is just the beginning of what God has in store for him," says Pastor Calvin Roberson, who assisted with the sermon.

**NEWS**

**Berea Church Dedicates New Building**

Visitors came from far and near to help Pastor Jason Ridley and his members celebrate the grand opening of the Berea church's two-building complex in Charleston, W.Va.

Charlotte L.V. Thoms, Women's and Disabilities min-



The actual dedication service took place on Sabbath afternoon, and former Berea church pastor Derrick Moffett, ThD—current pastor of the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus—presented the message. Carl Rogers, special assistant to the conference president, led members as they dedicated the new building and rededicated themselves to God.

A concert choir on Sunday concluded the celebration and started the church's two-week "Reclaiming and Restoring the Family" seminar.

**Dale Wright Memorial Starts Pathfinder Club**

The Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, recently started the Spartan Pathfinder Club. The Spartans held an induction service by candlelight. Eleven Pathfinders and 11 Adventurers pledged to "do their best to do their duty."



istries director for the Atlantic Union Conference and Disabilities Ministries coordinator for the North American Division, led the Friday night service.

On Sabbath Stephen Richardson, administrative pastor of the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., spoke during the divine service. The group Restoration from Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, and Henry Mosley from Washington, D.C., provided the music.

## Dale Wright Memorial Church Commemorates 50th Anniversary

Members of the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking for their current building (see rendering below). The church's story began when the first members met in homes in bad weather and under a large tree in good weather. They soon purchased a tavern, which they converted into the Berea Chapel and officially organized in 1948. They broke ground on the current site in 1959, and later renamed the church for their first elected elder, Dale Wright.



A copy of the church's original drawings.

Today's members commemorated the faithfulness of the church's founders, starting with a Friday night vespers. Clifford M. Wright from the Lakewood (Ohio) church presented a message titled "We Can't Come Down."

On Sabbath morning, current pastor Stephen E. Brooks taught Sabbath School, and former Dale Wright pastor Bryant C. Taylor, DMin, presented the midday sermon. After the service, the members hosted more than 100 people for dinner. They ended their celebration with a concert.—*Marci Wright*



Clifford Wright, pastor of the Lakewood (Ohio) church, speaks for Friday evening service.



Gary Nelson and Ron Dickerson provide music.



Bryant Taylor delivers the Sabbath sermon.



The Wright Family Choir sings during the Sabbath afternoon concert.

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

## Setting the Standard for Giving Back

It takes all of us—parents, faculty, alumni, constituents, and friends—to provide a Christian education for our youth. In my short time here at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), it has become clear to me that we have been blessed with outstanding support.

The Berks Regional Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) recently recognized two of our most ardent supporters. The AFP named Herb and Marilyn Dennison (left), Class of 1967, Outstanding Philanthropists for 2009. The AFP works with 30,000 members worldwide to "advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education, and certification programs." They recognize those who "change the world with a giving heart." The Dennisons were honored at the AFP annual dinner for their financial contributions to BMA, and for volunteering their time and expertise.



BMA and the youth of Pennsylvania are near and dear to the hearts of the Dennisons, and the couple want to do all they can to give this generation of BMA students as good an experience as they had. Besides volunteering themselves, they are encouraging fellow alumni and donors to join them in funding and volunteering to complete the dorm bathroom renovations. This tremendous need would not be met without the support of the Dennisons and others like them. Everyone's help is needed to advance Christian education.



Craig Ziesmer  
Principal

## Campus Family Gives Blood

Despite illness and cancellations, 48 people gave blood at the school's recent blood drive. A total of 42 units were collected (28 whole blood, six red blood cells, six platelets, and two plasma). Knowing it was for a good cause, donors were happy to help:



Principal Craig Ziesmer multi-tasks while donating platelets at Blue Mountain Academy's most recent blood drive.



Diana Cordero (right, foreground) and Eric Rorie, both seniors, cheerfully participate in the school's recent blood drive.



Nathanael Beisiegel ('10) smiles as he finishes his blood donation.

## Reunions, Recognition, and Retreats: A Look Back

During the first half of the school year, students, faculty, and staff were busy with alumni reunions, the BMA Leadership Retreat, Senior Recognition, and more. Below are just a few of the moments that will forever be etched in our memories:



Seniors Leila Celestin, Nathanael Beisiegel, and Ryan Pajela brainstorm with freshmen Bruna Barbosa and Andre Salva at the BMA Leadership Retreat.



Seniors are recognized on their special weekend.



BMA pastor Dave Sanner baptizes Trae Cannonnier ('10) during Senior Recognition weekend.

Maile Hoffman ('12) tutors an elementary student on Service Day.



Philadelphia Academy alumni and staff gather for a mini-reunion in Chattanooga, Tenn.



Caleb Link ('10) performs "O Rest in the Lord," a vocal solo by Felix Mendelssohn, at the vesper program for Senior Recognition weekend.

### Want to get BMA News Fast?

For a detailed schedule and up-to-the-minute information on news and happenings, view the calendar online at [bma.us](http://bma.us).

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

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JANUARY 2010

## Take a Long Look!

It makes all the difference in the world where a person looks! Keep your eyes on the road 15 feet ahead of your car and you will drive erratically. Look out 100-200 feet ahead of your car and feel yourself steady at the wheel. There are times when we need to look away from the immediate and set our gaze on the horizon. Doing this will remind us that there are more important things going on in the world than what revolves around us.

A friend of mine spends the first 30 minutes in his office each morning in quiet time, where he reads a passage from his Bible, meditates on it, and then prays. Then he swings his chair around and looks out the window at the city skyline. This simple practice sets the tone for his day. Things begin to fall into place, fuzzy thinking disappears, and priorities become clear. He allows nothing to interfere with those first golden minutes of his business day when he is "alone with God." This special time makes it possible for him to face the day's responsibilities and decisions with maximum efficiency and minimal fuss. He takes a long look. He has a view!

One of the greatest challenges any of us face is that of keeping things in perspective. Spending time each day with God is the secret to seeing the big picture and taking the long view. Join me in making this a priority in this new year.



Rob Vandeman  
President

## NEWS

### Berkeley Springs Supper Club Draws Neighbors

The Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) congregation recently started a supper club to meet people in their community. According to Lisa Shingleton, the church's Health Ministries leader, the evening includes something for everyone, beginning with a vegetarian meal prepared by church members. After supper there is a cooking demonstration, and participants receive the recipes to take home. A short workshop follows, and experts speak on a variety of health topics and natural remedies.

"It's just incredible how many people are coming in for this," said Shingleton. Attendance has grown from 20-30 people when the club started, to as many as 60 adults who bring their children along. She notes that most regular attendees are visiting from the local community.—Ruth Wright

### Atholton Students Conduct Week of Prayer

Students at Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md., recently held their own Week of Prayer themed "Fired Up and Ready to Go!" Members of the school's Student Association used young Bible heroes like Samuel, King Josiah, and David to illustrate the potential impact of just one person who chooses to follow God's will. The stories gave examples of youth who listened to God's voice, rose above peer pressure, and exemplified courage in the face of danger.

"I had a blast playing my guitar for song service,"



First-graders locate Bible verses during a recent student-led week of prayer at Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md.

said Wesley Carreno, a sophomore who participated as a worship speaker and song leader. "The little kids were singing their hearts out. It was really awesome to hear that."



## Conference Secretary Retires After 48 Years in Ministry

Charles J. Griffin, Chesapeake Conference executive secretary and trust officer, retired this month after more than 48 years of distinguished service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The conference executive committee accepted Griffin's decision to retire and asked that he continue to serve as association secretary on a part-time basis. The association is the corporate entity of the conference that deals with property management, building projects, and other critical business issues.

"Elder Griffin leaves an indelible mark on the work here in Chesapeake," said Rob Vandeman, conference president. "It has been an honor to work with him, and I am so very pleased we will still enjoy his leadership, albeit, on a more limited basis."

Griffin, accompanied by his wife, Evelyn, came to the conference from Texas in 1966 to serve as a pastor in Wilmington, Del.

Robert H. Pierson, who was world church president at the time, conducted an evangelistic series in Wilmington and influenced the Griffins to accept a mission



call to South America.

While there Griffin worked as a departmental director and president of the North Coast Mission in Brazil, and later as president of the Uruguay Mission. The couple continued God's work in Singapore, where Griffin used his position as Church Ministries director for the Far Eastern Division (now Northern Asia-Pacific Division) to focus on evangelism and church growth.

Griffin, who holds a Doctor of Ministry from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at

Andrews University (Mich.), returned to the United States and held a variety of pastoral and administrative positions, including four years as Stewardship director for the General Conference, and three years as president of the Greater New York Conference in the North American Division.

In 1997 the Griffins moved back to the Chesapeake Conference, where Griffin served as pastor of the Williamsport (Md.) church before assuming his current positions in administration.



Charles Griffin uses the local mode of transportation in Maranhão, Brazil, in 1968.

Evelyn Griffin had her own distinguished career as an evangelist and conference departmental director. For the past 12 years, she has served as the conference's Bible worker.

"It's been an incredible journey," Griffin said. "We never dreamed that we would end up spending a third of our career in Chesapeake with such wonderful, dedicated Christians."

The Griffins plan to remain at their farm near Smithsburg, Md., and look forward to the frequent visits of their four adult children and 14 grandchildren.



Charles and Evelyn Griffin, second from right, enjoy a visit with their children, grandchildren, and Charles' parents.

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## United in Sharing Him

Go Ye and Tell Your World" that Jesus is coming again is Mountain View Conference's focus in 2010 and beyond. I want to encourage each member to attend local church meetings and become a part of this great commission.

Through newly trained missionary Bible workers, each church is developing a strong Bible study emphasis to prepare for upcoming public evangelistic meetings. Outreach leadership teams are leading the way by systematically dividing their communities into local mission fields. Trained ShareHim speakers will hold reaping meetings in the spring and fall. They are the hands, feet, and lips of Jesus.

God is moving! We are seeing the fulfillment of what will happen when lay members, conference administrators, pastors, and teachers are united in telling others about the love of Jesus. Notice Jesus' challenge in Matthew to bathe our united efforts in prayer, "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matt. 9:37-38, NKJV).

Mountain View pastors have been strongly encouraged to dedicate the month of January to revival and commitment. During this time, each member will be given opportunities to reach up and renew their relationship with Jesus as they prepare to reach out to others and reach across to fellow church members. I invite each of you to unite in prayer—earnestly petitioning God to work on your heart, call more laborers, and bless Mountain View with a large harvest of souls for the kingdom.



Larry Boggess  
President

## Fairmont Members Laud Bible Study Training

Once timid and shy, Steve and Regina Boyce (right) of the Fairmont (W.Va.) church are now openly proclaiming the good news of salvation.

The couple was baptized in 2007 after attending the "Israel in Prophecy" meetings. It only took a few presentations for them to know they had found the truth. They started studying more and realized they had to share this knowledge with others. However, they didn't know how to give Bible studies.

Encouraged by their church family, they signed up for a Missionary Bible Worker training weekend. At the training, they learned to give Bible studies and get the whole church involved in a prayer system called the Salvation Tree.

Churches with the Salvation Tree place leaves on an illustration of a tree with the names of those they want to give Bible studies. The church prays for them, and, as the requests turn to actual Bible studies, they change the leaf to a flower. When the person is baptized, the flower becomes a fruit.

To those who are hesitant, Regina says, "Take that leap of faith. My faith and trust in God is so much stronger now because I took that leap." She has four active Bible studies.

"Reaching heaven along with all our friends and neighbors, that's what we want!" Steve says. "We are so thankful for the opportunities we've had to learn so that we can share the good news with others!"



## Prayer Directs Four to Join Summersville Church

Lord, I know you want them here. Where are they?" thought Elaine Buchanan, speaker for the recent "Hope in a Dying World" evangelism meetings at the Summersville (W.Va.) church.

Throughout the series 13 visitors had attended regularly, but as Buchanan got up to speak on the closing Sabbath, four were not there. She petitioned God during her opening prayer, "There are four people, Lord, that are absent. Bring them."

While she was still praying, one, Phil Fogelman came through the door. She thanked God in her prayer, and as she was thanking Him, two others, Herbert and Judy Chaffin, came in together. Then in another five minutes, Sharon Moses, the fourth person, came through the door. (Moses later said that God told her to "go to church." She said, "Let

them previously. My meetings were just a tip of the iceberg. We have to reach out and get to know individuals in our communities so that when the time is right, they can make the decision to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit."



Pastor Jimmy Buchanan rejoices with Diane Nichols at her baptism.



From left to right: Elaine Buchanan, Phil Fogelman, Sharon Moses, Cathy DeMoss, Diane Nichols, and Judy and Herbert Chaffin.

me get a shower first," but God responded, "No, go now.")

"I was ecstatic!" Buchanan exclaimed. "I know that God answered my prayer right there, and the whole church got to witness it!"

As she closed her message, six people came forward and asked for baptism, including the aforementioned four.

She added, "These decisions are a result of the Summersville church family studying and working with

### Mark Your Calendars

This year's camp meeting is a week earlier than usual. Mountain View Conference Camp Meeting will be June 11-19 at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.



Herbert and Judy Chaffin were married on Friday and baptized on Sabbath morning.

## Mountain View EVENTS

### January

- 11 Education Leadership Summit, Clarksburg (W.Va.) Church
- 11-13 Pastors Retreat, Valley Vista Adventist Center, Huttonsville W.Va.
- 13 Camp Management Committee, Valley Vista
- 22-24 Pathfinder Winter Camp Valley Vista
- 25 Executive Committee Meeting Conference Office

### February

- 5-7 Adventist Youth Winter Festival, Valley Vista
- 28 Lay Advisory, Fairmont (W.Va.) Church

### March

- 1 Curriculum Committee/ Teachers In-Service
- 8 Executive Committee/ Financial Review, Conference Office

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

## Return Unto Me

A new year! A new life! New mercies each day! This year presents new opportunities to serve God and take care of your loved ones. It is also a new invitation to evaluate the quality of your stewardship. I praise the Lord for you dear members and your faithfulness. Thanks to you, the New Jersey Conference is bigger, healthier, and stronger in fulfilling its mission.

However, there are some "potentially faithful members" whose priorities do not include faithfulness in all aspects of stewardship. Think of the impact on the mission of the church in New Jersey if all members were 100 percent faithful in returning their tithes and offerings. Imagine the blessings we would receive in all areas of ministry as well as in our personal lives!

This new year, "Return Unto Me" is still God's invitation to you. Our caring Creator is the God of new beginnings. His mercies are new each morning.

It is easy to get distracted, to forget about God, your family, your church, and the community where you live. Do you have time to play with your children? Is your Bible covered with dust? Are you spending time with your family in daily devotions? Are you mindful of your marriage vows? Do you have time or resources for the things that have real value, and will last for eternity? Do you have an unselfish spirit that permits you to enjoy contributing to the advancement of God's work?

The New Year is a good time to reconsider your actions, return to the right path, and become a good steward. Do not be content with just being OK. Be the best you can be!

Hear the Lord's words: "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you ..." (Mal. 3:7).



José H. Cortés  
President

## Conference Launches Stewardship Emphasis

New Jersey Conference president José H. Cortés announced "Return Unto Me: Living a Life of Stewardship" as the conference's theme for 2010. Three years ago when Cortés became president, he developed the Five Pillars of prayer, Bible study, evangelism, stewardship, and family as an expression of his vision for the conference during this quinquennium. In 2008 the theme was Bible study and a daily Bible reading guide was distributed to every member. The year 2009 emphasized family life, and couples renewed their wedding vows during camp meeting.



"Too often we think of stewardship as involving only our faithfulness in returning tithe and offerings. Stewardship is more than just our money and possessions," Cortés says.

As Leonel Pottinger (left), the conference's Stewardship director, explains, "Stewardship is a lifestyle issue and involves every part of our lives such as finances, family, physical health, spiritual health,

and how we spend our time each day."

G. Edward Reid, North American Division Stewardship director, will bring home the message of stewardship as camp meeting speaker this year (June 12).

"Given the current financial crises in America, it is good that we focus our attention on stewardship and the promises that God has given to bless those who honor Him," Cortés says.



## Mount Holly Church Members Teach Health at the Mall

Members from the Mount Holly church recently spent time at their local mall spreading the gospel of health to shoppers. Held at the Burlington Mall in Burlington, members set up booths at an empty retail space. Each booth featured a letter of the NEWSTART (nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God) health program. Participant Jane Oswari reports that some 80 people stopped by their booths.



Children from the Mount Holly church hold high each letter of the NEWSTART health program for passersby at a local mall.

## New Trailer Equips Conference to Respond to Disaster

In times of emergency, New Jersey Conference members will be able to help respond to disaster. The conference recently dedicated a 6-foot by 16-foot trailer (below) to be used to set up and distribute emergency supplies. With the capacity to haul 4,000 pounds of equipment, the trailer will be outfitted with shelving, an emergency generator, portable stove, computers and printers, tables and other equipment that will be used in setting up collection centers, multi-agency



**Disaster Response Team:** Ken Varga, Central New Jersey Disaster Response coordinator; Pastor Mike Gill, Adventist Community Services director for the New Jersey Conference; and Claudia Ramirez, New Jersey Conference Disaster Response coordinator

dedication service and noted that Seventh-day Adventists are now better equipped to help others in times of need.

For more information on becoming part of the disaster response team, or to register for training, contact Claudia Ramirez at (609) 707-6416 or email her at CARami4144@aol.com. The next available disaster response training will be April 23-25 at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility.

warehouses, and emergency distribution centers.

José H. Cortés, conference president, prayed at the trailer's



Tom Dunham, pastor of the Mount Holly church, talks to a young shopper about the importance of trusting in God for optimal health.

## dates

### January

- 6-9 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend
- 15-17 Youth/Pathfinder Leadership Convention, Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)
- 22-24 Spanish Ministries Convention, TVRC

### February

- 3-6 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend
- 5-7 Adventurers and Children's Ministries Leadership Convention, TVRC
- 6-13 Christian Home and Marriage Emphasis Week
- 19-21 English Ministries Convention, TVRC
- 27 New Jersey Conference Orchestra Annual Classical Concert

### March

- 6 Women's Day of Prayer
- 10-13 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend

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 Members Participate in Prayer Breakfast

The Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church and Worthington Adventist Academy (WAA) were well represented at the Worthington mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. Mayor Harvey S. Minton invited Worthington member Allan R. Buller to be the main speaker at the annual event, which also featured readings from the Talmud, Quran, Sikh holy book, and Old and New Testaments.

In his address, "My Journey of Faith," Buller, former CEO of Worthington Foods, Inc., shared experiences from his days as a World War II Army supply sergeant, as well as from his 53-year career with Worthington Foods, interweaving them with personal stories of faith tested, risks taken, and prayers answered.

Loren Seibold, Worthington church pastor, offered one of the morning's prayers, after which students from WAA shared The Lord's Prayer in six languages. WAA is a small, diverse school with children who speak Spanish, French, Korean, Portuguese, Shona, and other languages at home.—Suzy Juarros



Suzy Juarros, principal of Worthington Adventist Academy, and her students meet with The Honorable Harvey S. Minton, Worthington mayor.

## Worthington Church Members Help Job Seekers

Worthington church members have embraced the economic downturn as an opportunity to serve those in great need of God's healing compassion.

The church has formed the newest chapter of the Scioto Ridge Job Networking Group (SRJNG). SRJNG is a faith-based, community-focused, networking group for midcareer professionals in job transition. Their primary goal is to help members expand their network of business contacts in order to discover job opportunities. They do this via bimonthly meetings at the Worthington church. During these meetings, members hear

guest speakers who are experts in their fields, network with other SRJNG members and sponsors, and receive tips and advice on various job-seeking tools.

"Volunteering at the SRJNG has been an extraordi-

nary experience for me; from the first time I visited one of the other chapters ... I was deeply touched and yet inspired at the same time," explains Mary Fran Sciulli.

There is also a spiritual component that is provided for members, many of whom come to the group discouraged, heavy-hearted, and in real need of emotional and spiritual support. The meetings provide motivation and inspiration through prayer, testimonials, and Christ-centered presentations.

The Worthington chapter meets the first and third Wednesday of every month. For more information about this group, call the church office at (614) 885-7812 or visit srjng.com.—Laura Hanley



Mary Fran Sciulli serves snacks to attendees at a networking meeting hosted by the Worthington church.



Worthington church members have recently opened their doors to job seekers looking for networking opportunities.

## Grant Allows Good Neighbor House to Expand Services

Good Neighbor House (GNH) in Dayton, Ohio, was recently awarded its first government grant from the Montgomery County Human Services Levy to expand its dental clinic. GNH will receive \$79,130 this year and a minimum of \$121,000 in 2011.

list is nearly four months, although some exceptions have been made for emergency situations.

In 2008 alone, more than 19,000 individuals accessed many of GNH's services.

In early 2007, two graduate research assistants conducted a major needs assessment. It included interviews with many civic leaders and health professionals throughout the area. The interviews indicated that no other agency in the metro area was providing a dental clinic, and there was a strong consensus that GNH should expand its services in this area.

"We could never do what we do without our volunteers," explained Tiffany Collie, development director. "We have 250 active volunteers who range from 2 to 95 years old. They are the heart and backbone of Good Neighbor House."

Dave Hutman, pastor of the Stillwater church in Vandalia, has volun-



Mary Ehlers, a member of the Centerville church, assists a client at the Good Neighbor House. GNH also offers food pantry services, clothing, household, and furniture items.

teered at GNH from the beginning. "Helping others is what we are called to do," he said. "It's really cool that we've gotten this funding. It's really exciting how the place has grown to become a significant provider of human services in Dayton."

Dayton area churches, such as Beaver Creek, Centerville, Ethan Temple, Hillcrest, Kettering, Miamisburg, New Carlisle, and Stillwater, continue to support GNH. Adventist doctors and dentists have played a key role in the dental, medical, and optical clinics it offers. Other denominations also regularly provide volunteers and funding to GNH. In addition to the clinic, GNH provides basic social services, health and wellness education, and spiritual care.

For more information on GNH, email [tiffany.collie@goodneighbor-house.org](mailto:tiffany.collie@goodneighbor-house.org), or call (937) 224-3003, ext. 107.—Monte Sahlin



Bryan Nickell, DDS, a member of the Middletown church, works on a patient while Darlene Wallace, a member of the Kettering church, assists.

Dave Hutman, pastor of the Stillwater church, was on the planning team at Good Neighbor House's inception and remains a committed volunteer. Here he mans the grill at the annual volunteer picnic.

Opened in 1994, GNH has provided a dental clinic for more than a decade to meet the needs of those in the Dayton metro area without dental coverage. Volunteer dentists staff the clinic, which was previously open two evenings a week. The grant allows GNH to add three afternoons of services. The need for this kind of care has become more and more pronounced as employers trim back health benefits and as unemployment in Dayton grows. The waiting

## Our Mission Calls Us To Be Different

Anybody can have a church, but as Seventh-day Adventists, we are called to be different. Anyone can believe in spiritual themes, but we are called to be *different*. Anyone can preach the gospel, but we are called to be different and to present the gospel in a new light. Anyone can gather on the weekend for a worship service, but we are called to be *different*.

We are presenting the eternal gospel in light of God's last message of invitation, of loyalty to heaven's government, and of the warning of false worship. We are to let this message of the fullness of Christ for these times transform us into a healthy, reproducing body of Christ. And as we have the fullness of Christ's love in every part of our lives, we will want others to experience the richness we have found.

Sharing the full gospel is the mission of the Pennsylvania Conference. In the urgency of these times people need to experience the realness of God's Word in a church family that has the heart, mind, and attitude of Jesus in all that we say and do. Our full Seventh-day Adventist message is to lead us to make Jesus Christ so attractive, that people are not just warned about the end of time, but that they will want to follow Christ in every way because love for Him compels us to give Him our all. That is our mission.



Ray Hartwell  
President

## Pennsylvania Conference Mission Statement

Vibrant and loving congregations, spreading the everlasting gospel (Revelation 14), fostering a climate of spiritual renewal, healthy congregations, and equipping members for ministry.

## Chambersburg Church Lights the Night

The Chambersburg church recently welcomed more than 200 guests to their first Light the Night Safe Zone Block Party. Six thousand plus watts of light (sponsored by the Blue Ridge Summit division of IESI Landfill) literally pushed back the darkness.

Parents and children enjoyed eight Bible-themed carnival games. Members of the Chambersburg Cavaliers Pathfinder Club manned the game stations. Church members Greg Rockwell and Ann Hockensmith prayed with kids and adults at the prayer tent. Sherri Tucker and Beckie Carbaugh painted faces at the Creation Station while, at the craft table, Pam Carbaugh helped 40 kids make pumpkin picture frames or key chains that said, "Let the light of Jesus shine." Chester Fox, Steven Fox, Perry Carbaugh, Sue Rice, and Rick Straley served snacks and beverages throughout the night.

Two officers from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department opened their police cruisers and allowed kids to sit in the front. Live Out Loud (right), a band of four junior high school students, played music for the crowd.

While every child received treats when they left, the



first 108 children received candy bags that included a new Bible with an invitation to Sabbath School. One mother, so happy that each of her children now had their very own Bible, was near tears. Many parents asked for information about the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs.—DeAnn Straley

**UNFAILING Love** PA Conference Spring Women's Retreat 2010  
Psalm 42:8 (CEV)

**MARCH 19-21, 2010**  
Holiday Inn - New Cumberland  
145 Sheraton Drive  
New Cumberland, PA

Do you desire a connection with God that's alive and deeply personal? Are you hungry to hear the voice of God in your spirit and through your Bible? Are you experiencing satisfying relationships that are meaningful for you and those who don't yet know Christ? Experience the joy of being caught in the cascade of His unfailing love as we rediscover some simple, effective tools for renewed intimacy with our Life Giver.

The weekend will also include...

- Why Lie?
- Red & Yellow, Blue & Green--All Are Precious in His Sight
- Touching Up Family "Roots"
- From Invisible To... (Just for Teens)
- Eyes That See: The Story of Leah
- Loving You--Taking Care Of Yourself (Women's Health Fair)

**Featuring JANET PAGE**  
Janet is the Women's Ministries and Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Central California Conference.

For more information or to register, go to [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org) or call 610-374-8331 x236

## Conference Staff Says Goodbye

The Pennsylvania Conference office staff recently celebrated the retirement of Judy Pelley (below). Serving in the registrar's offices at both Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and Atlantic Union College (Mass.), Pelley has worked for the denomination for 22 years. Most recently she served as the administrative assistant for the Pennsylvania Conference president.



"Judy's dedication to the Lord's work and her skills have contributed immensely to the mission of Pennsylvania, and we wish her and her husband, Lester, every blessing of the Lord as they move to Wisconsin," said Ray Hartwell, conference president.

The Pelleys look forward to moving close to their daughter and grandchildren in Wisconsin.



Conference staff also said farewell to Ralph Reifsnyder who worked as conference auditor for 15 years, working with and assisting local churches and their treasurers. "I am impressed with Ralph's love for his work, his dedication, and his nurturing, friendly way of working with others," said Ron Christman, conference treasurer. Reifsnyder lives in the Reading area and is a member of the Kenhorst Boulevard church.

## What's happening

- January**
- 8-10 Pathfinder Executive Council
  - 14-17 Blue Mountain Academy Pennsylvania Mission Trip
  - 22-23 Hispanic Elders Retreat, Blue Mountain Academy
  - 29-31 Pathfinder Winter Retreat Laurel Lake Camp
- February**
- 12-14 Youth Spiritual Retreat Blue Mountain Academy
  - 26-28 Hispanic Lay Festival, Carlisle
  - 26-28 Marriage Retreat, Reading

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

## How Adventist Education Changed My Future

Forty years ago, the faithful church members of the Grand Rapids Central Seventh-day Adventist Church invested their lives and finances into a dysfunctional, financially-challenged family of seven. Their evangelism strategy was to enroll the four oldest children into the local Adventist school. They knew the message of Jesus would be taught every day to the children and would plant the seed of the gospel story into the heart of the family. They knocked on the door and requested permission to educate the children. Reluctant and embarrassed to have to accept their financial assistance, permission was granted.

I am so grateful for those in that community who saw value in my family. The teachers shared Jesus, and Jesus entered our home. What a difference He has made! Habits of this world were tossed away. The Bible and other Christian literature entered the home. My parents were baptized and joined that fellowship of believers. Love and commitment entered our home—best illustrated by my parents coming from multiple marriages to celebrating 50 years together this month! Yes, I am an Adventist today because of a church community and their support and belief in Adventist education.

It was this type of passion for children that changed the course of my family and, more specifically, my life. Adventist education should mean more to us than quality academics or a nice private school. Our schools ought to be a statement to our communities of our love for children and our desire to have them connected to Jesus. Adventist education is not a sacrifice—it is an investment in the lives of others. I encourage you to contact your local school or pastor and inquire how you can get involved in changing a life for Jesus.



Keith Hallam  
Vice President for Education

## Conference Recognizes Teachers, Pastors

Three teachers and two pastors were recognized at Potomac Conference's Pastors and Teachers Convention held in Williamsburg, Va.

In early 2009, conference president Bill Miller was impressed with the idea to recognize employees who quietly went about their business, and did it with a passion and dedication.

The names of several teachers and pastors stood out amongst their peers: Velda Ruby, from John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md.; Joy Jackson from Tidewater Adventist Academy in Virginia Beach, Va.; Matt James (above) of Vienna Adventist Academy in Vienna, Va.; and pastors James Brown of the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., and Elvio Soto of the Silver Spring (Md.) Spanish church and Falls Church Spanish and Culmore Spanish churches in Falls Church, Va.



Jorge A. Ramirez, vice president for administration, congratulates James Brown, pastor for nurture at Seabrook church.



The stories of these extraordinary workers were presented on video at the convention. Matt James was particularly touched and visibly moved by the video of his eldest daughter, who shared her admiration for him. She will return from Iraq this month.

With so many deserving people to choose from, this was a very special way to show appreciation.

Bill Miller, conference president, presents an award of recognition to Velda Ruby, a teacher at John Nevins Andrews School.

# Potomac People

## Takoma Academy Stays, Renovates Campus

After many conversations about the possible relocation of Takoma Academy, the Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Bill Miller, made a commitment to remain in Takoma Park, Md. This renewed commitment sparked a revitalization program that has led to significant modifications.

An ongoing, million-dollar renovation of the physical plant began last April. The classroom and office

ogy classrooms and offices, and a state-of-the-art fire alarm system was installed.

The school installed new ceilings and lighting in several classrooms and built new administrative offices. A new heating/cooling system is now in the works.

The academic program has been enhanced with additional honors and Advanced Placement courses. A new partnership with

designed to meet ACT college-readiness standards.

"It is our desire to partner with families to provide a quality Christian education for our students," explains David Daniels (right), the new principal. "This part of their success journey is vital to who they will become in the future. Our goal is to develop leaders of integrity for this world and eternity.

"We do not believe that Adventists should have to make the choice between academic excellence and spirituality. As an institution ordained by Christ, and representatives of His church, we have no option but to provide both," Daniels concludes.



windows have been replaced with energy efficient Thermopane windows, three sections of the roof were reconstructed and the exterior painted. More than 60,000 feet of new wiring has been installed for a new network system/Internet connection, 50 new computers have been placed in the technol-



nearby Washington Adventist University allows TA's students to simultaneously earn up to 20 college credits while completing their high school requirements. With a firm commitment to academic excellence, the curriculum is being

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# Spotlight on Spencerville

JANUARY 2010

## Showing Real Love As Jesus Did

A wise person once asked, "Would you rather have me be nice or real?" That is a tough question, and one many of us frequently encounter. This is especially true in our culture today where political correctness and situational ethics are emphasized. The lines get blurred between letting everything pass as "OK" and the desire to draw clear lines on issues. We want to be honest but we don't know how anymore.

I realized that unfortunately, "nice" is frequently not the same as "loving." So, I would like to propose a rewrite of the above question: "I will be loving and real with you, please be the same with me." Christ was very honest about what was and was not true as He dealt with a variety of people during His ministry. He was always loving in His rebukes (although the statement itself seems paradoxical to us today). The challenge for us as teachers, parents, mentors, and humans is to be real with those around us just as Jesus was real. He was "real" in a loving way. The late Randy Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon University professor, wrote, "You may not want to hear it, but your critics are often the ones telling you they still love you and care about you, and want to make you better" (*The Last Lecture*, p. 37). What better way is there to say "I love you" than to be real?



**Carrie Hess**  
High School Vice Principal

## Grandparents See Students in Action

Nearly 90 grandparents of students at Spencerville Adventist Academy received a special welcome at the school's 12th annual Grandparents' Day. After visiting their grandchildren's classrooms to see the students in action, grandparents were treated to refreshments.

They also enjoyed a musical concert featuring the elementary, middle, and high school choirs; high school bells; and middle and high school bands. This annual event draws grandparents from across the country.



Connor Esveld, a Pre-K student, proudly shows off his artwork.



High school choir members Amber Dahabura, Kaitlyn Calhoun, and Michelle Froom share their vocal talents with visiting grandparents.



Sharon Noble embraces her grandson, Grady Noble, a Pre-K student. "I liked having Gram come to my class and showing her the painting I made. I hope she comes again!" he exclaimed.

## Fulfilling My Dream of Mission

I am a sophomore at Spencerville Adventist Academy. I was privileged to fulfill a long-time dream when I was chosen by my school to go on a North American Division-organized mission trip to Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho.

Our group was to build a new elementary school. A previous group had come before us and

completed the concrete floor and the metal frame. Our job was to lay the 26,000 bricks that the village workers had made. I worked mainly with the concrete blocks for the auditorium. In spite of the hard work, I had a lot of fun. I really enjoyed seeing the progress we made everyday. I even met and got to know several of the local work-



A new elementary school building will help relieve overcrowding at the existing school on the campus of Maluti Adventist Hospital.

ers. I was surprised to find out that they are very similar to us and are very hardworking people. I learned that even though they worked six days a week, they only earned the equivalent of US\$7.50.

Building that school secured the future for hundreds of children, whose only hope of getting out of poverty is an education. Encouraging healthy habits and abstinence is also key in improving their quality of life.

The children I met made the biggest impression on me. One afternoon I joined part of our group in distributing the school supplies I had brought. They were so happy. I was truly in awe of how polite and respectful these children were. It made an impression on me that will never be forgotten. I was really happy to do something for them.

Starting a work that will continue for years to come, and knowing that I had a part in improving children's lives, is very satisfying. I would absolutely recommend going on a mission trip. I truly believe this experience will stay with me for the rest of my life.—Mark Dodge ('12)

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



Mark Dodge (right), a Spencerville Adventist Academy student, embraces new friends made on the mission trip.

## Academy Day Planned for February

Don't miss Spencerville Adventist Academy's annual Academy Day, Wednesday, February 3, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to:  
Check out the school  
Compete for scholarships  
Meet the teachers  
Make some new friends

They will even treat you to lunch!  
RSVP by  
January 29 to Heidi Wetmore at  
(301) 421-9101,  
ext. 100, or  
hwetmore@spencerville.org.



The author lays bricks to build an elementary school in the African country of Lesotho.

## Who Me? A Missionary?

"... and please be with the missionaries in Africa and around the world ..."

This line was frequently in my prayers as I grew up. During those years, I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity to fulfill that prayer and be a missionary in Africa. However, I was recently among a group of 16 who volunteered in the south African country of Lesotho.

This trip was a part of the North American Division's Office of Education project to raise money for and build an elementary school on the grounds of Maluti Adventist Hospital. Three students from Pine Forge Academy in Pottstown, Pa., and Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), and one from Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., joined forces with three students from the Atlantic Union, one from the Southwestern Union, and five adults.

When we arrived, we found a very large work site with a variety of jobs. Our group quickly jumped into scraping and cleaning bricks, as well as painting various forms of steel that would be used. Soon



Spencer Hannah, SVA principal, works on the roof of a new school in Lesotho.



Mackenzie Sweeney ('11), Seth Guldin ('11), and Janice Cosme ('10) get ready to work.



Seth Guldin ('11) lays bricks at a school building site in Lesotho.

we were laying brick and assisting in the block laying and with the roof. Looking at the old school, it was clear to see that enrollment at the school was greater than the space, and the classrooms—while clean and efficient—were also quite crowded. The new building will provide spacious classrooms, improved restroom facilities, better office space, and a large auditorium for recreation and programs.

While the work was hard and the hours were long, the rewards were huge. It did not take long for camaraderie to develop among the students from the different schools. They also got to know many of the young men and ladies who were studying at the nursing school at Maluti.

The difference we made in the completion of the school was stunning and rewarding. However, the difference that has been made in our hearts and lives is even more stunning and has changed each of us for the better. That is why I thank the Lord for those missionaries.

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Spencer Hannah  
Principal

# HAPPENINGS

## Gymnastics Team Joins 22 Schools for Fellowship

The SVA Acrostars gymnastics team recently joined 22 teams and more than 700 gymnasts for Acrofest 2009, held at Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) in Texas. Gymnasts enjoyed fellowship, fun, and, most importantly, a better understanding of mission outreach.

On the first night, the teams were welcomed at a special worship program. The teams spent the next day learning and practicing new gymnastics skills at various locations around SWAU. On Friday a special outreach into the community was arranged.

The teams were split into four to

five groups, consisting of four to five teams each. Each group visited a local public school where they performed and, at times, shared the gospel of Jesus.

The Acrostars were a part of the group led by Andrews University, and performed at the Keene High School. During a special Friday evening program, several gymnastics attendees were baptized. The weekend concluded Saturday night with a three-hour performance by all 23 teams.

"We all left blessed and thankful to be a part of a wonderful weekend where we were able to reach others for Christ," said Jonathan Borne, SVA's gymnastics coach.



Members of SVA's Acrostars perform at a gathering of more than 700 gymnasts.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Financial Workshops Offered

Families seeking financial assistance for their student to attend Shenandoah Valley Academy can attend one of several upcoming financial aid workshops. Parents will learn how to receive worthy student funds and other aid. The Sunday workshops will be held:

**January 31** at Ledo Restaurant in Adelphi, Md., at 2 p.m.

**February 14** at SVA at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Center

**February 28** at Vienna Adventist Academy in Vienna, Va., at 10 a.m.

**February 28** at Olney Preparatory School in Olney, Md., at 1 p.m.

**April 11** at SVA at 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium

To RSVP, call (540) 740-2221 or email [eva.hannah@sva-va.org](mailto:eva.hannah@sva-va.org).

### Alumni Have Multiple Reunion Opportunities

All former SVA students and staff are also invited to the following reunions:

**Riverside, Calif.**, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, Saturday, January 23, 6 p.m.

**Candler, N.C.**, at The Farm Party



### DC Area Alumni Invited to Visit

All former SVA students and staff are invited to an alumni gathering at Ledo Restaurant in Adelphi, Md., Sunday, January 31, from 3-5 p.m. This is a come-and-go event. Come and enjoy an afternoon of food and fellowship with SVA alumni and friends. To RSVP, call (540) 740-2202, or email [jan.osborne@sva-va.org](mailto:jan.osborne@sva-va.org).

Barn, Friday, February 19, 6 p.m. Go to [thefarmpartybarn.com](http://thefarmpartybarn.com) for directions.

**Chattanooga, Tenn.**, at Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy, Sunday, February 21, 1 p.m.

**Collegedale, Tenn.**, at Southern Adventist University for young alumni, Sunday, February 21, 6 p.m.

**Potomac Conference Camp Meeting** at SVA in Hewitt Hall, Friday, June 18, 6 p.m.

To RSVP, email [jan.osborne@sva-va.org](mailto:jan.osborne@sva-va.org) or call (540) 740-2202.

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



JANUARY 2010

## My New Year's Resolution? Perfection!

We were thrilled to have you and the musical groups perform at Petersburg and Patterson Avenue [churches] in Richmond [Va.]. Thus began an email from an alumna following a recent performance by the university's New England Youth Ensemble and Columbia Collegiate Chorale.

She continued, "I received many appreciative comments, and some of our musical folks were thrilled beyond words at the professional quality of the chorale and ensemble. We realize that the high performance quality comes after many long hours of practice, practice, and more practice. Thanks to [Dr. James Bingham] and Dr. Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse for going the extra mile to instill not only a love of music, but also the musical ethic of perfection."

That ethic of perfection, whether in music performance, academic instruction, or customer service, is our top goal at Washington Adventist University (WAU). However, our professional diligence in attempting to offer the highest quality educational experience is only a part of what makes WAU the perfect place to study.

Just as spiritual perfection comes only through Christ, it is only with His full involvement in our professional lives that the faculty, staff, and administrators of the university can attain the excellence our students deserve.

Nurturing this key relationship with Christ is the foundation of my New Year's resolution for perfection at Washington Adventist University.



Weymouth Spence  
President

## 40 Academy Students Attend Writing Conference

Grammar tips, writing guidelines, and the functions of social media punctuated the WAU Department of English's Writers Conference for academy students. More than 40 students took part in the three-day conference, traveling from Highland View, Blue Mountain, Shenandoah Valley, and Takoma academies. The conference opened with an open-mic poetry and music performance, which featured both WAU and visiting students such as



Michela Costello, WAU writing and English education methods teacher, presents "Being More Than a Visitor: Exploring a Passion for Poetry."

Write Award-Winning Stories," and the Shakespeare Theatre Company's character exploration workshop.

Celeste Ryan Blyden, *Visitor* editor and publisher, also

presented a seminar highlighting the many ways the Seventh-day Adventist Church uses technology, i.e. Twitter and Facebook, to communicate with its various publics.

Debbie Brown, conference host and English professor, hoped that the students found the conference interesting and thought-provoking. "Our church and community need these young women and men to reach out in thoughtful, current, and sophisticated ways to contemporary audiences," said Brown, who also serves as director of the WAU Writing Center and is the English Pre-Law advisor.

"These young people have the intellect, imagination, skills, and passion to communicate Christian values and hopes to 21st century audiences," she concluded. —Tanisha Greenidge



A representative from the Shakespeare Theatre Company leads ice-breakers and improvisation games with conference attendees.



## Faculty Share Expertise at Home and Abroad

In addition to teaching and mentoring students, WAU faculty members actively share their wealth of knowledge and expertise outside the campus. Here are just a few of the many activities they've participated in this academic year:

**Gaspar Colón, PhD, MDiv, MPH**, (School of Arts and Social Sciences dean) served on the Adventist Accrediting Association team that visited Zaoksky Adventist University on the outskirts of Moscow.



**Jeannette Rogers Dulan, PhD**, (Education professor), received the Oakwood University President's National/Community Award for Excellence in Higher Education.

**Davenia Lea, PhD**, (Department of Education chair) presented a workshop on "Differentiated Instruction: Reaching All Children" for the North Caribbean Conference, St. Vincent and Bequia Region Teachers' Convention, in St. Vincent.

**Joan Francis, DA**, (chair) and **Douglas Morgan, PhD**, (professor) both of the Department of History and Political Studies, were scholars at the "Ellen White Project" workshop in Portland, Maine, and spoke at the "Africa's Gift to Christianity" conference at Miracle Temple in Baltimore.



**Morgan** has written a three-part series in *Liberty* magazine titled "The American Sentinel and the Crusade to Nationalize Christianity."

The piece examines the role of the *American Sentinel*, the denomination's first religious liberty periodical, and *Liberty's* predecessor.



**Daniel Lau, DMA**, (assistant professor of Music) performed a solo piano concert as part of the Music at College of Notre Dame Series in Baltimore at which he premiered six of 12 James Lee III preludes—a work by the renowned contemporary, Adventist composer.



**Michael Kulakov, DPhil**, (associate professor of Religion) submitted a chapter for the new book *Festschrift for Jan Paulsen*. The chapter is titled "Thinking Ahead: Liberal Arts Education and the Future of Adventist Mission."

**Gina Brown, PhD**, (School of Health Professions, Science and Wellness dean) has written three articles for *LEAD* magazine titled "Leading to Follow," "When Worship Becomes a Witness," and "Junk Food Cancers."



**Vesa Naukkarinen, MS**, (Department of Health, Wellness and Physical Education chair) has been recertified through the National Strength and Conditioning Association as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. He is also working on a research project exploring "Health-Related Fitness of Secondary Edu-

cation Students in Finland and in the United States."

**Bernice DeShay, MPH**, (assistant professor of Nursing) is conducting courses in the community on cancer and hypertension prevention. Called, PLUS 15, the seminars are patterned after the book that she has co-authored with the same title.

**Zdravko "Zack" Plantak**, chair of the Department of Religion and president of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies (ASRS) delivered a presidential address titled "Adventism and the Healing of the Nations: The Role of the Church in the Public Square" at a joint session of the ASRS and the Adventist Theological Society.



## Calendar

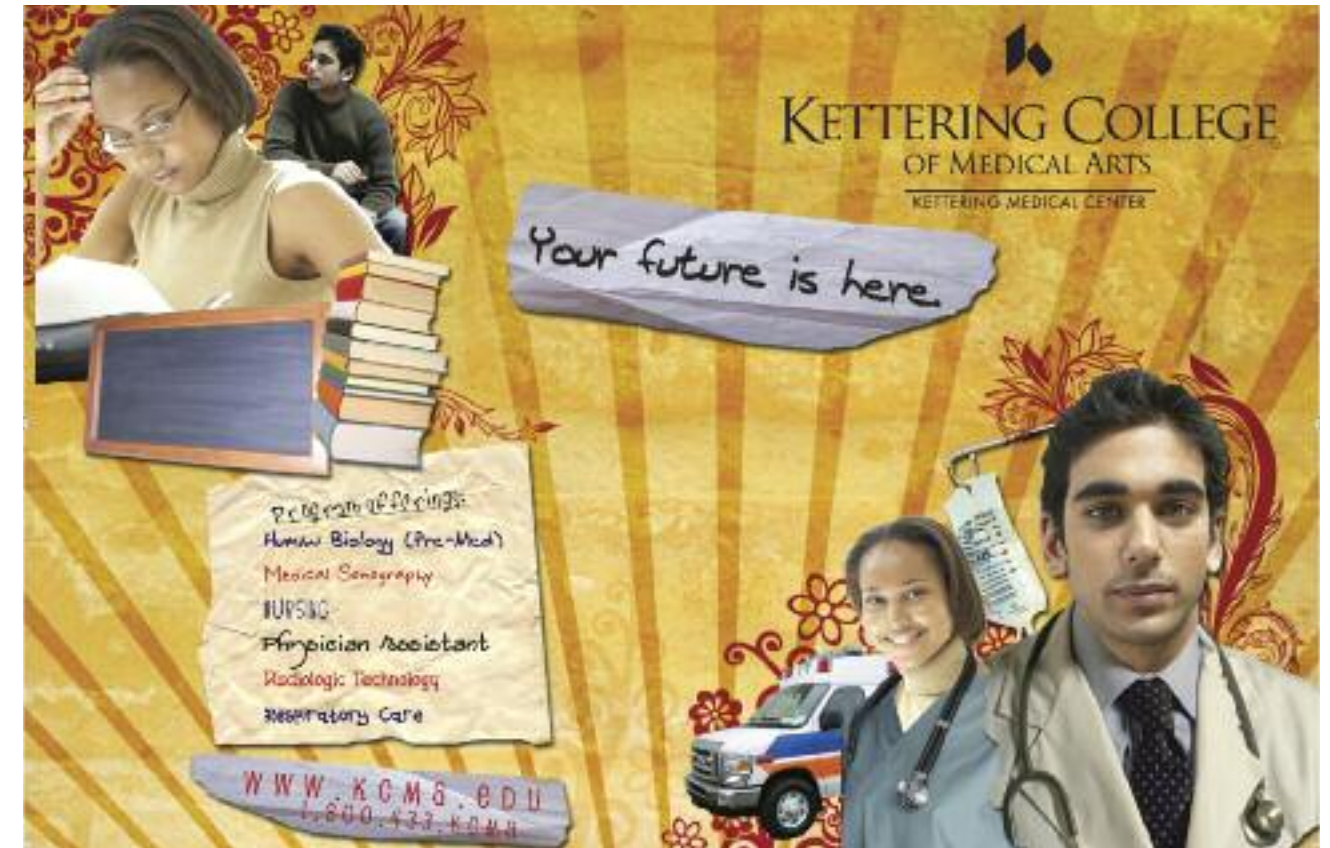
### January

- 1-10 Winter Break
- 11 Registration
- 12 Classes Begin
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast—Offices Closed

### February

- 10-13 Columbia Union Band Festival

The *Gateway* is published in the *Visitor* by the Washington Adventist University  
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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks an instructor in the School of Journalism & Communication to teach public relations, advertising, or new media. Candidates must have at least a master's degree, and preferably a doctorate, in the field, as well as professional work experience. They must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, [rumsey@southern.edu](mailto:rumsey@southern.edu), P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** School of Education and Psychology seeks full-time faculty in areas of Early Childhood Education and Developmental Psychology. Graduate degree required (doctorate preferred). Experience in administration and teaching in early childhood education programs beneficial. Position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Please submit a résumé and letter of application to John Wesley Taylor, Dean: email [sep@southern.edu](mailto:sep@southern.edu); fax (423) 236-1765; mailing address: P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

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ment of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

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	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29	Feb 5
Baltimore	5:00	5:08	5:15	5:24	5:32
Cincinnati	5:32	5:40	5:47	5:55	6:04
Cleveland	5:14	5:22	5:30	5:39	5:48
Columbus	5:24	5:31	5:39	5:48	5:56
Jersey City	4:46	4:54	6:02	6:10	6:19
Norfolk	5:05	5:12	5:20	5:27	5:35
Parkersburg	5:20	5:27	5:35	5:43	5:52
Philadelphia	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:16	5:25
Pittsburgh	5:11	5:18	5:26	5:34	5:43
Reading	4:55	5:02	5:10	5:18	5:27
Richmond	5:09	5:15	5:23	5:31	5:38
Roanoke	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:41	5:49
Toledo	5:21	5:29	5:37	5:46	5:55
Trenton	4:50	4:58	5:06	5:14	5:23
Wash., D.C.	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:26	5:34

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**EARLY CHURCHES OF REVELATION TOURS** to Turkey, spring 2010. The April 4-18 tour will be hosted by Pastor Tara VinCross; the May 2-16 tour by pastors Bill Liversidge and Patrick Williams. For more information, please visit our website at www.parasolholidays.com; email armstead@parasolholidays.com; or call (703) 472-4994.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND** April 23-24: Friday Golf Tournament, vespers, Sabbath services at LSA gym, class reunions, basketball game. Yearbooks available for sale. Visit your campus, renew your friendships! Honor Classes: '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05. Contact the alumni office at: (951) 351-1445, ext. 244, or email isaalumni@lsak12.com.

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

**UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING** April 1-4. Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited. Honor classes are '40, '50, '55, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, and '00. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

**LOVE STORY IN OCEAN CITY MARRIAGE RETREAT** coming in February! Triadelphia and Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church are hosting another marriage retreat weekend February 5-7, at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Richard and Ardis Stenbakken will be the presenters of the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net, or contact Mark and Peggy Lee (301-317-5428). What could be a more valuable gift for your family and your spouse than a romantic weekend getaway to enrich your marriage?

**THIRD ANNUAL ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM CEO REUNION** will be held January 29-3, in Avon Park, Fla. For information, contact

Bill Sager, (863) 452-2593, email wcsager@tnni.net; Tom Amos, (863) 452-1979, email dtamos@gmail.com; or Jim Culpepper, (615) 415-1935.

**CALLING ALL ATHOLTON SCHOOL ALUMNI:** It's been more than 50 years since Atholton first opened its doors to students, and we'd like to honor that fact in our yearbook this year. We are looking for old photographs of the Atholton Adventist School building, grounds, faculty, or students. If you have any that you would be willing to lend us, please contact Celeste in the main office at (410) 740-2425, or email at office@atholton.us. We will scan them into the computer, and then return to you. All pictures are greatly appreciated—the older the better. If you have any information corresponding with the picture, such as date or names, please include that as well.

**OBITUARIES**

**CARTER, Florence Helen (Sivey),** born September 16, 1921, in Bellefontaine, Ohio; died June 22, 2009, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. She was a member of the Mt. Vernon (Ohio) church. She is survived by her sons, James Douglas Harsany of Sunbury, Ohio, Dave Harsany of Fredericktown, and Stephan Harsany of Fredericktown; a brother, Andrew Harsany of San Jose, Calif.; sisters Carol Tremblay of Grand Ledge, Mich., and Helen Fisher of Mt. Vernon; grandsons, Joshua Harsany of Lincoln, Neb., and Stephen Harsany of Mt. Vernon; and granddaughters Crystal Stitzer and Caitlin Harsany of Mt. Vernon.

**FISHER, William A.,** born in 1929 in North East, Pa.; died August 31, 2009, in North East. He was a member of the Adventist Church for 55 years. He served as a deacon, school board president, and as a member of the church's finance committee at the Erie (Pa.) church, where he had his membership. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving his country in Korea. He was employed by the Weil McLain Company for 25 years and later retired from Keystone Foundry, United Brass, where he was general manager. He was an astute businessman, liked golf, reading biographies, enjoyed gardening and sharing his wit and wisdom with friends and family. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Eva Lord Fisher; seven brothers, Ralph, Rexford, Calvin, Gaylord, Raymond, Richard, and John Fisher; and three sisters, Jennie Ford, Minnie Hall, and Marian Sparling. A dedicated Christian and family man, he is survived by his wife of 59 years, Winifred Wilkinson Fisher; daughter, Margaret Susan Cutter, and son-in-law Richard Cutter of North East; his grandson, William R. Cutter of Cleveland, Ohio; two brothers, Reynold Fisher of Rochester, N.Y., and Franklin

Fisher of North East; plus cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

**GATZ, Margaret L.,** born October 22, 1926, in Lima, Ohio; died January 13, 2009, in Williamsport, Md. She was a member of the Williamsport church. Margaret was a graduate of Emmanuel Missionary Academy in Berrien Springs, Mich., and a 1971 graduate of Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital in Hinsdale, Ill. She was employed at Tidewater Memorial Hospital in Tappahannock, Va. Survivors include: her daughter, Lynn E. Gatz; sons, Stephen A. and Douglas Gatz; sisters, Jeannette Hodge and Mary Baker; and three brothers, Fred, Henry, and John Roosenberg. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Darlene Crowley; two sons, Neil and Allen; and four brothers.

**HARSANY, James D.,** born September 11, 1936, in Lincoln Park, Mich.; died February 20, 2009, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He was a member of the Mt. Vernon (Ohio) City church. She is survived by her sons, James Douglas Harsany of Sunbury, Ohio, Dave Harsany of Fredericktown, and Stephan Harsany of Fredericktown; a brother, Andrew Harsany of San Jose, Calif.; sisters Carol Tremblay of Grand Ledge, Mich., and Helen Fisher of Mt. Vernon; grandsons, Joshua Harsany of Lincoln, Neb., and Stephen Harsany of Mt. Vernon; and granddaughters Crystal Stitzer and Caitlin Harsany of Mt. Vernon.

**KAUFFMANN, Edith L.,** born September 23, 1917, in Reading, Pa.; died October 21, 2009, in Reading. She was a member of the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading. Survivors: her son Edgar Allen Kofroth; and her

**OBITUARY SUBMISSION**

For information on placing an obituary in the *Visitor*, please call **Sandra Jones toll-free: (888) 4-VISITOR (888-484-7486)** or email **sjones@columbiaunion.net**.

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

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daughters, Sharon M. Smith, Louise Brown, and Shelly Henefer.

**ROBINSON, Florence L.**, born March 13, 1918, in Corning, N.Y.; died August 28, 2009, in Wooster, Ohio. She was the daughter of Walter and Elydia (Buckley) VanCise Robinson. She married Ivan Henry Robinson Sr. in 1937, and they lived most of their lives in Wayland, N.Y., but later moved to Collegedale, Tenn., then to Wooster in 1972. She was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church, where she held several positions before becoming ill in 2006. She worked as a home health aide for several local agencies and served as a private caregiver. She is survived by her son, Pastor Ivan "Jack" H. (Audrey) Robinson Jr. of Kingman, Ariz.; three daughters, Joyce (Floyd) Johnson of Moreland, Ohio, Janice (Irvin) Richard of Wooster, and Jane (Roger) Bisbee of Rittman, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Clyde, Charles, Levi, and Stanley; three sisters, Sarah, Alice, and Flora (her twin); and a grandson, Donald Gene Hagadone.

**TITUS, GOLDIE I.**, born Sept. 22, 1936, in Lost Creek, W.Va.; died Sept. 1, 2009, in

Davisville, W.Va. She served in the roles of accounting, payroll, remittance, ABC, and secretary for the Mountain View Conference for over 27 years. Several years after her retirement from full-time employment, she returned to work part time for about four years, and retired again in November 2007. Goldie was a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, where she assisted in various departments during her 47-years as a member. Goldie is survived by one son, Dewain (Teresa) Titus, Jr.; one step-grandson, Justin Titus; sisters, Irene Sheppard and Virginia Richards; a brother, Charles Sinnett; and several nieces and nephews.

**UBER, Fred**, died August 4, 2009. He was a member of the New Castle (Pa.) church. Over the years he served as elder, deacon, Sabbath School Superintendent, teacher, assistant treasurer, and lay preacher. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Martha.

**VARANO, Marion**, died September 20, 2008. She was a member of the New Castle (Pa.) church. Marion was very devoted to her church and always willing to do anything asked of her. She served as head deaconess and treasurer. She is missed by all of the members and her dear husband, Vincent.

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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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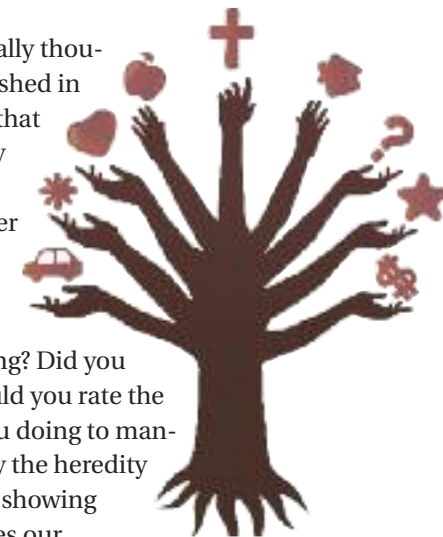
**Give God 2010**

**N**obody plans to gain weight. Nobody sets out to see how high he or she can get their blood sugar levels. And nobody intends to end up with a heart attack. If you're like most Americans—even Adventist Americans—you are just so busy keeping up with the demands of everyday life that it's easy to let your own health needs take a backseat.



Nevertheless, our daily lifestyle decisions are unintentionally contributing in significant ways to some very negative health consequences. Cardiovascular disease is now the single leading cause of death for all Americans. It is now estimated that 64 percent of the adult population in the United States is either overweight or obese. And it has been forecasted that in the next 25 years, the number of Americans with diabetes will double.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Literally thousands of research studies have been published in the past decade providing solid evidence that simple, positive lifestyle choices are vitally important to good health and powerful in lowering blood pressure, decreasing cancer risks, improving blood sugar levels, maintaining a healthy weight, and more.



What did you eat today? When was the last time you broke a sweat while exercising? Did you get 7-8 hours of sleep last night? How would you rate the quality of your relationships? What are you doing to manage stress in your life? And before you play the heredity card, let me add that the latest research is showing that changing our lifestyle actually changes our genes—turning on genes that prevent disease and turning off genes that cause disease. Simple lifestyle habits can make a difference, not just in how long we live, but also how well we live.

**LIVE WELL**

At a recent running event, I saw the following: "I don't run to add days to my life, but to add life to my days." Well said! Jesus told us in John 10:10 that He came so that we might have life, and have it to the "full." The Greek word for "full" is *perissos*, which means superior, extraordinary, surpassing, uncommon. Living well is definitely uncommon today, but it is God's design for our lives. A design He will carry out as we cooperate with Him by being intentional about a healthy lifestyle. Give God 2010. Let this be the year you take charge of your health and truly live well.

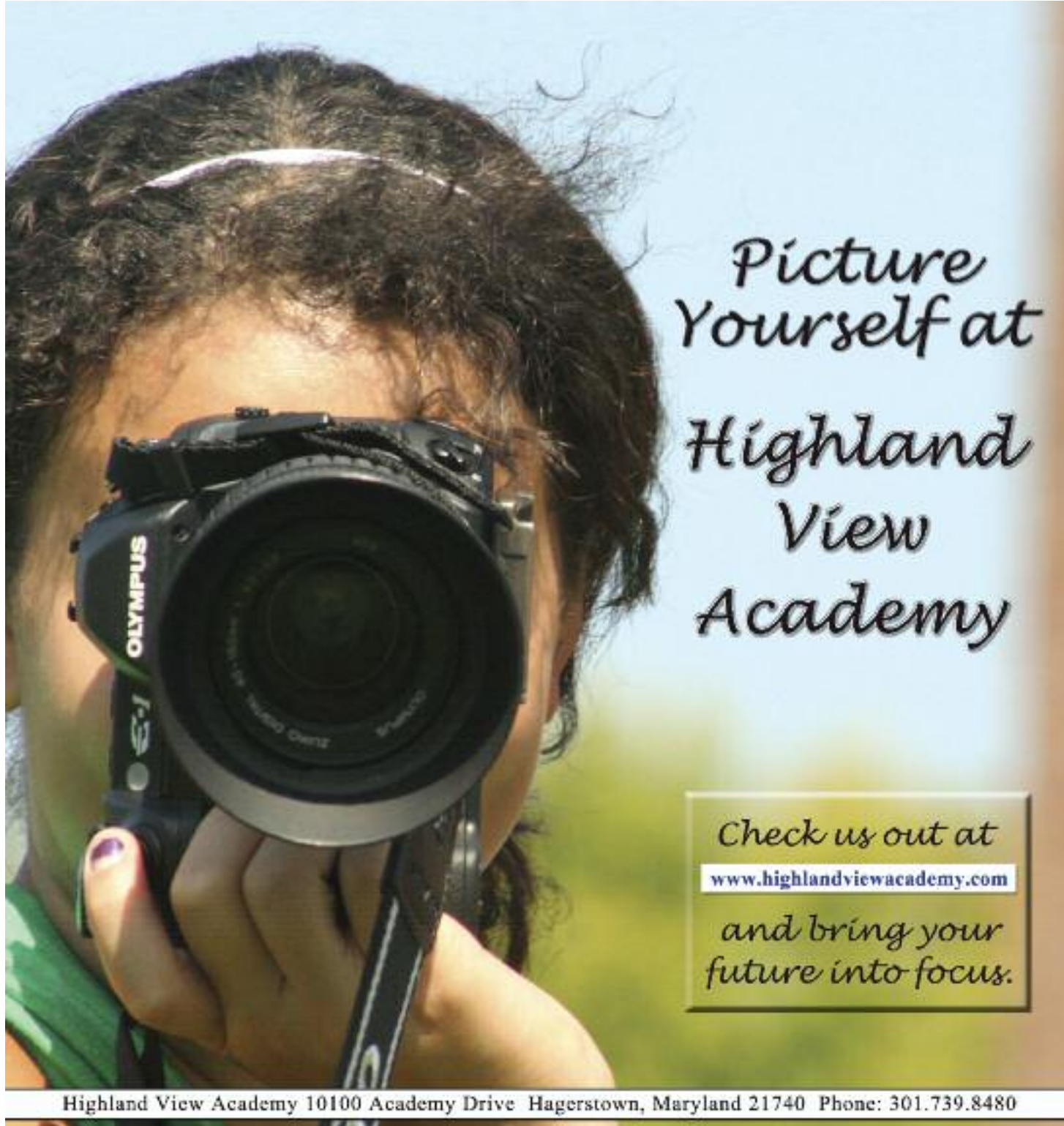
Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, serves as wellness coaching coordinator at Adventist WholeHealth ([awhn.org](http://awhn.org)) in Wyomissing, Pa.

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