

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS

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Adventist  
Education

Where  
Students Put  
Compassion  
Into Action

Inside:  
The Bible Lab,  
Mission to Maluti  
and More





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## Responding to the Captain’s Call

Friday evening Junior Missionary Volunteers (now Pathfinders) meetings at the now defunct Bronx Italian church in New York were always special—highlighted by prayer, songs and ceaseless rallying cries to “do the work of the Lord.” From that experience, “The Captain Calls for You” remains one of my favorite songs:



*There’s another task to do,  
There’s a battle to renew;  
And the Captain calls for you,  
Volunteers! Volunteers!*

*Rally to the throbbing drum!  
Shout the word, “We come, we come!”  
Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers!*

Those meetings, many years ago, laid the groundwork for my early understanding of Revelation 14. They instilled in this heart a strong sense of mission. It was that sense of work yet undone in God’s cause that led me to choose education ministry as my life’s work, my calling, my mission.

It was *mission* that led the Canosa family to serve in the Far Eastern Division in the early 1980s. Mission was, and still is, the foundation for other causes—different and quiet ways to serve—that bring joy to my life.

The dictionary defines mission in many ways, for the word can be used as either a noun or verb. In fact, the word “mission” has been used (and abused) in movie titles; fields of combat; and by some whose nefarious motivations have led to the senseless, vengeful taking of human life. The world has learned, through painful experience, that misguided mission exacts a high toll and is the cause of much suffering.

Interestingly, Merriam-Webster.com describes one definition of mission as obsolete: the act or an instance of sending. Seventh-day Adventists hardly consider this definition “obsolete,” for in the universe of Adventism, mission is *about* sending! It’s about action—being meaningfully involved in God’s work of sharing His gospel of love and assisting those unable to assist themselves. In *Education*, Ellen White states, “... in order to fulfill our mission, we, too, must be active (p. 215).” It is a calling to all!

## COLUMBIA UNION SCHOOLS EXEMPLIFY MISSION

Students in schools across the Columbia Union have been, and continue to be, actively involved in mission. Over the past several years, our students raised nearly \$20,000 to assist orphaned children in South Africa and help build a much-needed school in Lesotho. They are involved in short-term mission projects in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America and other places across the globe. Recognizing needs that exist here in America, some schools have engaged in mission by reaching out to the elderly, displaced, sick and dying.

The following words can be found in *Christ’s Object Lessons*: “The capacity for receiving [blessings] is preserved only by imparting. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without communicating to those around us” (p. 143). Similar to Adventist world church president Jan Paulsen’s challenge to pastors to be “ambassadors” for Christ,<sup>1</sup> in some ways students in the Columbia Union are Christ’s ambassadors at home and abroad, seeking to share their blessings with others.

As highlighted in this issue, students of the Columbia Union *are* responding to the Captain’s call.

*Hamlet Canosa, EdD, serves as vice president for Education in the Columbia Union.*

1. Paulsen, J. (January 2010). “The Ambassadorial Assignment.” *Ministry*, pp. 9-13.





# Adventists Prepare for 59th General Conference Session

Seventh-day Adventists from around the world are preparing to attend the church's 59th quinquennial General Conference Session ([gcsession.org](http://gcsession.org)), to be held in Atlanta June 23-July 3. Some 70,000 members are expected to gather for the 10-day business session themed "Proclaiming God's Grace."

Of the 2,400 delegates selected to represent the church's 16 million members worldwide, 28—including administrators, pastors, and lay members—will come from the Columbia Union territory (see list on p. 5).

## Session Agenda

While the agenda for the session has not been finalized, it will include elections for president, secretary, treasurer, vice presidents and some department heads for the world church's headquarters and its 13 divisions.

In addition, a motion for dea-

coness ordination will be brought to the floor. If voted, "it will not be mandatory [for all divisions] but would serve as a recognition that this individual has been seen to reveal the gifts for serving as a deacon," explains Larry Evans, undersecretary for the world church. "Since we ordain elders and deacons it was felt we should move in this direction. We'll see what the world church says."

Delegates will also be asked to approve edits to the *Church Manual*, which can only be changed at a General Conference Session. According to Evans, that would include limiting ascending liabil-

ity so that church organizations do not assume responsibility for the liabilities of any other church organization just because they may be affiliated, using the New King James version for any Bible quotes used therein, allowing for the notification of members when a period of censure has ended, emphasizing that every church must have a church board and clarifying whether conference presidents "should" be ordained pastors.

## Theme Song

Mirroring the session's emphasis on grace is the theme song, "Proclaim His Grace," composed by Bruce Ashton, DMA (above), a professor emeritus at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). To listen to the song (see sidebar for lyrics), visit [columbiaunion.org/podcasts](http://columbiaunion.org/podcasts).

## Beyond Business

The meetings will begin with a Day of Spiritual Emphasis, and that spiritual tone will continue throughout the meetings. There



will be an Adventist Mission stage, featuring music and mission reports, as well as worship services with speakers and musicians from around the world. One of the most beloved traditions of the session is the Parade of Nations, in which Adventists from more than 200 countries wear their native garb and carry their flags in procession.

There will also be an exhibit hall with an estimated 700 booths, featuring what church organizations and individuals are doing to further the church's mission.

## Accommodations

Meetings will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center and Georgia Dome ([georgiadome.com](http://georgiadome.com)).

Session management has reserved large numbers of rooms in a variety of hotels near the Georgia Dome. Reservations can be made until May 24. To reserve a room, call the Session Housing Bureau at (866) 413-5137 or (506) 433-3033; email [housing@atlanta.net](mailto:housing@atlanta.net); or visit [gcsession.org](http://gcsession.org).

Ovo-lacto vegetarian meal tickets, and transportation and event passes may also be purchased at [gcsession.org](http://gcsession.org).

## Session Coverage

During the session, the *Adventist Review* ([adventistreview.org](http://adventistreview.org)) staff will distribute a daily edition onsite and mail it to regular subscribers.

The Hope Channel ([hopetv.org](http://hopetv.org)) will broadcast the worship services, news and some special reports.

The *Adventist News Network* will post news and comments throughout the day at [news.adventist.org](http://news.adventist.org).

The *Visitor* will share union-related news via Twitter, email and [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org).

## A Global Impact

This will be the third session that Raj Attiken has attended as president of the Ohio Conference. He takes seriously this responsibility. "Decisions are made at GC Session that send a message to the church, the Christian community as a whole and even the world," he explains. "These decisions say something about who we are as a denomination and how we operate. Beyond that, it is a great joy to see the immense diversity and complexity of being a unified church family in a global environment."

## Columbia Union Delegates

1. Dave Weigley, *President, Columbia Union Conference*
2. J. Neville Harcombe, *Executive Secretary, Columbia Union*
3. Seth Bardu, *Treasurer, Columbia Union*
4. Charles Cheatham, *President, Allegheny East Conference*
5. Marcus Harris, *Pastor, Allegheny East*
6. Paula Barnes, *Lay Member, Allegheny East*
7. William Niles, *Lay Member, Allegheny East*
8. Fredrick Russell, *President, Allegheny West Conference*
9. Lloydston Burton, *Lay Member, Allegheny West*
10. Deborah Hill, *Lay Member, Allegheny West*
11. Rob Vandeman, *President, Chesapeake Conference*
12. Richard Remmers, *Executive Secretary, Chesapeake*
13. Denise Isaac, *Lay Member, Chesapeake*
14. Larry Boggess, *President, Mountain View Conference*
15. Robert Michael, *Pastor, Mountain View*
16. José H. Cortés, *President, New Jersey Conference*
17. Jack Milmine, *Pastor, New Jersey*
18. Marisa Medina, *Lay Member, New Jersey*
19. Raj Attiken, *President, Ohio Conference*
20. Jay Colburn, *Education Superintendent, Ohio*
21. Vince Waln, *Lay Member, Ohio*
22. Ray Hartwell, *President, Pennsylvania Conference*
23. Dennis Austin, *Pastor, Pennsylvania*
24. William Oblitey, *Lay Member, Pennsylvania*
25. William Miller, *President, Potomac Conference*
26. Franklin David, *Pastor, Potomac*
27. Carlsen Griffith, *Lay Member, Potomac*
28. Dorys Horner, *Lay Member, Potomac*

## GC Session Theme Song

### "Proclaim His Grace"

Saving grace, sweet favor from the Lord above;  
Winning grace that draws us to His heart of love.  
Wondrous grace that He should care for you and me;  
Boundless grace so deep, so full, so rich and free.

Redeeming grace His pardon frees us from our sin;  
Transforming grace His Spirit makes us new within;  
Triumphant grace He comes! and we shall see His face  
And ever more proclaim God's matchless grace!

—Words and Music by Bruce Ashton, DMA



# News From the Office of Education

## New Administrators Welcomed

A number of gifted, dedicated and mission-driven administrators assumed positions in the Columbia Union education ministry this school year. The Office of Education welcomes the following individuals:

David Daniels is the new principal at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. Daniels previously served as principal at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio.



Rob Stevenson replaces Daniels as the MVA principal, a position he recently held at Madison Academy (Tenn.).



Craig Zeisler is the new principal at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. Zeisler transferred his title from Bass Memorial Academy (Miss.), where he served for eight years.



Sadrail Saint-Ulysse serves the New Jersey Conference in multiple capacities, including pastor and educator. He now



adds superintendent of Education to his leadership responsibilities.

Keith Hallam undertook the position of Potomac Conference vice president for Education. He is an accomplished secondary principal with many years of experience.



Desiree Bryant assumed the position of associate superintendent for the northern district of the Potomac Conference. She transferred from the Mid-America Union where she served as superintendent.



Nancy Melashenko held the associate superintendent position at the Florida Conference before transferring the title to Potomac Conference's southern district.



## Union, Griggs Pilot Web-based Curricula

For the first time, the Columbia Union Office of Education contracted with Griggs International Academy (formerly Home Study International) to provide essential and supplemental curricula to its junior and senior academy students. The union will spend \$20,000 this school year and next

to make as many as 150 instructional units available to students at a greatly reduced expense. The agreement was made to enhance curricula through Web-based learning. This school year alone, more than 100 of the units are being used.

## Educational Leaders Plan Retreat

This September, members of the Columbia Union School Administrators Council (CUSAC) will head to West Virginia for several days of spiritual and physical renewal. The council includes two elementary, two junior and all senior academy principals, as well as all associates, superintendents, and vice presidents for Education. International speaker Donald Kelly, MD, will provide devotionals and seminars on healthful living. Due to economic uncertainties, CUSAC members decided to forego a retreat this past school year.

## Education Awards to be Announced

Seven educators from across the eight-conference region are nominated for the 2009-10 Columbia Union Outstanding Educator Award. Nominations are made in three categories: elementary, junior academy and senior academy. Following careful consideration, selected winners will be announced this month. Award presentations will be formally made either at respective school graduations or conference camp meetings. Each winner will be presented with a plaque, certificate and monetary award.

Also this month, the Columbia

Union Office of Education will select an "outstanding administrator" among nominees. Criteria for this new nomination and selection are challenging, and personal/professional interviews and site visits are included in the vetting process. Local conference superintendents submitted nominations for the award, and awards will be announced next month.

## Fall SALT Training Location Chosen

The annual Spiritual Academy Leadership Training (SALT) weekend for junior and senior leaders from across the union will be held in September at Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. José Rojas (below), director for the Office



of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division (NAD), will train student

leaders who are responsible for key initiatives on their respective campuses for the 2010-11 school year. SALT training involves three days of sharing leadership and spiritual principles that foster student growth in ways that benefit God's cause on school campuses.

## Academies to Undergo Evaluations

During the next two months, four senior academies in the Columbia Union will undergo NAD evaluations to secure accreditation through the General Conference Adventist Accrediting Association and the National Council of Private School Accreditation. The site visits will occur in February, March and April 2010 on

the campuses of Blue Mountain (Hamburg, Pa.); Pine Forge (Pa.); Richmond (Va.); and Takoma (Takoma Park, Md.) academies.

## Education Office Goes Green

All major meetings under the direction of the Office of Education are now "paperless." Committee members bring laptop computers to administrative and curriculum committee meetings and are provided all agenda and supportive exhibits on a thumb drive, allowing committee chairs to process work more efficiently and effectively. This approach has saved (and will continue to save) countless hours of labor, paper and document reproduction costs.

## "Caring" Students Nominated

By month's end, each senior academy in the Columbia Union will select a junior or senior for the annual Caring Heart Award. Recognition is given to students who demonstrate, through their actions, a strong personal commitment to making the world a better place. Presentations will be made during graduation weekends on all academy campuses.

## Educators Attend Marketing Seminar

Anthony Romeo (below) of the Greater New York Conference, a



Seventh-day Adventist professional marketer and commercial producer, provided two school marketing seminars last month at the Columbia Union Conference office in Columbia, Md. More than 70 educational leaders from across the union attended. Romeo hopes to educate school leaders across North America about implementation of



marketing essentials and planning. During the three-day meeting, attendees also reviewed curriculum and voted several recommendations, engaged in brainstorming sessions and heard a number of presentations, including one by union vice president and general counsel Walter Carson, about schools, students and cell phone privacy.



What's New?

**Book >**  
**A Classical Masterpiece**  
**Devon L. Sanderson**

Devon Sanderson, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Voice of Truth church in New Castle, Del., started writing poetry in 1985. But before the award-

winning poet could publish his first 70 poems, they were destroyed in a fire.



Recently this Jamaican-born kindergarten teacher collected dozens of new inspirational poems, written about his everyday

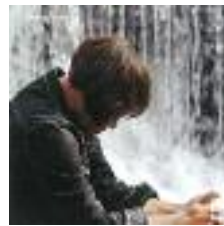
encounters with life, and compiled them in an 82-page book. He hopes the work will "help exalt the awe and wonder of the Creator of the universe." Order copies through amazon.com.

**CD >**  
**Intimate Moments**  
**Nadeen Edwards**

"As you listen to this collection of some of my favorite songs, my hope is that you, too, will feel

God's presence as He takes you from glory to glory," says Nadeen Edwards.

The praise and worship leader at Pennsylvania Conference's Stroudsburg and nearby Pocono



Grace Community churches, has been singing for more than 30 years. She brings her rich alto voice to this sophomore CD of 14 praise songs and hymns like "His Eye is on the Sparrow." Learn more, sample songs and order the CD at nadeenedwards.com.

**Resource >**  
**Mission Cards for Kids**

These colorful cards, created by the Office of Adventist Mission and the Children's Ministries department at the General Conference, feature pictures and profiles of the children highlighted quarterly in *Adventist Mission* magazine. Its editor, Charlotte Ishkanian, hopes they will inspire kids to share in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 130-year passion for missions.

"When kids hold a mission card, they discover real ways children like themselves are sharing God's love, and they learn fun facts that make all those far-away places real countries in need of the gospel," she explains. Get your children a set at [adventistmission.org](http://adventistmission.org).



Blogged

**The Faces of Haiti**

"We are unable to disconnect ourselves from this tragedy and look the other way because each face we see on TV represents a real person, in a real place, that captured our hearts when we were there, or when we thought of going there. This draws us to watch ... to pray ... to want to do something to help. This is real. These are the faces of Haiti."—From the January 17 blog entry by Caryn Wooster ([newhopesohaiti.blogspot.com](http://newhopesohaiti.blogspot.com)) of *Sharing our Strength*, a missions ministry of Chesapeake's New Hope church in Fulton, Md.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EDEN GARDEN ORPHANAGE



**In the Spotlight > Author and Women's Advocate Peggy Curtis Harris**

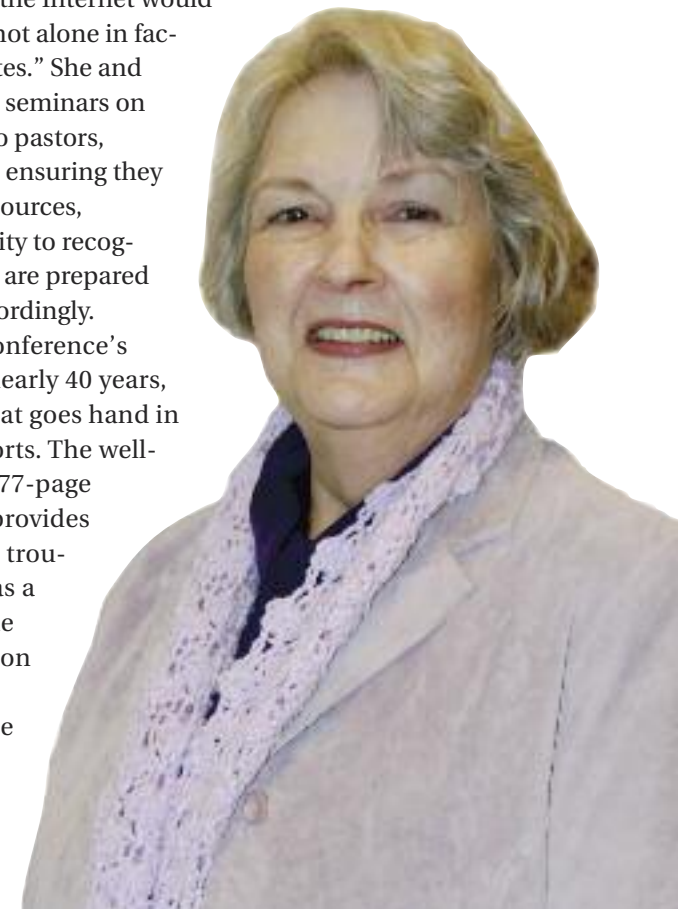
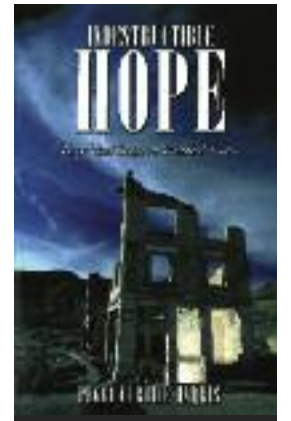
In 1992, while Peggy Harris was in her last year as president for the Association of Adventist Women, she sent out a letter to members addressing various concerns, such as abuse. The response to the letter was greater than expected. It appeared that this sensitive issue "had been swept under the rug for years," Harris recalls.

"Being a part of the body of Christ," she continues, "I recognized His calling to facilitate healing for all members." During her final speech as president, Harris decided to address this matter further. She unveiled a long clothesline to the audience. Attached were stories from the Women and Men Against Sexual Harassment and Other Abuses (WASH). Under the leadership of Harris and a few others, WASH was introduced as an organization committed to "cultivating and improving environments for those who have suffered from one kind of abuse or another."

As Harris continued to accumulate stories, she determined that "sharing the information on the Internet would let somebody see they were not alone in facing the problems abuse creates." She and other WASH leaders conduct seminars on abuse and provide training to pastors, teachers and church leaders, ensuring they are aware of the available resources, understand their responsibility to recognize symptoms of abuse and are prepared to manage the problems accordingly.

A member of Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church for nearly 40 years, Harris has written a book that goes hand in hand with her advocacy efforts. The well-published author says her 177-page book, *Indestructible Hope*, provides a message of hope for these troubled times. "If ever there was a need for hope, it is now," she says. For more information on WASH, go to [w-a-s-h.org](http://w-a-s-h.org) or call (800) 433-WASH. Get the book at [authorhouse.com](http://authorhouse.com).

—Andrew Cathlin



retweets



**@AWConf** - Conducting web training with conference departmental leader who is 150 miles away. You gotta love technology!



**@FirstSDAchurch** - First Church TV coming soon



**@VisitorNews** - US News & World Report's October issue says if you want to live long, live like an Adventist. It's #9 of 10 ways to live long!



**@RajAttiken** - Christ—"the Someone in Whom we are all one"



# The Bible Lab Cheryl Jacko

WHERE STUDENTS PUT  
COMPASSION INTO ACTION

## “Am I going to get paid for this?”

Students new to the concept of serving others sometimes pose this question to Mountain View Conference teachers. But, it doesn't usually take long before those same students ask to participate in more service opportunities.

As a matter of fact, Mountain View weaves Christian service into each school's curriculum, and teachers work to provide service-learning opportunities throughout the school year.

Mountain View schools adopted the “Bible Lab” approach to Bible class long ago. The Bible Lab gives students a chance to put into practice what they learn in class. Through regular, planned Bible Labs, they log



oodles of service hours each school year. Whether it's through a conference-planned mission trip or a local community service opportunity, the goal of all teaching staff is to help students develop a compassionate, Christ-like attitude toward the needs of others.

## A Taste for Mission Life

Many students acquired a taste for mission life during recent short-term mission trips organized by the conference's Office of Education. For students, the experience was memorable and life changing.

Here are some of the places they served:

During a trip to **Puerto Rico**, students and teachers labored side by side to renovate a Seventh-day Adventist school. Many of the buildings showed long-term effects of the encroaching plants and extreme dampness from the surrounding tropical jungle. Students cracked open coconuts, spotted a boa constrictor and “enjoyed” the scenic view from the outhouse without a door. More importantly, the team worked, prayed and worshiped together. At the conclusion of the trip, the baptism and rebaptism of several students underscored the spiritual impact the expedition had on them.

The 10 days Mountain View students spent at La Vida Mission in the northwestern **New Mexico** reservation of the Navajo Nation was also life altering. They marveled at the difficult life many of the Navajo experience, including living miles from potable water. They helped tutor the Native American children in gardening and physical education, conducted church services, helped paint and repair buildings at the mission and visited the community. All of this gave students a new appreciation for the hard work it takes to be a missionary.

In Chapultepec, **Mexico**, a small, growing Adventist company needed a church building. Students and teachers learned all about tying rebar, mixing concrete, laying block and building to meet local earthquake-resistant building codes. Living and eating with the local church members gave each student an understanding of the adjustments a missionary must make to adapt to a new culture.

Another recent trip took students to **Pittsburgh** to work with Adventist Community Services (ACS). They were amazed to find vacant and flood-damaged homes and businesses still in need of cleanup two

years after the flood. Students were also impressed with the broad-based presence ACS had already established in the suburban neighborhood of Carnegie, Pa. There they helped with flood cleanup and revitalization and performed community outreach. They also built walls in the ACS center, collected and cleaned books for a local fundraiser and mucked out a damaged house.

This year students and teachers will again travel, this time to Las Tablas, **Panama**. They will join The Quiet Hour staff from California to conduct medical screenings, participate in evangelistic activities, children's ministries and help with a building project.

## Ongoing Local Ministry Efforts

Mountain View's focus on mission is not reserved for distant, exotic locations. Each school participates in numerous local service projects each year. Many hours of student service time are logged helping with civic projects, such as singing the national anthem at a Veterans Day ceremony, helping an elderly neighbor paint his porch or clear ice from his driveway, or leading a church evangelistic or witnessing program. Mountain View teachers are committed to helping students learn to identify needs wherever they occur and to find a Christ-like way to respond to each one.

An example of ongoing community service is the layette ministry operated by students in Elkins, W.Va. Newborn layettes are assembled and delivered to the local hospital, where nurses distribute them free of charge to any family in need of newborn supplies (left). Women throughout the conference supported the students' work by donating hundreds of dollars of newborn supplies to the program at their annual women's retreat.

The goal of Mountain View educators is for every student to experience and internalize the sense of joy that comes from serving others. As it says in *Ministry of Healing*, “True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is

called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education” (p. 395).

*Cheryl Jacko serves as acting superintendent for the Mountain View Conference and as principal and middle-grades teacher at Highland Adventist Academy in Elkins, W.Va.*



The goal of all teaching staff is to help students develop a compassionate, Christ-like attitude toward the needs of others.



# Mission TO Maluti

STUDENTS HELP BUILD  
A SCHOOL IN AFRICA

Spencer Hannah



Recently the North America Division (NAD) Office of Education adopted a mission project in Africa. The project gave high school students from across the division the opportunity to raise funds and participate in a building project. Seven students and several teachers from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.; Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.; and Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., responded to the call. They joined four students from two other unions for the long journey to Lesotho, a small country in southern Africa, where they helped build an elementary school at the Maluti Adventist Hospital.

It did not take long for mission team members to witness the great need the locals had for a new school.

When the first recess bell rang, a startling number of students poured out of each classroom into the small schoolyard. The crowd also included the seventh- and eighth-graders, who had been squeezed out of the main building and were meeting in a modified shipping container on the property (right).

The new building was designed to provide much-needed classroom and office space as well as a computer lab and a large gymnasium for activities and programs. Although the team did not include skilled builders, we were able to dig right in and start putting up the walls. The unique building concept that Maranatha Volunteers International designed enabled us to be bricklayers and masons without any previous experience. However, it also quickly became obvious that attention to detail was vitally

important or a wall could end up crooked. The students worked at painting, scraping, roofing, laying brick and block, mixing mortar and just about anything else that needed done.

Previous groups had prepared the structure, and now it was our job to make significant progress so that the next group could then finish things. The energy and effort the NAD mission team exerted made a huge difference in the project—not only raising the walls and roof, but also lifting the supervisors' spirits. They had been concerned about completing the project. When our team was ready to head home, the construction superintendent was confident that they would be able to finish the job before he was due to return to the United States.

## Etched in Our Hearts

What a great experience for students and leaders to join together in serving our Lord. Although He doesn't need our feeble efforts, working for Him is the greatest calling and blessing His servants can experience. The travel was long but intriguing. The work was tiring but extremely rewarding. The group's camaraderie was absolutely incredible. The relationships with the people of Lesotho were all too brief but are etched into our hearts forever. And, most importantly, students experienced the valuable lesson of servant leadership.

*Spencer Hannah is the principal at Potomac Conference's Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.*





# A Letter OF Thanks

Rob Stevenson

## Affirms the Values We Teach

The image Seventh-day Adventists have of our young people doing community service might be more akin to the embellished and polished *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*. We can picture our angelic youth joyfully heading out with songs on their lips and prayers in their hearts to do the Lord's bidding, like the dwarves in Disney's *Snow White*. Although some days can be like that, typically the work is arduous. The students do go out and work hard, but, if most of them were honest, they may acknowledge there are

more exciting things to do than shovel mulch onto playgrounds, pick up trash in parks or any other meaningful project suggested by a campus chaplain.

### A "Regular" Service Day

A recent Community Service Day for students at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio, began like every other one this school year—rainy and cold. Although the weather was great all week, this day was dreary, with a misty drizzle forecasted until evening. Tim Soper, campus chaplain,



### Lesson Learned

A day or two later, a letter to the editor appeared in the local newspaper (below). We discovered that making a difference does not have to wait for the perfect day. If we did, we would never do it. We discovered that impacting others means getting out into our community even when it is inconvenient—maybe *especially* when it is inconvenient. We should all be proud of our students because they *are* making a difference.

Rob Stevenson is principal at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

called the principal wondering if service activity should be postponed. A stickler for keeping to the posted calendar, the principal insisted on going forward, hoping the rain would hold back.

Soon students shuffled into the chapel, hoping for Community Service Day to be canceled. (Many would rather attend classes than slog out into the pea soup of a day). As assignments were given, there was either laughter or moaning. A few students were blessed with comfortable indoor jobs, but the majority got stuck outdoors in the muck and mud. Students assembled with their groups and headed to the day's assigned task—picking up trash and raking leaves in a local trailer park. There are probably few people on this planet who would savor picking up trash anywhere, even on a good day. As a testament to the good nature of these MVA students, there was not much complaining, just a resignation to a task needing completion.

The students ambled off the bus. Some collected trash bags, others accepted rakes from the staff group leaders. One student went to the doors of the humble trailer homes explaining to their owners the students' mission as they invaded the properties and started their tasks.

Despite the weather, the young people went about their work moving systematically through the area. Within a short time, they had the place looking great. They hopped back onto the bus and headed back to the dorms for much needed warm showers and clean, dry clothes.





# Service Adds Up

19 WAYS OUR STUDENTS ARE SERVING OTHERS



## Close to Home

**1** During their annual Service Day, more than 240 **Washington Adventist University** students (above), staff, and faculty volunteered at 13 non-profit organizations and area schools. They prepared food packages for sick patients, volunteered at homeless shelters, cared for rehabilitated animals, cleaned local creeks, tutored, packed boxes at a food bank and volunteered at the local police station.

**2** **Takoma Academy** staff and students collected and distributed nearly 400 clothing and non-perishable food items to help more than 6,000 homeless people in the Washington, D.C., area.

**3** During the Adopt-a-Child Christmas party, students at **Shenandoah Valley Academy** in New Market, Va., purchased and gave local children gifts.

**4** Students at the **Mount Aetna Seventh-day Adventist School** in Mount Aetna, Md., filled a water jug with more than \$600 to help a family in need, and sent toiletries and encouragement to soldiers serving in Afghanistan during the holidays.

**5** Fourth-grade students at the **Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist School** (right) in Beltsville, Md., skipped everyday conveniences in order to donate \$100 for Adventist World Radio.

**6** The **Powell Valley Christian School** (below) and church in Dryden, Va., collected more than 800 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls, a national charity that collects and distributes shoes.

**7** Students at **Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School** in Whitehall, Pa., performed chores to help local families, purchased 20 pairs of socks and pajamas for children at a family shelter and raised funds for ADRA.



**8** As part of Operation Christmas Child, students at **Sligo Adventist School** in Takoma Park, Md., packed 245 shoeboxes full of necessities for underprivileged children overseas.

**9** Students from **Spencerville Adventist Academy** (right) in Silver Spring, Md., donated \$555 to help the Spencerville Church Middle School Sabbath School provide two fuel-efficient cookstoves for use in Zambia through Reaching Hearts for Kids (reachinghearts4kids.org).



teachers prayed over the outfits and asked God to bless those who received them,” reports Barbara Plubell, Pre-K-8 vice principal.

**12** Students at **Spring Valley Academy** in Centerville, Ohio, held a four-day coin drive and raised \$2,284 for ADRA. Read more on page 37.

There is no better witness to our community than a gift of love that meets an immediate need.

—Melvyn Hayden III, Chaplain, Takoma Academy

## Helping Haiti

**10** **Kettering College of Medical Arts** (KCMA) in Kettering, Ohio, raised more than \$3,400 during “Text for Haiti,” when faculty, staff and students (right) simultaneously texted funds to the Red Cross Relief Fund. “This was our way of coming together as an academic community of faith and providing spiritual and financial support to the survivors of the earthquake,” said Clive Wilson, KCMA chaplain.

**11** Students at **Spencerville Adventist Academy** in Silver Spring, Md., donated 380 pounds of clothing (130 complete outfits) and toiletries to Prints of Hope in Florida. “The students and their







*Takoma Academy senior Jade Callahan serves a homeless man during a recent community service outing.*

**13** The **Central Pennsylvania Christian School** in Lancaster, Pa., collaborated with the Hershey (Pa.) church in a citywide collection of more than 400 toiletry, clothing and other items.

**14** Students at the **Stanley Seventh-day Adventist School** in Stanley, Va., organized a fundraising basketball tournament and held a bake sale at a local gas station to raise money for ADRA.

**15** Students at **Trinity Temple Adventist School** in Hillside, N.J., are bringing in piggy bank change and collecting donations for the school's Helping Hands project.

**16** The **Fairview Village Adventist School** in Fairview Village, Pa., hosted a Valentine's dinner.

**17** The **Manassas Adventist Preparatory School** in Manassas, Va., hosted a month-long read-a-thon.

**18** Fourth- and fifth-graders at **Ramah Adventist Junior Academy** in Cleveland adopted an 8-year-old girl from Haiti and support her financially.

**19** **Tappahannock Jr. Academy** in Tappahannock, Va., collected \$500 in donations for an affected family.

## Booking Tickets

■ **March 10-21**—Fourteen students from **Takoma Academy (TA)** in Takoma Park, Md., will return to Arusha, Tanzania, to continue constructing buildings for an orphanage.

■ **March 24-April 4**—About 35 students from **Spencerville Adventist Academy** in Silver Spring, Md., will make a second trip to San Jose, Dominican Republic, to finish constructing two schools, lead Vacation Bible School programs and distribute 300 Bibles.

■ **March 25-April 4**—About 25 students from **Highland View Academy (HVA)** in Hagerstown, Md., will travel to San Cristobel, Galapagos Islands, to help finish constructing a two-story church.

■ **May 2-16**—Students from **Washington Adventist University (WAU)** will travel to Arusha, Tanzania, to build group homes for orphans and join in education and evangelism outreach.

■ **May 5-22**—WAU students will fly to Ethiopia to join a ShareHim evangelistic campaign.

■ **June 1-15**—Twenty WAU students and staff will help build a house for a homeless or displaced family in Santa Barbara, Honduras.

■ **July 8-19**—Twenty Adventist students who attend public schools will join the Chesapeake Conference in Santa Barbara, Honduras, where they'll help to construct a high school and church.



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MARCH 2010

## A Little Known Story Behind Kettering Church

Karl Haffner

One of the most profound prayers in the Bible is found in John 17:20-22, where Jesus petitions His Father on behalf of not only His disciples but also “those who will believe in Me through their message.” I have always appreciated being included in Jesus’ prayer, during what we understand to be *the* critical moment in the great controversy. With the universe watching, would Jesus go through with it? His passionate prayer is a pleading conversation with His Best Friend and closest Love—His Father. The prayer, however, comes with a challenge. Verses 21 and 22 reveal Jesus’ greatest desire for His followers through the ages—that we would be “one,” as He was one with the Father. He knew that unity in this world, even within the church, would be a challenge.

### A UNIQUE BEGINNING

Kettering Adventist Healthcare’s (KAHC) unique beginning has a little known side story, which I believe has a special place in our history and demonstrates the value of unity. When Eugene and Virginia Kettering set out to build a hospital in their hometown of Dayton, Ohio, they donated land, money and time. They also required the facility to be owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During project planning, KAHC’s first administrator, George Nelson, proposed that the facility include a church. The Ketterings, though delighted to invest in the health ministry, were initially reluctant to support that endeavor. Eugene feared that churches were “bad investments.” However, the couple quickly came to realize that a church would be vital for recruiting Adventist medical professionals and building a strong foundation for the fledgling facility. The Kettering church was built on land donated by the Ketterings and given an amazing set of pipes—the second largest concert pipe organ east of the Mississippi!

More than 40 years later, that one hospital has grown to include five major medical centers and 50 outpatient centers, a medical college, a handful of Adventist churches in the greater Dayton area and a K-12 Adventist day academy. All medical facility staff is intent on sharing the church’s unique message and committed to delivering meaningful, effective healthcare with a spiritual soft touch.

### BUILDING UNITY, UPHOLDING CHRIST

Kettering Adventist HealthCare includes osteopathic and allopathic disciplines in one entity, which is an unusual combination. We also have an integrated Spiritual Services department that collaborates with the pastoral leadership of Kettering and other area churches with the goal of delivering integrated leadership for the network. Without a spiritual foundation, these ventures would go the way of the world and separate.

Even so, it’s not easy to get us all on one page and heading in the same direction! We try, we pray and we pull together more often than we pull apart. For those times when unity seems like a distant dream, I go back to John and visit the prayer that so captures the struggle of believers—to be united, to pull together, to stay in love. I invite you to keep the Kettering church in your prayers. Visit our website, [ketsda.org](http://ketsda.org), to learn about more ways we are working to impact our community for Christ.



*Karl Haffner is senior pastor of the Kettering (Ohio) church and Spiritual Services Advisor at Kettering Medical Center.*





## Behind the Scenes of *HealingHope*

Kathryn Stiles

In a nondescript building tucked off a busy intersection in Kettering, Ohio, is a quiet studio. There John Adkins and Mark Morgan, owners of MainSail Productions, prepare a new set that captures and transmits the energy and enthusiasm of Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko; Becky Wang, MD; and a variety of special guests from within the Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) family. The new television show they work on is titled *HealingHope*.

As part of KAHC's mission to impact lives with healing, health and wellness, this new show was created to emphasize the unique integration of spiritual, physical, mental and emotional health in ways that give viewers practical guidelines for living each day to their fullest.

"We wanted to capture the talent and testimonies of real people who serve in our system, who are passionate about their role in helping people live healthier lives and share that beyond our typical reach. Hope TV offers us that chance, and we are thrilled with the partnership," says Lonnie Melashenko, vice president of Spiritual Services.



For some segments of *HealingHope*, host Lonnie Melashenko is joined by his wife, Jeannie.



Host Lonnie Melashenko recently interviewed Thomas Hardy, MD, vice president for medical affairs at Grandview Medical Center, about whole-person and faith-based care and the difference God makes in individuals' lives.

### SHOWS EMPHASIZE HEALTHY LIVING

The 13 shows focus on the unique nature of the Adventist message and healthful living paired with exceptional healthcare delivery. The Melashenkos and Dr. Wang facilitate discussions with medical leaders and practitioners and pastoral leaders with warm conversations and mostly unscripted interviews. Topics include:

- The importance of international medical missions with Steve Schmidt, MD, Kettering Medical Center (KMC) surgeon, and the mission group known as Legacy of Healing
- The power of faith community nursing with Chris VanDenburgh, BSN, RN, KAHC's coordinator of faith community nursing and health ministry
- The delivery of modern spiritual care to patients and their families with Raul Concha, KAHC chaplain
- Dealing with depression with Kirk Chung, MD (above, right), from Kettering Behavioral Medicine Center, and Karl Haffner, pastor at the Kettering church
- How to increase your nutritional intake with KAHC nutritionists
- Responding effectively to a variety of medical emergencies with Emergency Department professionals

Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier of Journey Films, who just released his 60-minute documentary titled *The Adventists*, is also a guest. He offers a unique view of the intersection of faith and health that is so beautifully captured by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its medical centers. (The documentary airs on PBS stations Easter weekend and is available for sale at [journeyfilms.com](http://journeyfilms.com).)

"The goal of this programming is not to preach or tell people how to live, but to inspire conversation about how we, as Adventists, can impact the world around us—improving lives in the present while sharing a vital hope for a future in eternity with God," explains Dr. Wang, medical director of Clinical Quality at KMC.

### HOW TO WATCH

*HealingHope* episodes air Saturdays at 7 p.m.; Mondays at 4:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 p.m. (all EST). Those who do not have the Hope TV satellite channel can access the show online at [hopetv.org](http://hopetv.org). The show will also be available on the Kettering YouTube channel in coming weeks. To learn more, contact KAHC Spiritual Services at (937) 395-8565.

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



Co-host Becky Wang, MD, gets prepped for filming.





### Grandview, Southview Earn Clinical Excellence Distinction

Grandview and Southview medical centers in Dayton, Ohio, earned HealthGrades' Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence for the seventh consecutive year. It's an achievement only 47 American institutions can claim.

Based on a study of Medicare data over the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, Grandview and Southview continue to rank in the *top five percent* for overall quality among the nation's 5,000 non-federal hospitals. No other Dayton area hospitals have earned this distinction seven consecutive years from HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization.

"Our clinicians, administration and support staff have all made a sustained commitment to quality outcomes, and we take great pride in the fact that other hospitals come to us to see how we implement best practices," said Richard Haas (left), Grandview Medical Center System president. "The real winners from this Distinguished Hospital Award are the patients who know they can expect exceptional care when they come to our medical centers."

The hospitals also received HealthGrades' Excellence awards for their Pulmonary Care, Critical Care and Gastroenterology Services. A full copy of the study is available at [healthgrades.com](http://healthgrades.com).

### Kettering College Receives \$431,000 Gift

Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA) in Kettering, Ohio, received a bequest of nearly \$431,000 from the late Eva Miller, making her total donations during the past 12 years nearly \$1 million. Miller passed away last year at the age of 99.



Attorney Dennis Hanaghan (center) delivers the "gift" to Kettering College president Charles Scriven and Frank Perez, Kettering Adventist HealthCare CEO.

The gift is the third largest individual donation in the 43-year history of the college. Half of the funds will benefit the Eva Miller Nursing Scholarship. The remainder will contribute to the school's annual fund and to ongoing KCMA renovations. Miller's previous donations helped create a new chemistry lab in KCMA's Boonshoft Center for Medical Sciences, and contributed to scholarships and the annual fund.

"Eva Miller was a nurse at Kettering hospital from the start. She had a great loyalty to nursing, and to the hospital and college," reports Charles Scriven, EdD, Kettering College president.

David McElwee, director of major and planned gifts for the Kettering Medical Center Foundation, which also raises monetary support for KCMA, adds, "Knowing that she was among the very first nurses at Kettering Medical Center made it even more compelling to recognize and celebrate her career and generosity."—Mindy Claggett

### Kettering Health Employees Join Martin Luther King Jr. March

Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) employees joined hundreds of others in Dayton, Ohio, for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. community march and rally. The event is an ongoing effort to realize Dr. King's dream of justice and equality for all Americans.



The turnout was excellent in spite of bitter cold temperatures and icy fog. "It was cold, but we felt good," commented participant Charles Scriven, president of Kettering College and a member of the Kettering church. "When all the marchers finally got to the courthouse downtown, speakers shared the story of Martin Luther King Jr., including his timeless words. Then we felt inspired."

All KAHC participants received an appropriate gift of warm gloves with the organization's logo.

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### Hallelujah!

As I write this piece, the school year has already reached its midpoint. It seems like it was only yesterday when school started with a flurry of exciting and energetic activities designed to set a clear course for student and teacher success. At this midpoint, all educators typically pause a moment to consider the success and the effectiveness of their education efforts.

The question raised by most educators during the course of every school year is, "Am I strengthening and advancing my students in mastering the curriculum?" However, for the Seventh-day Adventist educator, there is the added question that addresses more than the subject matter: "Am I helping to strengthen and advance my students' relationship with Jesus Christ?"

Ellen White writes, "In our work for the children, the object should be not merely to educate and entertain them, but to work for their [spiritual] conversion" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 105). In all that we do as Adventist educators—beautifying buildings and grounds, overseeing curricular progress of our students throughout the school year and prepping students for promotion and graduation—it is done from the perspective of working for the conversion of our children and youth.

Hallelujah is the word that describes my response to students who take their stand to follow Christ and become baptized. Last year through what I call our "evangelistic centers," we were able to report 81 student baptisms. *Hallelujah!* Hallelujah to God for blessing our schools with teachers who sow seeds of truth before our students. The seeds, coupled with the power of the Holy Spirit, are bound to result in more baptisms.

Now I encourage you to pause. Consider your role of working for the conversion of others. Adjust your ministry as needed. There's a hallelujah for you to express.



James P. Willis, II  
Superintendent of Schools

### Capitol Hill Members Start Adventist Group on Public Campus

Natasha Carter (first row, left) remembers August 8, 2009, as a particularly special day. It was the day she was baptized at the Capitol Hill church in Washing-

ton, D.C. "Before becoming an Adventist, I felt like my life was in bondage and sin. I felt like I had no freedom. Becoming an Adventist has changed that," she explains.

A senior psychology major at Bowie State University in Bowie, Md., Carter knew she wanted to share the new Bible knowledge that she had gained with others at the university. Her sisters, Afeisha (front row, right) and Trisha, who are also attend Capitol Hill church, felt the same way. Last fall, in partnership with Courtney Thompson, a resident director on campus and a member of the nearby Restoration Praise Center (RPC), they started the BSU Advent Fellowship.

"We want to share God with those who don't know him, but we also want to encourage each other," Thompson (far right) says of the group's 10 regular members.

The group meets on campus every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Alex Haley residence hall to study the Bible, share praises or concerns and pray for each other.

They are also working with Potomac Conference's RPC, some eight minutes from the school, to host a week of prayer on campus March 28-April 3.





## 7 Siblings—All PFA Alumni—Establish Scholarship

Pine Forge Academy alumni Marguerite Helen Dixon ('47), Lois Billadine Cooper ('49), Allyne Carolyn West ('50) (deceased), William Orlando Anderson II ('51), John Ernest Anderson ('55), Ronald Lee Anderson ('59) and Ida Cecelia Cheatham ('59) established the William O. Sr., and Ida M. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship recognizes their parents' strong belief in Christian education and their investment in education at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

Inspired by their favorite text, "Your goodness is so great! You have stored up great things for those who honor you" (Ps. 31:19, NLT) the family created the scholarship for students of single-parent households.

The family's story began in 1936 when William and Ida Anderson discovered and then joined the Adventist Church. At first they sent their children to public school, despite being steadfast members of Ethnan Temple in Wilkensburg, Pa. But they soon became convinced of the value of Christian education and enrolled their children in the local church school.

In September 1946, Marguerite and 90 other students enrolled in a new school called Pine Forge Institute. She and five others were members of the school's first graduating class.

Over the years, her six siblings followed her in footsteps



All seven Anderson children (pictured with their mother, Ida) graduated from Pine Forge Institute.

and attended the Pine Forge Institute. Even after her husband died in a car accident, their mother was steadfast in educating her children at Adventist schools. Until her death in 2004, she was present at all annual alumni weekends.—Marguerite Anderson Dixon

## How Adventist Education Led Us to The Church

Our family has always loved God; we have always been members of a Christian church. But our true rebirth in Christ did not come until a search for a better education for our children led us to the answers we had been seeking. We found them in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Through a friend, my husband and I learned of the Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington,

D.C. Impressed by the mission of the school, the beliefs and goals of its principal and the professional training of its teachers, we enrolled our children, Gregory Jr., and Imani.

We quickly became aware of the differences in the teachers and administrative staff. They were warm, welcoming and concerned about quality education for children in general, and, specifically children of color.

Around the same time, my husband and I began to seek a closer relationship with the Lord, and we decided to attend the Capitol Hill church. This was a radical departure from our upbringing. We are part of a large, close-knit family, all of whom are either Baptist or Methodist. We instantly felt overwhelming pressure to return to our previous church.

However, we gravitated to the truth being taught each Sabbath

and the love we received from members. Our children begged us to continue attending the Capitol Hill church and were not afraid of my one true concern—upholding the Sabbath day as sacred and holy.

We studied the Word of God, shared experiences, and grew to accept and embrace the teachings of the Adventist church. This past summer, we were baptized together as a family and officially became members of the Capitol Hill church.—Tanisha P. Hembrey



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## A Three-Generation Commitment to Adventist Education

When my mother embraced the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she probably had no idea that she would start a three-generation commitment to Christian education. She accepted Christian education as part of the total package of Adventism. So my brothers, sister and I started our Christian education journey at Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. The four of us graduated from the eighth grade and went to a nearby public high school. When I completed high school, my mother announced to me that I was going to Andrews University (Mich.) for teaching.

I attended Andrews University for a year and a half, and then attended a local university. When I finished my degree, I had four children who always attended the local Adventist school. I started teaching at Ramah Junior Academy where my four children attended. They finished Ramah one by one and then went to Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

The Lord blessed me to see my first grandchild attend the same Christian school her grandmother, father, aunts and uncles attended. I have never regretted my Christian education. I have three close friends who attended Ramah Junior Academy, and we all agree that if we had not met there, our lives would be empty without each other. In fact, I owe my staying in the church to my teachers who taught me at an early age from the Bible. I give thanks to God that my four children are Christians, not perfect, but still building their relationship with God as I am. For me, Christian education is a way of life. I thank God my mother embraced Christian education when she joined the Adventist Church.



Mary Conwell  
Ramah Jr. Academy  
Principal

## Newest Church Plant Named Good Shepherd

Allegheny West Conference (AWC) leaders have a bold plan to plant 25 new churches. Under the leadership of Walter Castro, Multicultural Ministries director, the conference is well on its way. Pastor Castro put forth the challenge at last year's camp meeting, then re-emphasized it at the leadership retreat in Charleston,

W.Va. So far there have been six church plants throughout the conference: Erie, Pa; Columbus, Ohio; Cincinnati; Findley, Ohio; and Clarksville, Va.

The newest church is El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd), a Spanish-speaking church in Cincinnati. Paulo DaSilva, pastor of the Central Cincinnati Hispanic church, along with the lay leader Edilfonso Alonzo, worked to make this new church a reality. Twenty-two members recently gathered for the consecration service led by conference president Fredrick Russell.

"We thank the Lord and the leaders of the Central Cincinnati Hispanic church for supporting the Lord's vision," DaSilva says.

AWC is hosting the Church Planting Assessment and Orientation Conference May 21-23. For more information or to register, go to awconf.org.



Fredrick Russell (front row, right) and Walter Castro (front row, second from right) celebrate with members of the new church plant, El Buen Pastor.



**NEWS**

**Ephesus Church Member's Research Changes Food Code**

Melvin Pascall (right) who holds a PhD in Food Science and Environmental Toxicology has conducted research that will make your next trip to a restaurant more pleasant. A second-generation Adventist and first elder of Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, Pascall is an associate professor in the Food Science and Technology department at Ohio State University.

Before 2009 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) food code dictated that when restaurants cleaned utensils and other tableware, they must wash, rinse, then sanitize—"and that's the end," said Pascall. "Restaurants couldn't rinse the sanitizer off." This may lead to a soapy sanitizer taste on utensils.

For Pascall the solution was simple—just rinse the utensils one more time. However, it wasn't that simple. In order for restaurants to introduce that new step, the food code would have to be changed, and that required testing. Restaurants began sanitizing utensils because they feared introducing new bacteria after the utensils were washed and before drying.

Pascall conducted the research that showed rinsing with potable water did not increase the drying time nor introduce new bacteria, causing the FDA to change the food code to require that step. "This is



part of the reason we try to do meaningful research, to improve the lives of people," Pascall said. "I hope it improves the joy of eating."

**Hispanic Members Attend Lay Evangelism Festival**

Twenty-six delegates (below) from Hispanic churches all across the Allegheny West Conference recently participated in Potomac Conference's Hispanic Lay Evangelism Festival in Ocean City, Md. They attended a variety of soul-winning workshops such as "Personal Evangelism," "Evangelism to a Postmodern Mind," "Evangelism Through Small Groups" and "Public

Evangelism and Discipleship." Several of the Adventist Church's top speakers made presentations, including Ron Clouzet, DMin, director of the North American Division's Evangelism Institute; and Rubén Ramos, assistant to the president for Multilingual Ministries at the Columbia Union Conference.

**Central Church Hosts Sabbath School Training**

More than 400 members from Columbus, Ohio-area churches participated in a weekend Sabbath School training event. "New and innovative methods must be integrated to keep the life blood of the church—the church at study—pumping," commented Allen Baldwin, AWC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director.



Faith Crumbly (above), editor of LEAD magazine (formerly known as *Sabbath School Leadership*), was the guest presenter. She introduced the group to the CLAIM (Connect Learn Apply Integrate Master) strategy to get Sabbath School classes involved and engaged in Bible study.

Baldwin also introduced the group to the idea of developing a Sabbath School growth program, which they seemed very excited to implement in their churches.

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**The Wonder of Science**

As society becomes more secular, the Word of God is increasingly attacked from all directions, especially by academic and scientific "experts." It is refreshing to study the Word of God at a Seventh-day Adventist school and to have teachers present the Christian perspective on science, which, instead of evolution, speaks volumes in favor of creation and the wonders of God's creative wisdom.

Ben Roy of Science Zone (*gosciencezone.com*) based in Tennessee, recently presented a program at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) emphasizing the balance that exists in the physical universe. Roy's presentation also challenged us to try to imagine the wonders God has planned for us. What a wonderful, creative God we serve!

As BMA's motto emphasizes, "They shall be all taught of God" (John 6:45). BMA teachers use the book of nature and the Word of God to teach students about Him. Just imagine that in the Earth made new, we will be taught face to face by our loving Creator! May our faith be strengthened through the Bible *and* science. They both tell us of an amazing God.



Ben Roy recently illustrated God's power by means of a variety of scientific experiments.



Craig Ziesmer  
Principal

**Training Inspires Students to Fly for God**

Rudolph "Mo" Pelley, a former mission pilot and recently retired treasurer of the Pennsylvania Conference, is teaching the first formal ground school session since Adventist World Aviation took over BMA's flight training program in 2007.

At a recent session, Pelley told students of one of his experiences flying doctors on a mission to a remote airstrip. There was no windsock at this grass strip, but someone lit a fire in a barrel by the runway when the airplane approached so the smoke would provide the needed wind direction. However, the fire quickly spread from the barrel to the grass of the runway! And to make matters worse, one of the passengers was airsick and was filling sick sacks as they flew around waiting for the fire to be put out so they could land!

With that backdrop, the discussion got around to lift, weight, thrust and drag, and to Bernoulli's principles. Ground school serves to prepare the young people for the Federal Aviation Administration Knowledge Test, but it also inspires them to see the blessings and joys of working for the remote and forgotten people groups of the world.—Eric Engen



Aviation students Kelsey Landa, Ricardo Antron and Uhursu Godlieb listen to the mission experiences of instructor Mo Pelley, who holds pilot licenses from Malawi, Rhodesia, Congo, Canada and the United States.





NEWS

**Learning Specialist Completes Master's Degree**

Congratulations to Renee Whiting (below), BMA's learning specialist, for completing her master's degree in School Counseling for grades



K-12 through Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). She joined the BMA teaching staff last July.

When she accepted the position, Whiting needed to take five hours of comprehensives. Chuck Castle, vice principal, agreed to proctor the exam. She says she appreciated his willingness to help and is "thankful that I work at an institution that values its employees."

**Girls' Dorm Renovations Continue**

The renovations in the girls' dorm are helping to build a future filled with hope and opportunity.

"Living in the dorm is like being



Allison Landry ('11) checks out the work being done in the dorms.

part of a huge family," said Joanna Fils-Aime ('11). "As a family, we like our home to look its best, and we are seeing our dreams come true daily. It's exciting to walk down the hall and know that the work being done will affect not only us, but generations to come."

Staff agree that with every brick and pipe that is installed, they know their prayers are being answered.

To financially support the renovations of the dorms visit [bma.us](http://bma.us), email [kathys@bma.us](mailto:kathys@bma.us) or call (610) 562-4214.

**Students Participate at Bucks County Church**

Seniors Jenna Dawson and Rebecca Ducharme and freshman Amber Enochs participated in the Bucks County church program as



part of BMA's annual InReach Sabbath, when students minister at Pennsylvania Conference churches.



**Choir and Orchestra Present Annual Concert**

BMA presented Vivaldi's *Gloria*, performed by Bel Canto and accompanied by an orchestra made up of students, staff and guest musicians. Juniors and LaSonette Ensemble members Madeline Bornman and Kristen Engen (inset) shared the holiday spirit as they performed at the concert.

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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2010

## How to Handle a Church Fight

I find it strangely reassuring that not even the early church was immune to church fights. I am referring to the sharp disagreement that developed between Paul and Barnabas as recorded in Acts 15:36-41. After a heady string of positive successes, we see this conflict develop. The division within the leadership was not theologically founded—it was interpersonal and emotional. It was human. Paul could not bring himself to give a young worker a second chance. He comes off as hard, uncaring and unforgiving. Barnabas comes off milder; but was he really being so gracious, or was this simply a case of nepotism (see Colossians 4:10)? I think the way the church at Antioch handled this fight gives us three great gifts for today:

The first gift is that Luke reported the controversy at all. In a spare and evenhanded way he put it right out in the open, so it could be seen for what it was. And that is a second gift as well. They kept the controversy focused on what it was—an honest disagreement between two co-workers. They did not enlarge the crisis beyond its true dimensions. They did not split into factions and become involved in a two-year power struggle. Who was right, Barnabas or Paul? They were both right; they were both wrong. The church saw it for what it was and decided to get on with its mission. A third gift is that the Holy Spirit did not seem too troubled by the conflict either. The Spirit continued to use their ministries, but in different directions. The mission of the church moved forward in spite of human weakness because, ultimately, all true success is the result of God's action—just as Paul learned and later wrote for our benefit ... "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Cor. 4:7, NIV).



Rob Vandeman  
President

## Beacon of Light Members Help Neighbor in Need

When the Beacon of Light congregation in Salisbury, Md., learned that Susan "Kay" Freeman needed a handicap accessible ramp at her home, they responded quickly.

"Shining the light of God's love on the community is part of the mission of Beacon of Light church," said member Gloria Magarelli, who learned of Freeman's need for the ramp through a co-worker.

Freeman uses a walker and has difficulty with balance. Getting up the steps to her front door with the walker was a severe challenge. The church board voted to cover the cost of lumber and other materials for the ramp, and Earl Truitt, head deacon, and Dale Pheasant, head elder, built the ramp.

"I love the church that made my ramp," Freeman said with a smile.

Susan Rossiter, an advocate for Freeman, added, "Every time I visit Kay's house and see the new ramp, joy enters my heart. I realize how truly blessed we are to have such wonderful people in our community."



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY LEE

Earl Truitt (left) and Dale Pheasant, members of the Beacon of Light church in Salisbury, Md., construct a ramp at a neighbor's home.



## New Hope Church Raises Funds for Mission Trip

About 300 people recently attended New Hope church's second annual International Food Festival held at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md.



Sabrina Wooster (left) and Joannine Voilquin fill cups with lemonade at an International Food Festival held at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md.

Festival held to raise funds for drilling clean water wells in Haiti. The event, organized by the Fulton, Md., church's Sharing our Strength (SoS) missions ministry, raised about \$2,300 for the project.

Members formed teams to provide cuisine from the Philippines, India, Africa and Brazil, and they attempted to outdo each other in a friendly competition.

"We were thrilled to see how many people came out to raise money for clean water wells for our project in Haiti," said Rajkumar Dixit, associate pastor.

The church has adopted Mozambique and Haiti as their primary international mission sites. The group was scheduled to go to Haiti in January but had to cancel due to the earthquake that struck Haiti the



Lissa Murakami of the New Hope church serves Brazilian food to raise funds for clean water wells in Haiti.

day before their planned departure.

However, when the group reschedules they will send a medical team to dispense vitamins and treat ailments. Another group will focus on evangelism and conduct outreach activities. Six volunteers will partner with local workers to drill wells at the Eden Garden Orphanage near the mission site.



New Hope members representing India at the recent International Food Festival celebrate their win for best overall cuisine.

PHOTOS BY A. COLIN JEFFERS AND CARYN WOOSTER

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## Mountain View Schools Teach Creation

You may not realize it, but the fact that Mountain View Conference schools still teach creation is big news. Since its introduction into the United States in the late 1800s, the theory of evolution has been steadily gaining ground and continues to be the basis for today's science education both in public schools and in a growing number of Christian schools. This trend should cause us great alarm as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

Evolution states that man started as nothing and is gradually getting better on his own. In essence man doesn't need God. However, as Adventists we firmly believe in the Bible account of salvation, which states that man started out perfect but rejected God and became nothing. We believe man cannot get better on his own. We believe man needs God.

Evolutionary theory can lead to a dilemma for the Christian as follows:

- Who decides what is right and wrong?
- There is no heaven or hell, which means there is no hope for the future.
- The Bible is not reliable.

These are the powerful messages our children are learning when they sit in classrooms where persuasive, intelligent instructors teach evolutionary theory as though it were fact. Our children—be they in elementary school, high school or university—are at risk. If they are to become the solid, mature, Adventist Christians we want them to be, they will need every advantage we can give them.

I have good news. The teachers in Adventist schools of Mountain View Conference are preparing students to think critically about the claims and results of evolutionary theory. We are working to ground our students in a biblical world view. We want to reach every one of our children with the good news that he or she is created in God's image.

Contact us at the Mountain View Office Conference of Education for information about enrolling your child in one of our seven schools, or about how you can support Adventist education with your time or resources. Call (304) 422-4581.



Cheryl Jacko  
Acting Superintendent

## Mountaintop School Teaches Character Thru Outreach

One way the students at Mountaintop Seventh-day Adventist School in Oakland, Md., develop their spiritual and emotional faculties is through a character education program. Called *Character Counts*, the program is based on six pillars: trustworthiness, respect,

responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Students study great men and women from the Scriptures who demonstrated growth and/or success in each trait. When students exhibit these qualities they receive "character tickets" from the teacher and their peers.

Ellen White writes, "Life is too generally regarded as made up of distinct periods—the period of learning and the period of doing" (*True Education*, p.165). So to further shore up these character traits, students participate in community outreach activities. One of the students' favorite activities is collecting cans. They pair up and hand out grocery bags for nonperishable food donations. A week later, they return to collect the food, which is then distributed to needy families in the community.—Mindy Jerkins



Mountaintop students Madison Sines, Lucas Broadwater-Stewart, Shannon Tasker, Alex Wayson and Ricky Seeders collect canned goods for needy families.

## Frederick Church Member Chairs Local Chamber of Commerce

Rob Jepson, Adventist HealthCare's vice president of Government Affairs and Public Affairs, was recently sworn in as chairman of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce in the state of Maryland. Jepson is a member of the Frederick (Md.) church.

He is well known throughout Montgomery County and Maryland—but especially in the upper part of the county—for his work on behalf of businesses and health-related issues. He previously served as the chamber's vice chairman of legislative affairs, and will serve for one year as its chair.



The 60-year-old chamber consists of 400 members, including biotech firms, manufacturing companies, real estate development organizations, restaurants and numerous small businesses.

"I thoroughly enjoy interacting with the staff and members of the Gaithersburg-

Germantown Chamber of Commerce, a pragmatic organization that, through the years, has been and is honorably and consistently supportive of the basic principle that business and jobs are necessary for creating a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community," Jepson said in his speech at the chamber's annual dinner. He has been with Adventist HealthCare for 16 years.—Cindy Glass



## Mountain View Schools Make Learning Fun

Over the past year, students at Mountain View Conference's seven schools received unique and fun learning opportunities. Below are just some of the ways teachers helped students learn *and* have fun:



At Valley View Adventist School in Bluefield, W.Va., students like Mindy enjoy spending time in the computer lab.



Parkersburg Academy students Levi Webb and Hannah White make gingerbread houses while learning about holiday traditions around the world.



Brittany Wilfon, a student at Brushy Fork Christian School in Buckhannon, W.Va., paints a rain stick.



Robin Stecker, a sixth-grader at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., examines a flower during her science lab class.



Students of Summersville Adventist School in Summersville, W.Va., thank their community for participating in the school's annual food drive, which served more than 400 families.



Tyler Massie samples apple butter with his friend, Seth Surbaugh. Once a year students, teachers and church members at Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va., make apple butter. Although students don't realize it, they employ math, science and listening skills to make this yummy treat.



Students of Valley View School in Bluefield, W.Va., enjoy playing handbells.

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## A Message for My Youth

I am challenging all of you—my young people—to examine your education and pronounce your belief on this important subject. Why? Because this is about you, your future and your life. A Seventh-day Adventist education can help you become the best you can be in the present and, more importantly, for eternity. Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, our new education superintendent, is committed to transforming our schools to be the best they can be.

You deserve an education that will prepare you to be a knowledgeable person with a respectful career that will open up excellent opportunities for success and witnessing. There is a wide difference between secular schools and Christian Adventist schools full of excellent possibilities to grow, not only in the field of secular education but in the spiritual dimension.

The youth in our public schools have been robbed of the blessings of holy things. It is time for you to make a decision and respectfully discuss this with your parents. In the future, I would like to call you a Christian doctor, engineer, nurse or teacher. With the help of dedicated Christian teachers, you can be a transforming force in the life of others in and out of school. I hope to see you in our schools.



José H. Cortés  
President

## NEWS

### Trenton Korean Church Pastor Retires

After 30 years of service in the Adventist Church, Andrew Ahn, pastor of the Trenton Korean church, recently retired. He started his career in 1961 as a teacher in South Korea. After teaching for several years, Ahn served for three years in the Korean Navy. Upon completion of his military service, he returned to Korean Union College, obtained his bachelor's degree in 1969 and entered pastoral ministry.

He married Cecile Youngsoon Kim the following year. In 1973 the Ahns moved to the United States, where Pastor Ahn then pursued a degree in medical technology at California State University-Los Angeles. He returned to pastoral ministry in 1977 in the Southern California Conference. Before moving to the New Jersey Conference in 2002, he also served in the Illinois, Carolina and the Georgia-Cumberland conferences.

José H. Cortés, conference president, and Leonel Pottinger, ministerial director, recently honored Pastor Ahn for his many years of faithful service. The Ahns are retiring in South Carolina, where he will serve as a part-time pastor for a Korean church.



Pastor Andrew Ahn and his wife, Cecile, say goodbye to their New Jersey Conference family.

### Changes Planned for Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses Retreats

Elders, deacons and deaconesses are invited to attend a weekend of training and spiritual refreshment at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC) in Tranquility. Spanish-speaking leaders will gather at TVRC March 19-21, and English-speaking leaders will meet March 26-28. *These dates are updated from what is printed in the conference calendar.*

This year conference leaders will recognize the men and women who serve in these three important leadership positions with a special gift for each leader who attends.



## Lake Nelson, Waldwick Students Learn Outdoors

A bright yellow bus pulls into a lot between two cabins at the Mohican Outdoor Center in Blairstown. Students from the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway and Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School in Waldwick file from the bus. Some look around curiously, while others let out shouts of excitement at



Back row: Ryan Harris, Jennifer Lalaki, Cindy Rodriguez and (front row) Joseph Rucker and Mark Belfort enjoy the outdoors.



Clockwise from left: Alphie Rotinsulu, Elayna Moffitt, Andrew Thaw and Eveling Grajales prepare to go backpacking.

finally arriving. This is the beginning of the fourth annual Outdoor Education Program, a four-day trip that centers on the beauty of God's creation (and how to survive in it). Elayna Moffitt, Lake Nelson vice principal, directs the program.

Students spend the night in the cabins. Both cabins have living rooms and kitchens where campers meet daily to hear Daniel Duffis, pastor of the New Brunswick English Church, share inspiring sermons and other instruction. The second kitchen becomes the dining hall, where Debbie Martinez and other volunteers prepare all the meals.

All of the campers are divided into platoons before the trip even occurs. Once morning roll call is completed, each platoon heads to



Lake Nelson student Todd Cotton relaxes in his cabin.

their designated classes, which range from land navigation to first aid to canoeing.

A small group of campers participate in the overnight backpacking class. They learn to cook their food, pack their backpacks and hike three to five miles along a portion of the Appalachian Trail.

All New Jersey Conference schools are encouraged to participate in the course. This year there will be a one-day program for schools that wish to partake on a smaller scale. Volunteers are welcomed and encouraged. —Maria Nikiforova

## dates

### March

- 6 Women's Day of Prayer  
*Local Churches*
- 7 Children's Ministries Training Day  
*Wayne, Lake Nelson Churches*
- 10-13 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*
- 12-14 Spanish Women's Spring Retreat, *Cape May*
- 19-21 Spanish Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses Retreat  
*Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)*
- 26-28 English Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses Retreat, *TVRC*

### April

- 2-4 English Women's Spring Retreat, *Cape May*
- 7-10 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*
- 10 Music Festival for Northern Jersey
- 11 Children's Ministries Training Day  
*Wayne, Lake Nelson churches*
- 16-18 Single Ministries Retreat, *TVRC*
- 17 Spanish Couples Retreat Event, *Woodcliff*
- 23-25 Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Training  
*TVRC*
- English Couples Retreat  
*Edison*

### May

- 5-8 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*
- 17 New Jersey Conference Worship Training Day, *Laurelwood Church*
- 11 Children's Ministries Training Day  
*Wayne, Lake Nelson churches*

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## Executive Secretary to Move to Mid-America

After 11 years of ministry in Ohio, Hubert and Lucy Cisneros have assumed new responsibilities in the Mid-America Union based in Lincoln, Neb. Pastors, members and the staff of the Ohio Conference have deeply appreciated the multiple ministries that they provided in Ohio. Hubert was executive secretary for the conference and coordinator for Evangelism and Hispanic Ministries. Lucy was the director for Women's Ministries. For a period she also was the administrator of Camp Mohaven.

"Hubert and Lucy demonstrated a deep commitment to the Lord and to the church in all of their ministry endeavors. We are deeply grateful to them and will miss them," says Raj Attiken, conference president.

Hubert will serve as Youth and Church ministries director for the Mid-America Union.



PHOTO BY NANCY BARNETT

## Spring Valley Holds Coin Drive, Raises \$2,200 for Haiti

It wasn't very long after the earthquake in Haiti, that Spring Valley Academy (SVA) students came to Ken Knudsen, the school's chaplain. Students of the Centerville-area school wanted to help. Knudsen quickly helped them organize a coin drive, and, within days they raised \$2,284.

Teachers said it really touched their hearts to see so many young students bring bags of coins (large and small) to their classrooms each day. Kindergarten student Cobe Quick eagerly brought his entire savings and generously gave his all. Fifth-grader Lily Wheaton was inspired to use the \$15 seed money challenge given her a few weeks earlier by Pastor Christopher Terry, an intern at the Kettering church. She struggled over how to best use the money and stated, "When I heard about the coin drive I knew in my heart this is what God wanted me to do."

Seventh-grader Nicolas Chaij gave monies he received for Christmas and his recent birthday, while ninth-grader Sean McCartney contributed monies he had been collecting toward his college fund.

Brendon Prutzman, a pastor at the Kettering church, was attending SVA's middle school week of prayer assembly when he promised to match all monies donated right then on the spot. This inspired all middle school students to rally to the cause. Pastor Prutzman ended up matching their gift with \$100 of his own!

All the monies were sent to ADRA's Haiti Earthquake Response Fund. "Our prayers continue to go out to the many Haitian victims and all those assisting them," said Knudsen. "It is times such as these that direct our focus on the miraculous power of God and inspires global community awareness ... a lesson that goes far beyond the classroom." —Vicki Swetnam



Chaplain Ken Knudsen and students Nicolas Chaij, Lily Wheaton and Sean McCartney were among those who donated coins for Haiti.



## Constituency Delegates Invited to Regional Meetings

A series of regional meetings are scheduled for delegates to the 40th Regular Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. These area meetings will give delegates opportunities to hear and discuss reports on various aspects of conference operations and specific items on the May 16 constituency meeting agenda. All elected delegates are urged to attend the nearest meeting as listed below:

Region	Date	Location	Time
Northwest	April 13	Toledo Church	7 p.m.
Northeast	April 15	Akron Church	7 p.m.
Cleveland area	April 20	Lakewood Church	7 p.m.
Southern	April 22	Chillicothe Church	7 p.m.
Columbus area	April 27	Columbus Eastwood Church	7 p.m.
Dayton area	April 29	Kettering Church	7 p.m.

## Ohio to Host 15,000 at National Youth Prayer Gathering

All Ohio Conference members are invited to join Seventh-day Adventists from across the country at a special Sabbath celebration April 10 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus. An estimated 15,000 persons are expected to attend on Sabbath.

The daylong Sabbath events will be part of a three-day "Just Claim It 2" national convention organized by the North American Division. The event will be a combination of the

Just Claim It Youth Prayer Congress, Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, Children's Worship Festival, and "Ignition: God-Encounters" Young Adult Convention. The program will include prayer initiatives, community mission projects, evangelism outreach, teen preaching/testimonies, mass choir/orchestra, workshops/seminars, Sabbath youth rally/parade and recreation.

The convention begins on Wednesday, April 7 for registered delegates. The Sabbath programs, however, are free and open to all

Ohio Conference members. There will be a morning devotional at 8:15, and Sabbath School will begin at 9:15 a.m. The program will include dynamic preaching from youth and young adults, a 300-voice mass choir, and a variety of special features and artists. Among the speakers will be Jonathan Cobb (left), a member of the Kettering church currently attending Andrews University (Mich.).

"This would be an excellent opportunity for Ohio Adventists to convene in such a mass gathering, to be inspired and blessed by what God is doing in and through the lives of our children, youth and young adults," observes Raj Attiken, conference president. "This is also an opportunity to demonstrate our interest in, and support for, what our church is doing to serve and equip our young people."

The Ohio Conference will conduct a special Children's Worship Festival on Sabbath morning, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. With the theme "Connected," the program will focus on being connected to God, each other and the world. This event will be for children aged 5-13 (kindergarten through earli-teen). Additionally, the annual Ohio Conference Music Festival for elementary school children will be



Students from all over Ohio will get an opportunity to participate in the conference's music festival while at the "Just Claim It 2" youth prayer conference in Columbus.

featured at 3 p.m., at the convention's main stage. Students in grades 5-8 from Ohio Conference schools will participate.

To get complete information or to download a brochure, go to [jci2.org](http://jci2.org).

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## Living Authentic Hope

Hope. The word means different things to different people. To Christians, hope—really authentic hope—is to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus' life, death and resurrection was their personal victory over sin. That is truly good news. So what does that look like in the classroom? For many of the 35 educators in Pennsylvania Conference's 14 elementary schools and junior academies, it is the reason they went into education.

Working with humans is difficult because of the complexity of each individual. Juggling the needs of each unique student while staying on top of expectations of school boards, department of education, and even parents, the question could be asked, "Why in the world would you become a teacher?" For Darlene Peterson, who teaches grades 3 and 4 at Reading Junior Academy in Reading, providing a positive, Christian influence for students like Bryce Black (right) is reason enough. Here's what others have to say:



HOTO BY TANYRA HORST

- I love interacting with young people. I hope and pray that my influence on my students will lead them to a better life on Earth, and help them embrace the promise of eternal life.
- I always liked being around children. My dad was a high school teacher and my mom was a Sabbath School teacher; even my two older sisters are educators.
- I wanted to make learning fun like some of the more memorable teachers I had.

## A Pennsylvania Conference Core Value

**Authentic Hope:** We are committed to the hope of Christ's return, and we live the Christian life based upon Scripture, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Three Angels' messages and the Seventh-day Adventist [Church's] biblical beliefs. We will serve Jesus Christ with a grace-orientation to life, solid in doctrine, encouraging our people to serve God with gratitude rather than guilt and condemnation (see Rom. 6:14, 2 Cor. 8:7).

- I found school to be a challenge. I was also very shy. I wanted to show children that they can do anything they put their minds to.
- I wanted to positively influence students and help them be transformed by their learning.
- I wanted to make a difference. I wanted my classroom to be a place where children felt safe, loved and where they could meet Jesus.
- I love being with kids and helping them grow.
- Over time I realized that God called me to be a teacher.
- I have a desire to impact the lives of my students and teach them about God.

Our teachers are more than qualified to provide an excellent academic education that is ripe with spiritual connections! Their desire to instill the unique hope that we as Seventh-day Adventists share is just one of the reasons you should seriously consider Seventh-day Adventist schools for your child.



David Morgan  
Vice President of  
Education



## Why I Teach in Adventist Schools

Have you ever seen a child's face light up when they discover or learn something? Have you seen a child grow in confidence and the whole world open up for them? Have you ever seen a child decide they want to follow Jesus and serve others? The joy of seeing these things happen in a child's



As a new Adventist Christian, it was extremely important to my mom that her children also benefit from having a close relationship with their heavenly Father. However, as a young mother, she was chided for her "waste of money" on Christian education. While family and friends were not always supportive of her decision, she persisted. She even took on a second job to pay our tuition. Her selfless and tireless effort in following Christ's way made a powerful impression on my life.—*Jennifer McCary, York Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy*



life is why I teach. Making a difference in the life of a child for now and eternity—I can't think of a better career.—*Darlene Peterson, Reading Junior Academy*

After my baptism, I knew that my life goal would be to help others. I could travel to a foreign land to influence a few, or I could teach



others to influence their world. I became a teacher. One day a student I had my first year of teaching wrote to me 20 years later saying I was the one who introduced her to righteousness by faith. I hope there have been many in the past and will be many more in the future who have been affected by Jesus through me.—*Gary Davis, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy*



Adventist education impacted my life in many ways. I have close friends who encourage and support me in my Christian walk. I have had opportunities for travel, to participate in athletic activities and to experience and participate in wonderful musical events. I had excellent teachers who taught me to love learning and to value service, honesty and responsibility. I hope to pass all these things on to the young people I teach.—*Karlee Marschner, Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist School*

In this world, we need good influences. I want to be a good influence for God. Being an Adventist educator isn't just a job to me. It's my life. Over the years, I've seen many of my students go on to successful careers and lives. My hope is that I've shown them how to have a relationship with Jesus that



will prepare them for living here on Earth and for eternity. Students today, more than ever, are looking for someone who cares. That's why I'm there.—*Kathy Swackhammer, Fairview Village Adventist School*

## What's happening

- March**
- 5-6** Elementary Music Fest  
*Blue Mountain Academy*
  - 5-7** Adventurer and Pathfinder Leaders Spiritual Retreat  
*Laurel Lake Camp*
  - 19-21** Spring Women's Retreat  
*New Cumberland*
  - 26-28** CHIP Leadership Training  
*Blue Mountain Academy*

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# Potomac People

MARCH 2010

## Committed to Mission

Walking through the front door of one of our elementary schools recently, I was greeted with a wall-sized bulletin board presentation of the school's theme "Remembering Our Past, Building Hope For Our Future" accompanied by the following words from Ellen G. White: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past" (*Life Sketches*, p. 196). My heart was thrilled! From hallway to classroom, administration office to the cafeteria, the gymnasium to the church, this school was complete in its mission of sharing with children and their families the good news of Jesus and His gift of salvation.

That kind of commitment was even apparent in the church community. "I just want more children to experience this," one board member shared with me. It was so transparent, the value their community places on children and how their Seventh-day Adventist school can share Jesus with their students along with providing quality academics, healthy activities and friendships.

Adventist education is about far more than providing a nice private school. Our schools are 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, rather it is an investment in the lives of others. Contact your local Adventist school or pastor to learn how you can help change a life for Jesus.



**Keith Hallam**  
Vice President for Education

## Waynesboro Member Appointed Disability Judge

Kevin Sullivan, a member of the Waynesboro (Va.) church, was recently sworn in as an administrative appeals judge for the Social Security Administration (SSA), focusing specifically on disability. He joins 43 such judges who serve on the Appeals Council. According to Sullivan, the SSA anticipates more than 3.3 million applications this year, as more unemployed look for ways to make ends meet. Anyone whose claim

is denied at a hearing can request to have their case reviewed by the Appeals Council, which issues between 5,000 and 10,000 decisions each month.

Sullivan became involved in Social Security disability law in 2001 after praying for God's guidance. "I sensed Him directing me to use my legal training to work for the poor," he recalls. "That morning, I called a local legal aid agency and asked them if they could use a volunteer. Soon I began donating 12 hours a week, and, within a few months, I was offered a permanent position on their Social Security disability team."

In 2006 Sullivan accepted a position at the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, expecting it would take him five to 10 years to become a judge.

"As I adjust to my new responsibilities, as an administrative appeals judge, I will need to seek God's wisdom more than ever," he says. "Yet, I have no doubt that God's hand has directed my path, and that He will [help] me to do my best in the work before me. I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve my Lord and the American public."



Waynesboro (Va.) church member Kevin Sullivan (pictured with his wife, Evelyn) was recently appointed to serve as an administrative appeals judge with the Social Security Administration.



# Potomac People

## NEWS

### Beltsville Church Baptizes New Member During Storm

Despite one of the snowiest days in well over a decade, 60 to 70 people weathered the storm to witness and celebrate the baptism of Beltsville (Md.) church's newest member, Bonnie Anthony. Many of those in attendance were guests from other



churches that were closed that day. Beltsville was one of the few churches in the Washington, D.C., area that held services that Sabbath. "In addition, there were 55 sites watching online, with multiple people at those sites," said Kermit Netteburg, the church's pastor (above with Anthony). "In other words, there were more online worshippers in attendance than there were in-the-sanctuary worshippers."

### Tree of Life School Hosts Luncheon for Elderly

Senior citizens from the nearby church and community were all smiles as they prepared to enjoy the luncheon hosted by Tree of Life



Christian Preparatory School in Fredericksburg, Va. This annual school tradition holds a special place in the hearts and palates of all who attend. This year 22 students and 25 seniors shared the meal and forged new friendships.

Everyone had an opportunity to help with this highly-anticipated event. Parents and students worked together to set up and decorate tables the morning of the luncheon. Students greeted the visitors with a smile and gave them a tour of hallway artwork and classroom projects. When all were seated, Janet Armstrong, head teacher, warmly welcomed all the guests. Pastor Gregory Arutyunyan from the Fredericksburg church gave opening prayer.—*Susan Ware*



### Staunton Church Partners With Salvation Army To Help Community

For 25 years, Joan Gilmer (above right with Rita Wimmer) has had the responsibility and joy of directing and coordinating one of



*Andrew Keys, who will be deploying to Iraq this month, is one of dozens of volunteers who helped the Staunton (Va.) church serve the community.*

the largest outreach activities in the Staunton area—the annual Holiday Food Boxes donation program. In an effort to show support for the community and their neighbors, the Staunton (Va.) church raises money to put together an entire holiday meal, and a few gifts as well. Their mission is to give some hope to families who have come into hard times, and don't have the resources they once did.

Different members of the community come together to distribute more than 120 boxes of food and gifts to the needy. The church works closely with the Salvation Army in determining those who need these gifts. They also partner with local retailers to provide toys for the children. Several of the church's neighbors volunteer even though they aren't members of the Staunton church.

*Olivia Mudrich and Sarah Durichek, students at the Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, spend time with Ada Adams, a member of the Fredericksburg (Va.) church.*

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

# Spotlight on Spencerville

MARCH 2010

## Refresh Our Spirits

Spring break is always a time that students, teachers and parents anticipate. There is a long span of time, from the beginning of January when students return to school, until they finally get a sizable break at the end of March. It is such a beautiful time with everything coming alive after the long, cold winter. As a child I remember wanting to kick off my shoes and run through the green grass that was beginning to sprout. It was also nice to sit in a chair on the back deck and feel the warmth of the sun's rays on my face. The Earth was finally moving into a more direct orientation with the sun, and its warmth was realized once again.

Just like the seasons, our spiritual lives can have cycles. There are times when we have a long "winter" and then have a spiritual breakthrough that feels like "spring." However, we are not locked into a seasonal cycle like the Earth. By our own choices, we can have direct contact with the Son all year round. Jesus loves it when we spend time with Him. How long has it been since you had some direct communication with our Lord and Savior? Why wait? Stop now and soak in some amazing Son light.



**Brian Kittleson**  
*Principal*

## Freshman Shares His Musical Talents at White House

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) freshman Brandon Enriquez (right) has been very busy. On top of his usual holiday gigs, the violinist had two special opportunities to share his musical gifts.

After organizers of the Baltimore-Washington National Invitational gymnastic event viewed his YouTube video online, they invited Enriquez to play the national anthem.

He barely had a moment to catch his breath before he received another opportunity of a lifetime. Strings of Joy, the violin group of which he is a member, was asked to play at the White House during the holidays. Enriquez, nine other violinists and their teacher, Evonne Baasch, made their way to the White House. After playing their instruments, they were packing up to go home when they were told that they were going to meet the President of the United States. They quickly grabbed their violins and waited in line to meet President Barack H. Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

When Enriquez got his turn to meet Obama, he shook his hand and asked if he and his friends could play a song for him. The president consented, and, after hearing the young people play, walked up to Enriquez and gave him a fist bump. Needless to say, Enriquez was quite thrilled!





## Gymnastics Students Grow in Mind, Body and Spirit

In 2001 Richard Silié began teaching gymnastics/tumbling lessons at SAA in hopes of developing a school team. The first lessons began and were open to all grade levels. They would meet two to three times a week at the old New Hope church's multipurpose room. Ryan Perry, a physical education teacher at the time, helped Silié by teaching an acrobatics unit and encouraging students to try out for a team in the coming year. In the fall of 2002, 27 students became mem-

bers of SAA's gymnastics team, and Acro-Squad was born.

According to Silié the goals of this high school program include the development of young individuals as athletic performers, the awakening of their leadership skills and the sharing of their belief as to what young people can achieve when their bodies and minds are kept clean, pure and in good shape.

Recently Acro-Squad traveled to Southwestern Adventist University in Texas, to participate in Acrofest. Since its inception, Acro-Squad members have attended and participated in seven Acrofests. Members of the squad have also visited colleges and universities that run Christian gymnastics and acrobatics programs in Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, Nebraska and Michigan.

Previous experience is not necessary to become members of Acro-Squad. A good attitude and athletic work ethic, along with dedication, is all that is needed. Over 100 students have joined the program and completed at least one entire year. Fifteen SAA graduates have received scholarships and continued to do gymnastics at the college level.

Acro-Squad performs at both local and out-of-town, public and



Sophomore Ashley Colomb (pictured with senior Yanna Vasmout) says, "Everything about Acrofest was amazing—from the plane rides to the performances."

private schools throughout the school year, as well as at various home-court events. To schedule a performance, contact Silié at (301) 421-9101, ext. 130.



Beefcake has come to mean total strength, effort and endurance. Students are taught to guide people to ask not "What is beefcake?" but "Who is beefcake?" This gives them the opportunity to explain that Jesus is their true source of strength.



Acro-Squad members show team spirit at the recent Acrofest in Texas.

MARCH 2010

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

## Students Learn, Recycle to Raise Mission Funds

In an effort to do more to help take care of the Earth, the students and staff at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) recently started a recycling program. "I hate to see waste," says senior Tori Hevener. "I'm glad that we are doing our part to help the environment."

Green recycling bins can now be found in the classrooms and offices of the administration building, the dormitories, the cafeteria and the Student Center. Bins are labeled for white or colored paper, and student workers sort and separate the items, which are then shipped to a recycling center. The school receives \$70 per ton for white paper and \$30 per ton for colored paper. These funds will be used toward an upcoming mission trip to Argentina.

By recycling, students and staff have become more aware of the amount of waste that takes place and are much more careful in how they use what they have. Many students have made small changes in their daily habits, such as using reusable drinking bottles instead of purchasing disposable bottles of drinking water.

In the classroom, students are more aware of the amount of wasted paper when they see the green recycling bin sitting next to the copier. The school also recycles cans, bottles and cardboard boxes.



As Raissa Delgado ('12) recycles a stack of magazines, she is helping to protect trees and contributing to an upcoming mission trip.

SAA Presents

### "Meet Me in St. Louis"

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5 p.m.

April 20, 1 p.m.  
(Senior Citizens \$5)

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For tickets, call  
(301) 421-9101, ext. 125

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

## Alumni Weekend Planned

More than 1,000 alumni and former staff are expected to flood SVA's campus for this year's Alumni Weekend, April 16-18. Weekend activities include:

- Classes of 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 2000 will be honored
- Golf tournament on Friday at Bryce Resort
- Friday evening reception in the cafeteria, 6-8 p.m.
- Vespers program in the church at 8:15 p.m. with speaker David Livergood ('90)
- Sabbath School featuring music from honor classes in the gym at 10:15 a.m.
- Sabbath worship service in the gym at 11 a.m. with speaker George Gainer ('70)
- Sabbath afternoon Choir Reunion Concert in the church at 4 p.m. with Steve Zork, former choir director, leading his former students in concert
- Alumni basketball Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the gym
- Worthy Student Benefit Brunch on Sunday at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria

All alumni, former staff and their families are invited to attend. To RSVP for the golf tournament, Choir Reunion Concert, and/or the Worthy Student Benefit Brunch, call (540) 740-2202 or email jan.osborne@sva-va.org.



Old friends Bill Strickland, Shellie Pires ('02), Robert McLennan ('03) and Ryan McLennan ('04) reunite.



# HAPPENINGS

## Teams Glorify God Through Sports

SVA students interested in participating in athletics can choose from a variety of programs. Girls' and boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, boys' baseball, and boys' and girls' soccer give everyone an opportunity to be on a team or to be a team manager.

The girls' volleyball team had the opportunity to travel to Walla Walla University (Wash.) to take part in a volleyball tournament, and had an incredible time. Some 23 teams participated in the tournament, with schools such as Upper Columbia Academy, Milo Adventist Academy, Mt. Ellis Academy and Forest Lake Academy taking part. Although the SVA team made it to the championship game, they did not win the



tournament. But they had a great time being with so many other Seventh-day Adventist youth throughout the entire event.

"I was impressed with the overall organization of the tournament and the Christian atmosphere," Coach Edgardo Ullrich (above) said.

At SVA volleyball games, whether playing home or away, students start and finish with prayer. Ullrich's philosophy as a coach is that every player should give her best, at all times, as a way of glorifying God.

Another sport that students enjoy at SVA is soccer, coached by Nick Buchholz, assistant boys' dean.

As the season began, there was

the usual anticipation of combining new players with players from the previous year. Both the players and coaches were pleased as the team ended the season with a 10-1-1 record, losing only one game and tying their toughest competitor—Notre Dame Academy. They went on to win their third straight championship in the Cavalier Athletic Conference. Senior Chris Kuon said, "I was nervous about having so many new players on the team this year, but we came together very well and made each other better players."

SVA sports teams see this as a valuable way to experience teamwork and learn sportsmanship.



The girls soccer team practices in the off season.

## Youth Invited to Visit Campus

Academy Days will be held Sunday and Monday, April 11 and

12. All students in grades 7-11 are invited to attend to see what life at SVA is really like.

Those who come on Sunday will have the opportunity to spend the night to experience dorm life. Students will visit the classrooms and have the chance to compete for scholastic and music scholarships.

To register for Academy Days or to get more information, contact the recruiting office at (540) 740-2210 or email [gail.romeo@sva-va.org](mailto:gail.romeo@sva-va.org).

At Academy Days, youth meet and make new friends.



## Calendar

### March

- 7-18 Mission Trip to Argentina
- 7-18 European Music Trip
- 9-21 Spring Break

### April

- 16-18 Alumni Weekend

### May

- 21-23 Graduation Weekend

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



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MARCH 2010

## Students Minister Through Music Abroad and at Home

I recently had the privilege of touring in Jamaica with Washington Adventist University's (WAU) New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE). The highlight was a performance for Sir Patrick Allen, governor-general of Jamaica, and his wife, Lady Patricia Allen (Seventh-day Adventist members), in the nation's capital of Kingston. The event was a part of our sister school—Northern Caribbean University's (NCU) annual "Feast of Lights" concert, which also featured NCU's chamber ensemble and concert choir.

We were inspired by many selections, including a piano duet from NCU students and a trumpet solo by WAU graduate Jose Oviedo (left).

It was a joy to be on tour with our music department and to notice the positive reception and appreciation from various audiences.

They provided an environment where God was glorified through music. WAU's ensemble, under the directorship of Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, DMA, once again offered younger musicians an exceptional venue in which to perform, and showcased the excellent opportunities our school offers aspiring music students.

While in Jamaica, the NEYE also performed at a hospital, a hotel and a resort on different areas of the island.



### Upcoming Performances

I hope you'll take note of upcoming NEYE appearances around the country, including a March 6 concert for Loma Linda University's 100th anniversary celebration in Calif., and a July performance at the 59th General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta. You can find a complete schedule of spring performances, including multiple appearances at Carnegie Hall, on our website at [wau.edu/music](http://wau.edu/music).

### Music Center Groundbreaking

I would also like to personally invite you to the university on April 9, when we will break ground for a new music center for these fine students. This is the first new construction on the campus in nearly 40 years, and our music program is deserving of this new home. For more information about the groundbreaking, which is happening during our 2010 Alumni Homecoming, visit [wau.edu/alumni](http://wau.edu/alumni). The NEYE will perform with the choir that weekend in a reunion concert involving alumni.

Exciting things are happening at your university. We need your prayers and support each day as we endeavor to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to the Columbia Union. It's your support that keeps our doors open to serve these students. Thank you for all you do for Washington Adventist University.



Weymouth Spence  
President





## ATHLETIC NEWS

August 16, 2009, marked the last game played by the Columbia Union College Pioneers. Enter the Shock, the new moniker for the NCAA Division II competitive sports teams at Washington Adventist University. The new gym floor revealed the transformation of old to new as athletes returned to their new university for the fall semester. With a new name came new colors. WAU athletic teams now sport navy and dark orange uniforms.

### Soccer Player Stands Out

Freshman Dannielle Panuccio (above) has proven her worth on the Lady Shock soccer team through her tireless efforts on the field, and others are taking notice. Her perform-



ance as a forward captured the attention of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association when she was named Honorable Mention Player of the Week for her contributions to her team during the fall season.

### Acro-Airs "Face Giants"

The WAU Acro-Airs (below) recently returned from the 28th annual Acrofest held this year at Southwestern Adventist University (Texas). They joined more than 20 teams from the continental United States and Puerto Rico at the "Facing the Giant" themed event that focused on the spiritual aspects of involvement in gymnastics. The



## WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Acro-Airs home show is scheduled for Sunday, April 18.

### Volleyball Returns to Campus

Men's and women's volleyball has returned to WAU's line-up of competitive sports programs. The Lady Shock volleyball team (below)



recently took to the court to play a shortened volleyball season. Men's volleyball will begin their abridged season this month.

## Alumni Weekend At-A-Glance

### Friday, April 9

- 11 a.m. Music Center Groundbreaking
- 5:30 p.m. Alumni Banquet
- 7 p.m. Vespers
- 8:30 p.m. Singspiration

### Sabbath, April 10

- 8 a.m. Edyth T. James Department of Nursing Breakfast
- 11 a.m. Divine Worship with Ted N.C. Wilson
- 12:30 p.m. Alumni Luncheon
- 3:30 p.m. Choir/NEYE Reunion Concert
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Concert

### Sunday, April 11

- 10:30 a.m. Alumni Brunch/Business Meeting
- Noon Family Fun Festival/Enrollment Open House

## Calendar

### March

- 6-15 Spring Break
- 19-20 Keough Lectures

### April

- 2 Pro Musica Tenebrae Service  
Spencerville Church
- 9 Music Center  
Groundbreaking
- 9-11 Alumni Homecoming  
Weekend

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**MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST,** David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation, and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655

in Ellicott City or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive 10% discount on all services (excluding third-party payers). Our office is a participating provider with Adventist Risk Management. We welcome new patients.

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**SUNSET CALENDAR**

	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26	Apr 2	Apr 9
Baltimore	6:10	7:17	7:24	7:31	7:38
Cincinnati	6:42	7:49	7:56	8:03	8:10
Cleveland	6:30	7:38	7:45	7:53	8:01
Columbus	6:36	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:04
Jersey City	6:00	7:07	7:15	7:22	7:29
Norfolk	6:10	7:16	7:22	7:28	7:34
Parkersburg	6:30	7:37	7:44	7:51	7:58
Philadelphia	6:04	7:12	7:19	7:26	7:33
Pittsburgh	6:23	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:53
Reading	6:07	7:15	7:22	7:29	7:36
Richmond	6:14	7:21	7:27	7:33	7:40
Roanoke	6:24	7:31	7:37	7:43	7:50
Toledo	6:37	7:45	7:53	8:01	8:08
Trenton	6:03	7:10	7:17	7:24	7:32
Wash., D.C.	6:12	7:19	7:26	7:33	7:39

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**ALASKA CRUISE,** September 5-12. Roundtrip from Seattle on beautiful Norwegian Pearl. Ports: Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Victoria, British Columbia and Cruise Glacier Bay. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, etc. Foll Travel, 1739 Orangewood Pl., Avon Park, FL 33825. Phone/Fax (863) 453-7196; email bobkatfoll@embarqmail.com.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

The 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for revisions of the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such other business as comes before the conference, including the possible consolidation of the Ohio Conference and the Ohio Conference Association.

Raj Attiken, President  
Hubert Cisneros, Secretary

**QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a legal meeting of the Ohio Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, in connection with the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference to be held at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio, at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and trustees, consider recommendations for the revisions of the bylaws, and transact any other business that may come before the association at that time, including the possible consolidation of the Ohio Conference and the Ohio Conference Association. The delegates to the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

Raj Attiken, President  
Harry Straub, Secretary

**MEETING OF THE MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY CORPORATION**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation will be held in connection with the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio at 11:50 a.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010.

This meeting is called to elect trustees, consider recommendations for revisions of the bylaws, and transact any other business that may come before the constituency at that time. The

delegates to the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

Raj Attiken, President  
Rob Stevenson, Secretary

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY 2010 ALUMNI WEEKEND**

will be held April 30-May 2. Honor classes this year include: 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1970, 1960, 1950. For more information, visit our website at [highlandviewacademy.com](http://highlandviewacademy.com), or contact Renee Williams, [rwilliams@highlandviewacademy.com](mailto:rwilliams@highlandviewacademy.com)

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY (WAU) ALUMNI WEEKEND**

(Columbia Union College/Washington Missionary College) will be held April 9-11. Events will include: Music Center ground-

**Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries Spring Retreat**

Camp Mt. Aetna  
Hagerstown Md.  
April 23-25

Jan Yakush, a manager at the Potomac ABC, will be the speaker.

She has previously held seminars for women, and has worked as a chaplain and a pastor.

For more information, contact Fred Thomas: (410) 992-9731 [fmthomas1950@yahoo.com](mailto:fmthomas1950@yahoo.com)

**A Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) Leadership Training Workshop**

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For full information, registration, and a free DVD: visit [sdachip.org/workshops.html](http://sdachip.org/workshops.html) or call Toll-free (866) 732-2447 Website: [sdaCHIP.org](http://sdaCHIP.org)

View a three-minute video at [chiponline.org/chipvideo](http://chiponline.org/chipvideo)

breaking, president's banquet, worship services, class reunions, evening concert, alumni brunch, WAU Family Fun Festival. Honor classes: '30, '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and '00. For more information, go to [wau.edu/alumni](http://wau.edu/alumni), email [alumni@wau.edu](mailto:alumni@wau.edu), or phone (301) 891-4133.

**ADVENTIST FRESH EXPRESSIONS:**

Peter Roennfeldt and Monte Sahlin will be the presenters for a first-time field school for people (clergy and laity) who want to start (or are involved in) innovative church plants and community-based ministries designed to reach unchurched people in contemporary culture. This event will be held May 2-8 at the church plant and community service project of Andrew and Mayda Clark in Pittsburgh, Pa. Check the Newsline section of the April *Visitor* for information on preregistration, lodging arrangements, etc. If you would like to ask questions, or discuss the event in more details, you can contact Monte Sahlin at (800) 272-4664 or (937) 748-9075, or by email [msahlin@creativeministry.org](mailto:msahlin@creativeministry.org).

**"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION**

will take place June 3-6 for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1960 and earlier, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact the GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit [GLAA.net](http://GLAA.net), for further information.

**LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA) ALUMNI WEEKEND:**

April 23-24. The weekend kicks off with a golf tournament April 23, vespers, Alumni Sabbath Homecoming April 24, at the LSA gym. Potluck, reunions, alumni/varsity basketball game. All are welcome. For more information, contact the alumni office (951) 351-1445, ext. 244, or visit our website [lsak12.com](http://lsak12.com).

**OBITUARIES**

**DAVIS, Arthur Brooks,** born May 31, 1918; died April 19, 2009, and **DAVIS, Gwendolyn Eleanor,** born August 14, 1921; died June 6, 2009.

Brooks was born in Kilmarnock, Va., son of the late Wilbur and Ruby (Horsley) Davis. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Gwen was born in Richmond, Va., daughter of the late Percy and Eleanor (Jones) Douglas. They died in Richmond, but lived most of their lives in Hampton. They were members of the Hampton Roads (Va.) church. They had a loving and devoted marriage of 66 years. They were preceded in death by their brother-in-law, Fred Thumwood. Survivors include their

daughters, Gwendolyn Ann (Russell) Swisher of Bluff City, Tenn., and Betty Brooks (Eddie) Haas of Richmond; Brooks' sisters, Mary Ella Thumwood of New Market, Va., and Margaret (Melvin "M.B.") Elliston, of Arden, N.C.; grandchildren, John Brooks Swisher and his wife, Joanne, of Erwin, Tenn., Edward Scott Haas of Glen Allen, Va., and Karena Swisher Falbe and her husband, Jason, of King George, Va.; great-granddaughter Lauren Brooke Wentzel of King Geroge; step-great-granddaughters, Leana and Lenee Sparks of Erwin, Tenn.; and four nephews.

**WISE, Juliet Romelia (Gary),** born June 22, 1915, in Natchez, Miss.; died March 16, 2008, in Valley View Rehabilitation Nursing Center. She graduated from Oakwood Junior College in 1941, with a degree in elementary education. She enjoyed teaching for many years. Juliet also completed a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation and received additional education in the field of art. She was reared in Muskogee, Okla., where she was baptized into the Adventist Church at a young age. In her adult life, she dedicated much of her time teaching Sabbath School at all levels. She met her husband, John Silas Wise, at Oakwood Junior College. They had a ministry of teaching and preaching in Georgia and served in many states on the east coast. She was preceded in death by her husband; one brother, James Gary; three sisters, Mary Gary, Chester Campbell, and Ruth G. McGrew. She leaves two daughters, Cecilia Marie (Dayton, Ohio) and Pearl Ethelda (Huntsville, Ala.); a son, John Silas, Jr. (Mt. Rainier, Md.); four grandchildren, Choya (Shantel), Janet, Juliet (named after her grandmother) and Sara; one great-grandchild, OnRai; and three nieces.

**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](mailto:sjones@columbiaunion.net).

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### Breaking News!

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Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Adventist School, Valley View Seventh-day Adventist School

**New Jersey**—Cohansey Christian School, Delaware Valley Junior Academy, Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School, Meadow View Junior Academy, Parkway South Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, Tranquility Adventist School, Vineland Regional Adventist School, Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School

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

**Pennsylvania**—Adventist School of Erie, Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Central Pennsylvania Christian School, Fairview Village Adventist School, Gettysburg Adventist School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Irvin Comstock Adventist Elementary School, Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Mountain View Christian School, Reading Adventist Junior Academy, Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, York Seventh-day Adventist School Junior Academy

**Potomac**—B&P Young Seventh-day Adventist Church School, Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist School, C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy, John Nevins Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, R. A. Lewis Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley Seventh-day Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, TLC Prep, Vienna Adventist Academy, Yale Seventh-day Elementary School

### Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

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

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

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

**Allegheny East**—Baltimore Adventist Academy, Calvary Seventh-day Adventist School, DuPont Park Adventist Junior Academy, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Adventist School, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

**Allegheny West**—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Adventist Junior Academy

**Chesapeake**—Atholton Adventist Academy, Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School, Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School, Crossroads Seventh-day Adventist School, Eastern Shore Junior Academy, Frederick Seventh-day Adventist School, Friendship Seventh-day Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Martin Barr Seventh-day Adventist School, Mount Aetna Seventh-day Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Adventist School, Wilmington Junior Academy

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

## There's an App for That!

Intrigued by the television commercials touting the variety of iPhone applications available, I recently searched the App Store and discovered some great tools for keeping focused on a healthy lifestyle. You can track your weight, evaluate the nutritional value of what you are about to order in a restaurant, count the number of glasses of water you drink, keep a food and exercise diary, and graph vital health data like blood pressure or blood sugar—all from your iPhone's touchscreen.



There's an older, frequently overlooked tool for supporting lifestyle change. God's Word is full of health-promoting principles and relevant applications for living healthfully. Psalm 119:93, NLT says, "I will never forget Your commandments, for You have used them to restore my joy and health." Numerous research studies validate that people with high religious involvement (i.e. praying, reading scripture, attending church) are less likely to abuse alcohol and drugs; experience less hypertension, heart disease, stroke, cancer and disability; and live longer. This information on the relation of health and faith shows that the most important factor is religious practice. People who live out their faith in daily life demonstrate the most benefits.

### WORK IT OUT!

Just as the various applications on your iPhone will only assist you in living a healthy life if you actually use them, God's Apps are really of no use if they aren't applied. We read them. We hear them preached. But we don't always practice them. Ask yourself, *what is God saying to me today? Is there a promise to believe? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? How would my life be different (in the way I think and behave) if I applied what this passage says?*

Worried about your test results? *There's an App for that in John 14:27. Have an extremely busy day ahead and a to-do list that is a mile long? There's an App for that in Matthew 6:33. Determined to eliminate junk-food snacks, but having a hard time passing up the goodies in the break room? There's an App for that in 1 Corinthians 10:13. Tempted to give in to fatigue and drive right past the gym? There's an App for that in Galatians 6:9. Think you'll never enjoy exercise? There's even an App for that in Ephesians 3:20.*

Grab hold of the divine power God provides in His Word. Download some of His Apps today!

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



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#### MISSION STATEMENT

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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**NEW JERSEY:** José Cortés, President; Jim Greene, *Visitor* Correspondent; 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton, NJ 08648. Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ [njcsda.org](http://njcsda.org)

**OHIO:** Raj Attiken, President; Nancy Barnett, *Visitor* Correspondent; P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org)

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Ray Hartwell, President; Tamara Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent; 720 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611. Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ [paaconference.org](http://paaconference.org)

**POTOMAC:** Bill Miller, President; Dan Jensen, *Visitor* Correspondent; 606 Greenville Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401. Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ [pcsdia.org](http://pcsdia.org)

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**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY:** Weymouth Spence, President; Angela Abraham, *Visitor* Correspondent; 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ [wau.edu](http://wau.edu)

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**KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE:** Frank Perez, President & CEO; Kathryn Stiles, *Visitor* Correspondent; 3965 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8167 [knetnetwork.org](http://knetnetwork.org)

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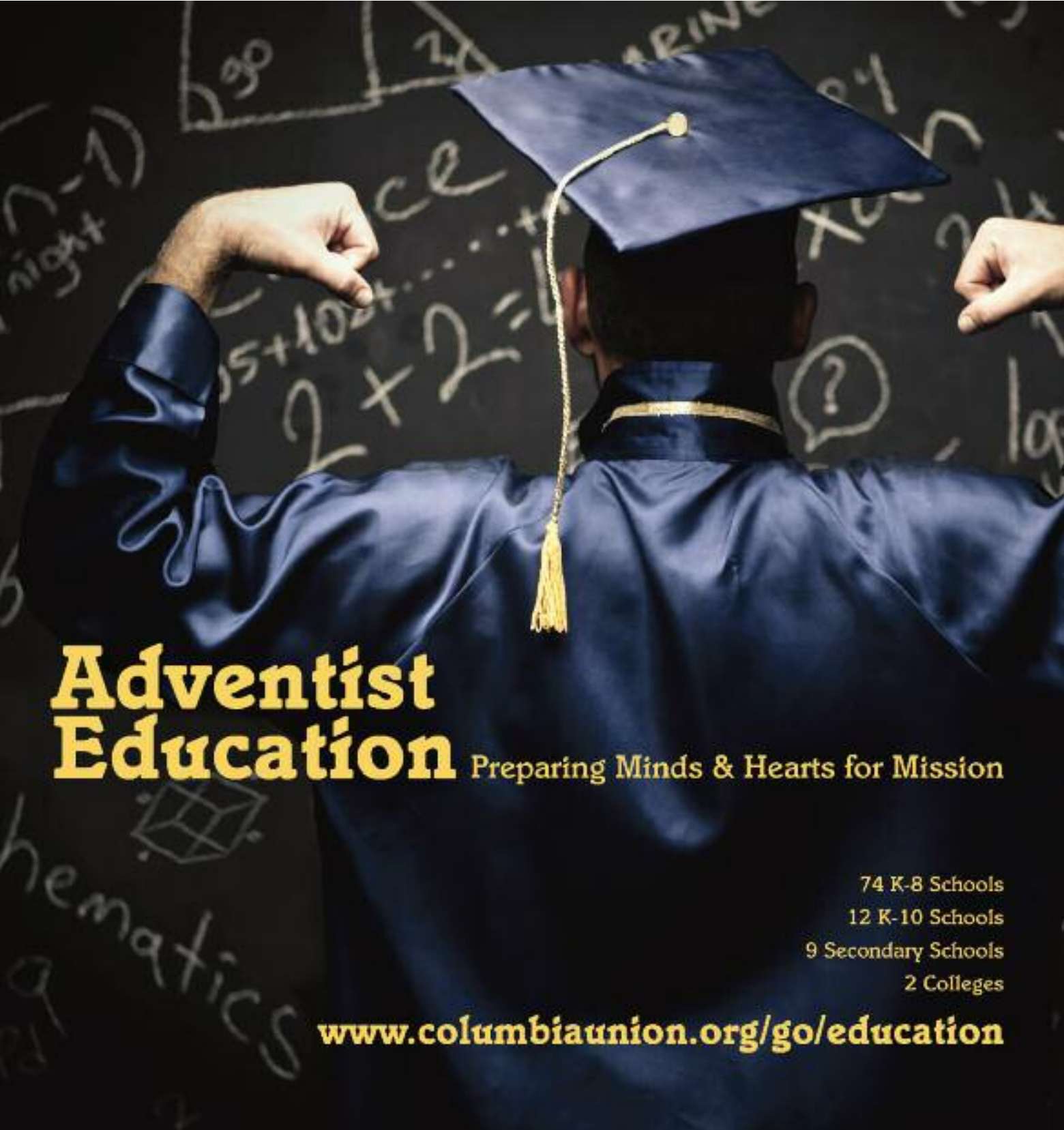
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