


VISITOR

CONNECTING C

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She's not a
Pastor or Elder,
She Just Loves
Jesus and
Wants to
Spread the
Gospel

HOLY
BIBLE

8 People Have
Been Baptized,
30 More are Taking
Bible Studies
With Dalsie Pack



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News & Features

8 | They're not Pastors or Elders, They Just Love Jesus

Mark Tyler

Delsie Pack isn't a pastor, or even an elder. She just loves Jesus and wants to spread the gospel. And she's not alone. From the rolling hills of West Virginia to the urban streets of New Jersey, women are finding ways to share Christ in their communities, at work and even from the pulpit.

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Eight pastors and chaplains from across the Columbia Union share how they know they were chosen to lead others to Christ.

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Lillian Torres

"Evangelism has become a word that engenders fear in many of our sisters," says Heather-Dawn Small, Women's Ministries director for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Some feel inadequate, even shy, when it comes to explaining Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. Many women will never go door to door to distribute evangelistic meeting flyers. Yet, God has called *each* of us to tell the world about Jesus." What can you do? Try these practical suggestions.

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Lilly Tryon

Columbia Union Story DVD – Packaged with this issue of the *Visitor* is the sixth edition of our DVD show, hosted by Columbia Union president Dave Weigley. This edition features ministries that are connecting people to Christ and His Church.

About the Cover: Delsie Pack was photographed by Crystal Montgomery in Lewisburg, W.Va.

Thankful for Women in Ministry

At camp meeting this summer, I participated in the commissioning service of a dedicated young pastor. For about a decade, she has demonstrated her love for the Lord and call to ministry by leading members into a more meaningful and service-filled life for Christ. She's currently mobilizing an inner-city church to engage in the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in their community. By her fruits, it's evident that this pastor is an instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit, and God is using her to build His kingdom.



This young woman reminds me that God is "no respecter of persons" when it comes to engaging individuals in sharing the "good news." During my college years, I was the coordinator of summer witnessing teams in two unions in North America and saw how the Holy Spirit uses men and women of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. As a pastor and local conference administrator, I saw numerous young pastors plant churches and mobilize young and old for ministry to the point that it amazed me and many others. I shouldn't be surprised though; Adventist Church co-founder Ellen White once wrote: "Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their friends and neighbors, they could do a great work for the Master. God is *no respecter of persons*. He will use humble, devoted Christians, even if they have not received so thorough an education as some others" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 21).

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Though it may not fit into our own personal worldview, the Lord is using individuals from diverse backgrounds to advance His cause in many parts of the world. One of the most amazing places is in China where James Wu, president of the Chinese Union Mission, says two women pastors are leading large churches, one of which serves 20,000 members.

While many debate the issue of women in ministry and take a certain position based upon perceived cultural or theological foundations, the Holy Spirit is using women in powerful ways to finish the work.

**I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.**

Joel 2:28-29, NIV

Our early pioneers many times quoted from the book of Joel, which depicts the closing work of the Holy Spirit on Earth just prior to Christ's return (see box).

In its purest sense, the word "prophesy" is not necessarily the idea of predicting something as we think of a prophet forecasting the future. Instead, it relates to someone speaking for someone else. When the preacher stands in the pulpit Sabbath morning and shares a Word from the Lord, he or she is "prophesying" in the purest sense. I think Joel is challenging us

to recognize that God really is no respecter of persons, and, in these last days, we need to be prepared for Him to use our sons *and* daughters to finish the work!

In this issue of the *Visitor*, we're highlighting the wonderful work of lay women across the Columbia Union as well as introducing you to some of our dedicated female pastors and chaplains. All of them are heeding God's call to "prophesy" in His name! As you read and reflect on their testimonies, my hope and prayer is that you will feel an appeal on these pages and say to yourself, "If God can use them, He can use me!"

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference.

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

Chow to Head Adventist World Radio

The Adventist World Radio (AWR) Board of Directors recently elected Dowell Chow as president. Chow replaces Benjamin Schoun, who led the ministry for eight years until being elected general vice president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church at the 59th General Conference (GC) Session in Atlanta.

Chow brings years of administrative experience to his new role. He pastored in Puerto Rico, worked as a publishing house administrator in Venezuela, led the New Jersey Conference as president from 1997-2000 and served as treasurer of the Columbia Union Conference for five years before joining AWR as vice president for finance in 2005.

“While working at AWR, I have come to learn what a unique, passionate, exciting ministry it is,” Chow says. “AWR has diversified its offerings, such as a much greater FM radio presence and incredibly extensive podcasting.”—*Shelley Nolan Freesland*

New CEO Chosen for Kettering

After conducting a comprehensive search, the Membership Board of Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) in Kettering, Ohio, announced last month that Fred Manchur (above), current



president and chief operating officer of the Ohio-based health-care network, will become its president and chief executive officer December 1.

Before joining KAHC in 2001 as president of Kettering Medical Center, Manchur, a graduate of Loma Linda University (Calif.), led Adventist hospitals in California. “Fred is well prepared for this new challenge, not only because he has over 30 years of administrative leadership in healthcare, but primarily because of his grasp of understanding how the Seventh-day Adventist mission can be meaningfully expressed in healthcare,” says Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference and chair of the network.

Manchur succeeds Frank Perez (below), who announced plans to retire after 16 years at the helm.

“Frank’s leadership has been extraordinary,” says Weigley. “His focus on the mission of Kettering has helped us



grow far beyond our expectations. The debt the network and community owes to him is enormous.”

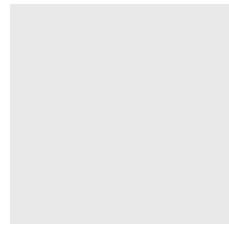
Kettering, one of two Adventist healthcare networks in the Columbia Union, comprises some 60 facilities, including seven acute care hospitals, a behavioral medicine hospital, and Kettering College of Medical Arts. For the last two years, the network, which has 9,300 employees, 1,500 physicians, and 1,000 volunteers, was named one of the top 10 health systems in the United States by Thomas Reuters.

Perez plans to stay on as chief

executive officer emeritus through May 2011 to ensure a smooth transition. “I’m bullish on Kettering’s future and delighted that what we have worked for is coming to fruition,” he says.

Review and Herald Appoints New Leadership

Earlier this summer, the Review and Herald Publishing Association Board of Trustees confirmed Mark B. Thomas (below) as president of the Adven-



tist Church’s Hagerstown, Md.-based flagship publishing house. Thomas,

who has served as interim president since April, replaces Robert S. Smith who retired after 54 years of church service, including 17 years at the press.

Thomas, who worked in the Review’s pressroom while a student at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., returned 24 years ago. Since then he has served as vice president of the Review’s manufacturing, book and marketing divisions.

Financial issues and rapid changes in the publishing landscape are challenges facing the new president, but he says he’s moving quickly to address them. “The Church has always depended on the Review to help spread the advent message through print. We’re enhancing our operations by embracing new technologies and utilizing digital platforms that will widen our reach,” he says. “For example, we recently released more than 30

titles in digital formats for e-book, iPhone and iPad applications. And we’re planning to expand this to other areas of our work.”

He also named two new vice presidents: Graham Barham (left), vice president for finance, replaces the retiring Hep-siba Singh. He hails from Adventist-owned Stanborough Press in England where he served as financial director and associate general manager since 2000. John Gay (right), assistant vice president of the Graphics Division (manufacturing), was promoted.



Adventist HealthCare Featured at Session

During GC Session, Health Ministries leaders invited Adventist HealthCare (AHC) administrators to make a special presentation about their relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) from Takoma Park to nearby White Oak, Md. Some 450 people attended the presentation titled “The Future of Healthcare:

A Transformational Dialogue, A Groundbreaking Initiative,” where AHC president and CEO William G. “Bill” Robertson and WAH president Jere Stocks highlighted a few of the ways they’re working to transform healthcare and improve health in the communities they serve. “Our approach builds on our Adventist roots as advocates for the best of healthful living and the best of science. And, it commits us to a better understanding of the role of the mind, body and spirit in the healing process,” Stocks noted.

One of the initiatives they touted is the AHC Center on Health Disparities, which helps people of diverse cultures gain access to healthcare. “Transforming healthcare and expanding access to care starts by implementing new, creative ways to keep people well; ways that attend to the whole person, across the spectrum of healthcare services,” said Stocks. So far they’ve served clients from 60 language groups.

The presentation also featured guest speakers Louis Sullivan, MD, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, who spoke about healthcare reform, and David Kessler, MD, former commissioner of the U.S. Food and

Drug Administration. The pair praised Adventists for leading the fight to stop people from smoking and encouraging society to adopt healthier lifestyles. Both will participate in an advisory board that will help WAH focus on initiatives tied to whole-person health.—*Lydia Parris*

Adventist Bikers Plan National Retreat

More than 130 Adventist motorcycle riders have registered for the first official gathering for Adventist bikers. The event, organized by Bruce Christian, president/CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center-Murrieta (Calif.), is slated for September 16-19 in North Carolina’s Great Smokey Mountains. The theme is “The Roads Less Travelled: Meeting Jesus in Unexpected Places,” and many of the speakers will share their journey to Christ, including Columbia Union president Dave Weigley, and Dick

Tibbits (right), vice president and chief learning officer for Florida Hospital, which is headquartered in Orlando.

In addition to the devotionals, attendees will ride together. “If you enjoy riding and being spiritually renewed, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Tibbits says. Learn more at sdariderretreat.com.

—*Taashi Rowe*

Correction

The Newsline article “Investment Offering to Help Local Ministries” printed in the July 2010 *Visitor* incorrectly stated that the Mission Investment Offering is collected on Thirteenth Sabbath. Members can contribute to that offering *anytime*.



Talking About Health-Care: WAH president Jere Stocks, associate GC Health Ministries director Peter Landless, guest presenters David Kessler and Louis Sullivan, GC Health Ministries director Allan Handysides, and AHC president and CEO William G. “Bill” Robertson

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Book > *Puzzle Twenty* Anton Dormer

Anton Dormer, MD, is not only associate professor of science at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., he is also a physician, scientist and social entrepreneur. In his “spare” time, Dormer creates games.



“I wanted to create a puzzle that was fun, but simpler than Sudoku,” he says of his first book of numerical puzzles. “I think readers will find it fun, exciting and challenging, yet doable in a reasonable time.”

The 20-page compilation of easy and advanced brainteasers is available at createspace.com/3396386.

CDs > *Como Seria* Elfred Deynes

“I wanted to give listeners something to think about, relate with, be inspired by and connected with,” explains Elfred Deynes, a member of the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., of his first release, which means



“What Would it Be.” To help him convey his powerful and poetic messages about life, love, worship and family, Deynes rallied musical talent and voices from across the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Order the CD at iTunes and get inspired by songs like



“Te Perdono” (I Forgive You) and “Tu Eres Cristo” (You Are Christ).

Gospel Truth The New Earth Band

Hailing from Pennsylvania Conference’s Reading Hampden Heights and Reading Kenhorst Boulevard churches, (right, clockwise from top left) Lee Schappell, Rick Guinan, Mark Miller and Warren Boyer offer a second serving of toe-tapping, country gospel. This CD includes the song “Stand Tall,” which they say could qualify as an Adventist anthem.

“We want the listener to take from this work the wealth of buried biblical treasure embedded in each and every track,” says Schappell, who penned a majority of the songs. Read more and purchase copies at thenewearthband.com.



Magazine > *My Best Friends*

The Review and Herald Publishing Association has partnered with the Brazilian Publishing House to bring a 50-year-old magazine to English-speaking customers above the equator. *My Best Friends*, which has grown to a circulation of 80,000 in Brazil, targets children aged 6-11. It features six fun characters (and two pets) who show children ways to develop socially, intellectually and spiritually.

“It has crafts, experiments and short language lessons,” adds David Robinson, assistant editor. “It has a place where kids can submit their pictures and stories. It’s sort of a Bible-based *Highlights*.” Learn more and order at mybestfriendsmagazine.com.



What You Bring to the Table

5 Minutes With ... Evangelistic Barber Frank Mott

When Frank Mott flips over his “open” sign in the morning, his West Virginia barbershop offers more than haircuts. This Weirton church member in the Mountain View Conference uses his business as an opportunity to share Christ with customers, a practice he’s been perfecting for 47 years. Recently he told us how it all got started and what he’s learned:

Q: How did you start openly discussing the Bible with customers?

A: Almost all of my customers received *Signs of the Times* over the years. And, of course, people ask you questions when they find out you believe in God and are trying to do what’s right.

Q: Were you nervous about sharing your faith?

A: Not one-to-one. But, I had to watch how far I’d go, because you can’t make your customers angry or they won’t come back to your shop. But after they know you and trust you, you’d be surprised the questions they ask.

Q: How do you usually break the ice with customers?

A: I just cut a guy’s hair, and we were talking about how everything seems to be going downhill and how people don’t seem to care about nobody. And I said to him, “Do you ever wonder what’s happening to our Earth?” It’s easy to break into conversation, because anything you talk about you can bring God into it.

Q: What sort of responses have you gotten?

A: One young lady and her mother have been baptized, and I have several that I think will be. At least 20-25 have come to my church quite a few times over the years. I have some reaping to do.

Q: What suggestions do you have for others who want to share their faith?

A: Don’t be afraid. God directs you in the right way when you’re talking these matters with people.



Keeping Score

232

Countries Recognized by the United Nations

203

Countries Where Seventh-day Adventists Reside

5.3

Millions of People who Joined the Adventist Church From 2005-2009

16.3

Millions of Members Worldwide

1

Number of Adventists for Every 418 People Worldwide

1.85

Worldwide Tithes in Billions of Dollars in 2009

64.2

World Mission Offerings in Millions of Dollars in 2009

Source: General Conference Archives and Statistics, 2009

From the Archives



The [Johns Nevins] Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., was the first school chosen in Montgomery County for the inoculation of first- and second-graders with the Salk polio vaccine. Shown administering the shots is W.W. Eastman, MD, while Mrs. S.W. Tymeson, principal, looks on. The children are Karen Robertson, Carl Warren and Geoffrey Smith.—May 26, 1955

Angela Vigna

IT'S 7 P.M. ANGELA VIGNA TREMBLES AS PEOPLE begin sauntering into Pennsylvania Conference's Bucks County church in Warminster. Her hands sweat. Her heart palpitates. She's petrified of public speaking, but she knows what she has to say needs to be heard.

On this Friday evening, Vigna (second from left) is the main speaker and moderator for a ShareHim meeting, a PowerPoint evangelism series designed to reach people who don't normally attend church.

"I actually had asked another person who was going to teach it at another church to prepare just in case I couldn't do it," recalls Vigna. "But the moment I stood up to teach, God took over and I was fine."



Vigna isn't a pastor, or even an elder. She just loves Jesus and wants to spread the gospel. "I think God is able to use everybody, and I think we should jump at every opportunity to be whatever God wants us to be," she suggests.

That's why she teamed up with (left to right) Gloriadine Bramble, Joanne Notturmo, Sylvia Swaby and two men—Ken Cannon and Vigna's husband, Ray—to hold a six-night miniseries this past spring.

"We haven't had any baptisms from the six nights, but five people started attending church on a regular basis," Vigna reports. The church is planning a full-length campaign next month to follow up on their initial success.

Delsie Pack

IN THE MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE, DELSIE PACK of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church also found success with the ShareHim series. Eight people have been baptized and 30 more are taking Bible studies. "That's how it works; you plant the seed and the Holy Spirit waters," Pack says. "I have someone call me every other day who wants Bible study."

But like Vigna, she, too, was afraid when she started back in 2008. "I didn't know anything about a computer," Pack recalls. She didn't even know how to turn one on, but as word of her meetings spread through Lewisburg, it gained momentum, and as many as 19 visitors attended each night.

Although she doesn't claim to be a professional, Pack states, "I believe there are a lot of people who are going to make it to the kingdom through these ShareHim meetings and lay people."



Mark Tyler

they're not
pastors or elders,
THEY just
LOVE JESUS

and want to
spread the gospel!

Janice L. Walker



PHOTO BY ADELE DOCKERY

JANICE L. WALKER, A MEMBER of Allegheny West Conference's Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio, describes her ministry as search, rescue and retrieval. Her mission: to find lost sheep. Last year Walker decided to contact every member on the church rolls who she hadn't seen in a long time. She mailed about 175 letters.

"I said that we were reaching out and, if they didn't mind, I just wanted them to give me a call and let me know that it was alright for us to just chat," Walker recounts.

Some didn't respond but returned to church within a few weeks. Others said they believed church members would pass judgment on them for their extended absence. Walker instructs

church members to welcome those who are returning with open arms. "It's phrases like, 'Look who the wind blew in,' or 'Hallelujah! Look who's here,' that people say in jest, but people who haven't been to church in a while are very sensitive," Walker explains.

Another 80 letters came back undeliverable, and Walker is concerned that no one knows where they are. "We have to make a concerted effort to go after them and not chastise, criticize or judge them," she suggests. "In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus went out and found them and brought them back."

Tersita Labrador

TERSITA "TESSIE" LABRADOR OF POTOMAC Conference's Filipino Capitol church in Beltsville, Md., uses the health message to break the ice with her co-workers and patients in the healthcare industry. "[They] ask me how I have such energy and why I am a vegetarian," she explains. "They ask me why my skin is nice, why my hair is so nice. I tell them I drink a lot of water, and I eat a lot of vegetables and fruit."

But usually the conversation doesn't stop there. She moves from health to more serious topics like Revelation and the mark of the beast. "I want to get them to know the true religion," Labrador states. "I tell them that Jesus is coming back. Jesus is the only One who can save us."

For the past three years, Labrador has focused on her contacts in the metropolitan area. In that time, 10 of them have gotten baptized.

"When I give Bible studies, I'm very happy," she says. "I'm very sad if I cannot share about the Word of Jesus."



FREDA SHULTZ, 76, HAS BEEN planting seeds for 30 years and is a veteran Bible worker. The member of Ohio Conference's Lancaster church started giving Bible studies in 1981 when her husband was a pastor in Sidney, Neb. "I fell in love with the idea of giving Bible studies, and it became my work," she says.

When the couple moved to Alaska, Shultz continued helping with her husband's soul-winning work. But in 1991, when he died, she needed a fresh start. The Alaska Conference president heard about a Bible worker position in Lancaster and recommended her for the job.

Once in Ohio, Shultz started sending out cards inviting people to study the Bible with the help of videotapes. Now she uses DVDs. When people respond, she takes them a Kenneth Cox presentation, an outline and a quiz. She also promises to return to review what they've learned. "You just fall in love with the people you're studying with," Shultz comments. "You watch them grow, and you see things happen in their lives. It's those kinds of things that keep me going."

In addition to giving house-to-house Bible studies, Shultz gives prison inmates Bible studies through the mail. She also runs a thrift store that helps support the local church school.

"I always have people who are ready to be baptized," Shultz states. "I have a man that just started coming to church, and I studied with him in 1994."

Freda Shultz



PHOTO BY AL SCHONE

Rocio Pullser

ROCIO PULLSER, AND OTHER LADIES OF New Jersey Conference's Union City church, held a week of prayer in April. As a result, families that were once only utilizing the church's food bank started attending the Lafe Ve Jesus (Faith of Jesus) Bible study. "I feel that Wednesdays are as special as Saturdays, because we also worship and talk about God," Pullser explains through an interpreter, her daughter Ruby Fuentes.

After service, members and visitors alike are invited to get essentials from the food bank. "We keep the names of the people and ask them if they want to have Bible lessons," Pullser says.

Her group, which also includes Women's Ministries director Cecilia Saca, augments the food bank ministry with periodic health fairs and a Sunday cooking class.

One of Pullser's greatest successes came when one family stopped using the food bank. During a visit with them, she discovered they were dealing with serious personal problems. By Pullser showing her concern, the family became more receptive to hearing the message. "I felt very happy because I knew that the people needed Jesus," she shares. "They needed help, and they needed me to talk about Jesus to them." Since then several of those family members have gotten baptized.



PHOTO BY RUBY FUENTES

Desiree Talbert

DESIREE TALBERT, A MEMBER OF CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE'S MIDDLETOWN (DEL.) CHURCH, makes her mark by distributing Bibles and tracts, which she keeps stocked in her car. Her passion for evangelism is tied to her 2008 conversion. Talbert grew up Muslim but started to question her beliefs as a teenager. "When I would pray, I would pray to the God who made the heavens and the Earth, and if there is only one God, I knew He would point me in the right direction," she recalls.

The search for truth took her to Family Radio, which led to a conviction for baptism. But it was her search of the Scriptures that convicted her of the true Sabbath. "When I read the Ten Commandments and read the definition of Saturday, I came to the conclusion that the radio program was wrong," Talbert says.

Later she came across 3ABN and was drawn to Adventism by the Holy Spirit. After seeing evangelist Doug Batchelor discuss the Sabbath on *Amazing Facts*, she found an Adventist church near her home. "Before I even got to the church, I said, 'Look, Lord. I need to do some kind of service,'" Talbert recalls.

She started passing out Bibles in her neighborhood and trying to reach her own family. Ever since her sister accepted a copy of *Steps to Christ*, Talbert has been sharing the gospel with anyone who will listen. "My burden is to give people something in their hand or speak to them face to face, to show them God's true character," she says.



PHOTO BY TONY COLLICK

Naomi Ruth Ricketts

ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE (AEC) MEMBER, NAOMI RUTH RICKETTS (right) of the Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J., takes her inner city ministry very seriously. "I go into the drug-infested areas. I go into crack houses ... because all of these people are prisoners of sin," she states. "We have to go on the battlefield and get them out."

Ricketts distributes Bibles and the book *Steps to Christ*. Although most people have heard about God, they don't own a Bible or have a personal relationship with Him, she explains. "Time is wrapping up," she notes. "We need to cry and agonize over the souls. We need to be more like Jesus."

That's why she also travels abroad to spread the gospel. "I'm a Bible worker and a missionary, but I don't work for the conference," Ricketts explains. "Everything I do is from money I save to do the Lord's will."

A few years ago, Ricketts flew to Aruba and Jamaica with cases of *Steps to Christ* and *Amazing Facts* in her luggage. She participated in evangelistic efforts and saw 67 baptized in Aruba and more than 100 in Jamaica.

Ricketts says her missionary journey began in 2002 when she came back to church after 20 years of backsliding. Now she has a passion for lost people. "The work is going to be finished by people like myself—by the laymen," she says. "You know how it says in the Bible that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few? Well, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are in the pews."



PHOTO BY MARK TYLER

KAREN DOUGLAS OF AEC'S Walnut Street Community church in Pottstown, Pa., also takes a grassroots approach. She runs a story hour for neighborhood children from 3-4 p.m. every second and fourth Sabbath with the help of Pat Bratten and Reather Cheatham. "It's encouraging to me because I know it's something that the Lord gave me to do," Douglas says.

Pottstown isn't a big city, Douglas explains, but its transient community is plagued with drugs and related crimes. This leaves the children vulnerable.

"A lot of them are living with their grandparents, and they need a foundation early in their lives," she says. "I didn't grow up as a Seventh-day Adventist, but the things I learned in Vacation Bible School I remembered."

In addition to telling Bible stories, the ladies play games and sing songs with the children. "The goal is to eventually have a women's Bible study during the story hour, but it's hard to get the parents to come out, because a lot of parents look at it as a chance to take a break," Douglas explains.

On weeks that they don't offer story hour, Douglas and the other women run the *Celebrating Life and Recovery* DVD series—designed to help those struggling to break free of addictions. "I believe it's [having] a positive impact," she notes. "It's important to keep planting the seed."

Mark Tyler is the president of Tyler Enterprises, LLC, and a member of the Boardwalk Community Fellowship Mission in Atlantic City, N.J.

Karen Douglas



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PRIVETTE

**The harvest is plentiful,
but the laborers are in
the pews.—Naomi
Ruth Ricketts**

Why Do You Feel Called to Ministry?

Eight pastors and chaplains from across the Columbia Union share how they were chosen to lead others to Christ:



It seems that my life has pivoted consistently around one axis—ministry in all its forms. I can't pinpoint a specific day, or even a year, when I felt specifically called. My whole life experience, as a missionary's kid and pastor's kid, has revolved around the theme of loving other people and telling them about unconditional love and hope through God. I find that my calling comes in the form of passion, and my passion escapes in the form of living. Due to my journey with God, my life ends up in an unexplainable tandem with ministry.—*Sara-May Colón, Chaplain, Adventist HealthCare Clinical Pastoral Education, Rockville, Md.*



A true call is always orchestrated by God Himself. At the appointed time, like a father eagle, He gently shook me from my comfortable, professional nest and allowed me to fly on His strong wings to heights I never dreamed. God gave me a supportive, confident husband, stabilized my children and helped me finish another degree. He allowed me to interview with an open, progressive conference president. God prompted a church to "request" me as their pastor at a time when it was not the norm, and He infused me with courage, faith and strength to withstand the challenges.—*Brenda Billings, Senior Pastor, Metropolitan Church, Hyattsville, Md., Allegheny East Conference (AEC)*



Since studying theology at a university in Brazil, my heart has longed for the second coming of Jesus and felt the need for the world to hear this wonderful truth. I ardently desired to help people become disciples of Christ and fulfill the mission of the Lord. After I completed my bachelor's in theology, I was fully conscious that only God could open or close doors so that I could exercise the ministry. I waited on Him and walked the paths that He placed before me. I am certain that the same God who called and supported me at 18 is beside my family today.—*Therezinha Barbalho, Pastor, Richmond (Va.) Brazilian Church, Potomac Conference*



The Bible abounds with women in spiritual leadership. Therefore, the focus of a woman considering ministry should be "Has God called me?" not "Will people accept me?" God's work is too awesome to be carried by feelings. We must *know* it. It was after prayer and fasting, reviewing the God-moments in my life, considering the spiritual gifts He blessed me with, and witnessing the fruit of the ministry He birthed in me that I knew God called me to ministry.—*Paula Olivier, Pastor, First Church of Montclair (N.J.), AEC*



I didn't picture this is where He would call me. I thought I would be a lawyer, but after 10 years of pastoral ministry, I wouldn't exchange it for anything! I get to watch His kingdom come close to Earth and see people receive the joy of life with Christ and find their place in serving in His mission. I love serving in ministry because we serve a God who sees potential and possibility in everyone He has made (see Rom. 4:17). I get to partner with the God of the universe in that process. What a joy!—*Tara VinCross, Pastor, Chestnut Hill Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Conference*



I don't "feel" called to ministry, I *am* called! This call is affirmed in a young person who finally "gets" what Jesus did for her, and in the baptismal tank when a young lady whispers, "I'm yours, Lord." It is affirmed when children run through the hallways to get to Sabbath School, or teach their parents to live the fruits of the Spirit. It was affirmed when my husband accepted that God called me to pastoral ministry and committed to follow His lead. It is affirmed when God gives me the peace of His presence, the confidence of His strength and the assurance of His anointing.—*Ann Róda, Associate Pastor, Family Ministries, New Hope Church, Fulton, Md., Chesapeake Conference*



I was born Adventist, but it never really meant anything to me. I don't remember ever talking to God. When I was 13, I was sitting in Week of Prayer at Takoma Academy (Takoma Park, Md.) and signed up for baptismal classes with no intention of going. I was just in an angry place. That spring, at another week of prayer, I remember listening to testimonies and feeling like I finally found a place where I belonged. I gave my life to the Lord and decided to spend the rest of my life helping people have this experience.—*Pranitha Fielder, Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Md., Potomac Conference*



"The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet," said theologian Frederick Buechner. Healthcare chaplaincy is that place for me. I didn't get here easily. I was nudged and sometimes even pushed by our wonderful God when I couldn't even imagine where the path was heading. I feel we are all called to serve, to live out compassion and to be witnesses of God's love in this hurting world. I'm profoundly grateful for those who encouraged me as I followed my call, and for my church for consecrating my ministry.—*Carmen Seibold, MDiv, Hospice Clinical Chaplain, Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, Ohio*

Walk Eat Pray

Lillian Torres

Not quite ready to knock on doors or preach the Word? Each day is full of opportunities to reach someone for Christ. Here are nine practical ways you can plant seeds for the harvest:

1. Walk

Start a walking, hiking or biking club in your community. Advertise in the newspaper, community bulletin boards or on Craigslist. During outings, look for opportunities to share how grateful you are that God gives us practical instructions in His Word on how to stay healthy. You can also offer to pray with and for your exercise partners at the start and end of your outing.



3. Plan

Organize a community garage sale. Invite your neighbors to bring something they want to sell and select a project in the community to receive the proceeds, i.e., a new swing set for the neighborhood park. During planning, get to know your neighbors and let your actions reflect that you are a Christian and care about your community. This is also a great way to get to know your neighbors.



4. Pray

Make a list of everyone you know who is not walking with Christ and pray for them. Ask the Lord to show you practical ways to connect (or reconnect) them with Him. Then contact them, set a date to get together, and let them know you have been praying for them.



5. Talk

Sew daily seeds of kind words, gratitude and encouragement.

The Bible tells us, "Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (Prov. 16:24). Let your mail carrier know how much you appreciate getting the mail on time each day. Tell the grocery bagger that you appreciate their careful packing—your tomatoes are always on top.

6. Invite

Find someone who shares a similar family structure. For instance, if you are a single parent, invite other single parents to your home for a meal and play date. This is a perfect opportunity to share with them how Jesus has become the other parent in helping you raise your children.

Try This

We can sow seeds in many different ways. For the cashier in the supermarket, a word of thanks is a seed planted. For the neighbor who is sick, a loaf of bread or home-cooked meal is a seed of love. For the woman in the halfway house who feels that life is hopeless, a visit or care package is a seed of love planted in her hurting heart. For the teenager who is pregnant and has been ostracized by family and friends, a baby shower planned just for her is a seed of love. Whatever you love to do—cooking, sewing, card making, talking, reading, painting, decorating, hairdressing—God will use it to plant seeds of His love in someone's life. —Heather-Dawn Small, Women's Ministries Director, Worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church



are

your time and talents. For example, do you have a talent for organizing? Keep your closet open for anyone who admits they are disorganized. Offer to assist with something they've arranged: a closet, a garage, pictures for an album, etc. As you work together, discover their interests and ways to share how you are a big part of your life.



7. Write

Mail a greeting card or send literature to those on your prayer list. Purchase a subscription to *Signs of the Times* or *Message* magazines, or send an inspirational book with a note letting them know you thought they might enjoy the reading. Or, start a postcard ministry. Any of these efforts will prepare their hearts for your visit.



8. Eat

Invite a neighbor, co-worker, school-mate or acquaintance home for Sabbath dinner. This will give them an opportunity to get to know you better and experience Sabbath joy and rest. This is not the

time to overwhelm them with the 28 fundamentals. It's about making friends for Christ.

9. Study

Let your church know you are willing to make your home available for a Bible study group. If you are not comfortable leading, play host and have someone else organize the study.



Planting seeds helps break down the barriers that keep us from people and will help us win their confidence. Share your faith with love and live it with joy and many will be drawn to Christ.



Lillian Torres helps churches and conferences across the Columbia Union prepare for evangelism initiatives by training members to give Bible studies and share their faith.

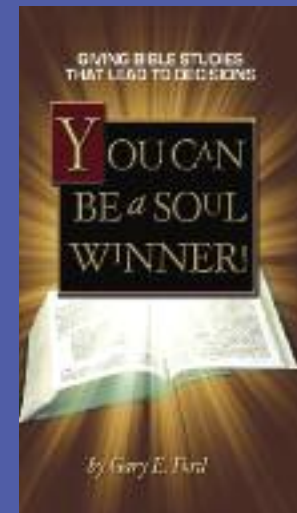
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Preparing for Your Harvest:

Jesse Wilson, an Oakwood University (Ala.) religion professor, shares more than 50 ways churches can involve everyone in reaching out to the community—free haircuts, a new neighbor welcome wagon, a back-to-school book bag bash and more.



You Can Be a Soul Winner:



Pastor Gary Ford provides in-depth analysis of how Jesus invited people to join His Father's kingdom, and ways you can apply His methods. Learn about preparing to give Bible studies, explaining difficult passages, showing the big picture, getting decisions and more.

Find these and other helpful tools at adventsource.org and adventistbookcenter.com

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YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2010

Glimpses of Heaven

Beverly Morris

Recently I had one of those special moments when the second coming of Jesus didn't seem so far away. Instead, it felt like a tangible reality, much more than a hopeful idea. In that moment, I could see a world without pain and suffering, filled with laughter and friendship, peace and joy. It happened at the 59th General Conference (GC) Session in Atlanta.

While working at the SDA Healthcare United States booth, I saw people from all around the world, from different cultures and backgrounds, who stopped by to take their health profile. They talked with our staff about their very real needs for stress relief, more sleep and additional social support. It struck me that our computerized survey was capable of opening doors to real conversations about personal health needs. (See the full story on the next page.) While observing this, I was filled with a warm sense of connection, which reminded me why I love being a nurse and why our church family is so remarkable.

MANY PARTS, ONE BODY

In a world that often divides us, that makes borders and builds walls for protection, it's easy to feel a sense of loneliness that can diminish our hope. But the world of the gospel breaks rules and definitions, dissolves borders, tears down walls and brings unity to what seems impossibly divided. We saw it beautifully demonstrated during the GC Session, and I am blessed to see it every day at Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC).

Paul says that our diversity is our strength. He compares the body of Christ to an actual human body in an illustration where body parts are divided against each other: "And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body was an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body was an ear, where would the sense of smell be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body" (1 Cor. 12:16-20, NIV).

SACRED WORK

When our feelings get hurt and we feel misunderstood by our peers, sometimes it feels easier to pull away from the body. But as Paul indicates, although the eye may claim it isn't part of the body, maybe because it's feeling hurt or inadequate, it is still important. No matter what the eye thinks, it has a vital role to play. That is the beauty, the undeniable value, in being part of something larger than oneself!



My work for Kettering brings me an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I serve a diverse group of employees with very different backgrounds, training, skills, beliefs and convictions, and yet we are connected by our commitment to doing sacred work. This work dissolves our differences and provides us with a sense of gratitude for a God who is big enough to hold us all together in caring and healing. It's His amazing love and grace that surrounds us with the gift of hope that we can pass along to those lives we touch.

Beverly Morris, RN, MS, is vice president of Human Resources for Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio, and a member of the Kettering church.



Adventist Healthcare Teams Unite for GC Session Booth

Kathryn Stiles

Every five years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's four United States healthcare systems unite to represent a common goal—extending the healing ministry of Christ to all who enter our hospitals and facilities. SDA Healthcare United States (sdahealthcare.org) combines resources, leadership and talented staff to share the vital message that we are united in our commitment to improve the lives of our communities and to share the gospel of Jesus through physical and spiritual healing. The four systems include Adventist Health with hospitals in California, Oregon, Washington state and Hawaii; Adventist Health System with facilities in Florida, Tennessee, Colorado, Texas, Georgia, Kansas and Illinois; Adventist HealthCare, which has facilities in Maryland and New Jersey; and Kettering Adventist HealthCare with facilities all around the Dayton, Ohio, area. The latter two are both part of the Columbia Union.



Peggy Peterson, from the administration office at Kettering Medical Center and a member of the Centerville (Ohio) church, helps a visitor get an accurate waist measurement for the health profile.

HEALTH QUIZ PROMOTES DISCUSSION

For the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, the display booth planning team, made up of representatives from each system, decided to focus on giving something tangible to those who visited the display. The goal was not only to express the healthcare systems' ongoing commitment to advance interventional treatments, but also to promote awareness of the pre-



Tim Ko, director of business finance and special projects for Kettering Medical Center, and Karl Haffner, a member of the Spiritual Services leadership team for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, arrive energized and ready for their five-hour shift at the booth.

vention of disease through lifestyle choices. The result was a health profile quiz that gathered key details about visitors and their lifestyle, including diet, exercise, sleep habits, stress levels and social connections.*

After completing the quiz, a color printer produced their results, often showing that their "real" age was several years younger than their physical age. It also offered them suggestions on how to achieve an even younger health age. Some people really appreciated the suggestions, like one visitor who said, "If I just drank



more water and got more sleep, I would go from being 47 to 35! I think I can do that!"

Representatives from each of the healthcare systems were available to talk through the results with participants. "We were amazed at how the quiz opened the door to talk about real health concerns," states Jane Gatton, executive assistant for Clinical Quality at Kettering Medical Center (KMC) and a member of the Centerville (Ohio) church.

Though the information from visitors was not recorded or tracked, those who worked at the GC Session booth agreed that many of the Adventist visitors who took the quiz were definitely taking care of themselves when it came to diet and the avoidance of tobacco and alcohol.

"We noticed that a lot of our visitors were struggling with lack of sleep and excessive stress," notes Rebekah Wang, MD, director of Clinical Quality at KMC. "We're not drinking and smoking, but we are a little too stressed and not getting enough exercise ... but we know that exercise is a [good] way to reduce stress and improve sleep."

PROFESSIONALS ENCOURAGE PREVENTION

Another important health message booth professionals emphasized is the importance of regularly visiting a physician and getting age appropriate health screenings. Many times diseases go undetected that can be far less detrimental if caught and treated early. They emphasized that the goal of modern healthcare is to connect wellness and



prevention to early diagnostics. This is a proven method for increasing longevity and improving outcomes when addressing

serious health concerns, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and stroke.

"We know interventional medicine will always be needed, but we also want to promote and emphasize the value of lifestyle," says Greg Wise, MD (above), vice president of medical affairs for KMC. "It is a partnership with medicine to incorporate wellness and prevention."

All in all, the healthcare staff agreed that the booth was a huge success and a triumphant collaboration.

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

*Wellscore, Inc., provided the software that calculated their results.



Ohio Governor Presents Kettering With Special Award

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland bestowed the Governor's Award for Organizational Excellence on Kettering Adventist HealthCare, making the network the 11th organization to receive the rare honor. Network CEO Frank Perez, president Fred Manchur and board chair Pete Luongo joined other network officials in receiving the award at the State House.



Governor Ted Strickland of Ohio presents the Ohio Partnership for Excellence Platinum Governor's Award to Kettering Adventist HealthCare administrators.

"What makes today's presentation special is the fact that their achievement has not been attained by any other Ohio organization for four years," Strickland said at the July presentation. "So, it's a real pleasure to represent our state today to recognize all of the 9,300 employees, 1,500 physicians, and 1,000 volunteers who make up [Kettering Adventist HealthCare] and who have built a process-driven, performance excellence model that links with their belief system."

The Ohio Partnership for Excellence, a state extension of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, gives no higher honor. Platinum Level performance, also known as The Governor's Award, recognizes KAHC as a role model in key areas: outstanding clinical quality; workforce engagement; values-based leadership; governance; community support and involvement; and outstanding results across the network.

KAHC Repeats Inclusion in Reuters Top Ten List

For the second consecutive year, Thomson Reuters recognized Kettering Adventist HealthCare as one of the Top Ten Health Systems in the nation. This is a significant achievement that recognizes the outstanding performance of KAHC employees and an unwavering commitment to the network's mission of improving the quality of life in the communities we serve.

The Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals Health System Benchmarks is an annual, quantitative study. With objective, independent research using public data sources, they identify the 10 health systems setting the highest benchmarks on a modified 100 Top Hospitals Balanced Scorecard focused on clinical quality and efficiency.

The winners of this award outperformed their peers by providing better care, following standards of care more closely, saving more lives, creating fewer patient complications, making fewer patient safety errors and earning better overall patient satisfaction scores.

Read more at 100tophospitals.com.

Fort Hamilton Becomes Kettering's Seventh Hospital

Officials from Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Fort Hamilton Hospital (pictured) signed a definitive affiliation agreement, making Fort Hamilton the network's seventh member hospital.

"We are pleased to welcome Fort Hamilton into our network family," says Frank Perez, KAHC CEO.

Lynn Oswald, Fort Hamilton senior vice president, is also pleased with the agreement. "It was important to have a seamless transition into a new network," she explained. "Beyond the obvious benefits of the group purchasing power and favorable insurance rates, we needed the support of back-office services such as finance, marketing and payroll. We will get great support in this regard from a network with proven stability and financial performance. I know our patients will be glad to know we joined one of the nation's Top Ten Health Systems with a proven track record for providing consistently outstanding care."

Read more at forthamiltonhospital.com.



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Sharon Temple Students Sell Literature for Tuition

Five Sharon Temple Adventist School students spent a part of their summer vacations distributing Christian literature throughout downtown Wilmington, Del., proving that literature evangelism is not just for the big kids. Participants included first-graders Deborah Dada, Michael Dada and Gianni Peterson; second-grader R'Tasiah Dorsey; and eighth-grader Tyrome Thomas Johnson. They distributed magazines that included topics on obesity, diabetes, smoking cessation and other health-related issues. At the end of the program, students recovered 50 percent of their literature sales and donations to supplement their monthly tuition.

"I believe in Christian education, and I want the kids to stay in school," said Rodney Grissom, associate publishing director of the Allegheny East Conference Bay Area, explaining the value of the program. He and Donald McKinnie, assistant pastor at Sharon Temple, spearheaded the monthlong initiative, which was a first for the school. They have also been working with the students as they go out in the field.

McKinnie said that the response has been very positive. "People are very glad to help children," he said. Students also learn "how to talk to people, how to have faith, how to pray, and they see God use them in a practical way," he said.

McKinnie also believes the benefits of the effort are twofold: "While the people are helpful toward the students in supporting their cause, they also receive a blessing."—Lahai McKinnie



During her summer vacation, first-grader Deborah Dada sells literature in downtown Wilmington, Del.

Edmonson Heights Members Train for Evangelism

Two small groups from the Edmondson Heights church in Baltimore have nearly completed a year-long discipleship program. Using the Fast Missions Bible study program, the groups are memorizing scripture and gaining discipleship and evangelism training. Quince Gibson, a young adult at the church,



A small group Bible study on discipleship is bolstering the confidence of these Edmonson Heights church members who are taking more opportunities to evangelize.

is leading the training. He is noticing that participants are displaying a renewed spiritual interest. "Members are gaining from some of the basic things that we tend to overlook, like how to pray and how to be a Christian," he said. "And some people, even longtime church members, used to feel that they don't know enough to share with others, but this program has broken down those barriers."

Members are also seeing the benefits of a closer walk with Christ after spending so much time in His Word. One member was so excited that he purchased tracts to distribute throughout the city. Another woman takes her workbook to the office and was happy to have the opportunity to pray for a co-worker. That co-worker came back to her the next day and reported that their prayers had been answered.

Their group also includes participants who are not members of the church. "They are learning that our church is built on a solid biblical foundation, which gives us confidence that we are truly a part of the remnant church," Gibson concludes.

70 Campers Get Fit at 32nd Annual Health Retreat

Seventy campers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, Michigan, Washington, D.C., Delaware and as far away as Bermuda and the Bahamas found their way to Pine Forge, Pa., for the 32nd annual Fit 4 You Retreat.



“Congratulations on making the choice to be here,” said A. Leah Scott, MPH (left), Allegheny East Conference Health Ministries director. “You have 200 bones and 700 muscles, and it’s time to

move them. That’s why our theme is ‘Ain’t No Stoppin’ us Now ... We’re on the Movvve!’”

A staff of more than 30 professionals volunteer their time and talents to operate the camp. They serve as cabin counselors, check blood pressure, lead walks, teach fitness classes, give health lectures, pamper campers and serve gourmet vegan meals three times a day.

To get campers motivated, Scott invited scientist Sherrine Brown, PhD, to open the retreat with a charge. “Health is mine, health is mine, I’m at fitness camp and it is



Staff members model letters correlating to the eight laws of health: nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest and trust in God.

right on time!” Brown chanted as her audience clapped along.

Then Donna Riley (right), who first attended camp last summer, shared her moving testimony. Dressed in canary yellow from head to toe, Riley stood beneath a photo of her former self and recounted her amazing transformation. A year ago she could hardly walk, had fluid built up in her legs, her immune system was shutting down and her doctors didn’t expect her to live. She reluctantly attended camp at the suggestion of the Health Ministries director at her West Philadelphia church. Within two days she noticed a marked



difference. “I couldn’t find the pocket of fluid anymore, and it hasn’t returned to this day,” she testified drawing applause from her rapt audience. “I can walk, even in high heels!”

Read the full story, see more photos and view videos about the camp in the News Archives at columbiaunion.org.—Celeste Ryan Blyden



Each long day of activity starts at 6 a.m. with the camp song, a challenging cardio walk and the only beverage available on campus—water!

Berea, Shiloh Pastor Preaches in Zambia

Jason Ridley, MDiv (below), pastor of the Berea church in Charleston, W.Va., and the nearby Shiloh church in Huntington, can now add Zambia to the list of places he has preached. Ridley recently traveled with several



Seventh-day Adventist doctors from Ohio to the Lusaka Central church to hold a week of prayer focused on health revival.

The doctors—Sula Mazimba, Jessica Tan and Petronella Mhisha—took their own time and funds to travel to Zambia and offer free healthcare to the community and children at a local orphanage. They saw more than 800 patients, and, with Ridley preaching every night, more than 40 were baptized.

Dr. Mazimba, a native of Lusaka, organized the trip along with the young adult ministry team at the Zambia church. He invited Ridley after hearing him speak at a church in Ohio. “It was a really blessed trip, which we hope has a lasting impact on the community there in Lusaka,” Ridley reflects. “We are hoping that this is just the beginning of many more opportunities to do this kind of ministry on the continent of Africa, as well as other parts of the world.”



After hearing the Word, more than 40 attendees accepted Christ.

NEWS

Disabilities Ministries Leads Week of Prayer at Ramah

Students at Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland recently enjoyed a week of prayer led by members of the conference’s Disabilities Ministries team. Resa Clansy, a member of nearby Temple of Praise, spoke



to the students about blindness and other visual impairments. Earlene Aveyhart, who is deaf and a member of Glenville church in Cleveland, spoke about deafness while Margaret Jeter, Glenville’s deaf ministry leader, interpreted. Opal

Raymond Poole, who recently had a kidney transplant, talks with Ramah Junior Academy students about his experience.

Harrell, a member of Glenville church, spoke about diabetes. Raymond Poole, area leader for Disabilities Ministries and member of the Glenville church, spoke about receiving a kidney transplant after eight years of dialysis.—Catherine Burks

Ephesus Recognizes Disabilities Day

While churches conference-wide observed a Disabilities Ministries Sabbath, the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, included the disabled in most aspects of the divine service. Mother and daughter Mary Carey and LeAnne Carey, who are both blind, rendered special music. Mary accompanied her daughter on the piano. A sign choir from Cincinnati praised God with their hands. Catherine Burks (right), AWC’s Disabilities Ministries director, delivered the spoken Word and an afternoon seminar on disabilities. Gloria Lewis, a member of the Emmanuel church in Cincinnati, assisted Burks with a presentation on being deaf and hard of hearing. Michael Hargrove, a member of the Hilltop church in Columbus, who is also blind, presented valuable information to the congregation. “God truly has witnesses who are willing, able and happy to serve,” Burks reflects.



PHOTOS BY MARK MAHAN AND CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

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Hillcrest Members Start Lunch Program for Homeless

What started with two mothers and three young boys has blossomed into a church outreach program. Last fall Julie Rowe and Cheryl Brookshire (below), members of the Hillcrest church in Dayton, Ohio, had a conversation about starting an outreach program focused on feeding homeless people. After talking for awhile,

they decided to each make 50 sack lunches, including a hot bowl of soup, and meet at a central downtown Dayton location. At first they drove around offering food to sparsely scattered homeless people, but soon discovered the St. Vincent DePaul Hotel, a homeless shelter.

The small group was moved by the overwhelming needs they saw that day. So they agreed to ask their church family for help. That was the beginning of the Hillcrest church's sack lunch outreach program.

"The Hillcrest church has done this through love offerings and donations from its members," Brookshire says. "There is no large organizational sponsor donating. We are now a people ready to leave



Julie Rowe, a member of the Hillcrest church in Dayton, Ohio, makes sandwiches for their lunch outreach program.

the confines of the four walls and be on the move for God!"



Bethel Vacation Bible School Draws 50

Some 50 children, most of whom came from the neighborhood, attended the Bethel church's Vacation Bible School (VBS). The Cleveland-based church has been holding their VBS for more than 10 years. Themed "We Come to Praise the Lord With our Hands, Hearts and Soul," the weeklong program was offered from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Marino Stepp, an elder and Sabbath School teacher, happily coordinated the

program, which offered prayer, Bible study, songs, arts and crafts and visitors from the police and fire departments.

Stepp says VBS is another way to keep the doors of the church open to the community. One woman and her family even participated in the final program, which included praise dancing, singing, a skit and a devotional thought.

Marino Stepp (left) leads a group at the Bethel church's Vacation Bible School. He says his motto is "God can do more when we do less. If we learn of God's love, and experience God's love, then we can go out and share God's love."



PHOTOS BY BRYANT TAYLOR



Christian Education Can Make Dreams Come True

Tearful parents said goodbye to their daughter, Irina, when she left the Ukraine in 1996 to attend Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). As a Christian teenager in the Ukraine, life had been difficult for Irina. Teachers and classmates harassed her for her beliefs. It took a great leap of faith, with her limited English, to come to America.

Immediately Irina experienced a different world. On her trip from the airport, Kathleen Sutton, advancement director, asked what food she would like to eat. Everything sounded strange to Irina. Kathleen figured she knew what teenagers liked, so when they stopped for supper, an excited Irina ate her first pizza!

Dorm life, with the friendliness of students and staff, won Irina's heart as she experienced Christian fellowship. Class work was challenging as she expanded her limited English. To complete her assignments, she translated her school work, did the assignments, then translated the work back into English. Four years later, Irina completed her high school studies and continued her education at Southwestern Adventist University in Texas.

Irina visited BMA the other day and thanked those who had so lovingly cared for her. She gives praise and credit to God and BMA for her success. She and her husband, Daniel Mego, are both nurses and live in Texas.

Irina's story is only one example of how Christian education meets young peoples' needs. There are countless others like Irina who struggle with living in a secular, sin-filled environment. Please continue to pray for BMA as we minister to young people.



Craig Ziesmer
Principal

Work/Study Program Prepares Students for Life

Blue Mountain Academy considers work a vital part of the school's learning program. That is why the school offers students the opportunity to help pay for their education through a work/study program. Every student is required to work. Available jobs include BMA Industry, readers who assist teachers, office workers, janitors, maintenance and groundskeepers, and cafeteria and dorm workers.



Amanda Ashburn ('11) works in the administrative offices during the summer months and as a teacher's helper during the school year.



Cory Hodge ('12) works grounds for the maintenance department.

Each spring teachers and staff create want ads with their worker needs for the coming year. Students then apply for the job they want and go through an interview process. These campus jobs have a lasting effect. Students gain opportunities for on-the-job training and build résumés that help them find summer work and jobs following graduation.

NEWS

Work on Bathrooms to Continue

Thanks to the generous support of alumni, constituents and friends, BMA's dorm bathroom renovation project is halfway complete! The south wing bathrooms of the boys' and girls' dorms (Phase I and II) are now in use. The school is raising funds to begin work on the



Marie Wells ('12) is excited about the new bathroom facilities in the girls' dorm.



north wing of the girls' dorm (Phase III). "We need your help to make continued renovations a reality," said Kathleen Sutton, advancement director.

The Commonweal Foundation has offered to match all donations to BMA's renovation project dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. To take advantage of this offer, contact Sutton at (610) 562-4214, kathys@bma.us or online at bma.us.

Alumni Return to Serve

Jerome Edmeade and Rebekka Marschner, both BMA alumni, will be serving as taskforce workers this year.

Edmeade (right), a Class of 2005 graduate, will serve as boys' taskforce dean. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Oakwood University (Ala.). He is the youngest of three brothers. Edmeade's goal in life is to fulfill the purpose that God has chosen for him.



Marschner (left), a Class of 2008 graduate, has been enrolled at Andrews University (Mich.) for two years, and is taking this year off to serve as girls' taskforce dean. She wants to give back to BMA and thought this would be a good way to do that. She has three siblings who are currently enrolled at BMA: Bridget and Sabrina, who are seniors, and Max, a sophomore.

69 Students Graduate

Sixty-nine students made up BMA's Class of 2010. Of those, 13 graduated with high honors, 13 with honors, 23 were four-year seniors, nine received the president's award, 13 were members of the National Honor Society and four received a music certificate. "We are proud of our newest alumni and pray God's leading in their endeavors," said Kathleen Sutton, advancement director.



Graduates include (back, from left) Faisal Mohammed, Orlando Diaz, Tauana Santos, Nicole Samuel and (front) Margaret Seipt.

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

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

You Can be Wonder-full in a Wonder-killing World

It is a curious fact that in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 19, Mark 10 and Luke 18), the story of the rich young ruler follows hard on the warning against hindering children from coming to Jesus. And one story cannot be understood without the other—as we shall explore both this month and next.

Since I am now a card-carrying grandfather, I have been doing exhaustive (and exhausting) research on little children. I better understand why Jesus said that unless we receive the kingdom as a little child we could not enter it (see Mark 10:15).

When children's bodily needs are making demands, they must be satisfied. When they need love, they will seek it. When they are curious and want to explore, they go for it. They are amazed at the most simple things—marvels we don't even notice. They are full of wonder.

I have also rediscovered that children are wonderfully teachable. Every child wants to learn and is ready to be led. They are wide-open and easily molded. Children are trustful by nature unless trained otherwise, and by nature they are responsive and put what they learn into immediate action. They don't have to "think about it for awhile" as adults often do. They respond without delay.

So when we hear the teachings of Jesus and understand what He says about us and about Him and respond immediately and wholeheartedly, the door to the kingdom of God is wide open—not only to enter it as a child, but to grow and develop within it, and to become healthy, mature, strong and whole.



Rob Vandeman
President

NEWS

Highland View Academy Welcomes Principal

New Highland View Academy (HVA) principal Deborah Pacheco de Treviño ('88) looks forward to spearheading the continued development of her alma mater. She comes from Texas where she most recently worked for Northwest Vista College. Her husband, Mario, and their son, Stephen, a senior at HVA, join her.

The HVA Board made additional changes to the administrative structure by naming Kim Brown vice principal and registrar. Andrew Choi was named

interim business manager until a replacement for departing Darcy de Leon is found.

Frederick Pastor Hosts Radio Broadcast

Robert Quintana, senior pastor of the Frederick (Md.) church, can be heard preaching each Sunday morning on Frederick news/talk radio station WFMD AM930. The station airs Quintana's sermons on a 30-minute program called *Anchor Points* and provides free promotion of the program.

Quintana is also a regular panelist on WFMD's "Frederick Faith Debate," a forum for discussing religious issues. Recently on the show, he had the opportunity to share what Seventh-day Adventists believe about the Sabbath.

"It's a great opportunity to potentially reach 5,000-plus listeners in the Frederick area," he says.



PHOTO BY ROB VANDEMAN



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SIMS

Campers, Counselors Develop Faith and Friendship

Summer camps are memory makers for the kids who participate in them and the young men and women who spend their summers as staff. When camp director Abner Sanchez asked staffers what made them decide to work at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., many reported that their friends had recommended it based on their own positive experiences. Several also cited the spiritual climate as a factor.

Edem Kudjordji, a senior at Highland View Academy and a member of the Baltimore White Marsh church, came as a camper for two years before deciding he'd like to work as a staffer. He says "you can see the direct impact you can make on a child's life."



Horsing around is part of the fun at camp. Volunteer Sofy Roshchyna readies a mount for camper Sabrina Wooster.

During the six weeks of camp this year, 23 young people were baptized. Nine-year-old Michael Marshall was among them. "I felt the Holy Spirit in my heart when I came to camp," he said. "I felt God tugging on my heart, and I gave my life to God."

Kids also come to have fun. Konnor Young, 14, a member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., attended two weeks of Fun Learning About God (FLAG) camp, Mount Aetna's day camp ministry. His favorite activities were bowling and visits to a nearby water park. And he appreciated his counselor, Jovan LeBlanc, a member of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md. "He likes to make kids laugh."

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

SEPTEMBER 2010

Summer Camp—21 Days of Blessings

As a camp counselor this summer, I came to realize that my 90 kids during three weeks equaled a countless number of blessings. With more than just classes and activities, summer camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., has been an opportunity for the staff to witness for Jesus Christ and to grow in Him. Every single day is a new chance to show someone a different aspect of the character of Christ. For the counselors, having a cabin full of kids can be quite a thrill. Watching the kids grow is definitely something worth being a part of. Many campers can be very shy upon arrival, but as the week progresses, they become much more comfortable.

The activities and classes play a huge role in helping the campers feel comfortable. This summer we offered horsemanship, high ropes mastery, gymnastics and wilderness survival. The wide variety of classes gave campers a chance to express themselves in their own way. And in every class, we found a way to represent Jesus.

As every aspect of summer camp is vitally important, we believe the spiritual aspect tops it all. We take our worship services seriously but also desire for the campers to have fun while they worship God. This summer we had three different pastors: Amy Fullmer during adventure week, Scott Shafer during junior week, and James Volpe during teen week. We listened to wonderful sermons and received a huge blessing hearing the Word of God preached in so many ways. God has been very evident in our lives and at camp this summer. We believe that He desires for us to be witnesses for Him, and we are so blessed to be able to shine our lights in such a powerful way. Indeed, three weeks equals 21 days of blessings from our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Stacy Blanz
Summer Camp Counselor

Women at the Well

2010 Chesapeake Conference Women's Retreat • October 15-17

Seminar Presenters:

Shirley Benton, Director,
Columbia Union Conference Women's Ministries

Heather Quintana, Editor,
Vibrant Life Magazine

Also featuring:

Sally Appel, Loida Covarrubias (en Español),
Rosy Miranda (en Español), Celia Ogbonna,
Shayne Remmers, and Gladys Rosales (en Español).

Featured Speaker:



Hyveth Williams

Mount Aetna Retreat Center, Hagerstown, Maryland

Must pre-register by September 30. Call 410-995-1910, or email syoung@ccosda.org for details.



Bryce Foy walks the line during the ropes course at Junior Camp.



Logan Bittering and Courtney Copeland play foosball during Adventure Camp.



Zaria Robinson says her favorite things about Adventure Camp included "riding horses and going swimming."



Rebekah Lee pets Arwin. "I really liked the bonfire," she says. "I liked the horses too. I can't wait to go back next year."

NEWS

Buckhannon Women Pray, Work Without Ceasing

The Buckhannon (W.Va.) church's Women's Ministries group, led by Lisa Phillips and Carol Holden, recently took a day of prayer and turned it into a month-long endeavor. For the entire month, they collected prayer requests, and, each Sabbath, for the month a woman led out in a children's story specifically about prayer. On the final day of prayer, women participated in all aspects of the church service. Speaker Pat Ridpath highlighted praying women of the Bible. After the fellowship meal, the women gathered for an afternoon of prayer for the collected requests.



The Women's Ministries group of the Buckhannon (W.Va.) church have made prayer the center of their ministry.

The ladies also participated in the world church's "enditnow" campaign to bring awareness to violence against women worldwide and to end the abuse. They distributed buttons and stickers and spoke with others regarding this issue. They collected 300 signatures to send to the United Nations in support of this worldwide campaign.

The ladies are now working on a conference project making lap robes to provide to residents in care homes and veterans facilities. Their plan is to deliver these robes to the residents in person.

They are also studying about praying for adult children. This group meets each month and discusses this subject. The women continue to take prayer requests and gather to pray.

Women's Retreat to Focus on Growing With Jesus

The upcoming Mountain View Conference Women's Retreat will feature Shelley Quinn (right), speaker and co-director for Word Warrior Ministries and program host on Three Angels Broadcasting Network. As a Christian author and Bible teacher, Quinn travels the United States and abroad preaching the gospel of Christ at revivals,



retreats and camp meetings. Her messages always include practical ways to develop an intimate relationship with our Lord.

This retreat is themed "The Light of My Life: Developing a More Intimate Relationship With Jesus." Quinn will talk about drawing near through surrender, the strength of biblical promises, intimate communication with God and developing overcoming faith. The retreat takes place October 1-3 at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For more information or to register, call Valerie Morikone at (304) 422-4581.

Singles Retreat Scheduled

Mountain View Conference calls all adult singles to attend the annual Singles Retreat October 15-17 at Valley Vista. The weekend will feature L. David Harris, founder of Each 1 Reach Many Ministries. He is a local church elder, Bible teacher, columnist, author and lifestyle counselor. For more information or to register, contact Jane Browning at (304) 422-4581.

Mountain View EVENTS

September

- 10-12 Bible Worker Training
- 17-19 ShareHim Boot Camp

October

- 1-3 Women's Ministries Retreat
- 15-17 Singles Ministries Retreat
- 25 Executive Committee Meets

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Gibbsboro Spanish Company Organized

The Laurel Springs Spanish church had an enviable problem: too many members. Sabbaths found the church packed, not only with members but also visitors. Instead of building a larger church, members decided to start another group. That was 18 months ago. Recently the new group was officially recognized as the Gibbsboro Spanish Company.



Pastor José Guevara signs the certificate of organization in the presence of President José H. Cortés.

Pastor José H. Cortés, president; Jim Greene, vice president for administration; and Modesto Vazquez, vice president for finance, joined with Pastor José Guevara to organize the company.

Some 30 members were on hand to sign on as charter members.

Pastor Guevara credits his members' passion for growing the church. "I would say church members are our most valuable source of new members," he says. "They love to share Christ with their relatives and friends. We also have a very active Master Guide club, which does a lot of community work. We often invite others to join us in service activities."



Gibbsboro Spanish Company charter members gather for picture with conference officers.

Lake Nelson Youth Conduct Week of Prayer

The youth of the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway recently conducted a week of prayer with the theme "None of It, All of Him." Their goal was to emphasize that though His followers are in the world, they do not have to be of the world. The meetings were held at different members' homes, and the youth took turns presenting the messages. The closing presentation focused on heaven and what it will be like to be there.



James Gabriel of the Lake Nelson church speaks for youth week of prayer.



Members of Lake Nelson church organized a home-based week of prayer.

Toms River Members Participate in Founders' Day

She doesn't remember the exact year when she first saw the story, but Toms River church member Lucy Greene remembered reading in the *Visitor* that other churches were participating in their local Founders' Day events. Excited about the idea at having a public forum for sharing the church's beliefs, Greene—who was working with the Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce—quickly got the church involved.

Decades later the church continues to participate. This year the town celebrated its 150th Founders' Day with Carin Roa from the church's Adventist Community Services (ACS) chairing the event.

Gary Lupton, ACS leader, and Greene's husband, Robert, helped organize and design the banner.

The Toms River Founders' Day draws an estimated 30,000 people, and the church had a multipronged approach to sharing the gospel with the roving crowds. Members gave away Bibles, CDs, DVDs on prophecy, Bible studies, health literature, pins and key chains. They also performed blood pressure checks.

"It was a proud day for the gospel," Greene reported. "We found ways to bring up Jesus' name, and, because of this, we've had people join our church after meeting us at our booth." —Taashi Rowe



Mayor Paul Brush (third from left) presents Toms River church members with a first-place certificate for their booth.

Newark Spanish Church Remodeled

The Newark Spanish church recently expanded and remodeled their 60-year-old church building. The larger facility now has Sabbath School rooms for the children and youth. In the basement



The remodeled front entrance to the Newark Spanish church.

they added a chapel and expanded the kitchen, which will accommodate the church's growing food bank distribution program. The food bank currently serves some 100 members in the community.

The renovations were made possible with the help of members who gave faithfully and through a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund. Pastor Alex Grajales said seeing the building expand for ministry has helped renew his members' spirits.

Church members celebrated during a special Sabbath School program, which included a special recognition to all fathers in the church.



Children enjoy their new Sabbath School room.



Members gather in their newly remodeled sanctuary.

dates

September

8-11 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*

24-26 Conference-wide Pathfinder Camporee Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)

October

3 Women's Fall Day Retreat TVRC

6-9 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*

8-10 Singles Retreat, TVRC

17 Children's Day Festival

November

6 English Festival of the Laity

10-13 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*

13 Spanish Festival of the Laity

14 Children's Ministries Leadership Training

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

Cincinnati Clifton Church Embraces Diversity

While looking around her Cincinnati Clifton church, Vicky Coleman could not help but notice the diversity. The church boasted members from more than 35 countries. At potlucks, cuisine from around the world dotted the tables, creating "international feasts" for members and visitors alike. Wanting more than merely delicious potlucks, Coleman asked Pastor Jeba Moses how the church could embrace everyone's diversity. Together with her church family, they began outlining

short and long-term goals to "become a culture of Christ" for new immigrants and refugees to the Cincinnati area.

To date, Coleman and the Clifton church have highlighted various geographic regions over several Sabbaths. On West Indian Day, members from seven countries located within the region shared the history and statistics of the Seventh-day Adventist work in those territories, traditional cultural music and dress. They also brought in a guest speaker. During their recent Hometown Camp Meeting, the "International Sabbath Celebration" included a pageant of nations, complete with national flags and attire. Corresponding programs were created for children featuring Bible stories, multicultural puzzles and dolls, and arts and crafts. In preparation for these special Sabbaths, the church participated in several cultural differences seminars, where they learned about a variety of cultures.

"This is a work in progress," says Coleman. She stresses that the church has just begun to fulfill their short-term goals, to give "recognition to various nations and cultures, and [build] the body of Christ through these events." Clifton members now actively seek to witness to believers and nonbelievers alike by teaching respect and tolerance for diversity.



Vicky Coleman (center) and other Clifton church members wear native garb to depict the church's diversity.

Worthington Spanish Welcomes New Pastoral Couple

Pastor Roberto Rivera comes to central Ohio from the Rocky Mountain Conference, where he pastored four Hispanic congregations in Colorado. Rivera "accepted the call of the Master" in his early teens, and attended the Universidad Adventista de Centro America (Central American Adventist University) in Costa Rica. After graduating in 1984, he began his ministry in El Salvador. He served the Lord in various positions, including as a pastor, teacher, dean of the conference academy, Bible worker and associate director of publications.

In 2004 Rivera arrived in his Colorado district to find one organized church and one company. After six years he departed, leaving behind two organized churches and two companies. Rivera contributes this growth to his conviction that "one of the most important things in the church is the work of small groups—lay training is the key for effective development of leadership within small groups."

Rivera is married to Vicky, who enjoys sharing the ministry with her husband. She preaches, has experience establishing and running a food bank and working with Women's Ministries groups. Rivera prays God "will lead the church in commitment and outreach work, which will prepare [His] people for the second coming of Jesus Christ."



Local Churches Host Hometown Camp Meetings

Adventists from across the state enjoyed a spiritual feast this summer, courtesy of Ohio's Hometown Camp Meetings. From Columbus to Mount Vernon, Cincinnati to Wooster, Christ was at the center of it all.

More than 200 people gathered to hear Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, at the **Columbus Eastwood** church. Other featured guests included author/speaker Richard O'Ffill, professor/author Philip Samaan and Gaither artist Larry Ford.



The annual **Women's Ministries Camp Meeting Tea** found more than 230 women from across the state converging on Camp Mohaven in Mount Vernon to enjoy "Tea by the Sea." After lunch, devotional speaker Lori Whitted (below), pastor of the Wooster/Canton district, combined spiritual nourishment and humor to bring women closer to Christ.



Guests enjoy fellowship during the annual camp meeting tea.



Folks in the **Wooster/Canton** area experienced "Encounters with Jesus" this summer. Sitting under picturesque pines in the Secrest Arboretum, about 100 people were stirred to seek Jesus more fully after hearing Chaplain Clive Wilson (above) from Kettering College of Medical Arts passionately share his encounters with Jesus. Attendees could also take part in a prayer walk—where they could go to the foot of the cross, participate in communion or spend time in worship.

Pastors Paul and Esperanza Muniz from Andrews University (Mich.) shared their time between the young adults and adults of the **Akron Spanish** group. Each group learned of mustard-seed faith and walking through the highs and lows of the Christian journey. They encountered Jesus, learning He is always there to give us strength and courage as we walk with Him. Sabbath closed with gospel music by Akron's own Gospel Echos.

What is Excellence?

What can I write about excellence?" I bemoaned to a friend. I had pondered the topic for a couple of weeks, but was still drawing a blank. "Are you kidding? Excellence is your middle name!" she replied, reminding me of late nights put in to complete a project and the high standard I usually exact from myself.

True. But upon reflection, I realized that my personal experience has taught me a lot more about what excellence *isn't*. Although I was an honors student, I've since learned that true excellence isn't measured by achievements, degrees, certificates or awards. Excellence isn't about my efforts at all. Rather, it's an inner conviction to serve God to the best of my ability with the gifts and resources He has given me, no matter the task or who is (or isn't) watching. It's about dedicating each day as a gift to God, trusting Him with the outcomes and realizing that my life matters most when His life shows through my actions and conversations.

Colossians 3:23 tells us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (NIV). Why? Because serving the Lord with excellence is the best testimony I can be for the One who has done so much for me.

A Pennsylvania Conference Core Value

Excellence: We believe excellence honors God and inspires people; this requires us to do our best in all things. As His "image bearers" we will glorify God through well-planned and well-presented ministries. From small groups to community outreach to office management to our weekly Sabbath worship services, we will focus on reflecting the highest qualities of God's character to all whom we serve.



Lilly Tryon
Health Ministries Director

Helicopter a Highlight of Bucks County Community Day

A MedEvac helicopter landed at the Bucks County church in Warminster immediately attracting the attention of 40 neighbors who rushed to the scene. An ambulance, police cars, fire trucks, first responder vehicles and a police canine unit filled the parking lot and lawn as more community members milled around. However, there was no emergency. This was a part of the church family's annual community day.

Boy Scouts, social service agencies, local church groups and Pathfinders from neighboring churches joined the day's activities. Children and adults toured the numerous vehicles and learned about different services outside, then joined the worship service inside. Musicians from various churches participated in the service. Organizations shared how they are about mission in Bucks County. Pastor Micheal Goetz ended the service with a short sermon. It's an event for the community, but also by the community and the church, explains member Terri Rice.

"Many or most won't come to [the church] to join us," shares Goetz. "So we will be the first to offer the hand of friendship."

Ed Hoffman, deputy chief of Warminster Volunteer



14 Join Harrisburg Church

At the end of Pastor Shawn Shives' five-week Revelation Seminar, the Harrisburg church welcomed 14 new members. Each has a story to tell about the way God led them to church.

Joel Forman and his wife, Sarah "Preston" Key, learned about the seminar when students from Harrisburg Adventist School placed a flyer on his car window. Norma

Rivera-Santos was already taking Bible studies when she received a brochure in the mail. Toni Mosten saw a newspaper advertisement for the meetings and was convicted that the seventh day is God's true Sabbath. Michelle Lesko floated through various churches searching for truth before finding a flyer for the seminar on her door. A friend invited Ann Elizabeth Miller, who wanted to learn more about Revelation because it had always scared her. While separating items for recycling, the glossy paper of the Revelation Seminar flyer caught Christine Dudanowicz's attention. The attendant at a local gas station handed a flyer, left by a church member, directly to Daniel Garrison and encouraged him to attend. As a result, he and his wife, Sandi, were baptized.

While attending the seminar,

Dwayne Herb and his wife, Candi, went to the pastor of the church they had been attending to ask about the things they were learning. The pastor told them that what they were learning was true. When they asked why he didn't follow it, he said he was afraid of losing his job. This was enough to convince them that they needed to take a stand for the truth.

Harrisburg church members continue to intentionally share God's love and truth with others. For the complete story, visit paconference.org and click on News.—*Karlee Marschner*

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



Pastor Shawn Shives baptizes husband and wife Joel Forman and Sarah "Preston" Key following a five-week Revelation Seminar.

We Aim to Proclaim the Gospel

The Potomac Conference will host its first quinquennial constituency session September 26 at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. It is our privilege and challenge to come together as the church has for generations. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we plan to carefully and boldly continue to do the work of the church through Jesus Christ. Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23, RSV) and He said, "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (John 12:32, RSV).

God has called us to take the story of Jesus, the story of His salvation, the story of judgment, the story of three angels and the story of His soon return and share it with those who do not yet know Him. "And when this gospel of the kingdom is preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14, RSV). This is why we meet—to tell His story, listen to His voice and pray that our lives may be conduits of His Spirit to empower us to finish His work.

In *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, Ellen White writes, "I testify to my brethren and sisters that the church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard."

For those who facilitate this constituency meeting, it is our prayer that we all will pray and decide together, then go forth unified, to proclaim with Holy Spirit power the message entrusted to us.



Bill Miller
President

Harrisonburg Pastor Celebrates 50 Years in Ministry

The Harrisonburg (Va.) church recently hosted a surprise celebration for their pastor, Robert Clarke, in honor of his 50th year in ministry. Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference; Jorge Ramirez, Potomac Conference vice president for

administration; and many friends from his previous churches joined Clarke, his family and the congregation to celebrate.

During the celebration, many shared testimonies of how Clarke and his wife, Joan, have touched their lives in powerful ways. His previous members traveled as far away as Beltsville, Md., to be there with him. Cards and letters from across the United States were presented to him that evening. Clarke's ministry has not been limited to the four walls of the church. He has actively been involved with his congregations and the communities they serve.

Clarke has been struggling with cancer and was given a grim prognosis, but many have seen the power of prayer on his behalf. The

Lord continues to give him the strength and health he needs to continue being Christ's disciple.

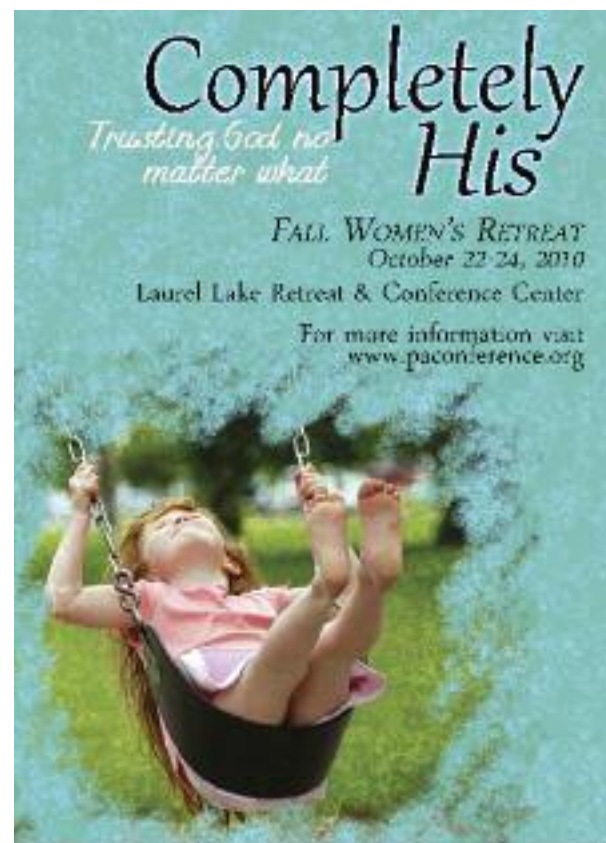
His congregation thanks him for his ministry.—*Janet Olsyne*



Bob Clarke, pastor of the Harrisonburg (Va.) church, and his wife, Joan, share their thanks with church members at a party held in honor of their 50 years in ministry.



Heartland Gospel Band, one of Pastor Clarke's favorites, plays at his surprise party.



Olney Adventist Teacher Awarded for Excellence

Carol Oster, (right) a teacher at Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md., recently received the annual Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF). The Alumni Award Foundation is a nonprofit organization that annually recognizes teachers for their contributions and commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. According to AAF, recipients of this award are chosen based on “classroom innovation, passion for teaching, professional growth and commitment to Adventist education.” As one of 10 award finalists of the many North American Division nominees, Oster was found to excel in those areas.



“When reviewing the applications each year, we look for concrete examples of how teachers are not only fulfilling their roles, but [also] exceeding them by personal initiative,” said Melissa Cechota, communication coordinator at AAF. “Carol demonstrates admirable attributes, including a practical and approachable way of teaching her students.”

Oster has been teaching for 36 years and holds a master’s degree in education. She has instructed all subjects and is said to “make learning come alive” for her students. Oster’s colleagues commend her teaching abilities. “She’s super creative,” said Jami Walker, principal of the school. “She thinks outside the box and really pushes her students. We’re very proud of her and her hard work and dedication. She’s an amazing woman who has dedicated herself to our church. We are thankful and grateful to have her as a part of our staff.”—Adrienne Suarez

Back to School at Any Age

For more than 30,000 pre-K to 12th-grade students across North America, the first day back to school officially signals the end to their summer vacation. Think back to your own memories of that first day back to school. The memories are usually positive. Your clothes were new, pencils were full length and that lunch box was dent-free. The people around you looked different too. Maybe there was a new teacher, or your best friend had a growth spurt and you hardly recognized her. All of these memories can be summarized with the phrase “new beginnings.”

I am thrilled to serve a God of new beginnings. Every day can be like the first day of school. When we ask for forgiveness, He puts those sins in the deepest part of the ocean. All He sees is our new clothes, shiny lunch box and sharp new pencils. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor. 5:17, NIV). Let us all stop where we are and ask the Lord to forgive us of any sins and experience another “first day back to school” in our Christian walk.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

JNA Kindergarteners—Scripture Champs

At John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., the students in Edwina Neely’s kindergarten class are scripture champions. Neely believes in hiding God’s Word in the hearts of her children. The class comes together for daily worship, and each week they learn a new memory verse. The 5-year-olds find joy in reciting scripture and eagerly anticipate learning a new memory verse every week.

Neely employs a multi-sensory approach for teaching, using flashcards, flip charts, rhythm, music



and sign language to help the children memorize. Many of the verses seem long for children that are so young, but these kindergarteners can soak up as many as six long verses at a time. Neely uses 2 Timothy 3:16 as a foundation scripture to help the children understand that “all scripture comes from God.”

Neely takes her class out to sing and recite scriptures at senior citizen facilities twice a year. At the end of the school year, during the kindergarten graduation, the class recites

many scriptures that they have learned throughout the year. The parents are amazed by the presentations. As Neely says, “These children will hold the Scriptures in their hearts for the rest of their lives.”



Edwina Neely, the kindergarten teacher at John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., teaches her children to memorize scripture.

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

Making Progress—An Update on the new Building

More than a year after breaking ground on a 100,000-square-foot facility to accommodate their growing church school, Spencerville church members can see the fruit of their prayers and financial support. Although the actual building construction began in early December 2009, a long, wet winter inhibited some progress. Still, anyone driving by the Route 198 location in Spencerville, Md., today, will see an impressive building of steel and block walls rising from the ground. Focus has been on the rear portion of the building with construction proceeding on the gymnasium, multipurpose room, music rooms and basement.

Another point of interest is the summer employment of two alumni on the construction site. Devon Kittleson and Jordan Roe, both members of the Class of 2009,



Staff members visit the site of their new school building to observe its progress.



Alumni Devon Kittleson and Jordan Roe assist in building the new Spencerville Adventist Academy.

are working as building assistants. While they will not attend school in this building, they are representative of the support of a congregation that not only includes parents and grandparents of current students, but others who strongly believe in Seventh-day Adventist education. Clearly, it is a project that unites the church toward a common goal. When asked about the work, Kittleson responded, “The students are going to love this school! I have definitely worked hard, but I’m glad for the experience of being a part of the construction project. I have learned a lot!”

Barring any unforeseen weather or county issues, the school should be completed in time for the 2011-12 school year.—Merle Poirier

Music Department Releases Second Album

Spencerville Adventist Academy's Music Department recently released their sophomore music CD titled *Noel*. Robert A. Martinez, choral director, collaborated with Jane Lanning, bell director, and Rod Kerbs II, band director, to select Christmas carols from around the globe.

"The project takes the listener from the advent to the crucifixion through the carols of different cultures," said Martinez. Listeners can also expect carol favorites such as "Carol of the Bells" and "We Three



Kings." Martinez also composed an original piece for the girls' chorus titled "Quem Pastores Laudavere," which is Latin for "Whom Shepherds Praised." Neelou Kazemzadeh ('12), designed the original artwork for the cover.

To purchase a copy for \$10, call the SAA office at (301) 421-9101.



New Vice Principal Chosen

Rod Kerbs II (right) has been chosen to serve as high school vice principal. Kerbs will continue with his responsibilities in the music and marketing departments. Over the course of eight years of teaching, he has worked with grades K-12 in multiple subject areas. His combination of humor and patience disarms even the most difficult students.

"I see the [Seventh-day] Adventist system of schools as a system of interconnected missions, all purposed with bringing more children into the heavenly kingdom," says Kerbs. "I look forward to empowering the high school teachers through coordinated efforts and persistent advocacy."

When not working, Kerbs loves spending time with his wife and



son, playing chess and being in nature. "Spencerville is indeed fortunate to have such a talented and enthusiastic teacher—and now administrator," stated Brian Kittleson, principal.

Calendar

September

- 16-18 SALT Retreat
- 20-24 ITBS/ITED Testing
- 27-28 School Closed—
Parent/Teacher/
Student Conferences

October

- 4-8 High School Study Tours
- 11-12 School Closed—Teachers
Meetings
- 22 Grandparents Day
- 27-30 Bell Festival Trip

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

Students Study Spanish in Argentina

While most of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students took some time off from studies during the summer, Callie Williams, Kaiti Laughlin, Seth Guldin and Matt Meadows spent their days in the classroom studying. These four students spent six weeks in north-east Argentina at the Instituto Adventista Juan Bautista Alberdi (IAJBA), a Seventh-day Adventist high school.

This is the same school that 55 SVA students and 18 adults visited this past spring during their yearly mission trip. While there, principal Spencer Hannah, Edgardo Ullrich, a Spanish teacher at SVA, and the Argentinian principal began to talk about establishing a language exchange program between SVA and IAJBA.

Once the idea was approved by the SVA Board of Trustees, plans began in earnest. Students who were interested in the program were asked to apply, keeping in mind that in order to be chosen they must meet certain criteria, including good grades and citizenship, and they had to be taking a Spanish class. While the students were in Argentina, they spoke only Spanish and attended classes that were taught in that language. In addition to the classes they attended, they also worked—Guldin in the PE department, Williams and Meadows in the library and Laughlin at the elementary school.

Even though the students kept busy with studies and work, they also visited the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires for two days and then traveled to Iguazu Falls, a popular tourist attraction where there are nearly 150 waterfalls in a very small area. They also enjoyed experiencing the World Cup while in Argentina and all of the excitement that went with watching the games with the locals.

In August four students from the school in Argentina arrived at SVA to spend six weeks. They joined the ESL classes and spent their time at SVA speaking only English.



Shenandoah Valley Academy faculty and students pray before their trip to Argentina.

The language exchange program was such a success that SVA will continue it in the future, offering students a great opportunity to travel and learn the Spanish language. Ullrich, a native of Argentina, says "I was excited to send my students to Argentina to sit in the same classroom that I sat in and to experience the slower pace of life and the culture of Argentina."



Spanish teacher Edgardo Ullrich displays a special T-shirt made for the first participants of the language exchange program.

HAPPENINGS

NEWS

Handbell Ensemble Performs at GC Session

The Shenandoah Valley Academy's Handbell Ensemble was honored to participate at the General Conference Session in Atlanta this

ensemble showed while representing SVA," Anderson said. "It was a testament to the investment that has been made in Christian education since the early days of our church."



summer. All 14 members of the ensemble, along with conductor and music teacher Melissa Anderson and parent sponsors, donated part of their summer break to practice together and travel to the world gathering of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The ensemble performed twice. They played for an audience in an amphitheater reserved for concerts throughout the session. To their delight, they were also asked to participate in the musical prelude to the evening meeting that night in the Georgia Dome, the 70,000-plus seat venue for the business sessions and spiritual events.

"Being invited to share our music and praise God with the world church was a huge honor. It was the highlight of our year," said Jonathan Blackburn ('11).

"It was such an amazing experience. To be able to perform for such a large gathering of the Adventist Church was truly once-in-a-lifetime," echoed Anastasia Sherrill ('11).

"We are proud of the hard work and excellence that the hand bell

New Teacher Welcomed

Mitzi Bame recently joined the SVA faculty as the new biology and chemistry teacher. She comes from Knoxville, Tenn., where she was a substitute teacher at the Knoxville Adventist School. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and a master's in teaching science from the University of Iowa.



Her family includes her husband Mark, who is a nurse; their daughter, Jessa, who will be a sophomore at SVA; and their son, Clinton, who will be in the 7th grade at Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School.

Men's Volleyball Tournament Scheduled

SVA will host a men's volleyball tournament for churches on Sunday, October 31, in the SVA gymnasium. The registration cost for each team is \$60. For more information or to register, contact Edgardo Ullrich at edgardo.ullrich@sva-va.org.

Calendar

September

6-10 Fall Week of Prayer
13 Fall Picnic
19 Sunday School
22-26 Home Leave
31 Men's Volleyball Tournament

October

17 Sunday School
20-24 Home Leave

November

19 Senior Recognition
20 Senior Extravaganza
21 Parent/Teacher Conferences

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



Engaging Minds, Transforming Lives

You will often hear me repeat a phrase from Washington Adventist University's (WAU) vision statement: "Engaging minds. Transforming lives." I truly believe that this institution has been fulfilling this vision for many years, and I am committed to ensuring that this be the foundation of our vision for the future.

I have met several remarkable alumni who daily live out the transformation they experienced at this institution. One who stands out is Bertram Generlette, a 1986 graduate from our education program. Below is a report from a recent luncheon celebrating his achievements as a Seventh-day Adventist educator in the local public school system. I think you will be impressed by his accomplishments and the way he represents his church and his alma mater in the public sector.

This month we are also including an introduction to our 2010-11 Student Association officers. Each of these bright young people is in the midst of the transformation that their WAU education will bring. Not only are they each carrying the normal academic load of a university student, but they have purposefully chosen to take on leadership roles that will stretch their abilities and introduce them to new facets of real life they otherwise wouldn't meet until entering professional life.

I hope you will continue to pray for our university, for each student, faculty, staff and administrator. It is only by God's grace that Washington Adventist University continues to engage minds and transform lives.



Weymouth Spence
President

Luncheon Honors Alumnus, NAACP Teacher of the Year

President Weymouth Spence, WAU Education Department faculty and staff recently gathered to recognize Bertram Generlette ('86) who received the 2010 Principal of the Year award from the Montgomery County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Generlette currently serves as principal of Piney Branch Elementary School in Takoma Park, Md. Fellow educators and community parents nominated him for his effective educational leadership and his efforts to close achievement gaps within his school community.

Generlette said the award was an honor and a privilege. "It recognizes not only what I've done but [what] the school has done, staff and the parents and the entire community," he said.

His career with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) began in 1986. Generlette has taught elementary and middle schools and served six years as an MCPS teacher specialist. During that time, he trained elementary teachers who needed mathematics support, and was one of six people who spent three years rewriting the K-8 math curriculum for MCPS. This he considered a blessed irony, because Generlette loathed mathematics until he took MATH 115 at WAU. He stayed behind after classes to solve math problems with other students who were struggling in math, and they helped each other.

"It began to make sense," Generlette said, also crediting his teacher for helping him understand math. "Ms. David was the one who really made it real for me, and she really believed in me."—Elizabeth Anderson



President Weymouth Spence welcomed Patty and Bertram Generlette to a luncheon honoring Bertram's accomplishments as a distinguished alumnus of Washington Adventist University's Department of Education.

Students Prepare to Meet the Challenge of Leadership

With many outside distractions vying for the attention of the typical college student, maintaining an active internal student activities program becomes challenging. Here are seven students who have determinedly sought out that challenge by running for, and winning, offices in WAU's Student Association:

Ramon Griffith (President): Griffith is a junior majoring in theology and music. Originally from Barbados, Griffith ran for the top



leadership role believing that with all the attributes and hidden talents of the students on campus, amazing things could be accom-

plished. This school year he hopes to create an atmosphere of unity and school pride on campus, ensure that all the students' academic needs are met and create a campus where students have the true knowledge of God.

Brandon Nelson (Executive Vice President): Nelson is a sophomore with double majors in political studies and history and an emphasis in pre-law. A native of California, Nelson was drawn to WAU because of its proximity to the nation's capital. Nelson hopes to help the Student Association be more effective.

Akeem James (Religious Vice President): As a junior theology major, James came to WAU because he wanted to attend an Adventist institution and receive a



quality education. He wants the school as a whole and the students as individuals to grow closer to God. He hopes to start a "revival" this year and get students ready for the pouring out of the Holy Spirit.

Lindsey Odinma (Social Vice

President): A junior psychology major, Odinma was drawn to the university because of its diverse student body. After taking on the



responsibilities of social vice president mid-way through last year, Odinma decided to run for the office this school year. She plans

to bring back school spirit by creating opportunities for increased student involvement on campus.

Regina Johnson (Public Relations Secretary): Johnson, a senior, plans on graduating in May with a double major in marketing and reli-



gion. After taking a year off to study Spanish in Argentina, Johnson returned to WAU last year ready to make a difference.

She hopes to make the university a better place and keep students informed of changes and events happening on campus.

Lakeisha Tulloch (Columbia Journal Editor): Originally from Bermuda, Tulloch is starting her



fourth year at WAU. A communication major with an emphasis in Public Relations, she plans to graduate in May 2011. She

wants to include more material in the *Columbia Journal* relevant to university students.

Moussa Cherif (Golden Memories Yearbook Editor): A senior this year, Cherif is majoring in counseling



psychology. A resident of Silver Spring, Md., the proximity to home first attracted him to WAU. Along with being the yearbook editor,

Cherif is also an active member on the men's soccer team and track and field team.—William Ryan Jackson

Aundre Cuffy, financial vice president, was not available to be interviewed for this article.

Calendar

September

- 1 Opening Convocation
- 6 Labor Day—No Classes

October

- 3-4 WAU Preview
- 21-24 Midterm Break
- 30 WAU Sabbath

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

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	Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24	Oct 1	Oct 8
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Cincinnati	7:54	7:42	7:30	7:21	7:10
Cleveland	7:45	7:33	7:20	7:08	6:57
Columbus	7:49	7:37	7:26	7:14	7:03
Jersey City	7:14	7:02	6:50	6:38	6:27
Norfolk	7:20	7:10	6:59	6:48	6:38
Parkersburg	7:43	7:31	7:20	7:09	6:58
Philadelphia	7:18	7:06	6:54	6:43	6:32
Pittsburgh	7:37	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51
Reading	7:21	7:09	6:58	6:46	6:35
Richmond	7:25	7:15	7:04	6:53	6:43
Roanoke	7:35	7:24	7:14	7:03	6:53
Toledo	7:52	7:40	7:28	7:16	7:04
Trenton	7:16	7:05	6:53	6:41	6:30
Wash., D.C.	7:24	7:13	7:02	6:51	6:40



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TRAVEL

7-DAY CARIBBEAN CRUISE on Holland America's New Neiuw Amsterdam. Dec. 5-12, 2010. Ft. Lauderdale, Grandturk, Turks & Caicos; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Phillipsburg, St. Maarten; Halfmoon Cay, Bahamas. Sabbath Services. Foll Travel, 1739 Orangewood Pl., Avon Park, FL 33825. (863) 453-7196; email bobkatfoll@embarqmail.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY SESSION

A special constituency session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, called for by the Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee, will convene at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 14, 2010, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the recommendation of the Executive Committee to sell Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center.

As required by the Pennsylvania Conference Bylaws, the following agenda, voted by the Executive

Committee July 1, 2010, must be printed with the call of the special session: 1) Devotional; 2) Session Organization: official call, Pennsylvania Conference; seating of delegates; parliamentary seated; GC Rules of Order voted; clarification of established agenda; 3) Changes in Conference Churches: Addition of Conference Churches; seating of delegates of new churches; disbanded conference churches (if any); 4) Recommendation from Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee to Sell Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center; reading of the Executive Committee motion; presentations; discussion; and vote; 5) Discussion on the implementation of the Vote Regarding the Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center; 6) Closing Remarks; 7) Adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREATER BOSTON ACADEMY (GBA) REUNION,

will be held October 15-17 at the Stoneham Memorial Church, 29 Maple St., Stoneham, Mass. It will begin Friday evening at 6 p.m., with a light supper and vespers at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath services will begin at 10:45 a.m. The guest speaker for divine worship will be John Grayson ('60); Fellowship Luncheon 1 p.m. at GBA; followed by activities Saturday night: class reunions and alumni basketball games. There will also be a school Fall Festival on Sunday. For additional information or directions, contact Tom Giampa at (508) 243-7458, email tdg606@aol.com or call GBA at (781) 438-4253.

OAK PARK ACADEMY ALUMNI HOMECOMING

will take place October 8-9, at Gates Hall, in Nevada, Iowa. The honor classes for this event are '35, '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75 and '80. For more information, visit the alumni website at opainiowa.com.

SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND,

September 30-October 3. Honor classes are 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000. Activities begin Thursday evening, with the Silver Showcase Banquet; continues on Friday with a career day. The Sabbath speaker is James Coffin, Class of 1970. Sunday will be the Alumni Golf Tournament. For additional information, call (573) 682-2164, or visit sunnydale.org.

DEAF EASTERN AUTUMN REVIVAL (DEAR);

The Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship invites you to participate at their 10th annual Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival Camp Meeting at

Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., October 21-24. To register or get more information, call Cathy at (240) 667-7065, or email her at clerk@deafellowship.org.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING SKILLS WEBINAR:

An introduction to the process and skills of community organizing. This course is designed to equip local leaders to have a significant impact on their communities. The eight sessions are scheduled once a month to allow maximum time for implementation between sessions so that the focus is on real situations and issues. Taught by Monte Sahlin, who has trained community organizers for more than 30 years and currently teaches for the Tony Campolo Graduate School at Eastern University. This webinar is held monthly on the third Sunday from Oct 17, 2010, thru May 15, 2011, 1-3 p.m. EDT. Register now at www2.gotomeeting.com/register/648731082. Once registered you will receive an email confirming your registration with information you need to join the webinar.

OBITUARIES

BOOCKS, Doris, born August 23, 1920, in Huntsville, Ala.; died January 30, 2010. She was a member of the Seneca (Pa.) church. She is survived by her husband, Dwight Boocks; a son, Gale (Donna) Boocks; daughters Jackie (John) Samonsky and Linda Stevenson; 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by four sisters: Kathryn Kohle, Alma Kilmer, and Edna and Dolly Lewis; and by two children: Connie Knight and Dwight (Bud) Boocks.

FAEHNER, Frank H., of Brinklow, Md., born December 5, 1939, in New York City; died October 4, 2009. He and his family had been members of the Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C.; the Beltsville (Md.) church and, most recently, the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. He attended Greater New York Academy and graduated from Blue Mountain Academy, Hamburg Pa., in 1959. He then went on to graduate from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in 1966, with a BS in Business Administration. That same year, he and Joy founded American Wood Fibers, based in Columbia, Md., which specializes in turning wood waste into value-added products. He is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Joy K. Pennington Faehner; his mother, Adelaide E. Olsen Faehner; his daughter, Stephanie J. (Jeff) Juneau; his son, Stephen J. (Hollie) Faehner; his grandchildren: Katelyn M. Juneau,

Kyle F. Juneau, Owen L. Faehner, Jackson R. Faehner and Samuel J. Faehner; his brothers, David A. (Frances) Faehner, Mark E. Faehner and his fiancée, Pam Johnson; and his sister, Gail E. (Sam) Cole; and several nieces and nephews. Frank was preceded in death by his father, Frank E. Faehner.

HARTMAN, Violet W., born August 28, 1915, in Pasadena, Calif.; died April 10, 2010, in Santa Cruz, Calif. She was a member of the Worthington (Ohio) church. She is survived by her sons, Thomas Whieldon of Santa Cruz, and Charles Whieldon of Frederick, Md.; and his daughter, Anna Lee Carlson of Walla Walla, Wash.

LISTON, Richard "Dick," Jr., born September 11, 1927, in Texas City, Texas; died March 25, 2010, peacefully at home at Hay Meadow Farm, Mount Airy, Md. Dick grew up in a family-owned lock and key business. He graduated from Southwestern Adventist College. He worked for Golden Rule Dairy and attended Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist Univ.), where he met and married Barbara MacDonald. Dick was a Certified Master Locksmith and worked for Montgomery County Board of Education. He was a member of the Frederick (Md.) church and president of the Chesapeake Lay Advisory Council for many years. He is survived by his bride of 58 years, Barbara; his son, Ted Liston of Tujunga, Calif.; his daughter, Jane Kurtz of South Lancaster, Mass.; five grandchildren: Kevin, David and Kimberly Liston, and Joel and Christy Joy Kurtz; a sister, Betty Hedrick of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.; and a brother, Jim Liston of Texarkana, Texas.

PEREZ, Anna, born March 27, 1915, in Bridgeport, Conn.; died March 12, 2010, in Ashland, Ohio. She was a member of the Mansfield (Ohio) church, where she served as Sabbath School superintendent and teacher, pianist/organist and community services leader. Survivors: her sons, Alan (Jean) Perez of Ashland and Fred (Carolyn) Perez of Ft. Benning, Ga.; her daughter, Marlene Smith of Naples, Fla.; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great grandchildren.

TANNER, Jeanne C., born October 28, 1940, in Bucyrus, Ohio; died March 1, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio. She was a member of the Mansfield (Ohio) church. She is survived by her husband, Charles W. Tanner; daughters and sons-in-law, KimberLee (Tony) Baumgardner and Kelli (Lesley) Robbins; and grandsons, Christian Baumgardner and David Robbins.

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

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Inspire Yourself With a Crazy Goal

I t still sounds crazy to hear myself say it, but next month I'll be running a marathon! My decision was based on a longtime struggle with exercise. An active lifestyle wasn't something I learned growing up; I prefer reading a good book over getting hot and sweaty. I didn't know anything about endurance running until last year when I ran my first 5K. So I knew it would take a goal bigger than myself to motivate me to lace up my shoes and go farther—a crazy goal with a significant cause, challenge, deadline, plan and lots of support:



Cause: Check. My dad was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma two years ago. Running to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is a cause I can connect with—one that helps me conquer the difficult days, tired muscles and waves of self-doubt.
Challenge: Check. Running a full marathon is definitely the biggest challenge I've ever attempted. There's also the daily challenge of seeing how far, fast or long I can run.

Deadline: Check. Since Dad was a United States serviceman, I registered for the Marine Corps Marathon (October 31 in Washington, D.C.). Each day is one day closer to that race—that thought alone motivates me to move!

Plan: Check. Running 26.2 miles and making it to the finish line is daunting, but it isn't impossible with training. I have a running schedule that gradually increases the distance each week, and I've done my research on shoes, stride, pace, breathing, nutrition, hydration and more.

Support: Check. I joined a weekend running team. Long runs of eight, 10 and 12 miles seem to fly by while exchanging stories and training tips with teammates on the trail.



What crazy goal would motivate you to be more physically active—something doable, but aggressive? Find a cause you can connect with. Make it challenging. Give yourself a deadline. Create a plan. Enlist lots of support. And liken your experience to a much bigger race:

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14, NIV).

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



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