

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS

JUNE 2011 • VOLUME 116 • ISSUE 6

Debbie &
Bill Spencer

CLOSED FOR SABBATH

Meet 42 Members Who Make it
Their Business to Witness

Contents

JUNE 2011



11

News & Features

11 | Closed for Sabbath

Faith Crumbly, Susan Phelps Harvey and Beth Michaels

They're not preachers or teachers, but these 42 members make it their business to witness. Whether giving Bible studies or inviting clients to church, they find practical ways to share Christ in the marketplace.

About the Cover: Trina Shreck photographed Bill and Debbie Spencer at their parts and services store in Watsonstown, Pa.

In Every Issue

3 | Editorial

4 | Newsline

8 | Potluck

23 | Healthcare News

Newsletters

27 Allegheny East

29 Allegheny West

31 Chesapeake

33 Highland View Academy

35 Mountain View

37 Mount Vernon Academy

38 Spring Valley Academy

39 New Jersey

41 Ohio

43 Pennsylvania

45 Potomac

47 Takoma Academy

49 Washington Adventist
University

52 | Bulletin Board

55 | Whole Health

Lilly Tryon

STAY CONNECTED



columbiaunion.org

On the Web

Video Health Tip – Go to youtube.com/user/ColumbiaUnion to watch Judy Lichty, regional director of Health and Wellness for Rockville, Md.-based Adventist HealthCare, talk more about Taste, this month’s *Visitor Calendar* theme.

Video – Watch our coverage of the 2011 Columbia Union Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries Chapter Convention at Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J. The seven-minute news video is hosted by union treasurer Seth Bardu. Go to columbiaunion.org and click on Videos or scan this barcode using a free QR Code Reader App to view it on your mobile phone or iPad.



laymen’s Services and Industries Chapter Convention at Trinity Temple



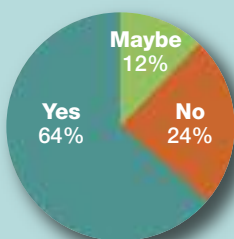
Sermon – Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, shared the Sabbath

sermon at the union ASI convention (story on p. 5). Listen to his sermon at columbiaunion.org/DanJackson2011ASISermon.

Podcast – *Visitor* assistant editor Taashi Rowe takes you to Motorcycle Campmeeting USA in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where local pastor Tom Hughes, Columbia Union president Dave Weigley and a slew of bikers just finished their three-day “Rev it Revival.”

Visitor Facebook Poll

Will You be Attending Camp Meeting This Year?



Source: facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor

Brief Encounters for Life-Changing Impact

Our God-given potential is what continually inspires us to seek and do greater things in life. Take, for example, evangelism. What is your potential there? According to Wordnet 3.0’s free dictionary, the word potential is defined as an inherent capacity for coming into being, a capability yet to be developed, maximizing on an opportunity or making a brief encounter for life-changing impact. We all know that to realize potential, one must exercise it—even at a risk.



In business, there are so many types of risk: market risk, residual risk, assessment risk and diversifiable risk, to name a few. I belong to an organization whose members intentionally exercise their potential for winning souls to Jesus every day and willingly risk everything to experience that one passion God has placed on their hearts. It’s called Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI), and our members—Seventh-day Adventist professionals and business owners—risk their time, talents and resources to share Christ in usual and unusual ways in the marketplace. It’s a diversifiable risk that God shares in to bring about brief encounters for life-changing impact.

MORE THAN A MOTTO

Sharing Christ in the Marketplace is not just our motto; it’s our mission. And really, it’s the mission all Christians are commissioned to perform. Because we love Jesus, our desire is to realize the potential we have to share His life-changing message through impact-filled encounters and interactions with people.

ASI members participate in mission trips, plant churches, build churches and schools, erect radio stations, create new evangelism initiatives and support the church in its outreach ministries around the world. And each year, we gather to share testimonies of how God has used our brief encounters for eternal impact. Some of your most profitable moments in life will come from interacting with ASI members who have realized their potential.

Plan to join us August 3-6 for the National ASI Convention in Sacramento, Calif., and March 8-11, 2012, for our Columbia Union ASI Chapter Convention in Vienna, Va.

Denise Hayden (president@ciasi.org), a business owner and member of Baltimore’s Liberty church, is president of the Columbia Union Chapter of ASI. To learn more about ASI, visit asiministries.org.

Neville Harcombe, Beloved Columbia Union Executive Secretary, Dies

J. Neville Harcombe, executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, passed away in his sleep May 11. He was 71.



“The Columbia Union family is experiencing indescribable loss and sorrow in the sudden passing of a dedicated, passionate, soul-winning administrator for Christ,” says Dave Weigley, union president.

Harcombe, who served the denomination for almost 45 years as an ordained minister, departmental director and administrator, was a pastor at heart. “I love to preach, I love to go to camp

meetings and I love conducting evangelism series,” he told the *Visitor* after joining the union team in January 2006.

The son of missionary parents, he spent his childhood in South, East and Central Africa. He was educated in South Africa’s Helderberg College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.).

Early in his ministry, he and his wife, Cindy, worked as singing evangelists. He pastored five church districts in the Southwestern Union before serving in the Oklahoma, Potomac and Chesapeake conferences as a departmental director and executive secretary. In November 1995 he was elected president of the Chesapeake Conference, where he encouraged constituents and employees to personally engage in the global mission efforts of the church through mission trips. When he came to the Columbia Union in 2006 as executive secretary, he continued that emphasis supporting projects in Africa and South America.



The pastoral leadership team of the North East Baltimore Company pray over their guest speaker (2009).

Harcombe, who was unanimously re-elected at the union constituency session April 16, served on many of the union’s boards and committees, and as vice chair of the Washington Adventist University Board of Trustees and president and chair of the university’s radio station, WGTS 91.9 FM., both based in Takoma Park, Md. There again, he emphasized mission and evangelism, helping to launch the station’s chaplaincy program and engaging listeners in overseas mission trips.

The Harcombes, longtime members of Chesapeake’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., have two adult children, Denita and Douglas, and four grandchildren—Abbey, Olivia, Karissa and Luke. One of Neville’s greatest joys was baptizing two of his grandchildren last December.

Read tributes and memories and see more photos at columbiaunion.org/nevilleharcombe.

Union ASI Chapter Meets, Elects Officers

Members of the Columbia Union Chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (columbiaunion.org/asi) recently gathered at Allegheny East Conference's Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J., for their annual convention, where they were warmly welcomed by senior pastor Norman K. Miles. Sabbath was the highlight of the two-day event. For Sabbath School, several of the chapter's 69 members shared testimonies about how God is using them to witness in the marketplace, while others set up exhibits about their ministries. Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, shared the worship message, urging attendees to share Christ wherever they are—in the marketplace, at home and at work.

"As laborers for God serving as CEOs, presidents, professionals, ministry leaders and directors, we have been called to a higher, nobler work," said Denise Hayden, a business owner and president of the chapter, explaining the meeting theme, "Workmen and Workwomen Worthy of Their Hire." Though she's been serving as president for almost 10 years, Hayden was easily re-elected and surrounded by a new team of enthusiastic officers.

One of them is Daniel Reed, who wants to give back to the Lord through his business. He traveled from Ashburn, Va., where he and his wife own a flooring company and attend Potomac's Vienna (Va.) church. "When I was 15, I attended an ASI convention,"

he recalls. "My goal since that day was to start a business so I could join ASI." With his 2-year-old business thriving, he applied for membership and was accepted last fall.

There were also long-time supporters in attendance such as Joysingh S.D. Charles. This home health provider and member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., leads TEACH, a 30-year-old ministry that empowers lay people To Educate And Create Hope through teaching and preaching, computer training, small business empowerment and health ministries initiatives in India.

Ed Williams is equally passionate about Former Adventist Recovery Ministries, which he started to "reach out and reclaim former Seventh-day Adventist members." He laments that in the 42 years that he was out of the church, only one person reached out to him. When the death of his sister led to the conversion of his wife, this home inspector by trade was re-baptized and began attending Chesapeake Conference's Williamsport (Md.) church, where "the people were so loving when we visited that we never left," he smiles. Now the couple leads workshops in churches to help members know how to relate to former members and what not to say. Their goal, he says, is to help churches gather, pray for and follow up on the names people submit. In the 18 months since he's been leading the ministry and reaching out to missing members

and those referred by loved ones, several have already returned to the church.

Before the meetings ended, Williams and his fellow ASI members were trained to hold home-based DVD evangelism meetings and hosted an exhibit fair featuring their ministries.



2011-2013 Columbia Union ASI Officers: first row, center: Denise Hayden, president; second row, left to right: Daniel Reed, vice president of Programming and Conventions; Emanuel Pelote, general vice president; Carol Williams, vice president of Administration; and Wayne Watson, vice president of Evangelism; third row: Matthania Bosquet, vice president of Communications and Carol Bearce, vice president of Projects and Funding; back row: Seth Bardu, Columbia Union ASI secretary-treasurer; Ramon Chow, North American Division ASI secretary-treasurer; Norm Reitz, ASI National president; and Steve Dickman, ASI National vice president of Membership and Recruitment. Not pictured: Natasha Theme, vice president of Membership and Recruitment.

Read more and see photos at columbiaunion.org/asi.

Visitor Named “Best Denominational Magazine”

The Associated Church Press (ACP) recently bestowed a high honor on the *Columbia Union Visitor*, naming it Best in Class among denominational magazines. *Visitor* associate editor Beth Michaels (right) accepted the award at the ACP’s annual Best of the Christian Press banquet during the last weekend of April.

“Our goal every month is to plan and publish a quality news magazine that will inspire readers and keep them connected to the Columbia Union family,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher. “This award acknowledges our hard work and says we’re doing something right.”

Founded in 1916, the ACP (theacp.org) is the oldest interdenominational religious press association in North America. Members include writers, editors, designers and other communicators from Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Seventh-day Adventist organizations, etc. From some

1,000 submissions in 60 categories, judges this year chose just over 200 winners from entries published in newspapers, newsletters, magazines, news services, eZines and websites and recognized them with honorable mentions and awards of merit or excellence. “Best in Class” is the top award.

Joe Thoma, ACP’s executive director, explained why the *Visitor*, a first-time entrant, stood out from its peers: “In my discussion with the judges and the awards committee, they were particularly impressed with the magazine’s bold use of color photos. Especially impressive are the full-spread and full-page, full-bleed pieces that integrated the art and typography in a way that should be an inspiration to other publications in the field. Composition and reproduction are excellent.”

Blyden also won an Award of Merit for her feature article, “Suitcases with Wheels,” which covered the annual holiday dinner for homeless women



sponsored by Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) church. The *Adventist Review*, *Adventist World* and *Ministry* were also recognized for work in 2010.

Other Visitor Awards

- 2008 DeRose-Hinkhouse Memorial Shoestring Award for the *AudioVisitor* Podcast
- 2007 Religion Communicators Council (RCC) Award of Merit for the 25th Columbia Union Constituency Session Print Report
- 2007 RCC Award of Merit for Celeste Ryan Blyden’s Crisis Management Guide
- 2006 RCC Award of Excellence for the President’s Constituency Report Video produced by Celeste Ryan Blyden and David Brillhart
- 2004 RCC Award of Excellence for the 2004 *Visitor Calendar*
- 2005 Illustrators Club of Washington, Maryland and Virginia Certificate of Merit, for the June *Visitor* Cover Illustration by Ralph Butler with art direction by Kelly Butler Coe
- 2004 Illustrators Club Certificate of Excellence for the December *Visitor* Cover Illustration by Ralph Butler with art direction by Kelly Butler Coe



Meet the Staff: Kelly Butler Coe, art director and designer; Beth Michaels, associate editor; Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher; Sandra Jones, copy editor and bulletin board editor; Taashi Rowe, assistant editor.

2011 Camp Meeting Season is coming...



serving suggestion

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Potluck

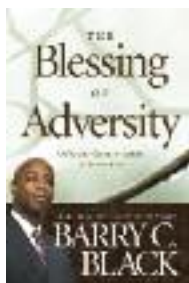
BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books >

The Blessing of Adversity **Barry C. Black**

"If you are wrestling with life's trials, [this book] will empower you to embrace your challenges and acknowledge the inevitability



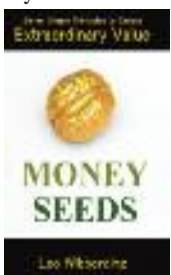
of trouble," writes Barry C. Black, chaplain of the United States Senate and a member of Allegheny East's Berea Temple in Baltimore. Black pulls from his 30 years in pastoral ministry, including lessons from his own

struggles, to help readers find a purpose in life's troubles and use their pain to bless others. Get a copy at your local ABC.



Money Seeds **Lee Wibberding**

Are you willing to work but not sure how to succeed? Lee Wibberding, a Pennsylvania Conference pastor who is currently planting a church in Carnegie, offers a solution. "I hope to give readers an understanding



that their future is in their hands, and to give them the tools to take control of that future," he says. He shares principles based on a five-year study of economics that sought to find what works—a formula he has proven. Order at amazon.com.



CD >

It's All About Jesus **Marius Marton**

Marius Marton, an Ohio Conference pastor for the Clyde, Norwalk and Sandusky district, has been preaching God's love in the Buckeye state through word and music for 10 years. This self-produced, 13-song album includes 10 of his personal compositions and arrangements, songs like "Thank You, Father" and "No Time to Sit and Wait." Marton, who studied music composition, also passes along



his gifts through free music lessons for underprivileged children. Order the CD at mariusmarton@yahoo.com.

App > Adventist News Network

The Adventist News Network (ANN), the official news service of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, now has apps for the iPhone and Android. Get news, photos and commentaries in real time. The apps also offer the ANN Styleguide and Glossary, which explains the rationale behind corporate news for a Christian denomination. Download them from the iPhone App Store or Android Market. Read more at news.adventist.org.



Web Watch

pacificpress.com/rss

Pacific Press and netAdventist offer a daily, online devotional reading for members across North America, thoughts pulled from a lineup of bestselling books. Link the devotional to your church, school or personal website.

On the Web

Retweets >

RoanokeSDA



Pastor Eugene [Kitney] will be ordained August 20! We are so happy

for him and [his wife], Michele! —Roanoke (Va.) Church

Facebooked >

Petra Aaron



God, you are absolutely amazing! You keep surprising me over and over

again! Quite frankly, at this point, nothing should surprise me.

—Restoration Praise Center, Lanham, Md.

Jaime Enrique Foronda Garcia



La esposa mas bella del mundo. Cada dia esta mas linda. Gracias Dios por esa

esposa tan bella.—Burnt Mills Church, Silver Spring, Md.

Blogged >



I trust that when I sit in a chair, it will not break; I trust that the floor I stand on will

not suddenly give way; and I trust that when I turn on the water it will flow out into the sink effortlessly. So why, then, is it so hard to put my faith into practice and trust God on the bigger things in life? God has promised that if He takes care of the sparrow, He will take care of you!—Alexis Goring, Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Md., <http://capturingtheidea.blogspot.com>

In the Spotlight > Pennsylvania Korean Church



Huntington Valley, Pa. Members: 146

Leaders: Hansoo Kim, senior pastor; James Kwan, youth pastor

In the Beginning: In 1978 this fledgling congregation was a fellowship of Korean medical professionals meeting in Reading, Pa. They outgrew their space and moved to their current location in 2001. They now claim 146 members.

Healing the Heart: The church’s main evangelism focus is health. Providing health education and seminars helps break down long-held prejudices in the Korean community.

Training Young and Old: Over the years, the church has run summer and art camps and will soon begin healthy children’s cooking classes. Their annual NEWSTART seminar, which focuses on wholistic health through lifestyle changes, is 16 years strong and has expanded to become a weeklong course that costs them at least \$20,000 to operate. The church regularly houses 30 participants for the course, many of whom are not Adventist.

Participation is Key: The church recruits 40 volunteers from the neighborhood and across the country for the NEWSTART program. A third of the volunteers even sleep at the church so they can start making breakfast at 5 a.m. and serve the attendees more easily.

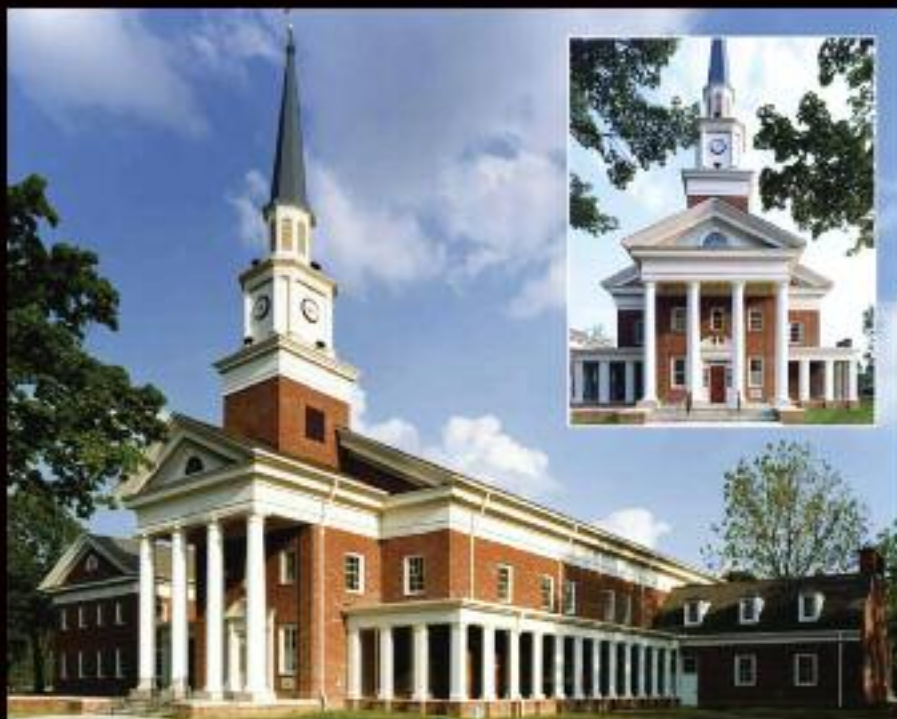
What Makes Them Tick: Pastor Kim is planning several new health seminars this year and even has a weekly column on health and the gospel in the local Korean newspaper. “God gave us light on how to eat and manage our bodies,” he says, and reports that his members are eager to share this with others. “It is my church’s unique ministry to show God’s love through caring.”—V. Michelle Bernard

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MINISTRY?

ABSOLUTELY!

The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has provided more than 1,600 loans to help build and expand hundreds of churches, schools, conferences and other entities across the union's eight-state region. Two of those projects include the construction of Ohio Conference's new Worthington church and school buildings.

For more than 40 years, CURF has used funds provided by Columbia Union members to finance these loans. You and CURF truly are "Making Ministry Possible."



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Faith Crumbly, Susan Phelps Harvey and Beth Michaels

CLOSED FOR SABBATH

They're not preachers or teachers, but these 42 members make it their business to witness.

William and Debbie Spencer

Spencer's Chrome Parts and Service & William A. Spencer Jr. Trucking

"I didn't know the first thing about truck parts, and trucking is not my cup of tea," confides Debbie Spencer, "but God has taught me to trust in Him for learning the business and for the strength to deal with a variety of customer needs and temperaments." She's referring to the two businesses she and her husband, Bill, established in Watsonstown, Pa.—William A. Spencer Jr. Trucking, which they opened in May 1990, and Spencer's Chrome Parts and Service (spencerchrome.net) opened 10 years later. ■ "Bill runs the trucking business, and I run the chrome shop," Debbie explains. The chrome shop, which attracts customers from across the country, is stocked with truck supplies, including bumpers, exhaust systems, engines, chrome accessories and a plethora of truck lights. "Because we have so many truck lights hanging in our showroom, the community calls our shop 'the lighthouse,'" she laughs. ■ Although they sell lights, the Spencers feel that sharing "the Light" is serious business. Every customer leaves the chrome shop with a missionary book and/or a free Bible course offer included in their merchandise bag. The Spencers' distribution of

books like *The Messiah* and *Steps to Christ* has resulted in several Bible studies. Some interests are on their third lesson. ■ A couple times a month, the Spencers also invite their employees and some customers into their home for dinner. "I can see God touching the hearts of people whom He has put into our lives through these businesses," shares Debbie. "Perhaps our smiles and willingness to listen is just what a customer needed that day. Every day I play soft Christian music. This is just another way Bill and I let our customers know that they can find God here." ■ Pennsylvania Conference pastor Tom Grove, who shepherds the Spencers' Milton (Pa.) church family, enthusiastically agrees. "We have had their employees worship with us until their trucking assignments or other circumstances took them out of this area. However, one young man has been attending church for the past six months," he exclaims. "Debbie and Bill are taking seriously the call to make Christ the center of their livelihood in their transactions with employees and customers." —Faith Crumbly

PHOTO BY TRINA SHRECK





The Faehner Family ■ American Wood Fibers

In 1919 Eugene Faehner loaded burlap bags filled with sawdust into his horse and buggy and sold it for polishing buttons and nails, cleaning factory floors and other purposes. By the next generation, seven Faehner brothers had joined his sawdust business. Eugene's grandson, Frank H. Faehner (1939-2009), eventually continued the family venture, but not before a stint of government work analyzing post office inventories—his first job after graduating from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. In October 1966, after two months, two weeks and two days of monotonous work, he and his wife, Joy, started Eastern Wood Fibers in Jessup, Md. ■ Frank and Joy took a “total wood waste utilization” approach to their business. By 1984 the company had expanded to a second plant in Wisconsin, and they started packaging wood shavings for pet bedding and refining wood flour for industrial applications. By 1991, to “better reflect the depth of our resources and the national scope the company had achieved,” the company name was fully established as American Wood Fibers (awf.com). ■ Today the company has offices and/or plants in nine states, including their production facility in Jessup, Md., and a corporate office in Columbia, Md. Four steadfast Faehner family members remain employed at the Columbia office: Joy Faehner, chairwoman, has served 45 years; Mark Faehner, vice president for raw material and procurement, has served 23 years;



***Family Business:**
left page: Hollie and
Stephen Faehner with
sons Owen, Jack and
Sam; company chair-
woman, Joy Faehner;
this page: Stephanie
and Jeff Juneau*

Stephanie Faehner Juneau, controller, has dedicated 21 years; and Stephen Faehner, vice president for industrial sales and business development, has been employed 17 years. ■ Stephen reports that one reason the company has remained successful is due to their focus on family and community. “Frank and Joy believed in giving back to employees, giving to the community and encouraging church members,” he beams. “Profit sharing programs enable employees to increase their earnings by finding ways to reduce expenses, by finding better work methods or by creating profitable opportunities. American Wood Fibers scholarships enable employees and their children to further their careers. Countless students in various Adventist academies and universities have also benefitted from scholarships awarded anonymously.” ■ American Wood Fibers has always honored the seventh-day Sabbath. Once, at a meeting with a buyer for Walmart, Frank was challenged to make the Sabbath a production day or risk losing their business. Frank remained steadfast. As a result, Walmart remains the largest single account for American Wood Fibers. Today the Faehners encourage all 320 staff members, 99 percent of whom are not Adventist, to honor the Sabbath. In return, they honor the desire of those who wish to refrain from working on Sunday. ■ The Faehners also regularly invite employees to attend plays at Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., where Stephen and his sister Stephanie’s children go to school. And, many employees accept invitations to Evensong concerts, of which Joy is heavily involved, and to wellness events held at Spencerville church, where the family recharges their spiritual batteries.—*Faith Crumbly*

Wanda Cook

Gift of Hope

At a time when most people are thinking ahead to retirement, the Lord asked Wanda Cook to start something new. With grown children out of the nest, she and her husband, Jessie, decided to become foster parents. It was soon apparent, however, that foster kids had lots of needs. She sadly witnessed how often the system failed them—dooming some to lives of crime and poverty. ■ Determined to make an impact, Cook opened a group home for girls in Roanoke, Va., in 2003, that she named Gift of Hope (giftofhopeservices.com). Navigating the tangle of laws and regulations and borrowing from her husband's retirement fund, she stepped out in faith. Today the program has grown to include two licensed group homes, serving at-risk boys and girls aged 13-17. Gift of Hope has prospered so well that in 2009 Cook purchased an apartment building and launched an independent living program for young men and women aged 18-21. ■ Through Gift of Hope, Cook provides a variety of services, including individual and family counseling, and teaches the kids independent living skills. The young tenants learn how to prepare meals, do laundry and manage their money, among other skills. But at Gift of Hope, there's much more to their training than household chores. ■ "We teach them good character values; how to love themselves and be respectful to others," Cook says. "Often, when they arrive here, they don't trust anybody. It's our job to teach them that God loves them, and so do we." While at the homes, the boys and girls donate their time to local nursing homes, the nearby Rescue Mission and other community service programs. ■ Every Friday night, the kids from both group homes, along with others in the community, look forward to attending the youth program at Allegheny West Conference's Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, where Wanda and her husband are members. These programs teach core values and help kids understand that God is real. The Cooks have witnessed many miracles, as young people have given their hearts to God. ■ Gift of Hope is a family enterprise. Cook is president. Her husband, Jessie, although officially retired, serves as a board member and takes care of building maintenance and landscaping. Their son, Wendel, and his wife, Jessica, are both directors. The couple's daughter, also named Jessica, an attorney with degrees from Oakwood University (Ala.) and the William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, serves as chief administrative officer. ■ "I just want people to understand that God is so awesome," shares Cook. "He has multiplied everything we've done, many times over."—*Susan Phelps Harvey*

PHOTO BY TERESA BERNARD



Sim Fryson

Sim Fryson Acura

Sixty percent of all car dealership business is done on Saturday. But, after opening his Acura dealership in South Charleston, W.Va., in 2008, Sim Fryson made sure to close every weekend from sundown Friday to 1 p.m. Sunday. ■ This Seventh-day Adventist grew up in a Christian home. After a stint in the Air Force, he played drums in a rock band and worked as a highway inspector. Other jobs and a college degree followed but, still, he hadn't found his calling. ■ Once, after saving enough money, Fryson, who loved cars, went shopping for a used Corvette. Instead, the dealer offered him a job. "The gentleman there kind of liked my personality, and told me I needed to be in the business," he recalls. As it turns out, Fryson *was* good at selling cars, although, back then, he had no idea where he got this ability. It wasn't long before he opened a car dealership, eventually owning three—Nissan, Honda and Mercedes—in Ashland, Ky. ■ One day Fryson looked around at his extraordinary success and thought, "This isn't me. I didn't do this." This prompted him to study his Bible where he discovered the principle of tithing and put it into practice. Then he realized that Saturday was the Sabbath and that the Lord wanted him to close his stores to honor it. So, he did. The second black man in America to own a Mercedes dealership became the first and only man to close it—and his other two dealerships—on Saturday. Not surprisingly, the day he announced his unprecedented decision turned out to be the best sales day the dealership ever had. Fryson got baptized and the dealerships flourished. ■ Fryson used his businesses, and every other possible opportunity, to witness to others, and the Lord continued to bless him. For instance, a terrible car accident should have killed him and his family, but they escaped with minor injuries. That's not to say that life didn't send him trials. There were ups and downs in the business, but Fryson had learned a valuable lesson: "Success is not measured by achievement, but by your ability to rely fully on God," he shares. ■ Eventually, Fryson sold his Kentucky dealerships, moved to Charleston, his boyhood home, and established Sim Fryson Acura (simfrysonacura.com), which currently employs about 20 people. These days Fryson is an elder at Allegheny West Conference's Shiloh church in Huntington, W.Va. He continues to take every opportunity to share the Bible and his personal witness. He remembers one particular friend, William Adkins, also an auto dealership owner, who was greatly touched by his testimony. Adkins, his wife, Pauline, and their daughter, Dominique, were all baptized together and are now members of the New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md. ■ In Charleston, Fryson continues to be a strong witness for the Sabbath—especially every Friday before sundown when he locks the doors of the only Acura dealership in the state of West Virginia.—*Susan Phelps Harvey*





David Lamoreaux

David Lamoreaux Piano Service

David Lamoreaux, a Piano Technicians Guild member, has been tuning pianos for 38 years. Although work has taken him to the White House, the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian, most of his business is residential. “This has given me opportunities to be supportive,” he says, “especially when a family is in crisis.” This Spencerville (Md.) church member also donates his services to a local community center, tuning a piano used to give free lessons to kids.—SPH

Eric Lusain

Main Street Casket Company

While helping his family make funeral arrangements for a loved one, Eric Lusain was able to shave \$1,100 off the price of a casket. Interested in helping others do the same, he started the Main Street Casket Company in 2008. Now he saves money for mourners anywhere within 250 miles of Cincinnati, Ohio. “I also share the truth about death,” says the member of Allegheny West’s Shiloh church. “Being an Adventist businessman enables me to share principles of ethics and honesty in a public forum.”—FC



James Gilliam

Outliners Barbershop

“People come to Outliners Barbershop to express their thoughts and problems in good company, and receive a good haircut,” conveys owner James Gilliam, a member of Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast church in Cleveland. “When they ask why I do not work on the most lucrative day of the week, I get to testify about the significance of the Sabbath.” Gilliam also gives back to his community through three customer-appreciation events he hosts each year.—FC



Hal Butler, DDS
Robinwood Dental Center

Former missionary dentist Hal Butler owns the Robinwood Dental Center (robinwooddentalcenter.com) in Hagerstown, Md. His staff of 50, including 10 Adventist dentists, has a mission beyond dentistry. “We’ve given away hundreds of books and held Bible studies with patients and staff, resulting in two baptisms,” says Butler, who is a member of Chesapeake’s Spencerville (Md.) church. Each year one of the dentists does a mission trip, with all equipment and supplies provided by the practice.—*SPH*



Ken & Sandra Varga
Pro-Built Churches

“At every church I’ve built, I can go back and get a hug any time,” reports Ken Varga, the owner of Pro-Built Churches (probuiltchurches.com), a construction company specializing in houses of worship. The Frederick (Md.) church was his first project, designed on the back of a church bulletin in 1970. Since then he has built for many denominations throughout New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and Maryland and recently completed New Jersey Conference’s headquarters building. Varga and his wife, Sandra, are members of the Toms River church. He prays with all his colleagues because, as he says (quoting Psalm 127:1), “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.”—*SPH*



1 Steve Christiano

GADGeT Media

Steve Christiano was doing production work for HGTV and Disney while working for companies in Florida but felt “this wasn’t the direction an impressionable youth should go,” he recalls. Since 2001 he and his wife, Rhonda, have provided sound, video and lighting design for Christian organizations through his company GADGeT Media (gadget-media.com). “[We] model the Christian experience while working in hectic live events,” he continues, “and train new Christians to work with us.” The couple worships with Chesapeake’s Hagerstown (Md.) church, and provides free service for charitable events like Hagerstown’s Convoy of Hope.—FC

2 Mitchell and Debra Calhoun

Odyssey Productions, Inc.

Working with military and civilian agencies and commercial and nonprofit clients enables Mitchell and Debra Calhoun, members of Potomac’s Beltsville (Md.) church, a plethora of opportunities to model the Adventist lifestyle and promote Sabbathkeeping. For 18 years they have developed training videos, interactive DVDs and broadcast commercials, and covered events and conferences through their company Odyssey Productions (odysseyvideo.com). “Clients comment on our positive work environment and become repeat customers,” reports Debra.—FC

3 Clayton Nunes

Clayton Nunes Music Solutions

Producer, arranger and composer Clayton Nunes moved from Brazil in 2003 to be the part-time minister of music for Chesapeake’s Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Md. He recently started his own production company (claytonnunes.com), scoring music for Christian-related TV shows and movies. “I don’t know any other musician in the area that does what I do,” he states. “God is using my talents in ways I couldn’t have imagined.”—SPH

4 Jay Nixon and Matt Nixon

American Pest

Jay Nixon and his son, Matt, own and operate American Pest (americanpest.net), based in Fulton, Md., with more than 100 employees representing 20 countries. They serve government, commercial and residential customers, including the U.S. Department of State for whom they’ve trained more than 500 embassy and consulate employees worldwide. These members of Chesapeake’s Spencerville (Md.) church offer employees memberships to a nearby health club. Jay shares, “Matt and I believe in leading by example.”—SPH

5 Emanuel Pelote

Symplicity Networks

Emanuel Pelote began developing video games at age 11 because, “my father would not buy them,” he says. Now, through Symplicity Networks (symplicitynetworks.com), he provides consulting services and business application development to the U.S. government, private businesses and healthcare and educational institutions. As general vice president for Columbia Union Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries, Pelote, who worships at Potomac’s Millennium Ministries in Silver Spring, Md., encourages lay people “to intentionally participate in the mission of sharing Christ.”—FC

6 David Oh

Oh Aquarium Service

This elder and Personal Ministries director of Potomac Conference’s Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md., believes in taking every opportunity to share his faith. At the homes and businesses where he lends his expertise on fish tanks and their care—a business he grew out of a hobby—he also takes opportunities to offer evangelistic material, like copies of *Steps to Christ*, or Bible studies. He also invites clients to church, where he has helped lead evangelistic meetings. “I share Jesus Christ whenever I can,” he says. “We need to be witnesses wherever we are.”—BM

7 Christine Chen

Global Professional Protocol

“Kindness, that’s really what it’s all about,” says Christine Chen, describing the drive behind her business Global Professional Protocol (gpprotocol.com). Chen, who attends Potomac’s Olney (Md.) church, began teaching children good manners in 1997 and has since expanded her workshops to adult groups. She also volunteers to teach etiquette at Olney Adventist Preparatory School. “It’s more than manners. We teach children how to look for opportunities to be kind to one another,” she explains.—SPH

8 Elvis Lamotte

Rockland Physical Therapy

Elvis Lamotte gives the staff and customers at her two clinics numerous opportunities to learn of Jesus’ love. She offers Bible studies through cards posted on bulletin boards, and invites them to health fairs at New Jersey Conference’s West New York church, where she serves as the Health Ministries director. She also honors the Sabbath. “We are the light of the world, and it is our mission to lead others to the foot of the cross,” she explains.—BM







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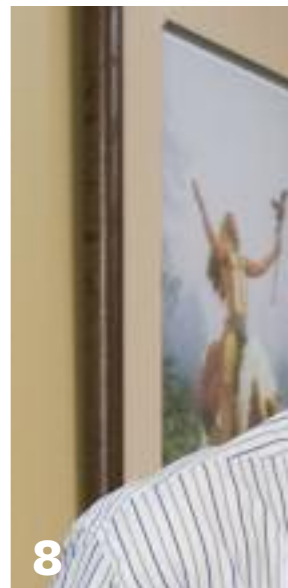
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1 **Raymond Rosario** ABC Flooring

“ABC Flooring gives fair prices, honest work and service with a smile,” declares owner Raymond Rosario, the lay assistant pastor at Potomac’s West End church in Richmond, Va. “This is how we represent the Adventist faith and Christian morality.” Rosario was given the opportunity to purchase ABC Flooring (abcflooring.net) from another Adventist who was moving to Florida—an answer to his prayers that God would improve his financial situation. The company has operated successfully in Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., since February 2005, with a showroom near his home in Richmond.—FC



2 **Suraj Sukumaran** Tru Builders Construction

“‘Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work’ is our practice, and the Lord has truly blessed us,” states Suraj Sukumaran, owner of 7-year-old Tru Builders (TruBuildersConstruction.com). “Every client is given a brief reason why I am closed on Sabbaths.” He also invites many of his workers and clients to Allegheny East’s Remnant church in Silver Spring, Md., where he’s an elder. Impressed with his work ethic, many clients refer him to new ones. “I am not a preacher or a teacher but ... God has given me this business as a witnessing stand,” he states.—BM

3 **Tito and Magaly Marin, Nelson and Rachel Marin** Hudson Displays

Increasing overseas competition has impacted the demand for their cosmetic displays (think Revlon and L’Oreal)—or just about any product manufactured from Plexiglas—but these two Marin couples from New Jersey’s West New York church trust God to lead their 27-year-old company. When business was booming, Hudson Displays employed parolees. Today the couples witness to and feed several local ladies in need. “We have prospered thanks to the Lord guiding us,” says Magaly.—BM



4 **Chad Kirstein** Kirstein Design Studio

Since opening his design studio two years ago, Potomac’s Chad Kirstein, an architect, has enjoyed sharing his faith with clients. “They are always interested in what I believe and enjoy asking questions throughout the project,” he says. “The majority of my clients have never known an Adventist until they meet me,” a fact that keeps his actions in check as issues arise. Kirstein, a member of the Patterson Avenue church in Richmond, Va., is a great-great-grandson of J.N. Andrews.—BM

5 **The Lunsford Family** Ritz Audio

Gary and Debi Lunsford opened Ritz Audio in Elkridge, Md., in 1988, where they provide audio and visual equipment to Adventist institutions throughout North America. Their sons Michael and Chris also work as an installer and office manager, respectively. When customers ask to do business on Sabbath, “They open the door to a Sabbath discussion that leads to talking about Bible-related truths,” say these active members of Potomac’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. “We have given away tons of Bibles.”—FC

6 **Brenda Joseph** KBM Group

Brenda Joseph’s computer company KBM Group (kbmgroup.com) has won contracts with state and local governments, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Joseph, a member of Allegheny East’s Reaching Hearts International church in Spencerville, Md., uses her success to support various charities, including one for victims of violence. “Influencing several of my 35 staff members to eat more fruit and vegetables and less meat is important to me,” she adds.—FC

7 **John Hood** Hood Productions, LLC

John Hood started Hood Productions (hoodproductions.com) in 2004, right before his sophomore year at Andrews University (Mich.), because “I had been getting so many videotaping invitations from organizations and departments on campus.” Now he provides website development and video editing and production, primarily for Adventist and nonprofit organizations. Hood, who worships with his family at Ohio Conference’s Toledo First church, says part of his witness is never putting business before his religious convictions, “even when business is slow.”—FC

8 **Vince Wain** LifePlan, Ltd.

Helping people plan their financial futures for the past 23 years regularly opens doors for Vince Wain to share his faith. “They trust me with very personal information, which gives me the opportunity to talk about how God blesses,” he says. This member of Ohio Conference’s Kettering church often prays with customers, invites them to his church or home or offers them mission books. Plus, he gives free financial seminars at area churches to share his Christian values.—BM



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Adventist Medical Group
LifeWork Strategies
Cytology Services of Maryland

‘For Such A Time’

Tucked into the biblical account of the story of the rescue of the Jewish people from the murderous schemes of Haman is a wonderful verse spoken to Esther by her cousin and guardian, Mordecai. It speaks to the motivation of the young queen to intercede on behalf of her people, and so it lies near the heart of what is celebrated in the Jewish holiday called Purim.

Mordecai recognizes that in Esther, God has fashioned a way for the Jews to be rescued from destruction. He goes to Esther and reminds her that she has not always been the queen, and of the unique responsibility that falls on her shoulders. “Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” It is a question that clarifies for Esther what she must do, and in her courageous response the rescue is secured.

I thought of this story recently when I read that Dr. J. Wayne McFarland has died at age 97. Dr. McFarland was one of the founders of the “Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking,” the seminal smoking cessation program that began in 1960 and over the decades of its effective use helped millions of people to stop smoking.

In the 1960s, classes in the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking were presented at Washington Adventist Hospital for government and local organizations, including the State Department and the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. McFarland’s work had a significant impact on the 1964 report from the Surgeon General entitled “Smoking and Health,” in which Surgeon General Dr. Luther L. Terry boldly concluded that smoking causes cancer. At a time when 46% of all Americans smoked, and smoking was accepted and aggressively advertised throughout our society, this report brought about a dramatic change in attitudes towards smoking, and was foundational to a better understanding of the negative impact of smoking on health. Many would agree that it was Dr. McFarland who was one of those who effectively sounded the alarm, and that he was indeed called “for such a time as this.” Conservative estimates of the number of people impacted by his work and the Five-Day Plan are in the millions, and his influence on the way we all live each day has been immense.

Ever the warrior, in his retirement Dr. McFarland focused much of his time on efforts to help smokers in the People’s Republic of China, and he was a recipient of the Medalion of Merit from the World Health Organization.

Dr. J. Wayne McFarland was challenged by the situation that he saw, and he purposed to do something about it. He helped save millions of lives and changed the way we live. Such is the contribution of one who, like Esther, knows the call of service for such a time as this.

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



Basic Care Makes a World of Difference in Ethiopia

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Pediatric Neurologist Shares Expertise

The need for access to quality health care in developing countries is always there, and it is a calling the Director of Pediatric Neurology at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md., heeds.

Packed with medical supplies, Marc DiFazio, M.D., was one of only four U.S. doctors invited by the Ethiopian Pediatrics Society and the non-profit Gemini Health Care Group to spend eight days in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa sharing his expertise. During his March visit, he rounded on pediatric patients; taught small groups of physicians; and presented lectures on topics including newborn neurological disorders, diagnosing and managing seizures and headaches, and the evaluation of developmentally delayed children.

“I love to teach, and to have such a receptive audience – 100 of the country’s 200 pediatricians,” said Dr. DiFazio. “It’s gratifying to have that outreach and to make such a difference sharing simple techniques.”

In a land where resources are limited – there was no water supply to the neonatal intensive care unit for washing hands or sterilizing – even the most basic clinical care can make all the difference.

“I saw a child with a nerve condition. His wrists and ankles were contracted; he was basically paralyzed and needed surgery. That could have been prevented with splinting and simple range of motion treatments.”

DiFazio found a similar theme among seizure patients in a country where, according to the World Health Organization, the epilepsy rate is more than twice the world-wide average.

“They didn’t know epilepsy management, so I shared that information with them,” Dr. DiFazio said. “In the U.S., when a child has a seizure, you do an EEG and MRI, and maybe send the child for brain surgery. In Ethiopia, EEG and MRI are rarely available, so it’s much more about clinical management.”

From treating patients in a tent clinic to teaching hands-on neurologic exam techniques and resuscitation training, Dr. DiFazio says it’s a wonderful opportunity for physicians on both continents.

Adventist HealthCare and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital are blessed to have many physicians and staff who take time out of their schedules to help citizens of other countries who do not have access to medical care.

Earlier this year, anesthesiologist Bill Chester, M.D., spearheaded his eighth mission to Kenya with a 20-member team, including Shady Grove ophthalmologist Albert Martinez, M.D., and Shady Grove pediatrician Carol Plotsky, M.D., to provide free surgical care.

“If every American physician could go on these mission trips once or twice a year, we could adequately staff clinics to provide simple, educated care that is so needed,” DiFazio said.



The children of Ethiopia benefit from the pediatric expertise that American physicians teach local health-care providers.

Ebba K. Ebba, M.D., MPH, Founder & President of Gemini (left) and Dr. Marc DiFazio (right) pose with other physicians.

Physicians from the United States spent eight days in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as part of a mission organized by the Ethiopian Pediatrics Society and the non-profit Gemini Health Care Group.



Adventist HealthCare In The News

Coe Takes Over as President of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center



Jason Coe, who joined Hackettstown Regional Medical Center in New Jersey in 2003, took over the role of hospital president on January 1. Coe, who previously served as Chief Operating Officer,

and was responsible for

the management of the \$27.5 million expansion of the hospital's West Wing in 2004, and construction of the West Wing Medical Plaza Building in 2005.

According to retiring President & CEO Gene C. Milton, FACHE, "the selection Committee to find a successor could not have picked a finer, more accomplished person than Jason to lead Hackettstown Regional Medical Center into the next century. Jason understands the culture of compassionate caring of our Medical Center as well as the challenges facing the health-care field nationwide."

Prior to joining HRMC, Coe served as Director, Systems Development at Florida Hospital, an acute-care, not-for-profit health care organization with over 2,000 hospital beds in Orlando.

Stocks to Lead New Adventist HealthCare Initiative



Jere Stocks, who has served as the president of Washington Adventist Hospital since 2005, has been named Adventist HealthCare Senior Vice President and Chair of Next Century Health.

In this new role within Adventist HealthCare, Stocks, a member of Olney Seventh-day Adventist Church, will focus on forging expanded collaboration with the FDA and developing additional research and health care partnership initiatives around health

care delivery in the 21st century. Stocks is charged with bringing the initiative from concept to practice.

"I am excited about the future for Washington Adventist Hospital and look forward to the success that both Jere will bring to Adventist HealthCare in his new role," said William G. "Bill" Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare in Rockville.

Portela named President of Washington Adventist Hospital



Joyce Portela, a health care executive with more than 20 years of experience, has been named President of Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., charged with leading the

281-bed health-care facility that serves tens of thousands of patients in a region that includes much of Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Portela, a member of Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, first joined Washington Adventist Hospital in 2009 as Senior Executive Officer and since then has overseen many of the day-to-day operations of the hospital. She was formerly the Chief Operations Officer at Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Kansas City, KS and Tennessee Christian Medical Center in Madison, TN. She has also worked at hospitals in California and Florida.

"Joyce will play a key role in helping the hospital continue to expand access to care for the communities we serve as part of its Vision for Expanded Access," said William G. "Bill" Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare in Rockville.

The Vision includes the development of a new 21st century Washington Adventist Hospital campus next to the U.S Food and

Drug Administration in White Oak and the redevelopment and continued use of the hospital's Takoma Park campus as a Village of Education, Health and Well-being.

Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist Obtain Emergency Heart Care Designations

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., both part of the Adventist HealthCare system, have achieved designation as cardiac interventional centers by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services and Systems (MIEMSS).

The designation is awarded to hospitals that demonstrate the delivery of quality care in their interventional heart programs.

EMS in Maryland will only bring patients suspected of suffering from a heart attack to hospitals that hold the interventional designation from MIEMSS.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospital are among only 23 hospitals in Maryland to achieve the cardiac interventional center designation, which is granted following an extensive application process and site visit by a team from MIEMSS. Among the requirements to qualify for the designation, hospitals must:

- Provide percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI), or angioplasty, to patients 24 hours per day, 7 days per week,
- Maintain door-to-balloon times, which measures the time between when a patient arrives in an Emergency Department and when the first device is used, of less than 90 minutes for 75% of cases,
- Maintain on-call cardiac catheterization staff 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
- Have a single-call access system in place for heart attack patients arriving by ambulance,
- Participate in the county hospital alert tracking system and
- Establish a Cardiac Interventional Center medical review committee.

La atención básica hace un mundo de diferencia en Etiopía

Un neurólogo pediatra de Shady Grove Adventist Hospital comparte sus conocimientos

La necesidad de acceso a atención médica de calidad en países en vías del desarrollo siempre está presente, y es un llamado que el Director de neurología pediátrica de Shady Grove Adventist Hospital en Rockville, Md., ha escuchado.

Provisto de suministros médicos, el Dr. Marc DiFazio, fue uno de sólo cuatro doctores de EE.UU. invitados por la Sociedad de Pediatras de Etiopía y la asociación sin fines de lucro Gemini Health Care Group para pasar ocho días en la capital de Etiopía, Addis Ababa para compartir sus conocimientos. Durante su visita de marzo, visitó pacientes de pediatría; enseñó a pequeños grupos de doctores; y dictó conferencias de temas tales como las afecciones neurológicas en recién nacidos, el diagnóstico y manejo de convulsiones y dolores de cabeza, y la evaluación de niños con retrasos en su desarrollo mental.

“Me encanta enseñar, y tener una audiencia tan receptiva – 100 de los 200 pediatras del país”, afirmó el Dr. DiFazio. “Es gratificante tener ese alcance y lograr esa diferencia al compartir técnicas sencillas”.

En un país donde los recursos son limitados – no había suministro de agua en la unidad de cuidados intensivos neonatales para lavarse las manos o esterilizarse – hasta la atención clínica más básica puede hacer una gran diferencia.

“Observé a un niño con una afección nerviosa. Sus muñecas y tobillos estaban contraídos; estaba básicamente paralizado y necesitaba cirugía. Eso se pudo haber prevenido con un entablillado y una simple combinación de tratamientos de movimiento”.

El Dr. DiFazio encontró un patrón similar entre los pacientes convulsivos en un país donde, según la Organización Mundial de la Salud, el índice de epilepsia es superior al doble que el promedio mundial.



La atención médica se ofrece en una clínica de campaña dirigida por los residentes locales.

“No conocían el manejo de la epilepsia, así que compartí esa información con ellos”, el Dr. DiFazio comentó. “En EE.UU., cuando un niño padece una convulsión, se realiza un electroencefalograma (EEG) y una resonancia magnética (MRI), y quizás se remite al niño a cirugía cerebral. En Etiopía, los electroencefalogramas y las resonancias magnéticas escasamente están disponibles, por eso se debe hacer énfasis en el manejo clínico”.

Desde atender pacientes en una clínica en tienda de campaña hasta enseñar técnicas prácticas de evaluación neurológica y entrenamiento de resucitación, el Dr. DiFazio dice que es una maravillosa oportunidad para doctores en ambos continentes.

Adventist HealthCare y Shady Grove Adventist Hospital han sido bendecidos con muchos doctores y personal médico que sacan tiempo de sus horarios para ayudar a ciudadanos de otros países que no tienen acceso a atención médica. Al comienzo del año, el anestesiólogo Bill Chester, encabezó su octava misión a Kenia con un equipo de

20 personas, entre ellos el oftalmólogo Albert Martinez, de Shady Grove y la pediatra Carol Plotsky, de Shady Grove para ofrecer atención quirúrgica gratuita.

“Si cada doctor norteamericano pudiera realizar estos viajes de misiones una o dos veces al año, podríamos proveer personal adecuado a las clínicas para ofrecer atención básica e informativa que tanto se necesita”, añadió el Dr. DiFazio.



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Fourth Street Honors Couple for Decades-Long Service

Family, friends, community guests and members of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Fourth Street Friendship church in Washington, D.C., recently witnessed the renaming of the church's fellowship hall and dining room. Now called Reaves Hall, the space recognizes Jesse and Mary Reaves who started the mission church at 4th and Q streets in the northwest quadrant of the city in 1973.

A few years later, the Reaves had the vision of serving the homeless delicious soup. In the early years, church members fixed a pot of soup in their homes and brought it to the church. More than 30 years later, the Bread of Life (BOL) ministry includes 200 volunteers and continues to feed the homeless and underprivileged in the Washington, D.C., area. Each Sunday homeless men, women and children sit in the fellowship hall for Bible studies and listen to sermons and/or health talks. After the spiritual services, they move across the hall to the dining facility to eat a wholesome breakfast of pancakes, home fries, fresh fruit, toast and a refreshing beverage. The BOL also offers clients a Regeneration support group and computer classes.

"The church would not be in existence had it not been for the Reaves and their efforts. The church was born out of the soup kitchen," explains Andrew R. Harewood, the church's pastor.

"The Lord sent us to 4th and Q Streets 38 years ago to do a mission work, and here is where we have stayed. We are so appreciative of the honor," Jesse said.—*Tijuana Griffin*

Pastor Andrew R. Harewood (left) presents Jesse and Mary Reaves with a plaque of appreciation for their years of service.

PHOTO BY STACY ELLIOTT



NEWS

Ephesus Church Celebrates Heritage and International Day

Members of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., enjoyed a combined Heritage Day and International Day under the theme "We all Come From the Same Vine." The worship service included a parade of nations featuring flags from more than 10 countries (below).

In the afternoon, members took the opportunity to showcase costumes, jokes and facts from their birthplace. Afterward 200 people made their way to the gymnasium where they sampled various ethnic dishes and drinks.—*Dee Lucombe*



United in Christ Hosts Prayer Breakfast

Members of the United in Christ church in Baltimore recently invited neighbors and members to their first prayer breakfast. Led by the Sabbath School Department, they enlisted the help of several other ministries to offer breakfast, the lesson study, music and fellowship.

Since then superintendent Donna Mitchell has noticed an unexpected side effect: "We never thought that serving breakfast would put a spark in our [Sabbath School] attendance, but it did."

400 Attend National Youth Congress

Nearly 400 youth and their chaperones from all over the Allegheny East Conference were among the 2,800 who participated in the United Youth Congress held recently in Orlando, Fla. The congress, which is sponsored by the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA), operated under the theme “iServe,” calling youth to be “the visible hands and feet of Jesus.” The



youth participated in the Bible Bowl All-Star Playoff, community service projects (left), and a Pathfinder

parade. They also enjoyed worship services and a gospel concert. “My most memorable experience was the Sabbath sermon with Pastor MyRon Edmonds. That gave me a wake-up call. I was instantly moved and felt the need to be doing something—anything empowering for other youth,” reflected Amarachi Anucha, a member of Philadelphia’s Germantown church.

Djuvane Martin, a member of the First church in Paterson, N.J., said, “It felt good to use creative ways to reach people who don’t know Jesus.”

Gary Banks, AEC’s assistant director for Youth Ministries said, “We did a lot of detailed planning to make [this] a success. God has really blessed our efforts!”
—LaTasha Hewitt



Pine Forge Students Minister, Serve

Students from the Creative Arts drama ministry at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., shared their talents in multiple ways at the United Youth Congress in Orlando, Fla. They organized and managed the registration (above) of some 2,800 attendees, ran the Kids Congress and performed on Sabbath.—Norman Niles

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Students Enjoy First Arts Festival

Recently buses of students in grades 5-8 from Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus, Ohio, and Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland gathered at Camp Adena in Thornville, Ohio, for Allegheny West Conference's inaugural Fine Arts Camp and Festival. They were there to take classes in photography, graphic arts, drama, mime and suminagashi, a Japanese art form. Classroom teachers were ecstatic because they could attend classes with their students as guest instructors taught the arts. There were also classes in puppetry, sticks, sculpting, Belleplates and recorders.

"In a politically marred system where schools constantly find their specialty programs on the chopping block, this festival is a place of solace," said Yvette Cooper, conference superintendent of Education. "This was a place where students were encouraged to *discover* their God-given gifts, *develop* them in engaging and appealing classes, *deliver* their talents through performances and displays, then—through the prompting of the Holy Spirit—*disciple* others for the kingdom."

As the festival came to an end at Central church in Columbus, students could be heard asking, "When is the next fine arts camp? This was awesome!"

PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR



Students perform a musical selection on the handbells at Allegheny West Conference's first Fine Arts Camp and Festival.

Parkwood Members See Dramatic Attendance Increase

Members at the Parkwood Avenue Temple in Toledo, Ohio, are seeing a considerable uptick in the numbers of people attending Sabbath services. The church of some 50 members has seen worship attendance nearly triple to 145 in just the past few months. Members credit this change not only to their new pastor Mackenzie Kambizi's enthusiasm, but also to their recommitment to evangelism.

"Our pastor speaks to the young people," says Pandra Taylor, finance leader at the church. "And those young people are inviting their friends and they stay until after [Adventist Youth Society]. Training people to do Bible work has also made the difference."

Members recently spent a month attending a series of workshops on how to do Bible work. Darren Jackson, a full-time Bible worker from Alabama with 30 years experience, taught the workshops. Shay Taylor, who attended the workshops, is now excited to go out and allow Jesus to use her to plant a seed to save souls.

Pastor Kambizi believes that intentional evangelism through Bible work will deepen and strengthen our

relationship with God, answer questions for ourselves and others, as well as give each person a chance to get to know God's Word better. "It doesn't matter how good the service, speaker or food is in the church ... people always attract people into a church," Kambizi says.

Kambizi also says empowering members and visitors to get involved in the church is crucial to successful evangelism. "The moment you give someone something to do, they feel valued," he concludes.

—Jasmyn Green and Taashi Rowe

Pastor Mackenzie Kambizi baptizes Larry Audkins, one of 11 to officially join the church through baptism after a recent revival.



Ramah Educator Named Teacher of the Year

Celeste Giles, first- and second-grade teacher at Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland, was recently



named the Columbia Union's Outstanding Educator in the elementary category. Giles has been teaching for 30 years, 17 of which have been dedicated to students

at Ramah, where she serves as teacher and assistant principal.

"I love God and I love children," Giles says. "My mission is serving God through teaching His children. I have been entrusted with the

privilege of helping to form characters fit for the kingdom."

Teachers must meet several criteria to win the award, including practical application and/or promotion of creative, innovative teaching; strategies/projects that promote measurable student learning/growth; generation and implementation of ideas that have significantly expanded curricula and/or school extracurricular programming; and/or implementation of programs that have significantly enriched the lives of students and/or the local communities served.

Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president of Education for the Columbia Union Conference, says Giles is

"the quintessential Christian educator, imbuing distinct Seventh-day Adventist values in the minds and hearts of her students. She is a spiritual shepherdess who engages her students in a variety of ways, including but not limited to, employing contemporary teaching methodologies that promote sound academic rigor, providing extensive community service opportunities and fostering a nurturing classroom culture."

In addition to this recognition, Giles also receives \$1,000. This is the third year Columbia Union leaders have highlighted outstanding teachers.

Ephesus to Celebrate Centennial

Members of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, will celebrate their 100-year anniversary throughout the month of July. Some of Adventism's greatest preachers will grace the pulpit each Sabbath, including Buford Griffith, former Ephesus pastor; James Lewis, previous AWC president; and Henry Wright (right), who served as both a pastor at Ephesus and as AWC president.



In addition to the five Sabbath services, the church will have a mortgage burning service where they will celebrate the retiring of the debt and burning of the mortgage on Columbus Adventist Academy. Smokie Norful, a Grammy-award winning gospel singer and pianist, will also present a concert. The festivities will conclude with a gala banquet, where Charles Drake, PhD, president of Central States Conference, will be the keynote speaker. For more details, visit ephesus-sda.org.

100th Anniversary Events*

- July 2** Buford Griffith
- July 9** James Lewis
- July 16** Chaplain Barry Black
- July 23** William T. Cox
Mortgage Burning
- July 30** Henry Wright
Gala Banquet with Charles Drake

*Concert TBA

Glenville Pathfinders Place Second at Youth Congress



Cleveland's Glenville Superstars Drum Corps won second place in the drum corps competition at the United Youth Congress in Orlando, Fla. The congress, hosted by the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association, brought together drum corps from across the North American Division. The Superstars wowed the crowd with precision timing; choreographed movements; syncopated rhythms; and dipping, flowing and waving their flags. While other drum corps simply tossed drum sticks back and forth between players, the Superstars stunned all in attendance as they tossed their drums without missing a beat!

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

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JUNE 2011

The Language of the Heart

How do you pray when you suffer or when people you love suffer? How do you pray when the world does not make sense? How do you pray when you have some doubts or are angry with God? The answers are in the psalms. The psalms meet us where we are, even when our feelings are less than godly.

The psalms give us a complete picture of prayer. They take on the whole of life. They give us words for all occasions, from the heights of joy to the depths of despair. The psalms let us feel what we feel and give us words to say to God. They are a language of the heart.

Many of us pray by using formulas and lists. While these methods may be helpful, they are inadequate in expressing the full range of our emotions to God. The psalms help us do that. In the psalms we find examples of ordinary people like us struggling to align what they believe about God with what they actually experience in life. Sometimes they are successful; sometimes they are not. There is doubt, paranoia, meanness, delight, joy, praise, vengefulness, anger and more. Such a stewing of emotions is actually a sign of great spiritual health. The psalms teach us that we can rightfully bring to God whatever we experience in life and feel about Him. There are no walled-off areas. We tend to compartmentalize our lives, but the psalmists had the wonderful ability of letting God in on every detail of life. He could be trusted with reality.

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37). And more than any other book in the Bible, the psalms reveal what a heartfelt, soul-starved, single-minded relationship with God looks like.



Rob Vandeman
President

NEWS

Chesapeake Pathfinders Place in Bible Achievement

The Triadelphia Sparks Pathfinder Club from Clarksville, Md., earned first place in the North American Division Pathfinder Bible Achievement (PBA) held on the campus of Andrews University (Mich.). Chesapeake Conference sent three teams to the division level, including the Atholton Faithblazers (below) from Columbia, Md., and the Pikesville Tigers from Pikesville, Md., which received second place honors.

PHOTO BY DOUG BIEL



Thirty teams attended the PBA, where they were quizzed on Corinthians I and II. "PBA is a testimony that spending time with the Word of God is a fun thing to do," said Rae Tunney, Faithblazers director.

Delaware Pathfinder Wins Pinewood Derby

Rain didn't daunt the 300 Pathfinders who came to race their handmade cars in the parking lot of the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md., for the conference's annual Pinewood Derby. Awards went to first-, second- and third-place winners in juniors and in teens. Anne Malangyon (right) from the West Wilmington church in Delaware was the overall champion.

Competitors who qualified to race made their cars from a block of wood 7 inches by 1 3/4 inches, weighing only 5 ounces with solid axle wheels. Decorated in the racer's personal style, the cars ran down a 30-foot gravity run track. The times were computer recorded for accuracy.



PHOTO BY CHARLES KOERTING

Spencerville Women Retreat to the Bay

Women from the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., recently traveled to St. Michaels Island, Md., to participate in a retreat sponsored by the church's Women's Ministry department.

Under the theme "God's Home and Garden Designers," women heard topics like "How to Live Like Royalty," "Budget and Shopping as Queen" and "The Royal Invitation," where Anne Willsey, a native of England, based her talk on an invitation to Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding.

Discussion subjects during breakout sessions included loss, grief and recovery; a new path for caregivers; being alone and not being lonely; and designing a new life free from addictions and abuse.

Doreen Hardware, Women's



Ministry director for Spencerville church, ensured the garden theme was evident in presentations and decorations. "Doreen certainly put forth tremendous effort in coordinating and making it all happen," said Pastor Marilyn Scott.

There was a strong feeling

among satisfied participants to prepare for another retreat next spring. "I'm already planning on attending again next year," said Sharon Noble. "That's what I heard other women saying too, and that they plan to bring someone with them."—Charlotte McClure



THE Gathering

A RENEWED CAMP MEETING EXPERIENCE

The Sabbath Experience
Highland View Academy
June 14-18



Dick Duerksen, a master storyteller, is the worship speaker for both morning services and evening services. He will close camp meeting with a message during the evening meeting.

Susan Baker will teach the adult Sabbath School lesson. Baker is a physical therapist and educator.



Antonio Lopez, a sought-after speaker and mentor, is speaker for the young adult worship service.



Ardis Stenbakken, educator and former Women's Ministries director for the General Conference, is the featured presenter for a women's breakfast at the Lodge at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center.

Karla Rivera Bucklew is the featured soloist. Look forward to hearing her, Tim Crosby and a host of Chesapeake's best talent and stories during an afternoon concert and mission feature.



For a complete schedule of events, visit Chesapeake Conference's website, ccosda.org.

Practicing Servant Leadership

As I sat down to reflect on Highland View Academy's (HVA) recent mission trip to Roatan, Honduras, I became somewhat emotional about our experience. Often times, we believe that we have to build a church or school to truly have an impact. I often asked myself, *Did I do enough? Did our efforts truly reach our intended goal?* It is my belief that only God understands the impact that the Holy Spirit brings, and while we may never see it for ourselves, one day we will hear our Father say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21, *NLT*).

In Roatan the Flower's Bay church was constructed about seven years ago. The church leadership completed the construction, but little funds were available to clean up the surrounding brush and trees. The church had not been painted, inside or outside, and it had no tile placed on the cement floor. Our students worked diligently and completed these tasks. As they did, my prayer daily was for every student to understand God's purpose for their individual lives, and that the seeds of servant leadership planted in Roatan will flourish as they leave Highland View Academy.

The Apostle Paul says, "God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving



Highland View Academy principal Deborah Treviño (third from left), Chaplain Rico Woolcock (right) and students take a photo with their hosts.



Amanda Sprout ('11) preps mortar so students can tile the Flower's Bay church.



Emily Bankes ('12) and her little helper paint the Flower's Bay church in Honduras.

others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly" (Rom. 12:6-8, *NLT*).

At HVA our focus is to foster an environment that will instruct and educate our students about God's call to serve. Please join me daily as we pray to be the training ground God has called us to be.



Deborah Treviño
Principal

Teachers Make Math Challenging, Fun

Teachers in HVA's Mathematics Department strive to make the department a place where a love of learning is nurtured and where students are mentored to excel. Beyond teaching the traditional, core math classes, these teachers seek to integrate innovative and relevant "real world" learning into the curriculum.

Whether teaching beginning high school students the beauty and structure of Algebra I or helping Calculus students understand advanced integration techniques, Robby Herr, department chair, strives to enthusiastically inspire students to not only master concepts but to also gain a deeper appreciation and thirst for the subject. He is also excited to be back at HVA after taking two years off to earn a master's degree in economics at Baylor University (Texas).

Seth Ellis, who has served as a math teacher for three years, teaches Pre-Algebra and geometry. Students say he is one of the most sincere and dedicated teachers they've ever encountered. "My goal,



PHOTO BY JOY SORENSON

Seth Ellis, Allison Koch and Robby Herr make Math at HVA a challenging, yet fun, subject.

especially for my pre-algebra students, is to help them overcome their fears of mathematical topics and gain confidence through experiencing the satisfaction of tackling difficult concepts," says Ellis, a graduate of Union College (Neb.).

Allison Koch, who teaches Algebra II and is the dean of

women, also graduated from Union College. "Ms. Koch's willingness to work hard and her flexible attitude are a great asset to our school," says Deborah Treviño, principal. "Koch makes academics a priority and is never too busy to provide individual help to her algebra students."—*Renee Williams*

Students Pray for Their School

The students and staff at HVA recently took the morning off from classes to participate in a school-wide prayer walk. The Campus Ministry team, along with eight local pastors and conference leaders, hosted the event. Students were directed to visit different sta-

tions all over campus where the pastors spoke about intercessory prayer, confession in prayer, the language of prayer and seeking God. They wrapped up the morning with a walk through the campus praying for the different buildings.

After the prayer walk, students

enjoyed breakfast in the cafeteria and closing worship with Pastor Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference executive secretary, who prayed for God's blessing over the campus. Marci Corea ('12) called the event "a refreshing and spiritual breath of fresh air and a nice break from the activities of every day."—*Stephanie Calhoun ('12)*



Students pause to pray at various buildings on campus during a prayer walk.

Highlander is published in the *Visitor* by the Highland View Academy
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MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

JUNE 2011

Will You Pray With Us?

Prayer is conquering mountains, changing lives and even changing whole churches in the Mountain View Conference. History reflects that revival starts with prayer. The harvest that comes from evangelistic meetings is being impacted by prayer.

Much has been written about the power of prayer. Ellen White writes, "The great controversy between Christ and Satan ... is soon to close. Satan well knows that *all* whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scripture, will be overcome by his attacks" (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 518-519). White also writes, "From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation," (*The Great Controversy*, p. 210). Remember also God's promise that, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Mountain View Conference needs your prayers. Pray for every church to establish a prayer team and a time to pray and fast for the mission ministry in every church. Pray for a Holy Spirit-driven ministry in each church that puts evangelism as its top priority. Have special seasons of prayer for every evangelistic meeting in your church and around the conference. Join the Mountain View Conference live prayer line on Monday mornings at 7 a.m. by calling (712) 432-0232 and using pin #891437. Finally, remember Mrs. White's counsel: "A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer" (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 121).



Larry Boggess
President

Education Fair Highlights Student Talent

The students of Mountain View Conference's schools recently participated in the conference's annual education fair. All students had to make a Bible, science, history and/or art project. There were 28 Bible projects, and Taylor Hinkle (below) from Summersville Seventh-day Adventist School in Summersville, W.Va., won "best of show" for her project, "God's Desert Home." In science there were 27 projects, and Nate



Tinnel, also from Summersville, won "best of show" for his project "Taste and Smell." There were 55 history projects, and Lacey Stecker, from Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., won "best of show" for her "Pirates" project. There were 60 art projects, and Drew Foy (right), from Valley View Adventist School in Bluefield, W.Va., won "best of show" for his "Self Portrait" painting.



Jessica Pepper, from Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va., submitted a project called "X-ray of a Clear Man." She said, "I got a first place, which made me happy, and I enjoyed being with friends from other schools."

21 Join Charleston Church Family

It was a Friday afternoon when members of the Charleston (W.Va.) church put the final touches on their “Midnight Cry” prophecy seminar. The members, along with their pastor, Stewart Pepper, had great expectations for the next 17 days. That evening 125 people filed into the sanctuary to hear Pepper preach a sermon called “Europe’s Last Hour.” Members were thrilled at the great response. Sixteen nights later, with 83 people in attendance, Pastor Pepper made a call for those who wanted to consider being baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In great expectation, he pointed to two empty pews and said he wanted to fill them. People began coming to the front and filling those pews. In



Stewart Pepper baptizes Chris Cadle.

just a few short moments, those two pews were filled and, yet, the people kept coming. In all, 20 people came forward and church members were ecstatic.

One week later, after visiting with the candidates, and with much preparation behind the scenes, a group of 16 came to the front of the sanctuary to take their baptismal vows. De Lively, a long-time member who had been sick and not in church for more than a month, said, “I wouldn’t have missed this for anything.” Some 100 people watched as each individual took their stand with Jesus either in the water or through profession of faith. The following Sabbath, three more individuals went down into the watery grave. And after each service, the smiling faces told the story wordlessly. In all, 21 people have been added to the Charleston



Virona Jackson joins the Charleston church through baptism.

church membership. God’s reality had far exceeded the members’ great expectations!—Kathy Pepper



Stewart Pepper happily prepares to baptize Richard and Kerra Layne.



Pastor Stewart Pepper (back row, left) stands with the first 16 members to be baptized after the church’s recent prophecy seminar.

Mountain View EVENTS

June

17-25 English Camp Meeting

July

3-10 Adventure Camp

10-17 Junior Camp

17-24 Teen Camp

August

12-14 Hispanic Camp Meeting

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

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

JUNE 2011

Living Each Moment for Christ

I am sitting in my office typing an article in April for a printing in June. I wonder how many of us find our lives so caught up in tomorrow that we forget to take time out today? As a school principal, I find myself always living weeks, months, years in advance, trying to anticipate what is going to happen rather than enjoying today.

What about today? As Christians, we are all supposed to look forward to the second coming, and we do look forward to that day, but the reality is that the only time we can really control is the moment we are currently living. That is it! What difference are we making in the time we have to control now?

It seems to me that if we make the best out of every moment we have, then it will add up to an amazing tomorrow. Don't misunderstand. Planning for the future is very important, but in Christ we can live each moment, each day to the maximum. At the end of each day, what if we looked back and saw a minute-by-minute connection to God and each other, what would our tomorrow hold. How about eternity?



Robert Stevenson
Principal

Students Witness Through Music

Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) has a healthy music program. With a five-octave handbell choir (the Cascabels), a general and elite vocal choir (the Echoliars) and an outstanding band, students can express their love of God through music. Music teacher David Nino makes it very easy to learn music and develop individual musical abilities throughout the year.

The different musical groups share their God-given talents by performing at various churches and schools. In December all the groups collectively performed in a

Christmas concert, which blessed those in attendance. The spring concert gave students another opportunity to make music their witness. They even performed for Greenville Adventist Academy and the First Knoxville church in Tennessee.

"We know that God has been, is and will continue to be with us the whole way," said Jordan Price ('13), a member of the general choir and Echoliars. "I hope everyone who has been able to hear us perform has received a blessing in some way."



Time to Register Your Child at MVA

Have you chosen a high school for your teenager yet? Remember when they were young and you wanted them to have the best of everything? They needed the best educational toys, best pre-school and kindergarten, best elementary school and teachers. Well, it still matters! Your student is still impressionable, still needs guidance and still needs to be grounded in their faith and values. They still need the best, and you can find that at MVA where God's Spirit reigns! To register, contact T. Stevenson at (740) 397-5411 or mvacademy.org.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY (1984)

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

JUNE 2011

Students Embark on Mission Trip to Arizona

For this year's mission trip, 18 Spring Valley Academy (SVA) students and 10 adults traveled to the Holbrook Indian School in Arizona. Under the leadership of Chaplain Ken Knudsen, the team worked on several campus improvements that included the installation of drywall in the Education Building, painting the exterior of a faculty home and fixing the roof of another.

"The one thing I appreciated most on the mission trip was the fellowship," said Ian Hwang ('11). "We got to know each other so well that we trusted each other like a family." Michelle Nieb ('12) said, "The mission trip to Holbrook was the first I have participated in and I loved it! It was really amazing to see how God was orchestrating everything for us to work and witness." Fellow classmate Mona Nasr agreed: "The mission trip was amazing! God was with us the whole time; I felt His presence as I was working or walking through the Grand Canyon ... I got more spiritually involved than I planned, but I can honestly say it was the best week of my life!"



High School History Students Tour Italy, Greece

Several high school history students and parents accompanied history teacher Erin Galloway and Principal Jeff Bovee as they toured Italy and Greece. For most, this was a trip of a lifetime! Freshman

MacKenzie Brockman, shared "As soon as I stepped off the plane in Rome, I was in love. I soaked up every bit of culture and history that I could. My friends even laughed at me because I would stand in the front, engrossed in every word the tour guide was saying. The highlight of my trip was visiting Pompeii. The tour guide knew so much that I felt as if I was truly walking the streets in 79 AD before the volcano erupted."

Senior Krystal Morris also shared her thoughts as she walked through the broken ruins of the Coliseum. "I immediately [recalled] stories of brave Christian martyrs who willingly gave their lives for their faith," she said. "As modern Christians, will we be able to follow in the paths of the ancient Christians, taking up our crosses and fearlessly standing up for our Savior no matter what the cost?"

Sophomore Ryan Bovee said, "The tour in Italy and Greece was a landmark in my life. I learned about and experienced different cultures, both past and present, and it helped me discover more about who I am as a person. I certainly felt this trip was both educational and recreational."



Connections is published in the *Visitor* by the Spring Valley Academy
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Principal, Jeff Bovee ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

Pastors Retreat, Set Bold Baptismal Goal

During the recent Pastoral Enrichment Retreat, New Jersey Conference pastors gathered at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC) in Tranquility for two days of spiritual and professional enrichment. The first day of the retreat was focused on theological issues in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During

the morning session, Angel Rodriguez, ThD (right), director of the Biblical Research Institute based at the world church headquarters in

Silver Spring, Md., led a discussion on jewelry in the Bible. In the afternoon, he presented several of the theological issues that the church is facing as we move into the next quinquennium.

On the second day, Carlton Byrd, DMin (left), senior pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta—the fastest growing Adventist church in North America—presented an all-day seminar on church growth.

“If you want your church to grow, then evangelism must be the central focus of all that the church does,” said Pastor Byrd, who also serves as associate director for Breath of Life.

At the conclusion of the two-day retreat, the pastors set their baptismal goals for 2011. They are planning to baptize a total of 1,213 for the Lord in this Year of Evangelism. The retreat ended with a season of prayer, in which all asked God to pour out His Spirit on the pastors and the members of this conference so that all may experience the outpouring of the latter rain in New Jersey.



Trenton Spanish Senior Ranked First in Her Class

Out of 295 students in her senior class at Trenton Central High School, Joanna Herrera, a member of the Trenton Spanish church, is ranked first. *The Trentonian*, the daily newspaper of Trenton, recently honored Herrera for her academic achievement and her involvement in community service activities.

While tending to her academic priorities, she has participated in the Interact/Volunteer Club, International Club, Debate Team, Environmental Club and serves as the president of the National Honor Society.

“Growing up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she has learned to trust in the Lord, given that her successes are a gift from Him,” noted *The Trentonian* in an article honoring Herrera for her achievements.



Music Leaders Expand Their Education

Under the leadership of Pastor Efrain Duany, the Music Ministries Department is making a positive impact on the worship experience of many local churches. Pastor Duany (right) and his team of musicians have been conducting training sessions for the music leaders in their churches. Duany and several musicians recently conducted a training session at the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway for music coordinators from the central New Jersey churches. The

classes covered the topics of music theory, praise teams and vocal training. The goal of the Music Ministries Department is to enhance the quality of music in the churches and to help churches understand that “music is as much a part of worship as is prayer,” said Pastor Duany during the training session.



Attendees to a music seminar learn about music theory, praise teams and vocal training.

Port Elizabeth Spanish Church Organized

Recently the Port Elizabeth Spanish company was officially organized into a church, making it the 83rd church in the New Jersey Conference. José H. Cortés,

conference president, and Jim Greene, conference vice president for administration, led in the organization ceremony.

Only two years ago, the Port Elizabeth Spanish group was organized into a company. “This is the fastest growing company in the conference,” said President Cortés. “In just two years, they have grown from company status to church status. This is due to the strong leadership of Pastor Jeddy Hooker and the local elders working together to grow the church.”



President José H. Cortés signs the official organization papers in the presence of Pastor Jeddy Hooker.

dates

NEW JERSEY

June

- 3** English Central Jersey Prayer & Praise Evening
New Jersey Conference Office (NJC)
- 10** Spanish Central Jersey Prayer & Praise Evening
NJC
- 10-12** Family Time Out
Camp Berkshire
- 12** Children's Ministries Training, *NJC*
- 17-19** English Camp Meeting Weekend, *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)*
- 19-24** Lifeguard School Counselors Training, *TVRC*
- 24-26** Spanish Camp Meeting Weekend, *TVRC*

July

- 9-16** Stewardship Emphasis Week, *Local Churches*
- 22-24** Family Life Emphasis Weekend, *Local Churches*

August

- 1-5** North New Jersey Day Camp
- 7** Singles Ministries Picnic
- 8-12** Central New Jersey Day Camp
- 12** South New Jersey Prayer & Praise Evening
Bridgeton Church
- 13** Sabbath School Friends Day, *Local Churches*
- 14** Children's Ministries Training, *Vineland Church*
- 15-19** South New Jersey Day Camp

New Jersey News is published in the *Visitor* by the New Jersey Conference 2303 Brunswick Ave., Lawrenceville NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org President, José H. Cortés ■ Editor, Jim Greene

Bowling Green, Swanton Reclaim Members Thru Prayer

Ask many pastors and parents how we can bring young people back to church and the answer is often the same: pray for them. Members in the Bowling Green-Northwood-Swanton district have been doing just that, holding their youth and friends up in fervent prayer. They are now seeing the Holy Spirit in action.

Caleb Kurtz attended the Bowling Green church in his youth but, like many, drifted away during his early years in college. Now engaged, Caleb and his fiancée, April Cordes, were reintroduced to the Bowling Green church family through student game night socials. The couple began attending church regularly, took Bible studies with Pastor Yuliyán Filipov and ultimately decided to become baptized. “They are now a young couple completely on fire for God,” say members Lora Filipova and Karen Griffith.

Prayer and friendship helped Mary Bradford return to church. Bradford battled numerous health issues when she began attending Bowling Green, but, with support of the people in her church and her love for Christ, she continues to smile and grow in her faith. She, too, made the decision for baptism.

The Holy Spirit impressed Donna Belles and her mother, Janet, to attend Swanton one morning, and they have been attending regularly ever since. Mother and daughter attended prayer meetings and studied the Bible with Pastor Filipov, made new friends within their congregation and, before long, officially joined the church family.

“The Holy Spirit guided each of these people to us, and through personal Bible studies, social gatherings and the friendships with the kind and supportive people from the church, we are proud to have each of the newly baptized in our church!” say Filipova and Griffith.

Pastor Yuliyán Filipov (back row, center), stands with newly reclaimed members of the Swanton church.



Practical Ministry Tips Offered at Ohio Ministry University

Now in its fifth year, Ohio Ministry University (OMU) continues to reach lay leaders from across the conference by teaching them principles and strategies to lead their churches to greater impact in ministry and mission. The weekend at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, which drew more than 160 participants, began with a variety of workshops. Barbara Manspeaker provided

guidance and a preview of materials for Vacation Bible School and Children’s Ministries programs. Pastor Brendon Prutzman encouraged leaders to reach high school youth in local communities by building stronger relationships with them and ultimately helping them to do the same with Christ.



Is your church prepared for a disaster? That was the question Pastor Roy Nelson, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response coordinator for the Ohio Conference, addressed. Monte Sahlin, OMU coordinator, provided insight on friendship evangelism.

On Sabbath evening, Leslie Bumgardener, a pastor in the Upper Columbia Conference, focused on how to find a closer walk with Christ and help church members grow toward spiritual maturity.

Marketing expert Ray Tetz (left) presented the “Marketing Your Ministry,” workshop. He taught attendees the leadership skills of appreciative inquiry, an approach to planning and strategy that is rooted in the strengths of a congregation, school or ministry instead of the traditional approach that focuses on weaknesses and how to fix them.

Plans are already underway for the sixth annual OMU. Be sure to check out ohioadventist.org or *Mission Ohio* for information.

NEWS

Newark Youth Take Mission Trip to Africa

With help from their fellow Newark church members, Matthew Brown (below), a high school junior, and Josh Lines, a freshman, recently traveled to the small South African country of Lesotho. They, along with fellow students at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, were tasked with helping to repair an orphanage for HIV/AIDS victims at the local Maluti Adventist Hospital. However, due to a recent flood, the supplies for the repairs could not be delivered, and the water supply had been compro-



mised. Instead, the boys helped clean up after the flood, removed trees from the roads, trimmed bushes and flowers and helped to fix tractors and cars.

"Africa is an amazing place to be," shared Brown, while Lines said the experience "gave us a whole new perspective [on] what we take for granted." Both agreed that they would love to go back for a short stay as student missionaries.

Portsmouth Dedication Slated for July 2

Fifty-seven years ago, the Portsmouth church at 2145 27th Street made history. It was miraculously erected with no machinery, all volunteer labor (a five-member crew by day and a seven-member crew



by night) and a little dynamite blasted through the shale hill. The members then broke ground, built the church debt-free and held their first service in 1954.

Last July volunteers helped build the church's handicap accessible fellowship hall. Maranatha Volunteers International (Maranatha.org) completed the foundation/exterior in a record six days. Over the next six months, members pitched in to complete the fellowship hall's interior and revamped the church basement as a youth room, again debt-free. "It seems fitting to celebrate God's love and miracles on the one-year anniversary of this project, July 2," says Pastor Ken Ferguson. "Plan to join us as we say 'thank you' for the part you played in our history!" For more information, contact Ferguson at (740) 353-2208, (740) 355-8559, ferg76@roadrunner.com or visit portsmouth23.adventistchurchconnect.org.

Women's Retreat Themed "Complete in Him"

The Ohio Conference Women's Retreat returns to Deer Creek Lodge and Conference Center in Mt. Sterling, September 16-18. It will feature Rebekah Wang (right), MD, FACP, CPHQ, a published author of numerous articles and book chapters. Wang has co-hosted *Lifestyle Magazine* with Dan Matthews for Faith for Today's TV

series and has spoken at many women's retreats about growing in Christ.

You will not want to miss her weekend presentation on how we are "Complete in Him." The weekend will also include morning prayer walks, an outdoor vespers program, a seminar on health and an interactive forum on local Women's Ministries programs. Registration deadlines are July 15 for the early bird discount and August 15 for the regular rate. For details, go to the Annual Events link at ohioadventist.org, or call Heidi Shoemaker at (740) 397-4665, ext. 165.



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

Pennsylvania Pen

JUNE 2011

New Leadership, Spiritual Growth Director Named

The Pennsylvania Conference recently named Pastor Tim Madding (pictured) their new director for Leadership and Spiritual Growth. The position was created in place of the former Ministerial director position. Madding's responsibilities will include training and equipping the pastoral team, lay pastors and church leaders. He is committed to living and preparing others to live the mission commitment of the Pennsylvania Conference, which is "Revealing Jesus, Making Disciples."



He says, "The Lord has given me a clear passion to prepare as many people as possible for the second coming of Jesus. I see this most effectively accomplished by ... focusing the church toward culturally relevant ministry efforts in evangelism and discipleship."

Madding began his pastoral ministry in Washington state before moving to the Louisville First church in Kentucky, where he has served since 2006. He is a graduate of Weimar College (Calif.) and Andrews University (Mich.), where he is enrolled in a doctoral program.

"God has used Elder Madding to grow struggling churches, to help plant a new church and to lead existing churches to better fulfill their mission potential in reaching the lost," shares Ray Hartwell, conference president. "I believe that he will be a wonderful addition to our pastoral team here in Pennsylvania."

Madding is married to Andrea and they have one son, 11-year-old Ethan.

New Youth Director Joins Conference Staff

The Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee recently voted Pastor Leandro Robinson to serve as the new Youth and Young Adult Ministries director.

"Pastor Leo has been involved in youth ministry and church leadership for a number of years among [Seventh-day] Adventist Anglo and Hispanic populations," states Ray Hartwell, conference president. "Currently serving as a district pastor in Alaska, he was previously part of the youth work in a local church in New Jersey and as a regional youth coordinator in the New Jersey Conference. His energy and enthusiasm, along with his commitment to leading youth and young adults into lives of service for Jesus, will fit right in with our focus on mission here in the Pennsylvania Conference."

Robinson is excited to be part of a team that is actively discipling youth and their leaders to reach others for the kingdom of Christ. "I envision a Christ-centered, Spirit-intoxicated, Bible-saturated army of youth [who] have been so transformed through the ministry of the Word that they fervently live out the great commandment and the Great Commission with all their heart, mind and strength," shares Pastor Robinson.

A graduate of Atlantic Union College (Mass.), Robinson is completing a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry at Andrews University. Robinson is married to Eunice, and they have two daughters, Emely and Nathalie.



Two Pastors to be Ordained at Camp Meeting

On Sabbath, June 18, during the Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting, pastors Andrew Clark and Buddy Goodwin will be ordained into pastoral ministry at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg.

Andrew Clark was born outside of Philadelphia and grew up outside of Baltimore. Clark became a Seventh-day Adventist in his early twenties after seeing the influence God had on his mother through the Adventist movement. He graduated from the School of Religion at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., with extensive training and practice in Metropolitan Ministry. Before accepting a call to the Pennsylvania Conference, Pastor Clark held numerous executive, fundraising and development positions within the nonprofit sector, as well as serving as associate director for WAU's Center for Metropolitan Ministry. He also served as field coordinator for the Columbia Union Conference's Office of Creative Ministry.

Clark served six years in the

Pittsburgh metropolitan region as a missionary, creating Adventist Community Services-Greater Pittsburgh and a new church plant. During this time, he married Mayda, and, just over a year ago, they welcomed son, Michael-Kellan Thomas Clark.

"Pastor Andy," as he prefers to be called, is currently the pastor of the Lansdale-Souderton Mission District north of Philadelphia. "My passion is transformation. Personal transformation. Individual transformation. Family transformation. Church transformation. Community transformation," he shares. "It's all proof of the real, present, tangible God!"

Buddy Goodwin grew up in a small town in South Carolina, as the eighth child of nine children. Like most people who lived in the south, he attended a Southern Baptist church. After joining the military, Goodwin drifted away from the church. However, two things reversed that course. His mother sent him a Bible, and he met a young woman named Belinda Ethridge from Dothan, Ala. Goodwin started attending Bible study with Belinda and her friends. Through studying the Bible and prayer, he was convinced of his need for Jesus. Goodwin surrendered his life to Jesus and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Since then, he has served the church in various positions and helped with evangelistic efforts. "In every conference where God has placed us, He has given us souls for Him. He has used us to bring a rainbow of jewels to His Kingdom," shares Goodwin.

After retiring from the military, he



felt God's call to full-time ministry. He began as dean of boys at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, then became a hospital chaplain and earned a master's degree in Religion from La Salle University in Philadelphia. Together with a small group of people, Goodwin helped plant the Phoenixville church, where he still pastors while also serving the Philadelphia Boulevard church. "My greatest desire in ministry is making disciples for God," Goodwin states.

He and his wife, Belinda, have two adult daughters and one granddaughter.



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

Potomac People

JUNE 2011

Members Invited to Support Takoma Park Schools

The Commonweal Foundation plans to fund facility improvements at Sligo Adventist School (SAS) and John Nevins Andrews School (JNA) in Takoma Park, Md. Stewart Bainum founded Commonweal in 1968 to provide educational opportunities to needy students through grants, scholarships and learning assistance programs, as well as capital improvements for schools.

The Commonweal Foundation has presented the JNA and SAS schools and their constituent churches with a matching grant opportunity. The grant stipulates that the foundation will give \$2 million for facility upgrades, if the local schools and constituent churches raise \$1 million to provide worthy student scholarships for the future. To show their continued commitment to providing families the opportunity to receive a quality Seventh-day Adventist education, the Potomac Conference has announced that they will commit \$300,000 toward the goal.

“Quality sustaining Christian education is an investment we cannot refuse,” says Cavel Melbourne, JNA principal. This is an “incredibly innovative miracle for Christian education.”

Commonweal is also proposing an innovative Adventist cluster that will include the elementary schools and Takoma Academy. The cluster is addressing curricula, staff professional development, math and literacy support and excellence in academic and spiritual achievement.

To make a donation to each elementary school, contact JNA principal Cavel Melbourne at 117 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 270-1400 or jna.org or SAS principal Larry Rich at 8300 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 434-1417 or sligoadventistschool.org. All donations are tax deductible.

Thanks to the generosity of the Commonweal Foundation and local church members, these students at John Nevins Andrews School will see much-needed improvements on their campus.



Richmond Brazilian Hosts Free Community Yard “Sale”

Making a difference in their community has taken on new meaning to the members of the Richmond (Va.) Brazilian church. In an effort to help those in need in a meaningful way, the church recently hosted a one-day event last fall, and again in the spring.

The event was coined “the free yard sale,” and it drew more than 800 visitors from the community. More than 40 volunteers and church leaders gave away basic necessities such as clothing, footwear, utensils and food. The events were advertised on two local radio stations and online. Church members also distributed flyers in the community.

The only thing that members asked from the visitors was their full name, address and telephone number. Once they had completed that step, they were able to shop for anything they needed—free of charge.

“Every person is being contacted and additional services are being offered to them, with an emphasis on spiritual assistance,” said Therezinha Barbalho, the church’s senior pastor. “Our greatest joy in performing

this work was to notice that although many people came to our church for material support, many are asking for spiritual support, and are open to receive it.”



After hosting two yard sales, where Richmond Brazilian church members freely gave away items, visitors have expressed interest in attending the church.

Potomac People

Radford Member Makes Limbs for Haitian Amputees

With financial support from his Radford (Va.) church family, Eric Desarme recently joined a team of medical experts on a weeklong mission trip to Haiti. While there they tended to victims still recovering from the injuries they sustained in the January 2010 earthquake. The team worked under the auspices of the Hôpital Sacré Couer (Sacred Heart Hospital) in Milot.

Desarme, a prosthetic practitioner, spent his week in a semi-

trailer outfitted as a functional prosthetics lab on the hospital grounds. Using donated lab materials and some creative improvisation, Desarme and his young Haitian apprentice helped make six upper and six lower prostheses for amputees.

"We focused on making upper limb prosthetic devices since no one had fabricated any since the lab was opened," explained Desarme. "It was the third time that

many of the upper limb amputees took the long, hard trip from Port au Prince in hopes of receiving a prosthesis. We did not want to disappoint them!"

Patients most certainly were not disappointed. "I received smiles, hugs and words of appreciation. One patient danced, pointed to the sky and spoke praises to God," shared Desarme, whose parents and other family members hail from Haiti. "Many of the earthquake victims told me how they prayed to God to survive after being pinned in the rubble. They were thanking Him for sending me to make them a prosthetic limb and [said] they hope to see me back in Haiti again soon."

Desarme says that is exactly what he plans to do. He'd like to return within the next year to continue offering his expertise to the lab and to share his faith with the Haitian people.—*Beth Michaels*



Eric Desarme (center), a member of the Radford (Va.) church, talks with Haitian men seeking prosthetic limbs.

Annual Retreats Train Elders for Church Work

Approximately 65 Potomac Conference elders and pastors recently gathered for the annual elders' retreats. The two retreats took place at Camp Blue Ridge in

Montebello, Va., and Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. This year's theme was "The Faith of Jesus."

"We as leaders want to be more like Jesus," said Ray Pichette, former conference vice president for Pastoral Ministries (now Illinois Conference president). "In order to have healthy, disciple-making churches in our conference, we need healthy spiritual leaders at our local churches."

The seminars were mainly focused on the example of Jesus. Various speakers from within Potomac Conference presented

biblically based, practical seminars on different aspects of spirituality.

Willie Boyd, associate pastor at the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., repeated the theme throughout his sermons. "Our mission is impossible. We need to humbly admit this. We need Jesus. Only when we are connected to Jesus, will our mission as a church become possible. Because with God all things are possible," Boyd said.



Attendees listen as speakers discuss different aspects of biblical spirituality.

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

Called to Nurture Students

Recently while reading, I came across Luke 19:13: “And He called His ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, ‘Occupy till I come.’” While the latter part of the verse is familiar to many of us, this time the first part, “And He called His ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds” caught my attention. What an incredible thought when this verse is directly translated to what we are called to do as educators. As I read the verse, I substituted the word “students” for the phrase “ten pounds.” Christ called us as faculty and staff to serve here at Takoma Academy (TA), and each year He delivers to us His students to be nurtured and developed into His likeness.

We believe it is our responsibility to provide an environment here at Takoma Academy that will ensure our students are well prepared to make a lifelong impact on the world around them. We will strive to instill in each individual student—through spiritual development, college preparedness and community service—a desire to occupy the Earth with purpose until they reach their destiny in eternity. When our students leave Takoma Academy and reflect on their time here, they will know that we, as educators, did not merely “occupy,” but took full advantage of the opportunity to instill in them their great value in the eyes of God.



David Daniels
Principal

Students Lead the Way During Week of Prayer

In Matthew 24:13, Jesus says, “He that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.” During Takoma Academy’s student-led Week of Prayer, students were encouraged to remain faithful to God in spite of life’s difficulties. The week’s theme, “I Just Can’t Give Up Now,” emphasized the importance of possessing the same spirit of endurance of which Jesus spoke.

Throughout the week, various student speakers highlighted the importance of perseverance and endurance.

“I loved it,” said Gabrielle Ziegler (’12). “And I really enjoyed the special music.” Ashley Wilson (’12) added, “It was very interesting, and I learned a lot. I liked how [the speakers] put different views on the Bible characters.”

Throughout the Week of Prayer, students were encouraged not to give up on God and realize that He will never give up on us. Students were challenged to live everyday with the knowledge that nothing is impossible with God. As young Christians living in the last days, the students of Takoma Academy were reminded that God is able to supply their needs and charged not to slow down, turn around or give up.



Courtney D'Avilar (’12), Campus Ministries leader, encourages his peers not to give up on God.

Music Highlights Alumni Weekend

Music permeated the Friday evening vespers program and Sabbath morning service for TA's 2011 Alumni Homecoming Weekend. The TA choir and band performed under the direction of Lulu Mpfumbu, and alumni were invited to sing with the choir and bring their instruments so they could perform with the band.

The vespers program featured several alumni soloists representing at least four decades of talent from TA. Willis Adams ('61), a trumpet player, did double duty Sabbath morning, as he also offered the closing prayer for the service. Former principal Richard Osborn led out in singing the school song.

Bruce Freeman, a former teacher and the featured weekend speaker, continued the music theme from the pulpit by challenging the congregation to be that choir mentioned in Romans 15:6 and let God make their lives "a stunning anthem" that captures the ears and hearts of those around them.

New this year was an exhibit of donated TA memorabilia from the past: pennants, banquet goblets, event programs, etc. They produced a flood of memories for those alumni present and inspired them to return home and search their own attics and closets. The alumni association hopes to house a permanent collection at the school.

The weekend had one sad note and that was the announced retirements of two long-time teachers. Marquita Halstead served the school for more than 20 years and Laura Benn taught for 40 years. Former students read tributes to the teachers, and they received engraved mementos from the alumni association for their service to Takoma Academy.



Nigel Essix ('11) and Christina Rosette ('11) play in the orchestra during alumni weekend.



Participants in Friday's annual alumni golf tournament were having such a great time that the event went almost two hours over its allotted time. Washington Adventist Hospital provided blood pressure screening to the TA participants, golf pros and others at the golf course.



Above: Former teacher and weekend speaker Bruce Freeman; Left: Alumni applaud Mary (Snyder) Runyon ('41).



Calendar

June

- 7-9 Final Exams
- 10 Exam Makeup Days
Graduation—
Consecration, 7 p.m.
- 11 Graduation—
Baccalaureate, 11 a.m.
- 12 Graduation—77th
Commencement, 10 a.m.

July

- 11-29 Freshmen Summer
Enrichment Experience
Program
- 11-22 Sophomore Laboratory
Skills Enrichment Program
- 18-29 Sophomore Science
Enrichment Program

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

The Spirit is Growing at Washington Adventist University!

Last month 226 students completed their course work at Washington Adventist University (WAU). This made them the university's largest graduating class in the last 20 years! Included in this number were 50 graduate degrees—the largest number of graduate degrees conferred in any single year, 174 baccalaureate degrees and four associate degrees. Due to the size of the graduating class, the commencement exercise was held at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

A contributing factor to the growth of our graduating class is our focus on the retention rate. Our goal is not only to grow our admissions, but to also create programs and support mechanisms for student success that will retain those admissions. We are continuing the work of tackling the issues, implementing our strategic plan and creating a culture of excellence designed to engage minds and transform the lives of our students. Our vision is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities.

On behalf of the WAU Board of Trustees, the administration, faculty and staff, congratulations to the Class of 2011, and thanks to the members of our constituency for their continued prayers and support. Without you, we cannot be successful.



Weymouth Spence
President

WAU Engages in Day of Service to the Community

Faculty and staff recently teamed up with students to assist their Takoma Park, Md., community during the spring Service Day. The day gave everyone involved a chance to spend time interacting with community members and live out their "Gateway to Service" motto.

Students registered online for various projects that included delivering food to the needy, cleaning up Sligo Creek, offering free blood pressure screenings and

conducting legal clinics. The teams gathered at their campus church—Sligo—and traveled to the site of their service project. With sack lunches in hand, they donned bright orange Service Day T-shirts.

Desrene Vernon, Communication and Journalism Department chair, and Kristina Dean, assistant director of Student Financial Services, led a group of WAU's students to Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES). The administration at TPES gave WAU students the option of visiting several different classrooms to work directly with students or provide clerical help. Some WAU students helped hang schoolwork in the halls. Others used their creative skills to make posters. After lunch, the college students joined the elementary kids at recess on the playground.

Although they spent just a few hours at their locations, students say that Service Day accomplished WAU's goal to be of service to their community.



Unnoma Ejinaka, a WAU student, preps a passerby for a blood pressure screening in Silver Spring, Md.

Family Fun Festival Draws 4,000

Washington Adventist University's 12th annual Family Fun Festival attracted more than 4,000 community members. Attendees enjoyed various foods and activities such as face painting and performances by the WAU AcroAirs (right), a children's magician and Steve Gatz's Incredible Creatures ministry. Jason Castro (below), Christian singer/songwriter and *American Idol* finalist also performed. WGTS, Washington Adventist Hospital and WGTS Gateway Fellowship sponsored the festival to close out the 2011 WAU Alumni Weekend.



Nursing Department Earns Eight-year Accreditation

Every eight years, the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) visits Washington Adventist University to assess the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing. This year's

accreditation visit brought two members of the NLNAC and two members of the Maryland Board of Nursing. The NLNAC reviewed WAU's nursing curriculum, faculty expertise and student learning outcomes.

The conclusion of the NLNAC visit could have had several outcomes such as a full eight-year accreditation with an interim report, an eight-year accreditation with no interim report, a five-year accreditation or they could have been denied accreditation.

The department received a full, eight-year accreditation with a

required interim report. Renee Winkfield, PhD, RN, associate professor and chair of the department was happy about their success. "We are proud of our outcome," she said. Before the interim report is due, she'd like to see an improvement in students' Nursing Council Licensing Exam scores.

The nursing department, one of the largest majors on campus, has 250 students enrolled.



Grace Charitable, lab instructor, provides hands-on training for students.

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



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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an

Sunset Calendar

	Jun 10	Jun 17	Jun 24	July 1	July 8
Baltimore	8:33	8:35	8:37	8:37	8:36
Cincinnati	9:04	9:06	9:08	9:08	9:07
Cleveland	9:00	9:03	9:04	9:04	9:02
Columbus	9:00	9:03	9:05	9:05	9:03
Jersey City	8:27	8:30	8:31	8:31	8:30
Norfolk	8:24	8:27	8:28	8:28	8:27
Parkersburg	8:52	8:55	8:56	8:56	8:55
Philadelphia	8:29	8:32	8:33	8:33	8:32
Pittsburgh	8:50	8:53	8:54	8:54	8:52
Reading	8:33	8:36	8:38	8:38	8:36
Richmond	8:30	8:33	8:35	8:35	8:34
Roanoke	8:40	8:43	8:44	8:44	8:43
Toledo	9:08	9:11	9:13	9:13	9:11
Trenton	8:28	8:31	8:32	8:32	8:31
Wash., D.C.	8:33	8:36	8:37	8:37	8:36

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Sabbath School: 10 a.m.

Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Speaker Schedule:

June 25	Dunbar Henry
July 2	Steve Chavez
July 9	Terry Johnsson
July 16	Dave Weigley
July 23	Charles Tapp
July 30	William Johnsson
August 6	Robert Quintana
August 13	Fred Kinsey
August 20	Larry Evans
August 27	Kermit Netteburg
September 3	William Loveless
September 10	Becky Brillhart
September 17	Charles Sandefur
September 24	Nikolaus Satelmejer

Services held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
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(410) 524-7474

Casual dress is appropriate.

Bulletin Board

Associates Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients.

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900 feet from a great beach. Call (301) 596-9311.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EJA, GBA and GBJA SCHOOL REUNION 2011: All alumni and former faculty of Edgcombe Junior Academy, Greater Baltimore Academy and Greater Baltimore Junior Academy, please mark your calendars for Alumni Sabbath, July 2, at Baltimore First Church, Ellicott City, Md. Contact: Ralph L. Miller, 435 Mount Hermon Circle, Danville, VA, 24540; (434) 836-4861; email: RalphLMiller@juno.com.

BURLINGTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, organized in 1891 in Burlington, N.J., under the leadership of Pastor D. E. Lindsey, will be celebrating its 120th Anniversary on July 18. We would like to be connected with descendants of early members of this congregation, such as Harry Adams, Howard L. and Vera Shull, John C. and Elsie Shull, Helen Dambrowski-Smith, William and Sarah Long, Warren and Vesta Adams, etc. We need pictures of the early activities of the church, pictures of the members, and anecdotes. Please contact Pastor Daniel A. Duffis, damardvffis@hotmail.com or phone (908) 914-2787.

OBITUARIES

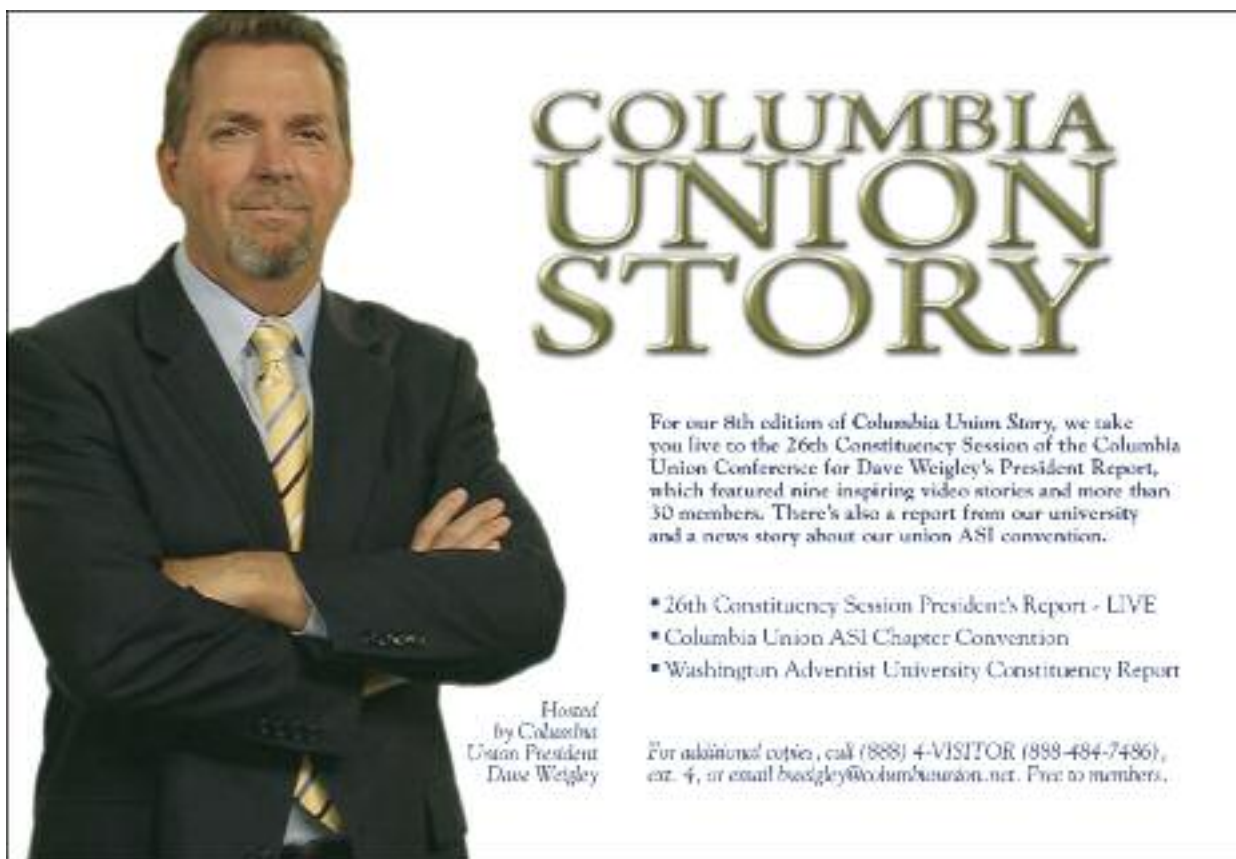
BOBBITT, Venetha Ruth, born October 25, 1932, in Johnstown, Pa., to the late Lloyd Theodore and Ruth Rose Adams; died September 28, 2010, at Walla Walla General Hospital. She was a charter student at the Spencerville, Md., church school and graduated from Takoma Academy, in Takoma Park, Md. She married Obed Bobbitt in 1952, in Raleigh, N.C. Shortly after they married, they moved to Walla Walla, Wash., where her husband attended Walla Walla College. His career led to many moves, but Venetha returned to Walla Walla Valley in 1995. She was a very energetic person, always on the go. Her love for others led to her helping in community services. Her love for children guided her to become a preschool director, Sabbath School leader and summer camp cook. She had a special burden for widows and widowers to whom she would take flowers from her garden and home-baked banana bread. Her home was always open to friends and family. She especially loved Friday nights when her children would gather around the piano. She will be missed by family and friends and her pet German shepherd, Cindy. She is survived by her four daughters: Joyce Ann Hardin of Caldwell,

Idaho; Virginia Mae Jeffery, Jeanette Fay Clifton and Tina Louise Bobbitt, all of College Place, Wash.; her sister, Marlys Adams-Perry, now living on the East Coast; her brother, Earl Robert Adams of Riverside, Calif., nine grandsons; two granddaughters; three great-grandsons; two great-granddaughters; five nieces; and three nephews. Her husband preceded her in death, in June 1989.

RAMEY, Mary Jane, born January 19, 1927, in Columbus, Ohio; died August 6, 2010, in Worthington, Ohio. She was a member of the Worthington church. She is survived by her husband, Patrick Ramey of Worthington; her daughters, Linda Ramey Hysell and Patricia Ramey Diamond, both of Worthington; and a son, Thomas (Vicky) Ramey of Utica, Ohio.

For information on placing an obituary in the Visitor, call Sandra Jones at (888) 484-7486 or download a submission form at columbiaunion.org/communication.

Obituaries are placed in the order they are received.



COLUMBIA UNION STORY

For our 8th edition of *Columbia Union Story*, we take you live to the 26th Constituency Session of the Columbia Union Conference for Dave Weigley's President Report, which featured nine inspiring video stories and more than 30 members. There's also a report from our university and a news story about our union ASI convention.

- 26th Constituency Session President's Report - LIVE
- Columbia Union ASI Chapter Convention
- Washington Adventist University Constituency Report

Hosted by Constituency Session President Dave Weigley

For additional copies, call (888) 4-VISITOR (888-484-7486), ext. 4, or email dweigley@columbiaunion.net. Free to members.

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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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COLLEGES

KETTERING COLLEGE: Charles Scriven, President; Mindy Claggett, *Visitor* Correspondent; 3737 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kcma.edu

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

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO; Thomas Grant, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1801 Research Blvd., Suite 400, Rockville, MD 20850. Tel. (301) 315-3030 adventisthealthcare.com

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Fred Manchur, President & CEO; Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent; 3965 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8167 khnetwork.org

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Volume 116 ■ Issue 6

Taste

When you eat at a restaurant, go grocery shopping or stand in front of the fridge for an evening snack, what factor most influences your decisions? Taste or nutrition? Although research into why Americans eat what they do has uncovered a number of contributing factors, most people report that taste is the most important influence on their food choices. In reality, most of us aren't willing to compromise on taste for other factors—even our health. Yet the fact that we aren't making food choices objectively, based on our



physical needs, is contributing to obesity and other health problems. Ignore the mouthwatering descriptions on the menu or front of the box, and check out the nutrition facts



instead. How many calories does it have? Are more than 10 percent of the calories from fat? What about fiber or sodium? Scan the ingredient list—is it full of sugar or chemicals that sound like a science experiment? What is the serving size?

Our Creator has given us a variety of foods that taste good and offer the nutrition we need. Making informed choices about the food we eat could be an important first step in improving our health.

REFLECT - What drives my eating choices? What can I do in the future to avoid making choices based solely on taste?

RESPOND - Creator God, thank You for the abundance of food You have provided to nourish and sustain me. Today I will resolve to choose carefully, rather than eating merely to satisfy my taste. In that I know I will begin to experience health and vitality. Amen.

RELATE - I make food decisions based on what's best for my body.

REMEMBER - "You satisfy me more than the richest of foods. I will praise You with songs of joy" (Ps. 63:5, NLT).

RESOURCES - Watch Judy Lichty, regional director for Health and Wellness for Rockville, Md.-based Adventist HealthCare, talk more about this topic at youtube.com/user/ColumbiaUnion. Also check out the resource website fullplatediet.org, developed by Seventh-day Adventist doctors in Oklahoma.

Wellness coach Lilly Tryon is the principal contributor for the 2011 Visitor Calendar, expounded upon here each month.

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