

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OCTOBER 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 10

Tara VinCross

About Her
Father's
Business

Adentro: Noticias
en Español p.6



Contents



4 | Newline

6 | Noticias

8 | Potluck

10 | Features

About Her Father's Business

Samantha Blake

Discover the many ways that Pastor Tara VinCross and her army of young people are blanketing Philadelphia with Christ's love—and how her own love story with God spurs her on.

15 | Newsletters

44 | Bulletin Board

About the Cover: Scott Lewis photographed Pastor Tara VinCross in Philadelphia.

On the Web



Video – During the summer, 31 young adults spent nine weeks in Philadelphia canvassing, witnessing, praying for and ministering to people near the Chestnut Hill church pastored by Tara VinCross. Meet them in this month's *Columbia Union Story* and find out how this experience is transforming their lives and others.

VISITOR

NEWS BULLETIN

September 15, 2012



Allegheny East's Hispanic Members Celebrate Multiple Achievements

Allegheny East's Hispanic members celebrated multiple achievements at a recent meeting. From left to right: Pastor Tara VinCross, Pastor Scott Lewis, and members of the congregation. Photo by Scott Lewis.

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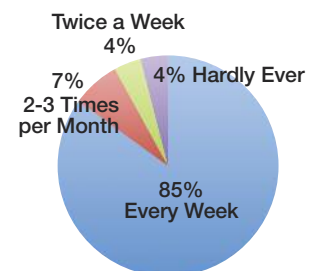


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Visitor Facebook Poll

How often do you go to church?



Source: facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor

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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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Volume 117 ■ Issue 10

A Call to Mission

I can still remember standing by the bedside of my oldest brother as he was dying from cancer. He and I shared a lot of special times in our younger years. At one time, we both were prodigals who found our way back to the Lord. As he was soon to depart this life and sleep in the arms of his loving Savior, we shared some special moments and words. "Brother, you have a wonderful hope in Jesus, and you have a bright future in heaven," I assured him. His response stayed with me and encouraged me: "No, *we* do!"



CO-WORKERS WITH CHRIST

Soon after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to a group of believers and shared some special moments with them before departing. As he stood on the mountain, He, too, shared some parting words that stayed with them and, no doubt, encouraged them: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. ..." (Matt. 28:19, NKJV).

I like the way *The Message* expresses it: "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life. ..." Wow! What a wonderful call! This was the Great Commission, and it was to be their mission and life's purpose—and ours.

Christ's great burden was to see His followers embrace His mission, or as we say here in the Columbia Union Conference, "Experience the Mission." His parting call is inclusive for all who accept Him as Savior and know the transforming power of His forgiveness and grace. In *The Desire of Ages*, Ellen White says that those who accept this call become His co-workers:

"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. ... It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ" (p. 822).

I am encouraged to see what is happening in our union as men and women are becoming co-workers with Christ, inviting others to follow Him and then discipling them to do likewise. This is how we experience the mission, this is how we grow and, according to Joel 2:28-29, this is how we'll finish the work. Could this also be how we will bring about revival and reformation?

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



UNION ISSUES APPEAL FOR UNDERSTANDING REGARDING INCLUSIVE MINISTERIAL ORDINATION

At its September 26 meeting, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee voted to submit the following statement to General Conference leadership in response to their statements released after the union's July 29 special constituency vote to ordain pastors to the gospel ministry without regard to gender:

Columbia Union Conference Official Statement

We acknowledge the concerns and questions our recent special constituency vote raised among some of our church family and administrators and regret that some misunderstood our motives and intentions. We unwaveringly

stand in solidarity with our worldwide church family in faith, belief, doctrine and mission, and appeal for understanding.

We were compelled to act on our conscience and convictions because we believe it will and already is having a positive impact on our churches, ministries and mission; we believe it is morally and ethically

right; we believe that God calls whom He chooses and our responsibility and privilege is to fully recognize His proven calls; we want to see new generations of members unabashedly engage in the mission of our church; and we want to do all we can to hasten the promised return of Christ.

We accept, respect and understand that practicing inclusive ministerial ordination would not work well in all parts of the world, and while we in no way wish to force others to take this step, we believe it is necessary in our field and in the context of the culture in which we minister.

We pray that our action will not close doors, but open the way for the Holy Spirit to continue moving mightily in our union and beyond. We pray that those who may not be ready to embrace this change in their church, conference, union or division will understand our need and the opportunity it provides us to grow God's kingdom in our part of the vineyard. And, we pray that we all will earnestly seek to navigate these uncharted waters in a way that brings glory to God, strengthens our church family and advances Christ's mission.

“ Everything that happened in this conference came from the Lord. Nothing came about because of man's effort alone. ”

—José H. Cortés, who was re-elected New Jersey Conference president last month. Read more on p. 27.

UNION WELCOMES SIX NEW ACADEMY PRINCIPALS

This school year saw the Columbia Union Conference welcome six new secondary school principals. The union is home to nine academies. “This is the largest transition in academy principals we've had in 20 years,” said Ham Canosa, EdD, the union's vice president for education, who is pictured with Carla Thrower, the new principal at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. “We are genuinely excited to welcome new people of diverse backgrounds who can infuse the K-12 curriculum with new perspectives.”

Thrower is a first-time principal who comes with 20 years of experience in the public school system.



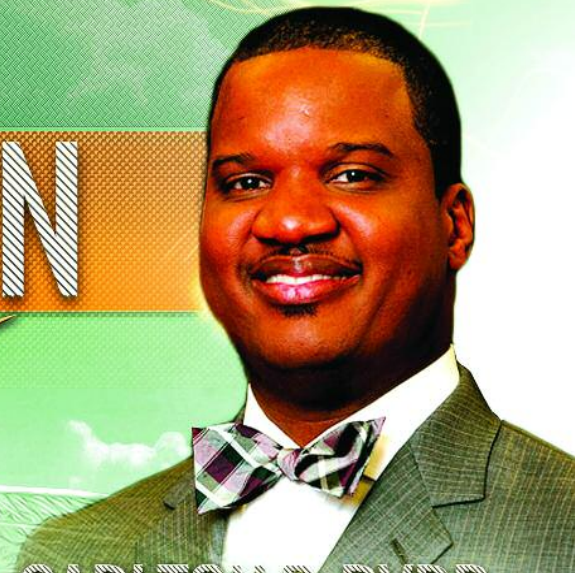
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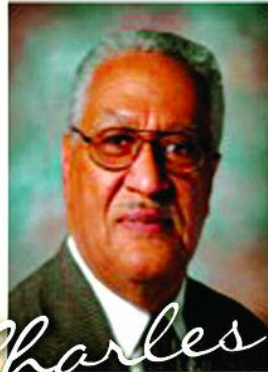


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CAMPOREE DE ALLEGHENY EAST ATRAE A DIEZ CLUBS

Los Conquistadores de diez iglesias de habla hispana de Allegheny East Conference disfrutaron recientemente de su séptimo camporee anual en Pine Forge, Pa. El retiro de fin de semana incluyó varios bautismos así como varias rondas eliminatorias del concurso bíblico conocido como "Bible Bowl". Este año se destacó por el debut de la premiación al primer lugar otorgado al club de Conquistadores con más puntos en la inspección, disciplina, marchas y juegos bíblicos. La iglesia de Templeville Spanish en Maryland, Md., se llevó a casa el trofeo del águila de bronce.

LA OBRA CRECE LENTAMENTE PERO SEGURA EN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Walter Cárdenas, de veintinueve años de edad, trabaja en Mountain View Conference estableciendo iglesias de habla hispana en las laderas de West Virginia. "No ha sido fácil", dice mientras nos comparte que una vez tuvo un vibrante grupo de creyentes en una ciudad, pero que desapareció completamente luego



de unas redadas de migración. Puede parecer un tanto desalentador que no se gana de una ni de otra manera, pero a pesar de eso el hermano Cárdenas continúa confiando en Dios. Él ha visto la intervención divina de muchas maneras y en múltiples ocasiones en su vida.

Ahora trabaja para establecer un grupo en Moorefield que se reúne para adorar los sábados por la tarde en el edificio de la iglesia americana. Él considera que entre cincuenta y sesenta personas asisten al grupo en Moorefield, muchos de los cuales son visitas. Por medio de su trabajo con los laicos, ahora está empezando grupos en Petersburg, Kaiser y Lewisburg, W.Va. Lea el testimonio de Walter Cárdenas en columbiaunion.org/cardenas.

JÓVENES DE POTOMAC CONDUCCEN REUNIONES DE EVANGELISMO

A principios de este año, los jóvenes de Potomac Conference recibieron un CD colmado de sermones, carteles y otros materiales de ayuda para prepararlos como evangelistas. Nueve meses más tarde, aquellos que aceptaron el desafío se pusieron al frente de amigos y familiares predicando de Jesús durante la semana de evangelismo juvenil en sus iglesias. En el evento participaron unas veintisiete iglesias, incluyendo jóvenes de Bealton (Va.), Oxon Hill (Md.) así como las iglesias hispanas del Distrito de Columbia.

"Fuimos bendecidos con la oportunidad de dirigir esta semana y de ver a los jóvenes participar activamente", fueron las palabras de Juan Del Cid, miembro de la iglesia Takoma Park Spanish (Md.).

La semana de evangelismo juvenil es especial porque es la forma en la que "involucramos a los jóvenes con la misión de la iglesia, permitiéndoles experimentar el gozo de



Danissa Calderon y Zuleyma Alvares cantan en la Iglesia Hispana de Langley Park (Md.).

llevar personas al conocimiento de Jesucristo", dijo el pastor Eliasib Fajardo, coordinador de ministerios juveniles hispanos.

Mientras se publica este artículo, cientos de jóvenes que asistieron a las reuniones dirigidas por los jóvenes se comprometieron en servir a Jesús, bautizándose treinta y siete nuevos miembros.

¿CUÁLES SON ALGUNOS BENEFICIOS DE LOS GRUPOS PEQUEÑOS?



“Es sorprendente que la gente está más dispuesta a aceptar una invitación a una casa que a un servicio de la iglesia. Cuando ven el ambiente de unidad, la manera en la que oran los unos por los otros, la participación en el estudio bíblico, el ocasional pastel de cumpleaños o la cena para compartir, los visitantes no pueden evitar quedarse. Están listos para preguntar más acerca de la Palabra de Dios. Todo eso se convierte en estudios bíblicos personales o visitas a la iglesia”.
—Raúl Rivero pastorea las iglesias de Washington-Spencerville Spanish en Spencerville, Md., y la de Laurel-Marannatha Spanish en Laurel, Md., parte de Chesapeake Conference.



“En Allegheny West Conference creemos que los grupos pequeños son la manera más rápida de conectar a los creyentes con familiares y amigos que desean conocer mejor al Señor.
Tenemos en promedio de unos tres a doce grupos pequeños por iglesia. Tomando en consideración el tamaño del ministerio hispano y su rápido crecimiento hemos llegado a la conclusión de que todo se debe a creemos y animamos a los pastores a poner en práctica este ministerio tan efectivo”.
—Walter Castro, director de ministerios multilingües de Allegheny West Conference



“Nuestra iglesia tiene siete grupos pequeños, incluyendo uno de adolescentes. Muchas de las personas que han venido a nuestro grupo no habían oído nunca de los adventistas del séptimo día y no hubieran venido a nuestra iglesia de otro modo. Pero están dispuestos a aceptar nuestra invitación a casa.
Recuerdo una gran familia que vino a nuestra iglesia. No eran miembros, pero invitaron a una de sus familiares a nuestro grupo pequeño, ella terminó bien interesada en nuestra iglesia, se bautizó y ahora sirve como anciana”.
—Geovani Salvador, líder de grupo pequeño de la iglesia Sión de New Jersey Conference

Artículo especial de *Visitor*: En los negocios de su Padre

Uno podría decir que Tara VinCross (en la foto, derecha) se ha convertido en una máster del ministerio. En solamente cuatro años Dios la ha utilizado para reclutar a unos cien compañeros evangelistas que ya han testificado en más de 245,000 hogares de la quinta ciudad más grande de los Estados Unidos. VinCross y su ejército de jóvenes obreros continúan cubriendo Philadelphia con el evangelio por medio de dos ministerios de alcance misionero de la iglesia Chestnut Hill: Pennsylvania Youth Challenge and REACH [desafío juvenil de Pensilvania y ALCANCE]. La misión: Compartir el mensaje de esperanza de Cristo con quienes aún no lo conocen.

Uno puede decir que VinCross es, de alguna manera, poco común—una joven adulta que sirve como la única pastora principal de una congregación grande de Pennsylvania Conference. Pero así de extraordinaria como parece, ella señala a lo alto con presteza, luego de una rápida observación, es evidente que esos ministerios están fundados en el humilde, pero determinado deseo de cumplir con la comisión evangélica. Para más información en inglés vaya a la página 10 o en español a columbiaunion.org/vincross.

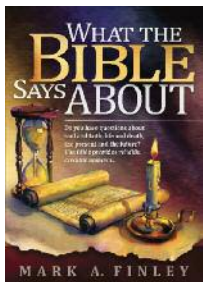


Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > **What the Bible Says About Mark Finley**



Instead of offering opinions or giving sermons, international evangelist Mark Finley designed this study guide to provide scripturally based, easy-to-understand answers to concerns, like how to know



that sins are forgiven or what Bible prophecy predicts about the end of the world. "Even if you have opened its pages many times, you may still be surprised at how clearly the Bible speaks on topics often ignored," writes the member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver

Spring, Md. Order at adventist-bookcenter.com.

Guide's Greatest Hero Stories **Lori Peckham, Editor**

This newest release in the *Guide's Greatest* series is a collection of stories about the heroic actions of youth. The book's editor, Lori Peckham from the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., chose the chapters from weekly issues of *Guide* magazine going back nearly 60 years. "I like the mix of stories that include feats of dramatic courage and stories of young people who did very humble things to help others," says Peckham. Order at adventistbookcenter.com.



The Science of Salvation **G. McClaren Forde**

In his first book, G. McClaren Forde, a member of Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., addresses questions like: Did you know that God is the ultimate scientist, or that the highest

Welcome to the Family

Jade Berryman
Breath of Life Church
Ft. Washington, Md.



"Baptism to me is a public sign of accepting God into your life. I was baptized to make it known that I accept Him in my life, and I want to live for Him."

principles of biology, genetics and law are all incorporated into salvation? He says he hopes readers will gain "a more comprehensive and sincerely heartfelt appreciation for the method and sacrifice of our creator in orchestrating our redemption." Find it at the Potomac ABC, or purchase signed copies at facebook.com/scienceofsalvation.



Did You Know?

Hope Channel updated its app! Now access eight of the network's 13 channels, with a guide for each one to determine the program lineup for any time zone. Order iPhone and iPad versions at iTunes.com, or update them for free. The Android version, available at adroid.com, includes a media library. Read more at hopetv.org.



On the Web

Retweets >

@margallio



The simple fact that God came back searching for Adam & Eve after being betrayed proves that He always seeks relationship with His creation.—*Mar de Oliveira, District Pastor, Marion, Ohio*

@brodywiedemann



I feel the majority of Adventist media is only good at further convincing current [Adventists] of the Word & doesn't do much to convert people.—*Brody Wiedemann, Luray (Va.) Church*

Facebooked >

Peggi Trusty



When God says go forward, that doesn't necessarily mean I will reach Canaan. It does, however, mean that there are some things I must experience in the wilderness. My entrance to Canaan depends very much on my wilderness experience and, thus, cannot be avoided. Go forward! Through hunger and thirst ... face the Amalikites and face the Red Sea! However, refuse to return to your former captivity! Refuse to complain and distrust! Go forward!—*First Church, Glassboro, N.J.*

Matthew Oh



We as youth can't be doing things of this world if we are to be taking Christ's last day message to everyone! (James 4:4).—*Burnt Mills Church, Silver Spring, Md.*

In the Spotlight > Mission Exchange USA-Africa



When the General Conference declared 1995 The Year of the Adventist Woman, church leaders encouraged Seventh-day Adventist women to use their talents to hasten Christ's soon return. In response, Grace Zuzo, a member of Allegheny East Conference's University Heights church in New Brunswick, N.J., launched Mission Exchange USA-Africa. Through the nonprofit organization, she helps send American Adventist pastors to South Africa to lead evangelistic seminars, preach at local churches and provide counseling for Adventist youth.

"The timing was excellent," recalls Zuzo, who is a native South African. Apartheid in South Africa had ended, but the country faced a critical shortage of professionals, including clergymen. With the help of church family and friends, Zuzo started raising money to fund the ministers' mission trips.

Currently Mission Exchange sends five pastors a year to South Africa. Two Allegheny East pastors who shared their talents recently are Zuzo's pastor, Gregory Nelson, and Juan Scott (above) of the Irvington (N.J.) church. Mpilo Norris, a 12-year-old member of Allegheny East's Liberty church in Baltimore, will participate in the initiative this fall.

Other than donations, Zuzo primarily supports the organization by selling her three children's books: *Why Pastor's Kid Refused to Go to Church*, *The Bully Cycle* and *Different is Not Stupid or Ugly*. Each one is a true story about her young life in South Africa and is designed to help educate and develop young readers—spiritually, socially and culturally—and targets the needs and experiences of South African youth. She also shares her stories at area fundraisers and Adventist youth events. To learn more about the organization, visit missionexchangeusa-africa.org.—*Nadia McGill*



PHOTOS BY SCOTT LEWIS

About Her FATHER'S Business

Samantha Blake

**PASTOR TARA VINCROSS AND HER ARMY OF YOUTH
BLANKET PHILADELPHIA WITH CHRIST'S LOVE**

You might say Tara VinCross has mastered the art of ministry. In just four years, God has used her to recruit about 100 budding evangelists who have witnessed at more than 245,000 homes in the fifth largest city of the United States. VinCross and her army of youth workers continue to blanket Philadelphia with the gospel through two outreach ministries of the Chestnut Hill church:

Pennsylvania Youth Challenge and REACH. Their mission? To share Christ's message of hope with the unreached.

You can also say VinCross is somewhat rare—a young adult serving as the only female senior pastor of a large Pennsylvania Conference congregation. But as extraordinary as she may seem, she's quick to point upward and, after quick observation, it's obvious these ministries are grounded in humble, yet determined aspiration to fulfill the gospel commission.

Since taking the helm at Chestnut Hill in 2008, VinCross's ultimate goal has been to provide a "center of influence where people can come in contact with the gospel." To accomplish this, she has harnessed the talents and energy of young believers. "When young people take the opportunity to share Jesus in a way that's real and tangible, it's just inspiring to hear them say, 'God use me,'" she shares. And she should know. She pulls from her own love story with Christ to mentor these young evangelists.

God's Tug at a Young Heart

VinCross wasn't raised a Seventh-day Adventist, but when it came time to choose a high school, her mother recommended Auburn Adventist Academy (Wash.). "Someone offered to pay for her to go to Adventist academy her senior year. She had a good experience and wanted me to have a good experience as well," VinCross explains.

Pastor VinCross states that one of her most important partners in ministry is her husband of nine years, Caleb VinCross. The two met in the theology track at Southwestern Adventist University (Texas). "He is so incredibly supportive," she states. "We have enjoyed the rich blessing of ministering together."



While there, VinCross quickly noticed she shared a classroom with youth who grew up hearing the same Bible stories and church teachings. While she found it all new and exciting, many of them seemed bored. She recalls a time in her Bible class when she really felt out of the loop. “They were all talking about the Sabbath, and I’m like, ‘What’s that?’” Her curiosity motivated her to learn more, and her faith grew.

By March of her freshman year, God put VinCross’s newfound faith to work. Recruiters visited the school looking for students to participate in a summer outreach program. VinCross didn’t know much about it, but with many of her friends applying, she felt encouraged to get involved. As she filled out the application, she recalls stumbling at the question, “How and when did you become Adventist?” Boldly, she responded, “I’m not yet, but I believe in Jesus Christ, and I believe He is leading me to this program.”

The Northwest Youth Challenge, she learned, was a literature evangelism program. They accepted her application and she left home for the summer ready for God to use her, but had no idea what to expect.

At the first Sunday meeting, Cindy Tutsch, the program director, announced, “Tonight you guys will be teaching a Revelation seminar!” Taken aback, VinCross wondered how she could do that without the knowledge. How was God going to use her? But, Pastor Tutsch took the students under her wing.

“It soon became apparent that Tara, even as a young teen, had a passion for Jesus and a heart for evangelism,” recalls Tutsch, who is now an associate director at the Ellen G. White Estate in Silver Spring,



After mentoring Tara VinCross during her first venture with literature evangelism, Cindy Tutsch plays an important role in her surrender to God.

Md. “I think those who are placed in responsible positions have an obligation to recognize talent in young people, and do all they can to mentor and provide leadership opportunities for them.”

VinCross spent her summer doing literature evangelism and giving Revelation seminars. As she also continued her own Bible studies, she could not ignore the work of God. “I just felt this calling to surrender my life to God and be baptized,” she remembers. She did surrender, but did not stop there. She returned to academy and became a student chaplain, preaching sermons, praying with others and leading in outreach. She found great enjoyment in being used by Christ.

Doing Unto Others

Now 17 years later, as a full-time pastor and program director, VinCross strives to similarly impact her young apprentices, hoping that they, too, will develop adoration for Christ and a love for ministry. She helps nudge them in their spiritual journey through the REACH (Restoration Empowerment Action Community Hope) and Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC) ministries. Through both, she also hopes her team can make an impact on Philadelphia’s 7 million residents. Because a number of areas within the city contain no churches, many people have no access to God’s Word.

Through the 4-year-old PYC program, VinCross, who holds a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), equips and empowers participants to spend nine weeks going door to door sharing Christian books. Their efforts earn them invaluable experience plus school tuition and scholarship money, but there’s more to it.

“Sometimes we’re the only Bible that people read,” says Maile Hoffman, a PYC participant and recent graduate of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. This past summer, she and 30 other young adults delivered more than 6,200 religious books and prayed with 13,500 individuals, making literature evangelism look easy.

Pastor VinCross recalls one of their experiences: “One team member met an atheist man. She was talking with him and sharing Jesus and he said, ‘I can’t believe you’re doing this. You’ve been so respectful to me.’”

The youth evangelist replied, “Well, sir. You invited me into your home, gave me water and



allowed me to share my faith with you. Even if you don't know Him, what you are showing me is the character of Christ."

The man responded, "Because of the way you treated me, I will read one of your books, out of respect for you."

VinCross says these are the types of interactions that inspire her. "It's not just the head knowledge of what Christians believe; it's that the youth have taken in Jesus and what He has done for the world. The ministry affects the way these young people live."

Following Christ's Example

Through the REACH program, which started in April 2011, VinCross seeks to plant church communities in Philadelphia's metro areas so that people can come in contact with the gospel. VinCross houses and trains young adult leaders on a two-year internship and equips them to focus on mission and discipleship in their communities.

"I felt really impressed to set up ministry houses," VinCross explains. "It's incarnationally living wherever people are. It's a principle for our ministry of healing. Christ mingled among them, and then He bade them, 'Follow Me.' He didn't just go up to someone He didn't know and say, 'Come, follow Me,' but He was right there with them first."

Seven young adult interns are currently placed in two ministry houses, which two Chestnut Hill elders donated. The interns help run a church plant in the city's West Oak Lane area. Nick Snell, assistant pastor and full-time REACH intern, shares that

the congregation regularly includes about 40 attendees. And in less than a year, REACH interns have witnessed eight people join the Adventist church through baptism or profession of faith.

"REACH has pushed me," says Snell. "It has opened my eyes to see the need [for everyone] to hear the gospel. [People] are everywhere and God needs to reach them. The only thing hindering that from happening is us being willing. REACH has helped me to grow in practical spirituality."

Starting Outreach With Inreach

Apart from youth evangelism programs, VinCross also oversees more than a dozen ministries at the Chestnut Hill church. She says a command she read from Ellen G. White for Christians to reach the cities forced her to take a step back and look at her congregation. "Since 1948 the membership of the church stayed the same up until three years ago," she shares. "We were doing really [well] at maintaining our membership but hadn't really seen any growth."

VinCross asked her church board, "What are we going to do to reach all these people that God has placed in our area?" They put their heads together and decided they needed a new approach to ministry.

God put VinCross and her congregants to work, and they have watched their diverse congregation flourish. "It's a beautiful thing," VinCross beams. "We've seen so many more people baptized. I remember the church clerk came to me once and said, 'I haven't signed this many baptism certificates ever!'"

VinCross believes their growth is primarily due to more members giving Bible studies. "I can have church members in the water with me because each one of them are leading people to Christ," she shares. She's also quick to remind others, "What's happening in Philadelphia is a testimony to His greatness and His ability to fulfill His mission."

Above all, what inspires VinCross to press on in ministry is "courageous leadership and a willingness to hold unwaveringly to sharing the love of Jesus with others," she shares. She enjoys working with others who are committed to moving the mission forward, a quality she readily sees in her budding evangelists.

Samantha Blake, a student at Andrews University, wrote this article as an intern with the Visitor.

GET MORE  Watch a video about this story at columbiaunion.org/videos.



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“I am thankful to AWR for broadcasting such wonderful programs. These programs give comfort and peace to perishing souls like me. I had decided to commit suicide, but after listening to your programs I have decided to accept Christian faith and take baptism and live for Jesus. I want to serve Jesus by witnessing among my village people.”

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Baltimore Hebrew Group Reaches Jews for Jesus

If you are ever in Baltimore on a Friday evening, you can find Yehuda Mordechai in the basement of an old Jewish synagogue. The Berea Temple now occupies the building, but it is in this place that Mordechai leads the Baltimore Hebrew Adventist congregation. They meet on Friday nights for a Shabbat service designed to reach Jews for Jesus.

Some 30 years ago, Mordechai, who grew up a secular Jew in Washington, D.C., accepted Jesus (Yeshua) and was baptized into Potomac Conference's Capital Memorial church in D.C. He longs to share the parallels between Seventh-day Adventists and Orthodox Jews, one of which is keeping the Sabbath.

On a recent Friday night, the members of the small group welcomed the Sabbath (Shabbat) by blowing the shofar horn, lighting candles, drinking grape juice, singing songs in Hebrew and studying the Bible. "Shabbat is a celebration," Mordechai says. "Some say Shabbat is only for Jews, but we don't believe that way."

For those who wouldn't feel comfortable at a typical Adventist church service, Mordechai sees incorporating Jewish rituals into the Shabbat service as his entering wedge. All of the attendees spoke of how much they appreciated the service. During prayer Hank Jankowski shared, "I'm thankful for this gathering of people com-

mitted to You and longing to see Your kingdom."

The group welcomes gentiles as well. Stephanie Swecker, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Northeast (Md.) church, says, "I have always been concerned about the Jewish people, and have been looking for ways to get involved."

Though their numbers are few, Mordechai continues to share the message of Christ's saving grace from a Jewish perspective. And, for attendees like Noah Stone that message is comforting. "It's great to be here," he says. Read more at columbiaunion.org/baltimorejewishwork.



Left to right (back row): Purnell and Barbara Jones, Stephanie Swecker, Yehuda Mordechai, Hank Jankowski and John West, (front row) Noah Stone and Florence Rogers-Smith

150 Attend Coatesville First Church's Health Fair



The First church of Coatesville in Coatesville, Pa., recently drew 150 attendees to their second annual health fair. The festivities opened with a prayer by Geraldine Weathers, Health Ministries leader, and a salute to the troops and their fallen comrades by Pastor E. Earl Blackwell. Throughout the day, there were health screenings for hearing, vision, cholesterol, hypertension and diabetes. They also offered haircuts, massages and acupuncture. There were two prayer stations situated under the tent and a farmer's market with fresh produce provided at no cost to "shoppers." The church also set up a table of information and literature from 35 area vendors.

Attendees could also select from a roster of activities that included volleyball, soccer, tag, gardening and origami. Pastor Juan José Silva of the Coatesville Spanish church gave a bilingual puppet presentation in full chef's attire. Several attendees encouraged church members to have the fair more often. "Once a year is not enough," one remarked.—*Karol Williamson*

Capitol Hill Members Display Acts of Kindness on Sabbath

How did you know it was my birthday?" asked one delighted senior when several members of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., showed up on his doorstep with flowers and groceries.

That reaction is exactly "why I grow my flowers—to brighten the lives of those in need!" said Dan Price, an area resident who hand-cut more than 1,000 flowers from his personal garden for the church's We Are Family Senior Grocery Delivery outreach.

The grocery and flower delivery was one of more than 15 service activities that Capitol Hill members participated in on a recent Sabbath. Instead of a regular Sabbath service, Gene M. Donaldson, DMin, the church's senior pastor, set aside the day as "Acts of Kindness Community Service Day." Donaldson said church members hoped to bring to life Luke 6:9, which says it is "lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

The day, which began as early as 7 a.m., involved more than 300 Capitol Hill members, including children, families and seniors. Under the leadership of Michele Gamble,



PHOTO BY MATTHEW FRAZIER

the church's community services leader, the church partnered with local community organizations that identified areas of needs in the community. Members then signed up for projects online. Some of the projects included writing messages of thanks to soldiers overseas, engaging in a neighborhood prayer walk, cleaning up a play area for homeless children, caring for trees, feeding the homeless, offering résumé help, visiting a hospice and hosting a health fair.

At the end of the day, Capitol Hill members received words and notes

of appreciation from the many people they helped, including Rev. Herbert Brisbon of the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church. "This is wonderful what you are doing for the community!" he exclaimed. "We would like to partner with you for future efforts in our community!"

—Michelle Riley Jones

Baltimore Junior Academy Starts Year With iPads

Last spring Baltimore Junior Academy's principal, Carol Cantu, attended a demonstration meeting of the educational applica-

tions of the Apple iPad. Amazed at what she saw, she was determined that her students would have access to this latest technological experience.

After searching for a source to underwrite the expense for the iPads, the Maryland State Department of Education stepped up and funded the purchase. The school received 11 iPads—enough for a class set and in time for the new school year. They are still searching for a third party to fund

enough iPads for all their students.

"The iPad has thousands of educational applications with endless potential," Cantu says. "There are instructional, practice and game applications for every subject, including foreign languages, art and music. We are already excited to begin a new school year, but the iPads have taken that excitement over the top!"



Andrea Hlongwane, Tahron Ferebee and Dwight Allmond try out their new educational tool.

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African Church Promotes Community, Health in Columbus

Through strategic partnerships with community organizations, Pastor Kwesi Gyimah and the Columbus African congregation are striving to provide the ministry of healing to their neighbors. The church's mission is to re-introduce the Seventh-day Adventist message to the citizens of Columbus, Ohio, with an emphasis on health.

This goal has led to partnerships with local chapters of the YMCA and American Cancer Society and with Columbus Public Health to provide health education programs for residents. Pastor Gyimah also serves as a member of the North Side Health Advisory Committee and helps provide direction for public health programs and practices. "Our goal is to hand deliver God's love to all of God's children," comments Pastor Gyimah.

Pastor Gyimah has also extended his influence to local government and currently serves as a member of several city civic boards. Recently the mayor of Columbus, the Columbus City Council, the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate each recognized Gyimah for his outstanding volunteer work in the city.—*Christopher C. Thompson*



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER C. THOMPSON

Pastor Kwesi Gyimah displays his commendation from the Ohio Senate recognizing him for his volunteer work in the city of Columbus.

Columbus Academy Staff Give Students Special Welcome

Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) literally rolled out the red carpet for its students and parents on the first day of school. While parents dropped off their children for their first day, eighth-graders greeted them as they walked through the entrance on a red carpet, colorfully lined with balloons. Also, CAA teachers and staff gave the youngsters the royal treatment by applauding, cheering and hugging them.

"The parents and children were so taken aback; several stated how they felt loved, wanted and appreciated," said Brenda Arthurs, principal. "Some even posted what happened on Facebook."

Arthurs said she really wanted each student to feel extra special this year. "We thought it would be great to celebrate our own," she explained.



Fifth- and sixth-graders were also excited to welcome their new homeroom teacher, Tamaria Kulemeka (left). Kulemeka recently taught language arts for four years at another school. Prior to that, she worked as a newspaper editor and reporter.



She moved to Columbus in 2001, eager to join CAA's teaching team. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in education. Her earnest desire is to see Jesus face to face. She and her husband, Chimwemwe, have two sons, Dalitso (7) and Thokozani (3).

"Coming to CAA is a tremendous blessing," Kulemeka says. "I look forward to working with the students and preparing them for eternity."

Glenville Block Party Draws 1,300

With tangible results from their first community-wide block party encouraging them on—including the life-saving conversion and baptism of an 18-year-old homeles and pregnant girl—the Glenville church recently kicked off its second annual “Forty for Family” event. The church hoped the affair would give members a chance to explain the



importance of God in the home to their Cleveland neighbors and to give away 1,000 book bags filled with supplies for children in need.

Church members dressed down and banded together to make the day a success. Some set up tents, which served as booths for the different community services and organizations that came. Some served food and drinks to hungry visitors. Others pitched the main tent, where attendees could gather as senior pastor MyRon Edmonds preached and various artists and groups performed, including Glenville’s own drum corps (left). Members also taught classes inside the church, covering topics like how to stop bullying and get children ready for the first day of school.

When the festivities concluded, members tallied registration cards and determined that more than



Ashley Rushton—pictured at this year’s block party with her son and Pastor MyRon Edmonds—gave her heart to God and was baptized after attending the event last year.

1,300 people attended this year. More importantly, several decided they wanted to be baptized.

Southeast Members Experience 40 Days of Revival

After reading about the disciples and how their lives were forever changed by time with Christ in the Upper Room (see Acts, chapter 2), members of the Southeast church in Cleveland decided they wanted to experience that miraculous change. Led by senior pastor Jerome Hurst and his wife, Carolyn, the congregation and visitors from

area denominations and the neighborhood embarked on a 40-day revival. The three daily services—5 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.—included prayer and fasting.

Members—including several online participants who visited from New York—shared that they were not only inspired but also uplifted by the experience as it brought

them closer to Jesus. “I thought the 40 days were amazing. I felt like it gave me an opportunity to ... recommit myself to God and make sure I have a personal relationship with Him,” said Southeast member Candy Thomas. “I felt like God was calling me out of something in my life that I need to let go of to get closer to Him.”

PHOTO BY ROGER SCHAFFER



Southeast church leaders perform a special anointing on attendees during their 40 days of revival.

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

OCTOBER 2012

Walk With God! Share His Grace!

Taking a look at the core elements of the theme “Walk With God! Share His Grace!” last month, we considered the impact of God choosing to be with us. What an incredible privilege this is. However, we have a choice to make as well. The decision of with whom we walk makes a huge impact on our lives. When we choose a marriage partner, there are specific character traits that are important to identify so that simple infatuation doesn’t take us down the wrong path. Selecting a career requires a realistic assessment of our interests, aptitudes and opportunities.

So while there is only one God, there are many gods to choose from. The gods of various pleasures, profit and self-dependence have their allure. We can explore the options, but find that, ultimately, they are completely unfulfilling.

What is so appealing about God? “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19, NKJV). God has chosen us in both creation and redemption, and we can trust His desires and plans for us.

God is also able to accomplish whatever He set out to do. His promises can be trusted. “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26). Most gods promise much and deliver very little. But God never fails.

God’s “understanding is infinite” (Ps. 147:5). Given our limited knowledge, isn’t it reassuring to have a God who is already aware of and prepared for the needs of every tomorrow?

Wherever we go we have the assurance of His awareness and presence (see Ps. 139:7). When we choose to walk with God, we can face the future with peace, hope and courage.



Rick Remmers
President

NEWS

West Wilmington Health Fair Attracts Neighbors

The West Wilmington (Del.) church combined a health fair with the Wilmington Junior Academy (WJA) open house recently and attracted both members and neighbors. Attendees were encouraged to tour the school and day care center and meet the faculty.

Medical professionals checked the cholesterol and blood sugar of more than 80 participants. In addition,

vegan cooking demonstrations, food samples, exercise tips and seminars on health topics such as child obesity were popular. Visitors collected stickers at each booth and entered a drawing for prizes such as gift cards, cookbooks and pedometers.—*Ellen Soire*



West Wilmington member Tracy Konieczny shares free samples from a vegan meal.

SAVE THE DATE!

Prayer Conference, October 26-27

Pastor and author Pavel Goia shares his extraordinary journey of faith as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in communist Romania.

The conference will be held at the Atholton church, which is located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Md. The \$15 fee covers materials and Sabbath lunch. To register, call (410) 995-1910 or email pstrahle@ccosda.org.



Area Churches Go Beyond Traditional VBS

Many congregations are taking a new approach to the Vacation Bible School (VBS) ministry and are reaching beyond member families and a handful of neighborhood kids.

Two Maryland churches targeted underserved populations. The New Hope church in Fulton launched their VBS-on-the-Go this year. On Sabbath afternoons, volunteers went to Sarah's House, a local shelter, and focused on building relationships with the families there.

Youth from the Baltimore Korean church in Ellicott City conducted a program in Baltimore's inner city area. They partnered with the Baltimore First congregation to provide school supplies for students in need, and distributed them at the end of Vacation Bible School.

Other churches have adopted a charitable cause in conjunction with VBS. The Dover First church in Dover, Del., collected pet-care supplies for the local SPCA and school

supplies for students during their "Dog Days of Summer" service-themed curriculum. "We read a story and talked about what it means to be a good citizen, and also discussed the fact that, as people who love Jesus, we should search for ways to help others," says Nathalie Melvin, VBS leader. Representatives from local shelters spoke to the children about how their organizations help the community.

The Atholton and Spencerville churches in Columbia, Md., and Silver Spring, Md., respectively, raised funds during VBS to buy mosquito netting for children in Mali, West Africa, where malaria is prevalent. The Spencerville church offered parents a daily study of the prophecies found in the book of Daniel during VBS week. Twenty adults participated.

To perpetuate the evangelistic outreach of their program, the Wilna (Md.) church started BLAST!,



BLAST! participants join hands during a prayer meeting for kids at the Wilna (Md.) church.

a midweek prayer ministry for children. "We hope to help them build their lives and friendships around Christ, while engaging in many fun activities," said Paul Strang, BLAST! organizer.

PHOTO BY VALERIE ETIENNE NOZEA

Frederick Associate Pastor Ordained

The ordination ceremony for Mark Sigue, Frederick (Md.) church's associate pastor for children, youth and young adults, drew more than 200 supporters. Many were guests from churches he pastored prior to coming to the Chesapeake Conference last year.

"It was really meaningful," says Sigue. "People who were key in

my spiritual journey were there, kids that I baptized, even kids that I dedicated."

Frederick members planned a surprise that made the young pastor "feel loved." Upon learning that Sigue's parents, who serve as missionaries in Uganda, Africa, had already used their furlough this year, and could afford only for his

father to travel back to the United States for the ceremony, the church raised the funds to bring Sigue's mother too.

"The Frederick church is happy that Mark is part of the pastoral team, and we look forward to many years of ministry with him as we reach out to the Frederick community," says Robert Quintana, senior pastor.

PHOTO BY CAROL BIAZZOTTO



Mark Sigue, associate pastor at the Frederick (Md.) church, and his wife, Marifel, listen to the charge given by John Appel, conference director of pastoral development, during Sigue's ordination ceremony.

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Growing a Culture for Christ

History has proven that Christian education is a powerful tool for reaching young people for the cause of Christ. Highland View Academy's (HVA) mission specifically addresses our desire to continue that tradition and to meet students' greatest needs. However, meeting the academic, spiritual and social needs of a wonderfully diverse student body can often be very demanding. We face the dilemma of developing capable people in a less-than-capable world, of reaching students for Christ in a culture that emphasizes Christless values. The demands are only offset when we realize that God is using us, the teachers/staff members, to add value to our students' growth potential.

HVA has an awesome team of Christian educators and staff who are committed to meeting those demands. We have teachers who truly care for kids and have a mission heart. And, there is no system in place that can put a price tag on the collective support of committed teachers, engaged parents and students who are learning to share in that passion. We are all playing a part in true and lasting culture change.



Gregg Cain
Principal

New Math Teacher Joins Faculty

My goal is to connect with as many students as possible and help them succeed in everything they want to do," says Derek Boyce (below), who joined Highland View Academy's math department this school year. He teaches pre-calculus and honors calculus, Algebra 2 and honors physics. "I am enjoying teaching the high quality of students here at HVA," he adds. "They are so much fun, kind and respectful to each other and the teachers."

Boyce grew up in Laurel, Md., and is an alumnus of Takoma Academy, from the Class of 1999. He later graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). He recently relocated from Houston, Texas, where he served for three years as vice principal at Oaks Adventist Christian School. His experience includes teaching math, science, United States history



During a recent physics class, new math teacher Derek Boyce had students race two toy cars and then explain why one car is faster. In their analysis, students determined that wheel friction and car height and weight were major factors.

and government, and coaching girls' volleyball.

Boyce is also an accomplished musician and plays bass trombone, flute, tuba and electric bass. He and his wife, Ashley, enjoy sports and playing music together.



My Summer Canvassing Blessings

My first day out canvassing with the Review and Herald [Publishing Association]’s student literature evangelism program [based out of Hagerstown, Md.] was pretty bad. So as we started out on the second day, I wasn’t expecting much, but asked for the Lord to bless the day.

I was rejected several times when I reached this one house, where a girl around my age answered the door. I showed her all the books I had in my hand and, surprisingly, she seemed very interested. She didn’t have anything to offer, but she really wanted to help me, so she decided to go and get her dad. She then asked me to tell her dad about my books. It turns out that they donated for four books. I was so shocked and grateful. I then proceeded to pray with them, and they thanked me from

the bottom of their hearts. I also gave them both a small booklet called *Keys to Happiness*.

Before I left, they told me just how much this world needs people like me who are standing up for what they believe in. They told me how much I had inspired them. I cried a little bit because I felt such an impact. Going into this program I never thought anyone would say such things about me. I knew God was working through me.

While I was talking to the girl and her father, another teenage girl came up to me and asked for my information so her family could possibly get more books. We started talking, and it turns out that she’s 18 and engaged. After showing her the books, I wished all the best for them and their beautiful young love, and silently prayed that the books she got would spiritually



enlighten her and her fiancé.

I knew those experiences that day were a small glimpse of the blessings God had in store for me this summer as I worked for Him. Many more blessings were to follow.—*Trisha Furtado* (’14)

Upcoming Events

October 7: Annual Highlanders Spirit 5K Walk/Run

Runners can participate in a 5K course on moderate to rolling terrain, or a 1-mile course on flat to rolling terrain. Registration is from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The race begins at 10 a.m. Pre-register and pay online at hva-edu.com.5kwalk-run.html, or print and mail a hard copy to HVA 5K Walk/Run, Attn: Steve Gatz, 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

November 4-5: Academy Days Open House

All students grades 7 and up are invited to experience a free overnight stay in the dorms and to enjoy food, fun and friendship. Register online at hva-edu.com/academydays by October 15, or sign up the day of the event.

November 10: Talent Show

Enjoy student talent and help the Class of 2014 raise money for their senior class trip. The event this year, which has an Olympics theme, starts at 8 p.m.

December 8: Christmas Concert

All of HVA’s music groups, directed by Ola Bilan, will lend their talents to this annual performance. Hosted by the Highland View church, the concert starts at 4 p.m.



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MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

OCTOBER 2012

New Grafton Members Share Testimony

Don McDougal was an active member and trustee of the Baptist church for many years. However, as a student of the Bible, he kept running across references to the Sabbath and discovered it was on Saturday. He began asking questions in Sunday School and inquiring of other members why they kept Sunday instead of the Bible Sabbath. He found this was not a popular discussion topic.

In due time, a handbill appeared in their mailbox announcing prophecy meetings at the Grafton High School in Grafton, W.Va. It looked interesting so they decided to go. The topics captivated their interest and they only missed one night.

About this time Don, who is a cattle farmer, changed to satellite TV to get the programs dealing with farming and cattle. As he surfed his new channel list, he noticed 3ABN. It wasn't long until Don found he hardly watched the Farm Channel and instead spent time with 3ABN. He was thrilled that they also believed and taught about the seventh-day Sabbath.

Near the end of the prophecy series, the McDougals were invited to attend the Grafton church. They visited, and as time went on, they attended more and more often. For a while, they were attending both the Adventist and the Baptist churches.

The Baptist pastor and a lay leader visited Don and



Betty and Don McDougal were thrilled to find a church that worshipped on the seventh-day. The couple flanks their pastor, James Volpe.

Betty to help straighten them out. After three hours of intense discussion and Bible study, they left as friends but each group still convinced in their previous opinions.

Don and Betty chose to follow the Scripture and attend church on the Bible Sabbath. After searching their hearts, praying and speaking to Pastor James Volpe, they set the date for their baptism and were warmly welcomed into membership at the Grafton church.—Jean Daddysman

Mountain View Pathfinder Clubs Attend Union Camporee

Three clubs from the Mountain View Conference attended the Columbia Union Conference's "Choose Without Compromise" Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio. Even though rain and thunderstorms were part of the weekend package, the Mountain View Pathfinders stayed upbeat and positive while they enjoyed meeting other Pathfinders from across the union. At the end of one meeting, when Pastor José H. Cortés Jr. made

a call of surrender to the Lord, five Mountain View young people heeded the Holy Spirit's voice and went forward.

Kelsey Harris, a member of the Parkersburg Panthers Club in Parkersburg, W.Va., said she had a great time working on honors and meeting new people at her first union camporee. Art Calhoun, a counselor of the Toll Gate Trailblazers Club in Toll Gate, W.Va., was "pleased to see the Mountain View group work together and the joy on their faces, even when the storms came."—Beth Ackman



Mountain View Pathfinders eagerly wait their turn to participate in the parade.

At 93, Point Pleasant Member Still Serves the Lord

Being 93 years old does not slow down Mildred Isabel (Green) Lee, a member of the Point Pleasant (W.Va.) church. Lee is presently serving her church as the Personal Ministries director and loves her church and church family. "Every morning and every night I thank God for giving His Son to die for me. If I didn't have Jesus, there would be no eternal life," she says.

Born and raised in the Gallipolis, Ohio-area, Lee grew up attending the local Baptist church. As an adult, she was busily involved in teaching both children and adult Bible study classes. It was during that time that she began to question the truth about Sunday and Saturday worship. Soon the Lord brought the answer right to her door.

In the early 1970s, a Seventh-day Adventist colporteur stopped at her house, and Lee happily purchased a green-bound book titled *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*. The next year, another colporteur knocked on her door. Once Lee saw his books, she could tell



Mildred Lee, 93, has been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1972. She is pictured with Pastor Justin Howard.

that these were Adventist books, so she began asking questions about his beliefs. She then accepted an offer for Bible studies, and in 1972 joined the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va.

Some 10 years later, Lee transferred her membership to the newly built Point Pleasant church, which was much closer to her Gallipolis home. Several years later, in 1987, she joyfully witnessed the baptism

of her husband, Howard (who is now deceased).

Lee has faithfully filled a variety of positions at her church, from deaconess to Sabbath School teacher in both the children and adult classes. Although the world has changed and there have also been changes within the Adventist church, Lee has no regrets in joining the Adventist church.

—Peggy Snyder

Glenville Church Screens *Forks Over Knives* Film

Glenville (W.Va.) church members recently teamed up with the Calhoun Gilmer Chronic Disease Treatment and Prevention Coalition

to show the documentary *Forks Over Knives*. This film shows the need to implement healthy lifestyle practices in order to achieve a higher standard of living and avoid lifestyle-related diseases that seem to affect many in America. About 30 people attended the screening at the Gilmer County Senior Center. The church also planned follow-up classes to provide guidance in understanding how to implement the film's recommendations.

About a third of the way through the program, David Corcoran, the

local newspaper editor, stopped by to take some pictures. Saying he needed to leave promptly, he sat down for a minute to get a feel of the subject matter and ended up staying until the end of the program. He then asked for a presentation at an upcoming city "Business After 5" social and networking meeting.

—David Meyer



Glenville church members and community members discuss the film.

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SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

OCTOBER 2012

Truly Blessed

As Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) enters another year of ministry and service, I am grateful for the legacy, vision and hope embedded in the fabric of Seventh-day Adventist education. Our legacy is not found in the buildings that rise from the rolling hills of Ohio, but from the service and sacrifice of the lives of our alumni scattered across the globe. Our vision is not blinded by the glories of our past, but focused on a future anchored in eternity. Our hope rests in the abundance that God has already gifted to the body of Christ and is evidenced in the churches of the Ohio Conference.

MVA is blessed with 92 students who are seeking to put God at the center of their lives. They are led by seasoned and dedicated staff (some of whom you can meet below) who are passionate about sharing God's love.

We are blessed to start this year with a new strategic partnership with the Knox County Career Center. This partnership will allow us to enrich the lives of our students by offering world-class career readiness training. We are blessed to launch a literature evangelism outreach that will empower our students to reach our communities for Christ and bless them with income to help pay for tuition.

We are blessed with an alumni association that practices philanthropy. This month they funded nearly \$20,000 for cafeteria equipment and \$10,000 in student financial aid.

Mount Vernon Academy is truly blessed.



Dan Kittle
Principal

Eight New Faculty, Staff Welcomed

Eight new faculty and staff joined the Mount Vernon Academy family this year. They include new business manager Quentin Sahly, who holds a bachelor's from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and a Master

of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee-Martin. Ricardo Woolcock, head boys dean, holds a Master of Divinity from Andrews University (Mich.). Kells Hall, a math instructor, holds a bachelor's in history and a master's in education, curriculum and instruction from Loma Linda University (Calif.). Chaplain Paul Torchia holds a bachelor's in theology from Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) and a Master of Divinity from Andrews.

Sarah Porter, assistant girls dean, holds a bachelor's in counseling psychology from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. She also holds a master's in educational counseling and a master's in administration from the University of Redlands.

Michael Smith, assistant boys dean, is working on a degree from Oakwood University (Ala.). He is a certified literature evangelist and certified drug abuse awareness and prevention educator.

Sam Hutchinson, who works in food service, is certified with the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals. Sarah Chaney, a student at The Ohio State University, serves as a cafeteria assistant.



Some of MVA's new faculty and staff are (back row, left to right) Michael Smith, assistant dean; and Ricardo Woolcock, head dean; (middle row, left to right) Sam Hutchinson, cafeteria director; Chaplain Paul Torchia; Quentin Sahly, business manager; and Kells Hall, math teacher; (front row, left to right) Dan Kittle, principal; and Sarah Porter, assistant dean.

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mvacademy.org ■ Principal and editor, Dan Kittle

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

OCTOBER 2012

We all Play A Role in Our Children's Future

Spring Valley Academy (SVA) received more than 300 eager students this fall, and the excitement of both students and staff permeates the halls and classrooms. Seventh-day Adventist Christian education plays a vital part in shaping the lives and values of our youth and remains a vital force in the church's future. The goal of this school community is to build, promote and enhance a strong relationship between each student and God. This cannot be achieved by the school alone, but will require a close working relationship of the home, church and school in the Greater Miami Valley, Ohio-area.

It is my prayer that as our Seventh-day Adventist Christian community works, prays and lives in a Christ-like way, that our goals may be realized. Children are always the only future the human race has on this Earth. As we all cooperate together, we can mentor and teach them well, and our future as a Christian church community will be secure!



Vern Biloff
Principal

Sudanese Refugee Shares Testimony With Students

SVA's most recent school-wide community service day is a testimony to the power of divine providence. On this particular day, Shannon Velasco, substitute teacher and her group of students were assigned to work at the Hospice of Dayton, where they met Santino Lukaalmuraka, one of the grounds workers. There was no doubt God intended them to meet Lukaalmuraka (who is originally from Sudan) as one of the students, junior Victor Nyachieo, speaks Lukaalmuraka's native Swahili language and was able to interpret for him.

Lukaalmuraka told the group that when he was 15 years old, his village was invaded and he fled to a refugee camp. While there he met Seventh-day Adventist missionaries who worked with United Nations representatives to help him move to an Adventist school in Kenya. Lukaalmuraka says, "I learned the Bible at this school. We talked about a different topic in the Bible class each day."

With the help of the school staff, he applied for relocation to the United States. His name was submitted to a pool of volunteer organizations and drawn by Catholic Social Services, and he ended up in Dayton. He came to the United States with nothing but the clothes on his back and one pair of shoes, and eventually found a job with the grounds crew at the Hospice of Dayton.

"Our hearts went out to Santino as his boss explained he rides his bike for 45 minutes to work each day. So, over the next few weeks, the students and staff at SVA gathered clothing and supplies to help set up his home," shared Velasco.

Lukaalmuraka has since been to the local Adventist

church and was recently accepted into the Job Corps, where he will earn his GED and medical assistant certification. He hopes to become a nurse and find his family someday, but is grateful for his reunion with his Adventist family!



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Principal, Vern Biloff ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

NEWS NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 2012

New Jersey's Ebenezer Stone!

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'" (1 Sam. 7:12, NKJV).

September 23 was an important date for the New Jersey Conference. It not only marked the end of a quinquennium, but also the beginning of a new one. On this day we held our constituency session. We also celebrated the miracles and blessings that God showered upon our conference during the past five years, and gave all the glory to God, for it is He who worked on behalf of our conference. We placed our own Ebenezer stone to celebrate God's victories for us. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

However, we must not sit and rest on our laurels and say, "This is it! This is the end of the journey! There are no more blessings." No! My dear brothers and sisters, we have in front of us so many more cities to conquer, thousands of people to bring to Jesus, more Mission Caleb groups to establish and many more churches to plant. We must continue to be people of prayer, people of the book and good stewards of God's spiritual and financial blessings to each one of us!

I firmly believe that Jesus is coming soon! Let's work together with love, dedication and enthusiasm, for this could be our last quinquennium in this world of sin! Let's complete the mission and go home with Jesus! God bless you, and God bless New Jersey Conference!



José H. Cortés
President

Delegates Re-elect Officers at Constituency Session

Some 242 New Jersey Conference delegates met last month for their 39th regular constituency session, during which they re-elected José H. Cortés as president, Jim Greene as executive secretary and Modesto Vazquez as treasurer.

Delegates, who met at the Robbinsville church, also heard reports from the president, treasurer, secretary and other conference departments. During the president's video report, Cortés shared that over the last quinquennium, the conference gained 4,208 new members, bringing the total membership to 14,123. (See the secretary's and treasurer's reports on p. 2).

After marveling at how much the Lord has blessed the conference, Cortés said, "Let nobody be confused. Everything that happened in this conference



Left to right: Jim Greene, executive secretary, and his wife, Joyce; José H. Cortés, president, and his wife, Celia; and Modesto Vazquez, treasurer, and his wife, Milca



came from the Lord. Nothing came about because of man's effort alone. It's not about me. It's not about you. It's about Jesus."

He then proceeded to thank members of the executive committee, conference staff, pastors and their families, teachers, elders and deaconesses, and members for their contributions to the work of the church.

Delegates also heard and voted on several recommended changes to the conference's constitution and bylaws. At the end of the day, Cortés set a goal to add 20 new churches during the next quinquennium and increase the membership to at least 18,000. Read more at columbiaunion.org/njconstituency.—*Taashi Rowe*

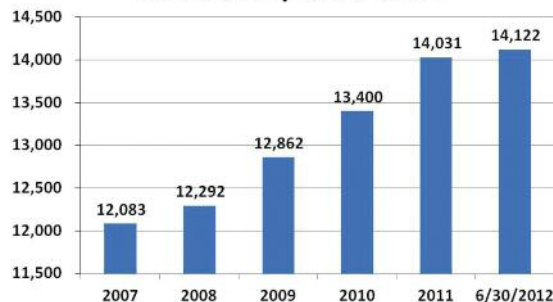
Secretary Reports 4,208 New Members Over Five Years

God has blessed the New Jersey Conference during the past five years,” says James A. Greene, conference executive secretary. “We set a goal to reach 14,000 members by the end of 2011, and I am happy to say that we achieved our goal. Some 4,208 people were baptized from 2007 through June 30 of this year, and our conference has one of the highest percentages of net membership growth in the North American Division.”

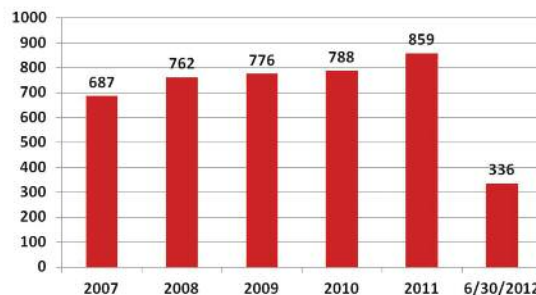
The growth in membership has occurred across almost all language groups in the conference. New Jersey Conference is now the third largest conference in the Columbia Union Conference.

The conference has 86 churches, four companies and 14 Mission Caleb groups. Over the next quinquennium, conference leaders are aiming to have 60-80 Mission Caleb groups that will grow to achieve company/church status. By 2020 conference leaders hope to see the conference grow to more than 20,000 members. “I am thankful for what God has accomplished through you for New Jersey! We encourage all members to become active in witnessing to their neighbors and sharing the Good News of Christ’s soon return,” Greene says.

New Jersey Conference Membership 2007-2012



New Jersey Conference 4,208 Baptisms & Profession of Faith



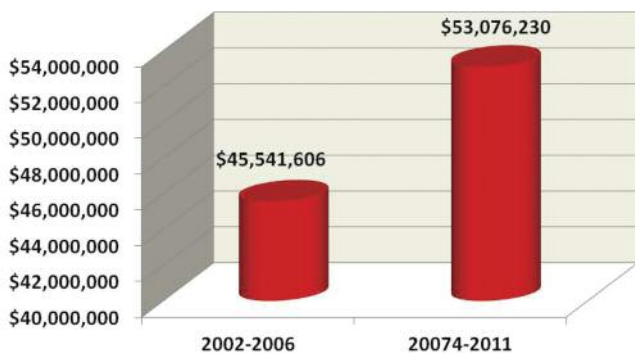
Tithe Up by 16 Percent Says Conference Treasurer

Modesto Vazquez, New Jersey Conference treasurer, reports a positive trend in the conference’s finances. “Despite the downturn in our economy and massive layoffs nationwide, we never suffered a tithe loss in any of the past five years,” he says. “God has blessed the work in New Jersey Conference. Tithe has increased 16 percent during this quinquennium, with a total of \$53.1 million compared with \$45.5 million from last quinquennium (see graph below). Let’s praise God for being faithful and merciful with His people.”

Vazquez said the New Jersey Advance Offering has also increased by 16 percent for the quinquennium, with a total of \$646,145 compared with a total of \$556,646.00 for the last quinquennium.

The conference’s net operating assets also increased from \$2.3 million at the end of 2006 to \$4.2 million as of the end of last year. The required working capital increased from 51.69 percent in 2006 to 134.04 percent in 2011, and liquidity has increased from 73.21 percent in 2006 to 207.17 percent in 2011.

Tithe Growth



“I want to thank the church members of New Jersey Conference for their faithful support of the Lord’s work,” Vazquez says. “I praise the Lord because, during this five-year period, He gave us the blessing of dedicated brothers and sisters who sustain and support wholeheartedly the work of God in this conference through their resources. God has definitely been blessing His people. To Him be the glory!”

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Japanese Leaders Visit Ohio, Discuss Leadership Model

Ohio Conference leaders have developed a leadership model based on evidence in the Scriptures about the principles by which God governs His universe—namely love, trust and freedom. It is an approach to denominational leadership that acknowledges, respects and stresses the responsibility that congregations and their leaders have to



discern and discover God's unique purposes for them and for ministry in their particular contexts. "We believe God has put us on the path to something that holds hopeful potential for the Seventh-day Adventist Church," observes Raj Attiken, conference president. The Center for Creative Ministries recently published a monograph outlining this model titled *Refreshed*. Read more at creativeministry.org.

The distinctive environment for ministry that is being shaped in Ohio through this model has drawn the attention of church leaders in various parts of the world. Recently two administrators from the Japan Union Conference, Tadashi Yamaji and Yasuki Miyamoto (pictured with Attiken), visited with and interviewed Ohio Conference staff on the leadership principles, the implications of applying it in Ohio and the observable outcomes.

Conference Ordains Two Pastoral Leaders

Conference leaders recently hosted ordination services for two pastoral leaders: William Rodriguez, district pastor, and Steve Carlson, Youth Ministries director.

Rodriguez started his pastoral journey in 1986 when, after praying for the opportunity to study religion or theology in an Adventist college, a recruiter encouraged him to attend Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. The Lord opened many doors for him financially, which allowed him to move with his wife, Lucy, to the Washington, D.C., area and enroll. In 2005 the Ohio Conference asked Rodriguez to serve as a bivocational pastor in Lorain.



For five years Rodriguez pastored up to five Hispanic churches in Ohio. In March 2011, the conference made him full time. He presently pastors Hispanic churches in Lorain, Findlay, Youngstown and Wauseon.

Carlson's ministry began in academy where he was a praise music leader and participated in mission trips. In



Conference administrators lead in the ordination service for Pastor William Rodriguez, with his wife, Lucy, by his side.

2000 Carlson moved to Nebraska to attend Union College. There he met his wife, Daisy (pictured with their sons, Ian and Gavin), while earning a bachelor's in religion and secondary education. In 2004 Carlson relocated to Colorado to initially serve as youth pastor for the Denver First church before becoming a Bible teacher at Campion Academy. In 2007 he returned to his home state of California to serve as the youth/young adult pastor at The Place Adventist Fellowship. It was in March 2011 that he accepted his current position.

"Steve is a very outstanding young pastor and has had outstanding success with our young people. William has really demonstrated a lot of passion for his churches and has very good leadership qualities," shares Oswalda Magaña, pastoral ministries director. "We're sure their leadership will continue to be a blessing to us."

Added News Outlets Keep Members Informed

Interested in learning more about what is happening inside the Ohio Conference territory? Conference staff has more ways of communicating with members than ever before.

Be sure to visit ohioadventist.org or the conference's Facebook page for regular updates and shared photos. Scan the QR code here to subscribe to the conference e-newsletter *Faithpoints*.

Also, Ohio Conference summer camps, Adventurers, Pathfinders and Youth Ministries (high school thru young adults) have a new combined website! Visit ohiosdayouth.org to discover what activities are happening around Ohio.



Akron Church Pastor Assists in Archeological Dig

Five years ago, Jerry Chase, pastor of the Akron First church and a trained Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist, worked with the Andrews University Horn Museum (Mich.) to purchase a GPS system to be used for measurements during their archeological digs. Due to conflicts, however, he was unable to participate that year. This year archeology staff from Andrews and La Sierra universities invited him to serve as a GPS and GIS specialist during a visit to their ongoing digs in Tall Jalul and Tall Ataruz, both in Jordan.

The GPS system, which includes a rover, base and radio, helped Chase provide horizontal measurements within a 1-centimeter accuracy, and within 2 centimeters vertically. "Historically, archaeologists used tape measures, strings and

levels to measure location. The GPS is faster, more accurate and enables data collection to flow into the digital world," Chase explains.

Chase and his father, Robert, who accompanied him on the expedition, also helped with the Ataruz dig by providing an 18-foot rope ladder (pictured) they created and built, which enabled the team to more safely enter a cistern.

Did the team find anything game changing? Not entirely. According to Chase, "Jalul was a perfunctory dig to clarify structures found in prior years." However, the team did locate pottery dated from the latter part of the early Bronze Age—the time of Abraham—near a pool structure that dates back to the time of Solomon. Also, in the shaft leading into the Ataruz cistern, they studied the "Relief of the Bull," a carving of a horned bull's head. The bull is an illustration of the kind of worship done during the time of Ahab. During the summer equinox, the sun shines directly in the center of the bull's head, illuminating the carving.

During his days off, Pastor Chase and his father visited sights in Jordan relating to aspects of



Bible history, including places where John the Baptist preached and baptized, and the cities of Decapolis. Chase hopes to take part in future digs and to further his GIS studies.

"I'm very thankful to the Ohio Conference for the five-week Sabbatical and the opportunity of a lifetime to participate in a world-class archeological expedition," remarked Chase, who also received overwhelming support from his congregants.



While visiting archeological digs in Jordan, Jerry Chase, pastor of the Akron First church, works with the GPS system he helped the Andrews University Horn Museum (Mich.) purchase.

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ohioadventist.org ■ President, Raj Attiken ■ Editor, Heidi Shoemaker

Pennsylvania *Pen*

OCTOBER 2012

Hands-On Youth Ministries

The greatest way to encourage a young person to remain a Christian is to give them the opportunity to share Christ with others in a meaningful way. Otherwise, we are mostly providing Christian alternatives to the current entertainment culture. Over and over again, Ellen White instructs churches, leaders and members to take youth into ministry and mission, to give them “hands-on” opportunities to reach others for Christ and to join with older members and benefit from their experience and understanding.

We have begun to reshape and recast our youth ministry priorities to fit this counsel. We have added the following ministry experiences for our young people to be involved in: Cool Camp, Pennsylvania Youth Challenge and the Youth and Young Adult Evangelistic Mission Trip. Every year these ministries continue to grow. More than 85 youth and young adults participated in one of these mission experiences this summer, and we’d like to see more get involved. This will happen as we support our youth and young adults, invite them to our local communities, pray for them and give financially to their works.



Ray Hartwell
President

NEWS

Summer Camp Breaks Records—Again

It was another record-breaking summer at Laurel Lake Summer Camp in Rossiter. Last year just over 300 attended the camp. This year 315 campers and 38 Amish day campers learned about connecting with Jesus through activities, worship and friendships. This



year’s camp featured two new weeks. Family Camp offered fun activities for the entire family to enjoy together. It was like a summer vacation at camp!

Through the Helping Hands Family Camp, families with special needs children could also experience camp. Parents were given the opportunity to enjoy time alone while staff took care of their children, providing a rare break in care giving.

Youth Lead More Than 200 to Christ

Imagine traveling to another country and preaching 19 sermons in three weeks to crowds of people you’ve never met. A job for a professional evangelist? Not this summer. Eleven “ordinary” people joined the Youth and Young Adult Evangelistic Mission trip to the Dominican Republic, many of them preaching for the very first time. By the end, 122 people were baptized and 79 more baptisms were scheduled for the following weeks. “It is so humbling to see how they have taken the challenge to come out and preach in a country in which they don’t know the culture or the language and, yet, allowed God to use them in a mighty way,” shares Ray Hartwell, conference president and a team member.

“This experience has been absolutely fantastic,” one young person shared. “I really believe I have changed, and I believe God has used me.” Read more at papresidentsblog.wordpress.com.



500 Kids Attend Cool Camp

Two kids in Clearfield arrived at Cool Camp proclaiming that they didn't believe in God. By the end of the week they told staff, "We think God brought us here." In Pottstown God impacted the children and also reached a mom.



"I never really thought much about God," she told Christine Ivankina, a team leader, "but after meeting you, I feel God drawing me to Him."

Through Cool Camp, three teams of 30 young people worked in 14 Pennsylvania communities to reveal Jesus to children and their families. By the end of the summer, more than 500 kids learned that God loves them and is on their side.

Shermans Dale church members weren't sure what would happen when they stepped out in faith to offer Cool Camp to their community. Their church is in the country.

Angel Rodriguez, a Cool Camp staff member, spends time with campers at Mountain View Christian School in Williamsport.

Where would children come from? One member rented a bus to transport kids to the pool each afternoon. Then they prayed and waited. More than 35 children came!

More than 80 percent of children attending Cool Camp do not know basic Bible stories or Who Jesus is. By using movies they know, the Cool Camp team introduces them to God. "One mom, whose child attended last year, ... said that every time her son watches *Toy Story 3* (last year's movie), he tells her all the things he learned about God," shares Javier Mendez, Cool Camp director. "That's what it's all about. Teaching them Jesus in a way that they'll never forget."

Watch videos of Cool Camp staff sharing their summer experience at vimeo.com/paconference.

Young People Share Christ at the Door

More than 30 young people spent their summer knocking on doors across Pennsylvania—more than 70,000 doors. They were a part of the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC), the conference's summer literature evangelism program directed by Tara VinCross, pastor of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia. While each student is earning money toward school, their primary goal is to connect people

with Christ. They prayed with more than 13,000 people who answered doors, sold 6,200 books, including 600 copies of *The Great Controversy*, and distributed more than 6,600 copies of *Happiness Digest (Steps to Christ)*.

In Derrick City, they knocked on the door of a young woman who had attended the Derrick City church's Pathfinder club as a little girl. She hadn't been back since.

After a PYC member knocked at her door, she went to church on Sabbath, telling members that she had often thought about attending church when she drove past, but had never done it. PYC was the motivation she needed.

In Waynesboro, a PYC staffer knocked on the door of a woman who lived just across a field from the church. She was so impacted by the young person who came to her home and prayed with her, that she attended church that Sabbath, where she met several people she knew.

For more stories, go to vimeo.com/paconference.



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paconference.org ■ President, Ray Hartwell
Editor, Tamyra Horst

Potomac People

OCTOBER 2012

Conference Leaders Ordain Piney Forest District Pastor

Potomac Conference leaders recently hosted an ordination service for Daniel Royo, accompanied by his wife, Danielle, and newborn son, Ethan. Robert Wood, Royo's grandfather, started the service with a prayer, requesting that Royo's ministry only be interrupted by Christ's soon return.

In his homily, Bill Miller, conference president, tied Royo's chosen text, 1 Peter 5:1-11, with the Olympic creed, and encouraged him to remember: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle." He added, "The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well." John Cress, Potomac's vice president of pastoral ministries, offered the ordination prayer.

Members from Royo's Piney Forest, Martinsville and Stuart district attended as well as representatives from his previous Virginia churches. The dedication for Royo's son was also a highlight of the special service, officiated by Buz Menhardt, associate pastor of the New Market church, who also dedicated Royo as a newborn.

Potomac Conference administrators give the ordination prayer over Daniel Royo and his wife, Danielle.



Public University Student Sets Example Thru Fellowship

When your life is changed, you can't keep it to yourself," shares Michelle Sawaan, who recently graduated from the University of Virginia (UVA). "Someone took the time to know and mentor me. Now, I want to be that example for someone else."

In her years at UVA, Sawaan's participation in Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF), a recognized campus club, changed her life. "The club's goal is to deepen students' understanding of Scripture and

Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs ... and, as a whole, become a group that can be a living example of faith," she explains. It was through these meetings that she also met Amy Shepard, a graduate student.

"I had been attending the meetings to find clarity in Bible verses and doctrines I had heard my whole life," recalls Sawaan, who attends the Charlottesville church. "After I served as ACF secretary, I think Amy decided I was ready for a challenge." Shepard asked Sawaan to consider training as a literature evangelist at the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students in Ann Arbor, Mich. While there, Sawaan participated in door-to-door evangelism and also trained Adventist students at the University of Michigan to do outreach.

Upon her return to UVA in 2011, ACF participants elected Sawaan their vice president. "From my experience in Michigan and my interaction with ACF, I so clearly see the importance of being the same person in all settings. When people see that you act the same in class, in church and at Bible studies, curiosity can ignite. When you love God, it shows."

Sawaan says she hopes students at universities across the nation will consider forming and maintaining similar campus clubs, helping to connect students and grow disciples for God's kingdom. To read more about her, visit pcsda.org/michelle-sawaan.—Tiffany Doss



Michelle Sawaan (middle), a former vice president for Adventist Christian Fellowship at the University of Virginia, meets with her former fellow officers, Israel Johnson, secretary/treasurer, and Stephanie Salvador, president.

Potomac People

Professor Shares Lessons From Research on Theology

This past summer, the Potomac Conference invited Darius Jankiewicz, PhD (right), associate professor of historical theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), to give a presentation on the history of ordination and ecclesiastical authority. At the end of the three-hour presentation, many attendees commented that they would “never be the same again,” and others claimed they will “forever see their relationship with their spouse in a different light.” Because of such a strong response, the conference’s communication staff recently interviewed Jankiewicz about who he is and the impact his research has had on his life. Here is an excerpt of that interview:

PC: What prompted you to study the history of theology?

DJ: Paraphrasing [philosopher] George Santayana, “Those who forget the history of theology are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past.” What was most fascinating for me was the discovery that all the controversies our church had struggled with through its history, such as our Trinitarian, soteriological and ecclesiological debates, had their precedents in the past. The early Christians struggled with the same kinds of issues, and didn’t always find the best solutions. I



discovered that a knowledge of the issues surrounding these historical disagreements helped me understand who I am, as an Adventist, and affirmed my faith in our scriptural interpretations. Even more importantly, I realized that such knowledge could help my church avoid past mistakes.

PC: You recently visited the Wall of Jerusalem?

DJ: Yes. I particularly wanted to experience the opening of the Sabbath at the Wailing Wall. On Friday evening, I joined the worshippers and prayed at the wall, recognizing that this was the very place where God had once dwelled among His people. At one point, a Jewish rabbi handed me a prayer book written in English, and I recognized many Old Testament passages that I loved. It was a very special experience, but looking around, I saw not only the wall separating

Jewish worshippers from the Most Holy Place, but also another wall, a fence, dividing the worshipping Jewish community into two groups. Men were on one side, women on the other. Being together in worship at the wall was forbidden.

PC: How has studying the history of theology and biblical authority personally impacted you?

DJ: I think that where I was impacted the most by my studies was in the area of authority. Once I realized that the idea of “authority” can be understood either in the way culture understands it or the way Jesus understands it (see Mark 10:42-45), and it really sunk into my consciousness. I realized that male headship is all about love and self-sacrifice. Such self-sacrifice, I believe, is much more difficult for men than for women. That is why, I believe, the Bible speaks of male headship rather than female headship. Rather than embracing the idea of hierarchical authority inherited from our culture, I realized that pastoral ministry is not all about me and my status as a pastor. Rather, it is about self-sacrificing myself for the good of those who are entrusted into my care.

Read the entire interview at pcsda.org/darius-interview. View Jankiewicz’s entire presentation at pcsda.org/darius-seminar.



During a presentation at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., Darius Jankiewicz, PhD, associate professor of historical theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), shares some of his research into the history of ordination and ecclesiastical authority.

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Great is God's Faithfulness

The words of the chorus to the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas O. Chisholm have resounded in my soul since the opening of school: "Great is thy faithfulness; great is thy faithfulness; morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!"

As I greet the students and parents entering the doors of Takoma Academy (TA) each morning, I reflect on how good God truly is. His faithfulness to this school is immeasurable. TA's mission is to lead young people to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and provide academic excellence in preparation for this world and the world to come. Since this school year started, I have witnessed firsthand how our heavenly Father is leading faculty, staff, students and parents to establish and re-establish relationships with Him. As we strive to make the 2012-13 school year one of TA's best, we will continue to petition the throne on behalf of our TA community. God has something great planned for us this year!



Carla Thrower
Principal

Junior Earns Scholarship for Costa Rican Study Tour

According to Takoma Academy staff, junior Noelle Francis naturally makes an impact on the campus. She continues to strive for excellence, to reflect the love of God and be an ambassador for the school. Teachers describe her as compassionate, perseverant and resourceful, all qualities that probably gave her an edge over other local applicants who applied for a scholarship offered by the World Affairs Council (WAC) toward a three-week study tour in Costa Rica.



Each year the WAC, a leading forum for global education and international affairs, which has offices in Washington, D.C., chooses a small number of students from the metropolitan region to study Costa Rica's culture and language. It is

not a mission trip but instead an opportunity for students to embrace other cultures and appreciate the differences that make people unique.

Francis, who is not fluent in Spanish, spent an intensive couple of weeks living with a Costa Rican family that did not speak English. "Ultimately, it worked out because, at the end of the day, we are all people, God's children, and His love bridges all differences," she reports. She also believes the experience taught her to be more open to other cultures and people. "I learned to approach seemingly impossible scenarios with greater resilience. I encourage others to seek similar opportunities," she notes.



Junior Noelle Francis enjoyed getting to know her host family during her study tour in Costa Rica.

New Staff Lead Departments, Activities

Not only does Takoma Academy have newly brightened hallways and renovated rooms, the school has new staff leading some of the school's departments and subjects:



Yekaterina Unnikumaran, who is no stranger to the academy, joined as vice principal for academics.

Unnikumaran is an alumna from the Class of 1995 and previously taught in TA's science and foreign language departments. She is now responsible for driving the academic program and defining the curriculum. Unnikumaran holds a master's in education from the University of Maryland with an emphasis in multiculturalism in the classroom.



David Turner joined the TA administration last year, but now serves as the second vice principal. He continues to

develop and manage the student services department while promoting the academy to the community and various stakeholders.



Ronnie Mills is serving as the assistant to the principal for fundraising and alumni. His goal is

to position TA as an institution that is able to support all students, even if they find enrolling a financial challenge. Mills previously worked for the American Diabetes Association, where he helped exceed income development goals and improve services for children with special needs in D.C. public schools.



Rashawna Young, the new business manager, oversees the school's financial performance, management and

accountability. Young previously served for more than 12 years as a

business manager in the D.C. public school system at the secondary level.



Andrea Watkins is TA's new receptionist and has already made a positive impact on interactions in the front office. She recently relocated from Indiana and is currently pursuing a degree in veterinary science.



As TA's new work-study coordinator, **Kristahl Beckett** coordinates activities and workshops that expose

student workers to 21st century skills that will fit them for the job market. She will also coordinate community service hours for the students. Beckett previously worked in the Washington, D.C., public school system.



D'Anyia Brezell, a graduate of Atlantic Union College (Mass.), joined the math department to teach algebra

and geometry classes. She spent the previous nine years teaching at public schools in the Washington, D.C., area. She has also made an early impact on the campus coordinating student praise and worship activities.



Tim Vandeman, who led TA's music department from 2001 to 2009, returned this year to support the

department on a part-time basis. He primarily will work to build the band program. "I am happy to be back at TA as it continues to grow," he states.



Donald Thrower is the school's new plant and operations manager. He will also continue to serve as coach to the girls'

basketball program and the track and field teams.



Harvey Powell is the new head coach for the boys' basketball program. Coach Powell has already spent several

months with the various teams, and is passionate about young men fulfilling their God-given potential. He works full-time at the Thomas G. Pullen K-8 Creative Performing Arts School in Landover, Md.



Mario Broussard, who joined TA as an assistant chaplain last school year, is now serving as the campus chaplain. He

says he continues to be encouraged by the awesomeness of God and His presence in the lives of TA students.

Calendar

October

- 7 SAT Testing
- 8-9 Pastor/Teacher Convention
- 15-16 Midterms
- 28 ACT Testing

November

- 13 Parent/Teacher Meeting
- 14 SAT Testing
- 20-25 Thanksgiving Break
- 26 Classes Resume

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

We Must be Agents of Change

Washington Adventist University (WAU) remains true to its mission to produce “graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities.”

Along with our faculty and staff, I am committed to making this vision a reality by ensuring that our students get the best education possible. It is imperative that a WAU degree remains a cherished prize, indicative of our graduates’ possession of certain intellectual capabilities as well as enhanced spirituality, creativity, flexibility and analytical capabilities. It must be a distinction that is earned, not a commodity that is bought.

As a university, and more so as a faith-based institution, I believe that agents of change come from within universities. To this end, I believe we must prepare our students for life and challenge them to go beyond the confines of conventional thinking. We must continue the task of teaching our students *how* to think, not what to think.

Individually and collectively, we must make the hard choices. We must seek truth. We must leave a legacy of service to humanity. This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

English Chair Gets Summer Seminar Award

Susan Comilang, chair of Washington Adventist University’s Department of English and Modern Languages, is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer seminar award for college and university teachers. The NEH is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States.



The seminar, part of the NEH’s division of education programs, is open to 16 participants to explore “Tudor Books and Readers, 1485-1603” in Antwerp, Belgium; London; and Oxford, England.

“The experience has been really wonderful so far,” says Comilang, fresh off a trip examining books at Corpus Christi College and Magdalene College in England. “It is my plan to use the research I am able to do as a seed for a future book.”

Along with other scholars, Comilang explored the physical plant of the sole-surviving Renaissance printing and publishing house at the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, after which she moved to London to study at the British Library, where one of the great collections of Tudor printed books is housed. Her final four weeks were spent in residence at Oxford University, where she conducted research and studied at select college libraries, including the Bodleian Library.

Comilang, whose doctoral work is on the early modern period, has chaired the department of English and modern languages since 2004. She also serves as chair of the university’s General Education Committee and provides leadership for student learning outcomes assessment.

Susan Comilang, chair of the department of English and modern languages, won an award that allowed her to study in Belgium and England over the summer.

Tight Fiscal Management Enables Campus Improvements

Over the last several years, WAU's financial health has greatly improved, this according to the Consolidated Financial Index (CFI) score, which measures the financial health of higher education institutions. WAU's current score even beat out the average of all private colleges in Maryland. The index takes into consideration four qualities: liquidity, debt, return on assets and margin. Currently WAU ranks well in all four of those categories.

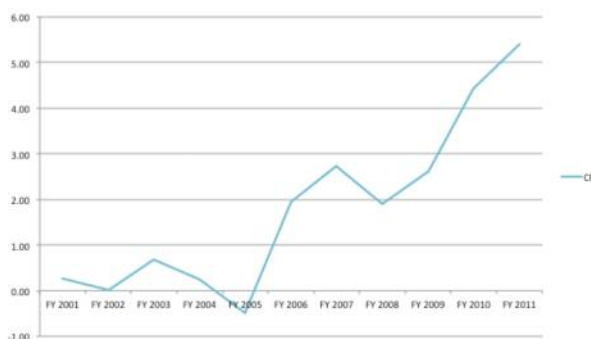
What's behind WAU's improved financial health? "Increased enrollment, contributions from alumni and friends and prudent budgetary choices," says Patrick Farley, executive vice president for finance and administration.

The university's financial health also enables significant changes to campus facilities. This year the university completed a \$6.2 million music building, which kicked off the new campus master plan. Currently the 40-year-old cafeteria is undergoing a \$1 million renovation. The project includes an entirely new design, paint, floors, furniture, new equipment for the kitchen and some new hardware.

Additionally, Richards Hall, the new music building and the residence halls were upgraded with wireless capability. New multimedia equipment was installed in four classrooms, and all 75 computer lab workstations in the Science building have been upgraded. To enhance campus-wide communication, six digital sign locations have been established. Efforts are also underway to increase Internet speed across campus. A facelift is also scheduled for the athletic field.

The graph shows the improvement in WAU's CFI score over the last 10 years.

CFI Score 2001 - 2011



Music Groups Inspire on Fifth South African Tour

On their fifth visit to South Africa, partly sponsored by ADRA, Washington Adventist University's Collegiate Chorale and New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) performed 16 major concerts in three weeks. The groups previously toured South Africa in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2005.

WAU students performed at four cathedrals and four universities all

over the country. "It was a really great experience," said Ramone Griffith, senior religion and music major. "The concerts were well attended, but getting to interact with the people was one of my favorite parts of this tour."

The archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev. Thabo Makguba, and his wife attended the concert at St. Georges' Cathedral in Cape Town, a major center of the resistance to apartheid.

In addition to the concerts, the groups participated in worship services in several churches and schools and interacted with a wide cross section of South African society. Concerts were given at the all-black Good Hope Seventh-day Adventist School in Cape Town. "No one ever comes to visit us with something like this!" was the heartfelt expression of gratitude

from the school's principal.

Another poignant performance was at the Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho, a favorite of the late Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, NEYE founder and artistic director. Flutist Juliana Baioni continued Rittenhouse's tradition of giving to the children, and presented blankets to the hospital crocheted by members of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

The tour ended with a two-day safari in Krueger National Park, one of the largest game reserves in Africa.



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Profiles in Caring



Chaplain Larry Prudente of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference asks the audience some questions regarding topics discussed from the previous night's session.



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Giving Life to the Ministry of Healing

The words “the ministry of healing” began resonating through the work of Adventist HealthCare even before we built our first hospital. Ellen G. White, persuaded that God was leading in the creation of a health ministry in the mid-Atlantic region, determined that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her book, “The Ministry of Healing,” would go toward the construction of the Washington Sanitarium. And so the ministry that would eventually be called Adventist HealthCare began. Our roots are in the ministry of healing.

For us, “the ministry of healing” means freedom—that God’s plan is to free humanity from those things preventing us from reaching our full potential. We rejoice in knowing that we have access to the most powerful resources of heaven’s great storehouse. Accordingly, in Adventist HealthCare the question that we have persistently asked across our history is, “What can we do to free humanity from the things inhibiting a rich and full life?”

Believing that the divine plan for mankind is a holistic approach to restoration leads us to an expanded vision of what God calls us to do. We believe that God’s plan for humanity is not just to forgive our sins but also to restore us to His presence—to be given a “new heart” and way of living. In Adventist HealthCare that restoration is a guiding principle behind our entire endeavor.

Central to Adventist theology is the conviction that God has intentional plans for His grace to transform our personal lives, our families, our communities, and the organizations and institutions that we cherish. Thus, we seek to develop hospitals and services that will both alleviate sickness and disease, and bring wellness and health to the communities we serve. In this we are confident that our daily work is demonstrating God’s care.

Ellen G. White speaks of “disinterested benevolence” as a way to describe serving as Christ served—providing compassionate care untainted by self-interest. I feel fortunate to see this spirit exhibited every day, throughout our entire health-care system.

As an Adventist-sponsored organization, we believe that each day provides an opportunity to be an active witness to God’s power, and to embody His saving message of restoration and redemption in our daily work. Adventist HealthCare is the specific expression of confidence we have in the life and message of Jesus Christ, and in the relevance and importance of “the ministry of healing.”



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

Evangelistic Outreach in the Philippines: A Partnership Between Adventist HealthCare and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry

Adventist HealthCare and the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry of the General Conference spent several weeks this summer spreading the powerful message of the Adventist faith to groups in the Philippines and Hong Kong, while also helping Adventist pastors in those regions sharpen their ministerial skills.

Pastor Ismael Gama, Vice President of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care for Adventist HealthCare, Pastor Shelvan Arunan, Executive Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care for Adventist HealthCare's Shady Grove campus, and Chaplain Larry Prudente, a staff member at the General Conference, held evangelistic meetings and trained pastors and educational leaders in "Pastoral Care and Counseling" and "Biblically Resolving Everyday Conflicts."

"Praise the Lord for the timely topics on 'Biblically Resolving Everyday Conflicts' and 'Pastoral Care and Counseling', because these dynamic lectures will help us to be effective ministers in our pastoral work," said Pastor Dave F. Pedrosa, who attended training seminars sponsored by the Adventist HealthCare and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry in the South-Central Luzon Conference of the Philippines.

The evangelistic meetings were held at the Bauan Adventist Elementary School in the Philippines for eight consecutive nights. The attendees, an average of 250 each night, were members from the seven churches within the Central Batangas District. The members invited their interested friends and parents of the schoolchildren to attend.

"I was surprised by the simple ways of presenting the Adventist message with powerful video clips," said Pastor Santos Eranista, Stewardship Director and translator of the nightly message. "I learned new ways of presenting the three angels message."

Pastor Gama captured the attention of the audience every night by speaking some words in the Filipino dialect he learned that day. Every night the audience anticipated the new words that he added to his vocabulary. Pastor Gama would then present informative health lectures that one can put into practice every day. By the end of the presentations, those in attendance were fondly calling him, "brilliant pastor."

"I was very humbled with how open those in attendance were to hearing the message and how welcomed we were into their communities of faith," said Pastor Gama.

By way of review each night, Chaplain Prudente asked the audience some questions regarding the topic discussed the night before. Audience participation was rewarded as prizes were given for every correct answer. Chaplain Prudente also helped energize the audience by leading them in an exercise to the tune of the popular children's song, "Fruit Salad."

Pastor Arunan discussed the eight nightly topics in a dynamic presentation. The audience's attention was held captive as he walked among them while delivering his lectures with a sense of humor.

"I appreciated Pastor Arunan and Pastor Gama's friendliness and down-to-earth approach in presenting simple, but dynamic messages," said Pastor Arnel Gabin, President of the South-Central Luzon Conference. "Shaking hands with the attendees and mingling among them at the beginning and close of the meeting each night brought the audience to a closer fellowship with the presenters."



(Above) All chaplains present during the lectures received free handouts and books donated by Adventist HealthCare.

(At left) Pastor Shelvan Arunan had spent three years in the Philippines and was familiar with Filipino customs and practices, which made it easy for him to connect with local leaders.

As a result of this ministry, 38 souls were led to accept Christ as their personal Savior and join the church through baptism.

“I was excited to get involved with Pastor Arunan to do Evangelistic outreach,” said Pastor Gama. “I believe evangelism is the heart of our church, so it must be done appropriately in an intentional relationship by being sensitive to the world view of the people and the setting they live and work in. We chaplains are committed to evangelism in a relationship process in the right place at the right time. We were glad to work with the South-Central Conference to do the groundwork and get involved whole-heartedly. We thank the Lord for the blessings of thirty-eight souls accepting Jesus as their Saviour.”

Pastors Nurtured and Trained

In addition to the nightly meetings, sessions were held during the day to work with 50 local pastors on counseling and conflict management skills for their congregations. Pastor Gama shared his expertise in pastoral counseling, while Pastor Arunan delved into the issues of conflict management.



“Pastor Arunan spent three years in the Philippines and was familiar with Filipino customs and practices, which made it easy for him to connect with our leaders and present his lectures in a way that is applicable to the culture and its need,” said Pastor Rey Torres, the ministerial director.

The lectures started with a short devotional for pastors and office workers, followed by lectures and a practicum. Practical applications of the lectures were held during the latter part of the sessions. The groups were then asked to share their interactions with all of the other fellow listeners.

All of the pastors present during the lectures received free handouts and books donated by Adventist HealthCare. “These materials will further guide the pastors to minister to the people of broken spirit and to those with illness,” said John Geoffrey Oabel with the South-Central Luzon Conference. “The great gap of mental and spiritual healing can be filled by trained pastors, to bring patients and members closer to the Great Healer.”

A request was made by Pastor Gabin to come back and provide in-depth training in the two areas, for 12 pastors selected by the Conference Executive Leadership. In written response in the feedback, Pastor Jasper Flores wrote, “This is a good opportunity for us to learn more about resolving conflict, how to truly care for the souls and how to learn to resolve conflicts with Biblical principles.”

Pastor Alfred Vitto added, “It is the first time that I heard that even when Jesus is on our boat, we will have storms. Thank you because I will no longer puzzle in the storm of life while I walk with Jesus.”



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(At left) Local pastors and others gather to thank Pastor Ismael Gama, Pastor Shelvan Arunan, and Chaplain Larry Prudente.

(Above) Pastor Ismael Gama, on right, Vice President of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care for Adventist HealthCare, and Pastor Shelvan Arunan, Executive Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care for Adventist HealthCare’s Shady Grove campus, baptize two of the 38 souls during their trip to the Philippines and Hong Kong.

Misión evangelista en Las Filipinas: Una asociación entre Adventist HealthCare y el Ministerio de capellanía adventista (Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry)



Pastor Ismael Gama captured the attention of the audience every night by speaking some words in the Filipino dialect he learned that day.

Adventist HealthCare y el Ministerio de capellanía adventista de la Conferencia General dedicaron varias semanas este verano a difundir el poderoso mensaje de la fe adventista a grupos en Las Filipinas y Hong Kong, al mismo tiempo que ayudaron a pastores adventistas en esas regiones a afinar sus habilidades ministeriales.

El Pastor Ismael Gama, vicepresidente de Integración de la misión y cuidado espiritual para Adventist HealthCare, el pastor Shelvan Arunan, director ejecutivo de Integración de la misión y cuidado espiritual para el campus de Shady Grove de Adventist HealthCare y el capellán Larry Prudente, miembro facultativo de la Conferencia General, sostuvieron reuniones evangelistas y capacitaron a pastores y líderes en educación para “Consejería y cuidado pastoral” y “Resolución de conflictos cotidianos a través de la Biblia”.

“Alabado sea el Señor por los temas tan oportunos sobre ‘Resolución de conflictos cotidianos a través de la Biblia’ y ‘Consejería y cuidado pastoral’, pues estas conferencias dinámicas nos ayudarán a ser ministros efectivos en nuestro trabajo pastoral”, señaló el pastor Dave F. Pedrosa, que asistió a los seminarios de capacitación patrocinados por Adventist HealthCare y el Ministerio de capellanía adventista en la Conferencia de Luzón sur-central de Las Filipinas.

Las reuniones evangélicas se llevaron a cabo en la escuela primaria Bauan Adventist en Las Filipinas por ocho noches consecutivas. Los asistentes, que fueron un promedio de 250 cada noche, eran miembros de las siete iglesias del distrito de Batangas central. Los miembros invitaron a asistir a sus amigos interesados en el tema y a padres de niños en edad escolar.

“Me sorprendió la manera sencilla de presentar el mensaje adventista con fragmentos cortos de video de gran poder”, señaló el pastor Santos Eranista, director de liderazgo y traducción del mensaje de cada noche. “Aprendí nuevas formas de presentar el mensaje de los tres ángeles”.

“Me sentí muy honrado con la disposición de los asistentes para escuchar el mensaje y la bienvenida que nos dieron a su comunidad de fe”, señaló el pastor Gama.

Como resultado de este ministerio, 38 almas aceptaron a Cristo como su Salvador personal y se vincularon a la iglesia a través del bautizo.

“Creo que el evangelismo es el corazón de nuestra iglesia, así que se debe hacer de forma apropiada en una relación intencional siendo sensibles a la visión del mundo que tienen las personas y al entorno en el que viven y trabajan”, dijo el pastor Gama.

Además de las reuniones nocturnas, se llevaron a cabo sesiones durante el día con 50 pastores locales sobre consejería y habilidades para el manejo de conflictos en sus congregaciones. El pastor Gama compartió su experiencia en consejería pastoral, mientras que el pastor Arunan ahondó en los temas de manejo de conflictos.

“El pastor Arunan estuvo tres años en Las Filipinas y se familiarizó con las costumbres y prácticas filipinas, lo que le facilitó relacionarse con nuestros líderes y presentar sus conferencias de una manera que corresponde a la cultura y sus necesidades”, dijo el pastor Rey Torres, el director ministerial.

Las lecturas empezaron con una corta oración de devoción para pastores y trabajadores de la oficina, seguidas por lecturas y una sesión práctica. Las aplicaciones prácticas de las lecturas se realizaron en la segunda parte de las sesiones. Luego, se pidió a los grupos que compartieran sus interacciones con todos los otros compañeros que escuchaban.

Todos los pastores presentes durante las conferencias recibieron folletos gratuitos y libros donados por Adventist HealthCare.

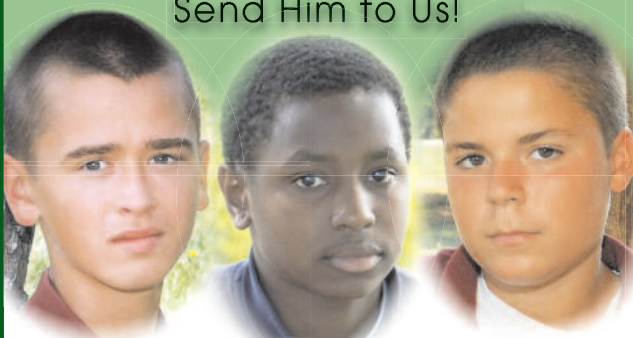
“Estos materiales orientarán aún más a los pastores para ministrar a las personas que tienen su espíritu quebrantado y a los enfermos”, dijo John Geoffrey Oabel de la Conferencia de Luzón sur-central. “El gran vacío de sanación mental y espiritual lo pueden llenar pastores capacitados, para acercar aún más a pacientes y miembros al Gran Sanador”.



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LEGAL NOTICES

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE TRIENNIAL SESSION

The triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before this full conference in session at that time.

An organizing committee to select the Nominating Committee and nominate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2012, at the Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrisburg, Pa. *Raymond C. Hartwell, President* *William J. Peterson, Exec. Secretary*

ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRIES TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Adventist Health Ministries constituency will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

This meeting is called for the election of trustees and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Every delegate to the Pennsylvania triennial constituency is a member of this session.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President *William J. Peterson, Exec. Secretary*

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION TRIENNIAL

Notice is hereby given that the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and transact any other business that may come before the association at that time. Delegates to the Pennsylvania Conference session are recognized as delegates to the association meeting.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President *William J. Peterson, Exec. Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELTSVILLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL invites alumni, faculty and friends to a weekend celebration

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2
Baltimore	6:43	6:33	6:23	6:13	6:05
Cincinnati	7:15	7:04	6:54	6:45	6:36
Cleveland	7:03	6:51	6:40	6:30	6:21
Columbus	7:09	6:58	6:47	6:38	6:29
Jersey City	6:33	6:21	6:11	6:01	5:52
Norfolk	6:43	6:33	6:24	6:15	6:07
Parkersburg	7:03	6:52	6:42	6:33	6:24
Philadelphia	6:37	6:26	6:16	6:06	5:58
Pittsburgh	6:56	6:45	6:35	6:25	6:16
Reading	6:40	6:29	6:19	6:09	6:00
Richmond	6:48	6:38	6:28	6:19	6:11
Roanoke	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:29	6:21
Toledo	7:10	6:59	6:48	6:37	6:28
Trenton	6:36	6:25	6:14	6:04	5:56
Wash., D.C.	6:45	6:35	6:25	6:15	6:07

of 55 years of Adventist education, October 27-28. Activities begin Sabbath morning with special guest speaker, Kathy Goddard, former faculty, and continue through Sunday with the second annual Run Fast for BAS 5K. Visit baschool.org, join our Facebook page, or call (301) 937-2933 for more information.

ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES NEW YEAR'S RETREAT—

December 28, 2012, thru January 1, 2013, at Camp Kulaqua, Fla. Bring in the New Year with other singles from across the nation. Music by Charles Haugabrooks. Activities: canoeing, go-karting, seminars, zip-lining, rodeo, New Year's Eve celebration and more. Contact (386) 454-1351 or visit: campkulaqua.com.

ATTENTION ADVENTIST HEALTH STUDY-2 PARTICIPANTS!

Please update your contact information if it has changed: address and phone number. Contact us by email: ahs2@llu.edu; phone: (800) 247-1699; or fax: (909) 558-0126. You may write to: AHS-2, Loma Linda University, Nichol Hall 2031, 24951 N. Circle Drive, Loma Linda, CA 92350, or visit adventisthealthstudy.org.

OBITUARIES

BOBES, Leopoldo, C., born

August 10, 1935, in Havana Cuba; died August 22, 2011, at home in Wilmington, Del., after a battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was a member of the West Wilmington church in Wilmington, Del., for over 40 years. He earned a BA degree in Spanish from Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., in 1960 and later a master's degree in Spanish from Villanova University (Pa.). He took great pleasure in entertaining and teaching Spanish to students at Concord High School in Delaware for 30-plus years and at Montgomery County Community College (Pa.) for 12 years. Leo will be remembered by his church family for his beautiful tenor voice, his Spanish accent and living close to the church. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Gertrude E. (Jackson) Bobes in 1998, and his second wife, Donna L. Whittington in May 2011. He is survived by his daughters: Ann E. Daciuk of Swarthmore, Pa.; Joyce L. Ogden of Chesapeake City, Md.; and Maria E. Bobes of Wilmington; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Bulletin Board

CARTER, McCants L., born November 13, 1978, in Colorado Springs, Col.; died August 1, 2011, in Fulton, Md. He was a member of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. He worked in security at the General Conference until he graduated with his MBA, with an emphasis in global management, from the University of Phoenix. He then worked under contract for the Department of Defense. He is survived by his wife, Meredith Carter from Fulton, Md.; his daughters, Mylah and Maddie Carter of Fulton; his mother, Marialyce Fordham of Laurel, Md.; his sister Marialyce LaFese Davis of Laurel; his nieces, Tarese and Tylar of Laurel; his brother-in-law, Desmond Davis of Laurel; and his god brother, Eian Quinnonez of Bowie, Md.

DECKER, Master Sgt. James Theodore, born June 6, 1966, in Seoul, Korea; died August 22, 2011, in Dillwyn, Va. He was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. James honorably served his country in the U.S. Army and the National Guard, and was a veteran of Desert Storm. He is survived by his parents, Ted and Dora Mae Decker of Amherst, Va.; his daughter, Taylor Nicole Bell of Lynchburg, Va.; his sons, Austin Blake and Gavin Chase Decker, both of Lynchburg; his sisters, Dawn Marie Decker of Lynchburg and Brenda Lee (Darryl) Meadows of Inwood, W.Va.; his brother, Robert Leslie (Christy) Decker of Chesnee, S.C.; five nieces and three nephews; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

DOTSON, William, age 74, of Norwalk, Ohio, died September 22, 2011, in Estes, Col., while on vacation. Born in August of 1937, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, to Clinton and Helen Dobson. He was raised in the Mount Vernon area with is brothers: Bob, Ben, John, Gary, Tom, Charles "Midge," and Doug, by his father and stepmother, Nell Dotson. He graduated from Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and attended college at Bowling Green State University (Ohio). He held certificates as a licensed practical nurse, as well as a licensed nursing home administrator. He also served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War. Bill was the founder of Gaymont Nursing Center and through his love and caring of others, he touched the lives of many. He was an active member of the Norwalk (Ohio) church. Bill is survived by his wife, Sherri, and sons, William Dotson II and Erin Dotson; six grandchildren: Anthony, Christina, Mathew, Timothy, Troi and Wyatt; his father Clinton Audrey Dotson; and brothers, Tom Ute and Doug Dotson.

FREEMAN, S. Berkeley, born September 19, 1942, in Welch, W.Va.; died September 18, 2011,

in Kettering, Ohio. He was a member of the Kettering (Ohio) church. He graduated from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., and attended Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Berkeley taught school for several years and was an area representative in southwestern Ohio for Christian Record Services for the past 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Stella Randolph Freeman, of Kettering.

FROOM, Elsie M., passed away November 29, 2011, in Loma Linda, Calif., at the age of 95. She was the wife of Pastor Fenton Froom (deceased). They served the church together in many locations, including Orlando, Fla.; Staunton, Va.; Atlanta, Ga.; Seattle, Wash.; San Bernardino, Calif.; and Takoma Park, Md. Private family services were held at the Shepherd Cemetery in Hendersonville, N.C. December 10. The family appreciates your warmest sympathies and look forward to a reunion with Christ in heaven.

GLENZ, Edwin O., age 92, was born in Haddon Heights, N.J.; died October 16, 2011, in Sicklerville, N.J. He was the beloved husband of 71 years to the late Florence Irene Canning Glenz; devoted father of Edwin (Penni) Glenz, Barbara (Michael) Dadura and David (Bert) Glenz; adoring grandfather of Kim, Chris, Heidi, Denise, Karen, Eric and Keith; 11 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by brothers Roland and Benjamin (Anne) Glenz. Pastor Glenz worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, specializing in the publishing field, working as a literature evangelist in New Jersey prior to becoming the publishing director for the Potomac Conference. After many years there, he went to the Pacific Union as their publishing director. From there he retired after 40 years in the Lord's work. He and his late wife retired to Lehigh, Fla. After retiring, he continued to preach and volunteered to assist with the publishing work in Alaska. Three years prior to his death, he moved back to New Jersey to be near his children. He attended the Woodbury (N.J.) church until he had to go into a nursing home the last 19 months of his life.

HAWKINS, Eva L. (Weeks), born October 14, 1928, in Defiance County, Ohio; died November 28, 2011, at her home near Hicksville, Ohio. She was the daughter of the late Levi and Elizabeth (Kisabeth) Frick. She was a member of the Trinity church in Defiance, Ohio, and previously a member of the Hicksville (Ohio) church. Eva had

a love for music, which included playing the piano, organ and electric guitar. She graduated from Mark Center High School. She married Clair Wilbur Weeks in 1948. Wilbur died in 1997. She married Donald E. Hawkins in 2002. Eva was retired from Magnavox Corporation. Survivors: her husband, Donald; her son, Gary (Susan) Weeks of Fayette, Ohio; her daughter, Linda Darlene Camp of Athol, Idaho; two step-daughters: Rebecca L. (John) Heffelfinger of Bryan, Ohio, and Barbara L. Jones of Lebanon, Tenn.; a stepson, Merle (Sandra) Hawkins of Florida; four grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Richard Lee Camp; a brother, Albertas Frick; a sister, Nettie J. Frick; and an infant step-grandchild, Justin McClure Heffelfinger.

LEMBCKE, Chester R., born March 17, 1917, in Ramona, S.D.; died October 24, 2011, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He was a member of the Fredericktown church. Chester was employed as the postmaster in Ramona for many years. He was a 66-year member of the American Legion Post 216 in Ramona, having served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Africa, Germany, France and Italy. Survivors: his daughter, Gloria Mitchell, and his son, Chester L. (Karen) Lembcke.

LOUGH, Leonard Lee, a veteran of the Korean War, was born June 21, 1933, in Littleton, W.Va.; died November 11, 2011, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He was part of the honor guard for General Douglas MacArthur and had the privilege of meeting General Patton. Besides serving in Korea, Lee served in Germany, Hawaii and several states on mainland USA. It was while residing in Alaska that he embraced the Seventh-day Adventist faith. After 17 years in Alaska, he returned to West Virginia, where in 1981 he married Linda Jean Swigler. Lee was a faithful worker in the Toll Gate (W.Va.) church, serving for many years as deacon, Sabbath School superintendent and adult Sabbath School teacher. He is survived by his wife, Linda (Jacksonburg, W.Va.); and two children, Clifton Carl and Jennifer Lea; their spouses and three granddaughters.

MILLER, Marion Kay, born December 21, 1936, in Stroudsburg, Pa.; died October 10, 2011, in Woodstock, Va. She was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. Survivors: her brothers, Verlin R. Proctor, III, and Gary K. Proctor; and a sister, Gloria A. Poe. She was predeceased by her husband, Edwin Miller.

REED, Wilma B., born January 8, 1929, in Swamp Run, W.Va.; died September 24, 2011, in St. Clairsville, Ohio. She was a member of the Wheeling (W.Va.) church. Survivors: her daughter, Linda M. Davidson of Moundsville, W.Va.; her brothers: James (Joanne) Bennett, Wayne (Gay) Bennett and Brian (Karen) Bennett, all of Buckhannon, W.Va.; granddaughters: Laura Conaway of Moundsville and Tonya Main of Wellsburg, W.Va.; and a great-grandson, Remington Conaway of Moundsville.

SHAVER, Claudette, born November 29, 1931, in Belgrove, W.Va.; died December 8, 2011, in her home at Evans, W.Va. She was a member of the Ripley (W.Va.) church. She is survived by her son, Jeffrey (Terri) Fox of Cottageville, W.Va.; her daughter, Melissa (Steve) Hatcher of Ripley; three sisters: Colleen (Ron) Barrow of Ooltewah, Tenn.; Sharon Adams of Grand Island, Fla.; and Geneva Kay (Robert) Geach of Douglasville, Ga.; three granddaughters: Ashley (Jason) Landis of Kenna, W.Va.; Whitney (Marc) Scholl of Ripley; and Kendra (Brandon) Hersman of Evans; and four great-grandsons.

WHITE, Clarice, E., born August 5, 1924, in Stanley, Va.; died November 23, 2010, in Frederick, Md. She was a member of the Stanley (Va.) church. She served as the assistant food service director for 20 years at Shenandoah Valley Academy. She was responsible for supervising and training many young people in good work habits and food preparation skills. Many of her student workers maintained their friendship with her in her retirement. Survivors: her sons, Gerald and Keith White; grandsons: Keith Jr., Duane, Don and Jeremy White; granddaughters: Hannah Hutman and Mary Bailey White; six great-grandchildren; three great-great-granddaughters; two nephews and two nieces. She was predeceased by her husband, Bailey White.

WHITEHOUSE, David M., born July 9, 1933, in Seattle, Wash.; died December 10, 2011, in Grove City, Ohio. He was a member of the Grove City (Ohio) church, where he served as an elder and head deacon. He was a fourth-generation Adventist and raised two stepsons from a previous marriage: Gary and Lonnie Sivey. He never was a denominational worker, but he drove the Worthington Foods truck and delivered food to the conferences and ABCs for many years. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; his brother, Thomas Whitehouse; his stepdaughter, Tanda McBride; his step-granddaughter, Aubrey (Daren) Place; and his great-grandsons, Riley and Cruise Place.



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