

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOVEMBER 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 11



Why
Carl Rodriguez
Believes
Kids Need
**TOUGH
LOVE**

Adentro: Noticias
en Español p.6



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Tough Love

Beth Michaels

Carl Rodriguez took lessons learned from the streets of New York and created an effective youth ministry. Learn about his journey and why he believes kids respond to tough love.

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About the Cover: Patrick Smith photographed Carl Rodriguez in Baltimore.

On the Web

Calendar – Our 2013 *Visitor* Calendar is coming! The theme is “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made,” and it will feature God’s creatures, great and small. Look for it in your mailbox next month. For additional, free copies, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net.



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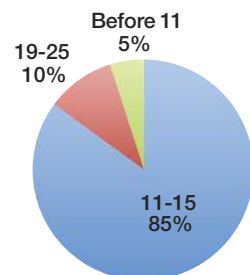


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Visitor Facebook Poll

At what age were you baptized?



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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Published by the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed at the Review & Herald Publishing Association.

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Volume 117 ■ Issue 11

Misidentified

Earlier this fall a disturbing story came out of Connecticut. A man, the popular fifth-grade teacher at a small town elementary school, received a call from his sister who lived next door. It was 1 a.m. and she thought an intruder was trying to break into her home. The man went outside with his gun and discovered someone dressed in black with a ski mask over their head who lunged at him with a shiny object.



The man shot, and killed, the apparent attacker. Only too late did he discover that it was actually his 15-year-old son. Failure to accurately identify the circumstances led to tragedy.

What are the circumstances we live with? The Middle East, always a hot spot of conflict, has so many flare-ups now it is difficult to keep track of them. The world economy is faltering as various nations experience rioting in response to austerity measures. The U.S. unemployment rate and real estate market keeps people nervous.

A sharply divided electorate guarantees that whoever wins the presidential election will face formidable challenges. Even church life is often tainted with debates about theology and practices.

We are strongly tempted to become dismayed, distressed or disillusioned. Certainly these large-scale concerns and a hundred personal traumas are the reality each of us lives with every day. But would that be a correct reading of the circumstances?

Jesus instructs us that when persecution comes and evil is spoken against us, we can “rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven” (Matt. 5:12, NKJV). Despite the woeful situations around us, we can be joyful and experience great peace. The grace of God transforms our circumstances and gives us hope.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

These are actually great days to be alive. Each of the difficulties we face is a signpost of the second coming. When Jesus listed these signs for His disciples, He emphasized that we are to be ready at all times for His return (see Matt. 24:44). When we are, these events lose their sting.

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matt. 9:37-38, NKJV). What an incredible opportunity we have to participate in the harvest.

An accurate identification of circumstances leads us to rely on our Lord, rejoice in His grace and relay the good news to all who will listen.

Rick Remmers serves as president of the Chesapeake Conference.

Marylanders to Vote on Same-Sex Marriage

If the referendum on Maryland's Civil Marriage Act passes, the state would join six others and the District of Columbia in legalizing same-sex marriage. As they head to the polls this month, Seventh-day Adventist Christians are wondering what passage of this law and two others could mean for Bible believers. In 1999 and again in 2004, the world church released statements upholding the biblical view and fundamental belief that marriage should involve one man and one woman.

To help members understand the significance of the same-sex marriage debate, Adventists recently hosted events at Potomac Conference's Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C., and Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

The symposium, titled "Protecting Marriage: What is the Christian's Role?" included panelists Roy E. Gane, Andrews University (Mich.) professor and co-editor of the recently released book *"Homosexuality, Marriage, and the Church,"* Nicholas Miller, the book's other editor and director of the International Religious Liberty Institute based at Andrews University; Bill Knott, *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* editor; and Claudio Consuegra, Family Ministries director for the North American Division.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE BERNARD



Attendees at the Spencerville church event listen closely to the panelists.

Consuegra said that while he believes that the church should minister to everyone, "Accepting homosexual marriage as normal and natural denies the scriptural foundation of marriage and, therefore, undermines the validity of the Bible itself. If the Bible cannot be accepted in this area, how can it be accepted in the other areas, including spirituality, salvation and the second coming of Christ?"

For their event at Capital Memorial church, Metro Area Adventist Young Adults presented "A Discussion on Homosexuality and the Church" that included a viewing of the documentary *Seventh-Gay Adventists*. Panelists included (below) moderator Kesslyn Brade Stennis, PhD, an assistant professor at Bowie State University

in Bowie, Md.; Paul Graham, pastor of Potomac's Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md.; Nicholas Miller; Roy E. Gane; the film's co-producer Daneen Akers; Richard James Sr., pastor of Potomac's Pennsylvania Avenue church in Capitol Heights, Md.; and Jason Hines, a religious liberty attorney.

"We ought not tolerate the [gay] community, we ought to accept that community," Graham said. "It is my moral responsibility to uphold the biblical standards of sexual purity, but it is also my moral responsibility to accept all of God's children."

Miller, on the other hand, said, "It's easy to ignore the issue or uncritically embrace and accept. What's hard is to critically engage it in a biblical, sensitive way. Love isn't complete without accountability."

Last month at its Annual Council, the world church, which has a committee discussing alternative sexuality practices, reaffirmed its stance on homosexuality while also offering compassion toward gays and lesbians. Additionally, Bill Knott announced at the Spencerville symposium that a 2014 international congress is planned for Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss homosexuality and possible challenges facing the church and its clergy.

Marylanders will also vote on a gambling proposal and whether to allow in-state tuition rates for illegal immigrants. Read more at columbiaunion.org/2012election.



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Noticias

TAASHI ROWE

Miembros hispanos de Allegheny East celebran múltiples logros

Durante el día anual de la hermandad del concilio de iglesias hispanas de Allegheny East Conference (AEC, por sus siglas en inglés), llevado a cabo recientemente en las oficinas centrales de la Asociación en Pine Forge, Pa., se celebraron varios eventos:

TREINTA SE GRADÚAN DE LA ESCUELA DE DISCIPULADO

El año pasado Allegheny East empezó su propia Escuela de Discipulado, la cual enseña a los laicos a ministrar. Al hacerlo, se unieron a otras más en Columbia Union. Unas treinta personas se reunieron un domingo al mes durante un año para completar la primera fase del programa.



Fernando Sánchez (arriba en la foto), miembro de la iglesia Harrisburg (Pa.) Spanish, el primer adventista del séptimo día en su familia, fue uno de los graduandos. Muy orgulloso, un sábado llevó a su hermana para ser bautizada. “Siento que Dios me ha llamado”, dijo.



CATORCE PROMOVIDOS A GUÍAS MAYORES

Catorce guías mayores fueron promovidos en una ceremonia de reconocimiento por todo un año de estudio y compromiso en la dirección de clubes de Conquistadores. Los nuevos Guías Mayores, Luis y Sarita Medero, miembros del grupo Getsemani Adventist en Dover, Del., estaban emocionados por este logro. “Después de trabajar tan duro, estoy feliz de que Dios nos haya ayudado hasta aquí”, dijo Sarita. “Esto es para Dios. Queremos enseñarle a todos acerca de Jesús y llevar a más personas a conocerle”.

CINCO LÍDERES RECIBEN CERTIFICADOS PASTORALES

Los pastores Martho Luhan, José Rosario, Delores Orellana,

Leandro Pérez y Roberto Reyes recibieron los certificados de ministerio que los autoriza a llevar a cabo servicios pastorales en Allegheny East Conference. Orellana sirve como líder del ministerio para la mujer como parte de los ministerios hispanos de la Asociación.

“Esto es para hacer público que apreciamos el ministerio que han llevando a cabo, año tras año,



Artículo especial de *Visitor*: Amor firme

Carl Rodríguez estaba a solo tres semanas de terminar sus cursos universitarios de especialización en ingeniería eléctrica en DeVry University, New York, cuando el Señor lo llamó de manera clara a predicar.

Su camino al ministerio lo condujo de enseñar, al seminario para terminar su maestría en teología, luego a un trabajo pastoral en Florida y finalmente a ministerios juveniles como director en New Jersey Conference. Durante los últimos dieciséis años, ha servido como director de ministerios juveniles en Chesapeake Conference. Al dedicar tantos años al ministerio de jóvenes, ha aprendido que: “A los muchachos no les importa la crítica cuando saben que es porque alguien se preocupa por ellos”. Lea más en español en columbiaunion.org/carlrodriguez o en inglés en la pág. 10.

PHOTO BY PATRICK SMITH

Lea más historias sobre iglesias hispanas de Columbia Union en columbiaunion.org/noticias. Para compartir sus historias y fotos envíe un correo electrónico a visitor@columbiaunion.net.

sin la certificación”, comentó Charles Cheatham presidente de la AEC, mientras les entregaba los certificados.



Dieciocho se unen a la iglesia por medio del bautismo

De los dieciocho que se bautizaron el sábado, Luis Pacheco no tenía planes de hacerlo. Aunque su esposa, Wendy, era miembro de la iglesia Rehoboth Spanish, en Reading, Pa., él apenas empezaba a asistir cuando Miguel Martínez le ofreció llevarlo. Pacheco pensó que Martínez estaba bromeando y le siguió el juego. Sin embargo, después de que Martínez le llevó, empezó a asistir con regularidad. El sábado, Martínez le ofreció ir con él hasta la pila bautismal.

Con los nuevos miembros también vienen nuevas iglesias. Ramón Escalante, director de los ministerios hispanos de la Asociación, también reconoció a las cinco nuevas congregaciones que formaron parte de la Asociación durante este año.

Los niños de West New York bendicen a otros cercanos y lejanos

Los pequeños feligreses de la iglesia West New York de New Jersey Conference en Palisades, conocen bien Mateo 25:36. No solo saben el versículo que dice: “Estuve desnudo y me vestisteis, enfermo y me visitasteis, en la cárcel y fuisteis a verme”, sino también lo viven. Durante los últimos diez meses, los niños han recaudado casi \$10,000 para ayudar a otros de dentro y fuera del país. Los niños han donado el dinero para construir iglesias en el extranjero, proveer material de lectura a niños ciegos, enviar Biblias a Ruanda, alimento a Ghana, y artículos personales a los refugios para mujeres.

Todo esto inició hace dos años cuando “recibimos una carta de la República Dominicana”, recuerda Alberto Portanova, Jr., el director de ministerios infantiles. “Fue cerca de

Navidad, y pedían ayuda con juguetes para los niños. Le pedimos a los niños que ayudaran, y trajeron cien juguetes nuevos”.

Cuando se propusieron recaudar \$1,500 para construir una iglesia en India, Abigail Doria (en la foto) tanto quería que los niños en India tuviesen una iglesia como la de West New York, que donó todo lo que tenía en su alcancía—\$186.



“Creemos que nuestros niños hoy pueden ser misioneros como los personajes de la Biblia”, dice Portanova. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/westnewyork.



PHOTO BY LEANDRO ROBINSON

Cuatro se bautizan en el retiro juvenil en Pennsylvania

Eduard Díaz y sus hijas Eduanny (izquierda) y Amandy (derecha) se bautizaron este año en el retiro juvenil hispano de Pennsylvania Conference, celebrado en Camp Hebron en Halifax, Pa. La familia Díaz, fotografiados con el pastor Alberto Balio (con camisa azul), es ahora miembro de la iglesia Reading Hispanic. Lea más y vea más fotos en columbiaunion.org/payouthretreat.

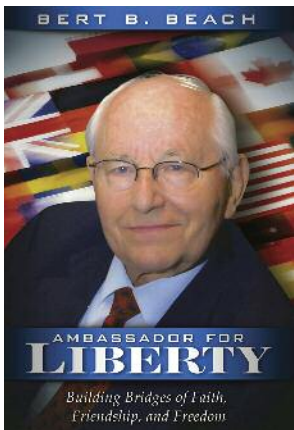
Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > **Ambassador for Liberty** Bert B. Beach

Bert B. Beach, PhD, advocated religious liberty for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. In this memoir, he shares details about just a few of his

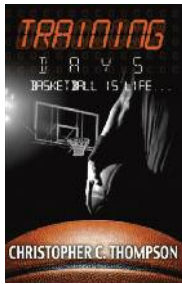


many interactions with royal officials and country presidents. He hopes “the events and issues will reveal some of the throb and thrust of the life God has blessed me with,” shares the member of Chesapeake Conference’s

Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Watch an interview with Beach and order his book at adventistbookcenter.com.

Training Days Christopher C. Thompson

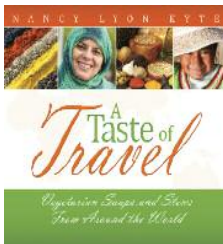
When he finds free time from serving as the associate pastor of Allegheny West Conference’s Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, Christopher Thompson writes. In this teen novel, he tells the story of A.J., a high school hoops star who gets into trouble until his father devises a plan



using Proverbs. “I hope readers will see beauty in the wisdom of Proverbs, as well as its relevance for everyday life,” Thompson says. Download the book from iTunes or order at amazon.com.

A Taste of Travel Nancy Lyon Kyte

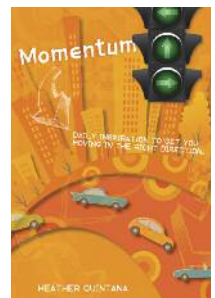
During her many travels with the Office of Adventist Mission, Nancy Lyon Kyte has taste-tested and enjoyed the regional flavors of more than 130 countries. Now she hopes to help others experience life abroad through



vegetarian soup recipes, like Cool Avocado Soup from Burkina Faso and Black Bean Mango Soup from Honduras. “The world is an interesting place, filled with fascinating people living in a variety of cultures,” writes the member of Chesapeake’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Order the book at adventistbookcenter.com.

Devotional > **Momentum** Heather Quintana

Heather Quintana stole time away from her job editing *Vibrant Life* magazine to pen this 2013 daily teen devotional. “I’m always amazed at how many teens want to follow God but just don’t know where to



Welcome to the Family

Victor Pacheco Cleveland Spanish Church



PHOTO BY ANGEL MIGUEL TORRES

“It was the biggest event in my life ... Accepting Jesus as my Savior gave me more faith, and His teachings fill me with His love.”

What You Bring to the Table

begin,” she says. Drawing from experiences in youth ministry with her husband, Robert Quintana, pastor of Chesapeake’s Frederick (Md.) church, she answers questions like “How do I know God’s will for my life?” Get copies at local ABCs, or download it from iTunes.

CD > **David Griffiths** **and The Praise & Worship Experience** **David Griffiths**

“This project is the result of years of studying the names of God and leading worship in different contexts,” explains award-winning songwriter and composer David Griffiths, a member at Potomac



Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Because he hopes to prepare listeners for worship in a diverse heaven, he offers a range of styles, from Negro spirituals to contemporary worship anthems. All of the songs are taken from his first songbook. Read more and order at davidgriffiths.org.

In the Spotlight > Glenville Church



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS: Although local Adventists founded the Glenville (W.Va.) church in 1972, it wasn’t organized until 1975. David Meyer (pictured, right, with his wife, Alice), a founding member, served as the congregation’s pastor until 1980. Today he is the first elder, working with Richard Cutright (above), who has pastored the congregation for the past three years. Although Glenville is one of the smallest churches in the Mountain View Conference, members believe they are one of the most dynamic.



DYNAMIC YOUTH: Nearly half of Glenville’s 23 members are age 16 and under. Driven, self-motivated and passionate, they assist with nursing home ministry, evangelistic meetings, prophecy seminars and colporteur—sometimes selling 20 books in one week! “We’ve worked *really* hard to reach our community with the health message, Daniel seminars and fellowship,” reports 15-year-old Chemutai Schiow.

REACHING THE LOST: Two teams visit local prison facilities each week to hold services, which have resulted in two baptisms; a third is expected soon. One of the baptized inmates even decided to leave his life of crime and is studying to become a pastor! “We’ve seen major transformation in the people who come to these studies,” Meyer says of the inmates. “Many believe Christ allowed them to be incarcerated to save their lives.”

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY. According to member Teris Sambu, two words define Glenville church: active and loving. The church leads several community initiatives, including its own natural food store where they offer cooking and health classes. They also partner with local officials and organizations to run community programs, such as screening *Forks Over Knives*, a documentary promoting the benefits of a plant-based diet.—*Sam Belony*

CARL
RODRIGUEZ
TOOK
LESSONS
LEARNED
FROM THE
STREETS OF
NEW YORK
AND CREATED
AN EFFECTIVE
YOUTH
MINISTRY

Tough Love

Story by
Beth Michaels

Photography by
Patrick Smith



HIS STINT AT THE FRONT OF A CLASSROOM may have only lasted his first two years out of college—only because that’s exactly how long the Lord told him to stay there—but after 45 minutes with Carl Rodriguez, it’s obvious to me that he is an educator. He gives me 14 pages worth of biblical applications for real-life scenarios, along with his mantras for ministry—pausing regularly to see if I’ve connected with his points. I learn that those mantras, shaped by lessons from a challenging childhood, are his curriculum for ministry, and are the very reason he’s found effective service as the Youth Ministries director for the Chesapeake Conference.

That’s why it surprises me when Rodriguez offers this admission halfway through our interview: “I hated kids before!” he says, chuckling at his bold honesty. “[This was] when I first joined the church, before I was baptized—because I like order. And kids talking in church, I wanted to say, ‘Shut up!’” After reveling in my reaction, he adds, “But something happened.”

He makes sure I’m familiar with Acts 2:38-39, then explains that the act of baptism prompts the Holy Spirit to reveal to us our gifts for ministry. He shares that he was 17 years old when the Spirit revealed his. “Before I got baptized, the pastor says, ‘Carl, I can’t explain it, but I want to share this with you. The Lord has shown me that you’re to work with young people.’ I laughed so hard! I said, ‘Are you kidding me!’” he chuckles at the memory. “But, after I got baptized, it’s funny, something inside me changed. ... Everything changed about grace and patience. I realized what God wanted me to do.”

A Lesson in Caring

The 2011 junior sharing book the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., released titled *In the Shadow of the Mob* is partly what prompted me to discover more about Rodriguez. As the title indicates, the book shares how life as the son of an Italian mobster (despite the fact that his family is Puerto Rican) forced him to make difficult decisions at an early age. One circumstance is especially telling: an analytical, preteen Rodriguez risks severing the already fragile relationship he shares with his father to help guarantee his mother and younger brother’s safety from the dangers of organized crime. Against his heart’s desire, he convinces his father to permanently leave home.

I also learned that his life is marked with a number of amazing godly interventions. At age 12, two stately male figures appear in time to save him from a neighborhood bully ready to stab Rodriguez for confronting him about a stolen bat (he was an avid baseball player). At 16, a heavenly voice instructed him to look at a sliver of light sneaking in under the door of a darkened room where a priestess and spirit leaders hoped to initiate him into the spirit world. Soon afterward, the Lord responded to his pleas and released him from an evil being who wrestled with him in his bed.

But, those really aren’t the stories Rodriguez wants you to recall when you meet him. In fact, when I set up the interview, he seemed slightly embarrassed that a book’s been written about him. He later explains that he rarely shares such details with the young people he mentors for fear that life “out there” might sound intriguing. On the contrary, he hopes the life lessons he’s turned into the Seven Points of Youth Ministry (see the sidebar) will help other youth leaders—even parents—better point kids to Christ and ministry. Although Rodriguez spends a great deal of time outlining the seven steps, the one refrain that supersedes everything is “tough love.” He’s convinced that tough love gives kids structure and let’s them know that someone cares, something he once yearned for.

“Kids don’t mind criticism when they know it’s because you care for them,” Rodriguez summarizes. He got to first put this philosophy into practice during his brief teaching stint at Greater New York Academy (GNYA).

An Early Call

Rodriguez tells me he was just three weeks shy of finishing his final college courses in the electronic engineering track at DeVry University in Queens when the Lord clearly called him to teach. He was already following the Lord’s direction to mentor young people by leading Pathfinder and Adventurer groups at the local church and tutoring students at GNYA. When the school lost a math teacher, they asked 20-year-old Rodriguez to step in. “When I went to pray [about it] ... I saw me in a classroom teaching; it was like a vision, out of nowhere ... I saw the faces and I saw [the principal] and I saw him calling me to take the teaching job ... All of a sudden, he calls. ... I said, ‘I’ll call you right back,’ and I hung up and went back on my knees and started crying.”

7 Carl's Seven Points of Youth Ministry

1 Give kids tough love. God loves us and says come as you are (tattoos, rock music, piercings, heavy make-up and all), but He never says stay as you are. If you want to see changes in people, you gotta encourage them to go all the way, to give their lives to God so He can change them.

2 Help mold their character. That's the point that we don't usually have patience for, but we have to hold them accountable. For example, if two kids get in a fight, take it as an opportunity to point out issues (e.g., temper or cursing) that they need to take to the Lord.

3 Train them. A lot of times, young people don't get involved because they've never been taught *how* to get involved. Give them opportunities to learn and teach them to lead.

4 Let them serve. This is the hardest part. A lot of times we give young people responsibilities but never the ability to make decisions. For example, at Mt. Aetna summer camp in Hagerstown, Md., I put young people in positions and give them the authority that goes with it.

5 Embrace our church heritage. Young people need to know why the Adventist Church exists; that we have a purpose and God wants us to follow that purpose. Ellen White instructed, if we don't teach people the past, they're often to repeat the mistakes of the past.

6 Help them choose positive entertainment. As Ellen White said, not all entertainment is bad. We need to help kids learn to discern what's good for their lives and what things are going to lower their standards.

7 Train leaders how to work with kids, because not everybody knows how. Every church board that I ever had, I wouldn't pick anyone until every Children's and Youth ministries position was filled, and then I trained them. We can't give our kids the scraps.

Rodriguez says he immediately requested that his college instructors let him take his final exams early so he could fill the position. They agreed but couldn't understand why he would give up the prestigious job they knew he had lined up at Bell Laboratories in Long Island. "My mom was upset. My friends said, 'You're throwing your career away; you're throwing your life away,' cause they just didn't understand," he shares, again pausing, this time for me to grasp the weight of his decision.

It's obvious that Rodriguez is still amazed by his early success as he recounts those two years: "I was tough on those kids. Sometimes I would fail them so they could come after and show me how to do a math problem on the board, and then I would give them the points because I really wanted them to succeed," he explains. It was only during his last two weeks there that he noticed his room, unlike other teachers, was always filled with students eating, talking and asking for his help. "This is what I learned: kids respect you when your religion is real. And so they would come, even though I was tough, because they knew I loved them," he adds.





A Higher Purpose

Rodriguez could have pursued a career in engineering, aviation or mathematics, but by heeding God's unmistakable leading, he is living the Great Commission. He is bringing others to Christ. His path to ministry led him from GNYA to the seminary for his master's in theology, a pastoral job in Florida, and then back to Youth Ministries as the director for the New Jersey Conference.

It seems easy to summarize what formula God used to create a path for Rodriguez, to put him where he could best be used for a higher purpose. It was God's unconditional love, plus a few Adventist mentors early in his search for truth who held him accountable for his rough exterior and bad habits, plus direction given by Ellen White through "those red books" (as he jokingly refers to her writings).

Rodriguez says it's also a matter of learning from our experiences and not making excuses for our past. He remembers when adults judged him, "like this little ghetto city punk, and nobody wanted to give me a shot." He also recalls the days as a new, rigid Adventist who readily threw kids out of the church. "But, when I realized what I was doing by reading Scripture, I said, 'No. God was merciful. Why am I acting this way? God was patient with me,'" he shares.

Now Rodriguez offers kids the same patience and tough love that transformed him, and expects the 72 volunteers who lead the 14 ministries he's developed during his 16 years at Chesapeake to do the same. Kids should be able to come as they are, but then be held accountable for their shortcomings, he says. "Once they know it's a safe environment... and see the benefits [of getting involved], they see there are things beyond them, that there's a God that exists." That, he says, is what gets them interested in taking part in a ministry, then eventually leading the team and possibly starting another ministry. And he convinces me that this is what grows the church, tough love and all.

**God loves us
and says
come as you are,
but he never says
stay as you are.**

CELEBRATION OF CREATION

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Ben Carson



One of the world's foremost pediatric neurosurgeons, Dr. Ben Carson, MD, Ph.D. is a professor and chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Medical School. In 2008 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, by President George W. Bush. "God has given us plenty of evidence of who he is," Dr. Carson says.

Tim Standish



Tim Standish is a researcher at the Geoscience Research Institute in Loma Linda, California, where he focuses on molecular biology. His published works cover topics ranging from faith and science to public policy. Dr. Standish has taught in colleges and universities in the United States, South Africa, Nigeria, Austria, Kenya and the Philippines.

Milton Brown



Director of the Georgetown University Center for Drug Discovery, Dr. Milton Brown is the Edwin H. Richard and Elisabeth Richard Von Matsch Endowed Chair in experimental therapeutics. He is a tenured professor and holds appointments in oncology and neuroscience. Dr. Brown is one of a handful of scientists in the U.S. to have earned both a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and a medical degree.

E. Albert Reece



E. Albert Reece is the vice president for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine for the University of Maryland. Dr. Reece directs an NIH research laboratory group studying the bio-molecular mechanisms of diabetes-induced birth defects. Dr. Reece graduated with a degree in medicine from New York University School of Medicine, and a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of the West Indies.

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Allegheny East Constituents Elect Officers, Directors

Last month at their daylong meeting in the northeast corner of Maryland, delegates to Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Fourth Quadrennial Constituency Session elected two new officers, four new departmental directors, extended terms of office to five years and spent considerable time discussing their constitution and bylaws.

Early in the day, they enthusiastically promoted Henry Fordham from executive secretary to president,

Marcellus Robinson from ministerial director to executive secretary, and returned Lawrance Martin for a fourth term as treasurer. They later approved a second

nominating committee report that made Stephen Richardson (above), administrative pastor at Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Park church, their new ministerial director; Judy Dent (right), a retired public and



Seventh-day Adventist school principal, their new education superintendent; Patrick Graham (left), pastor of the Sharon church in Baltimore, their new Youth and Children's ministries director; and returned Colin Braithwaite, Jackson Doggette, Minnie McNeil, A. Leah Scott and John Trusty to their respective offices. After some discussion, delegates agreed to allow the newly elected executive committee to choose communication and publishing directors. All will serve a five-year term, one of the more



President Henry and First Lady Sharon Fordham (center); executive secretary Marcellus and Maryann Robinson (left) and treasurer Lawrance and Kim Martin (right)

significant recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that delegates approved.

Fordham succeeds outgoing president Charles Cheatham, who capped his 12-year presidency at 76 due only to a three-term limit. In his video report to delegates, Cheatham announced, "I may retire from church employment, but I won't retire from ministry. I will be doing ministry until I die because my calling is from God," he said.

See the next page for part two of this constituency report.—Celeste Ryan Blyden



Charles and Reather Cheatham have served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 54 years, including 46 at the Allegheny East Conference.

Constituents Applaud Conference's Accomplishments

At Allegheny East Conference's recent constituency session, delegates heard reports that over the last four years, the conference saw 3,600 baptisms, organized or reorganized 12 churches and amassed a gross income of \$145.6 million. Membership now stands at 37,000, making AEC the largest conference among the Columbia Union's eight conferences and the second largest among the North American Division's eight regional conferences. There are 141 churches, companies and missions throughout the conference's seven-state territory that serve diverse groups. And despite the impacting economic downturn nationwide, there was a tithe increase of 3.78 percent, yielding a total of \$123.1 million over the four-year period.

Delegates applauded these accomplishments, but a few shared questions and concerns about the use of funds toward the conference's move from a dilapidated farm house to a new, \$10 million, state-of-the-art headquarters; the

need for more renovations to the conference-operated Pine Forge Academy (PFA), which shares a campus with the conference in Pine Forge, Pa.; and the declining enrollment at some of the conference's 11 elementary and secondary schools. Lolethia Kibble (pictured), a member of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., summarized the general sentiment of her fellow delegates: "Though the enrollment numbers are down, our students score above the national average on standardized tests and are taught by award-winning teachers. But we must figure out how to do Adventist education better, so that it is affordable and not a burden on the conference," she said.

In response, Martin reported that the conference spent \$6.2 million helping the churches pay 48 teachers and operate their schools during the last four years. They also spent another \$6.9 million in capital appropriations, tithe rebates and evangelism initiatives at churches and schools conference wide.



Delegates spent the last three hours of the day working page-by-page and article-by-article through the conference's Constitution and Bylaws recommendations as reported by William Niles, a member of Philadelphia's Ebenezer church. In addition to extending the terms of office from four to five years, they shortened the term limits from three (12 years total) to two (now 10 years total) and established a lay advisory.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

New President Comes Full Circle

When the delegates elected Henry Fordham president, he told them he had come full circle. Fordham's uncle, John Wagner Sr., was the first president of the Allegheny East Conference, and his grandfather was caretaker of the grounds. He spent sum-



mers there, attended the conference's Pine Forge Academy and even taught there for two years.

"To think that as a child he played on the grounds at the conference headquarters and, all these years later, God chose him to be the president," said his wife, Sharon.

Henry was a teacher, pastor and interim pastor at churches throughout the conference's seven-state territory and, for the last 12 years, executive secretary.

"I may not be a perfect president," Fordham said as he concluded his charge to the delegates, "but I *will* be a praying president." Read more at columbiaunion.org/fordham.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

Allegheny East Exposé is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference ■ PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 ■ Phone: (610) 326-4610 visitaec.org
 President, Henry Fordham ■ Communication Director, Robert Booker ■ Editor, Taashi Rowe

Southeast Church Enjoys “Supreme” Visitor, Participates in Praisefest

A busy weekend for the Southeast church in Cleveland started on a Friday evening when the church’s pastoral couple, Jerome and Carolyn Hurst, participated in Praisefest 6: Images of Excellence. The event is an annual nondenominational multicultural praise, prayer and worship service. This year the event, in partnership with the Cleveland Cavaliers, took place at the Quicken Loans Arena. This year’s Praisefest also kicked off the second annual Cleveland Classic Historically Black Colleges and Universities football game presented by McDonald’s.

With thousands of believers, more than 200



houses of worship and various community leaders, Praisefest unites the city’s faith-based community to cooperatively sound the clarion call to address social ills and inspire faithful service in daily life. Jerome was asked to speak on the importance of a strong family unit and Carolyn, a



PHOTO BY JAMES W. WADE III

Pastor Jerome and Carolyn Hurst of the Southeast church address attendees at Praisefest, an annual nondenominational worship service in Cleveland.

podiatrist, prayed for the women of the city.

“It was an awesome experience to be a part of such an event. I praise God for the opportunity to share words of encouragement and inspiration to the thousands of people, from all walks of life, that were in attendance,” commented Jerome.

The following day, Justice Yvette McGee Brown (left) attended the Southeast church’s divine service at the invitation of church member Deborah A. Hill, a former councilwoman. Justice Brown is the only black woman to ever serve on the Ohio Supreme Court. Since her appointment, she has won the respect of her colleagues and praise for her demeanor and knowledge of the law.

Justice Brown offered her appreciation for the warm welcome, a fine worship service, and for the fellowship and prayers offered up in her behalf by conference and church leaders. While addressing the church body, she stressed that education is the key that can unlock the door to the future and quoted her grandmother who once told her, “You can be anybody you want to be with a good education.”

Although she was on a tight schedule, Justice Brown took time to talk, hug and encourage members before promising to return soon.



Conference and Southeast church leaders pray over Justice Yvette McGee Brown during her visit.

Westside Church Hosts Bible Instructor Training Course

Realizing they need to continue responding to the great gospel commission, the Westside church of Cleveland, pastored by Steven Valles, hosted an eight-week lay

Bible instructors course to prepare church members to serve as gospel workers in their communities.

The intensive course was divided into seven Sabbath afternoon sessions. Members from sister congregations in the Greater Cleveland area also participated, including Park Street, Bethel, Southeast and Present Truth.

Westside member Toni Doswell, who authored, instructed and developed the course, always made sure to check that each participant completed the weekly assignment based on the Ellen G. White books *Evangelism* and *Gospel Workers*. She reports that the classes were characterized by robust participation and discussion. Pastor Valles also brought a wealth of information

to the course and even gave a live demonstration on witnessing and meeting people in the community.

Participants' response to the course were positive, including, "The information was so interesting, I went back and started reading the book from the beginning," and, "These lessons were like a mirror to me, and made me look more at myself."

At the end of the seven weeks, nine members received certificates of completion, and two others who took the course by correspondence graduated in absentia.

"I can't wait until the next one!" exclaimed Pastor Valles. Doswell added, "I am very proud of all the participants. They are now all revved up to go out and find lost souls for Christ."



Berean Congregation Burns Mortgage

During a recent celebratory service, the Berean church in Ashtabula, Ohio, delighted in burning their mortgage papers. To help them celebrate the occasion, they invited Charles Drake III, PhD, then president of the Central States Conference, to provide the Sabbath

sermon. It was Drake's great grandparents, Charles I and Ella Drake, who founded the Berean church. The special day also included a concert by recording artist Carl Parker.

The Berean church, currently pastored by Eugene Anthony, has been a familiar presence in

Ashtabula since 1952 and is known for its Bible-based teachings, free meals to the public and health seminars. In 1974 the congregation moved to its current Center Street building, and in August 2000 added a new wing that includes a baptismal pool, offices, restroom and handicap accommodations.—*Regina Elam*



Pastor Eugene Anthony and his church leadership team delight in burning their mortgage statement.

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

Volunteers and Alumni Belong Here



It is quickly becoming obvious to me that volunteers make a huge difference at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). Here are just a couple of examples:

When Wayne Grove (pictured), from the Class of 1976 and a member of the Williamsport (Pa.) church, heard that there were problems with the school's public address system, he scheduled time to take a look. It turns out, the current system needs a set of stereo cables to replace mono cables that were accidentally used, which shorted the frequency signal to the system. Wayne brought his equalizer to ring out the room and figure out the better frequencies that need to be set on our soon-to-arrive equalizer. Worship at BMA will soon sound better than ever!

Tom Sittler, a BMA student from the mid-1960s, recently returned to offer his assistance. Long known in the North American Division as a scrap master, Tom volunteered to go through old BMA junk piles

to pull out valuable pieces that can be taken to the scrap yard. To date Tom's efforts have netted BMA several thousands of dollars!

BMA has benefitted from the attitude of volunteers, like Wayne and Tom, as defined in Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Thank you, all of our volunteers, for letting your light shine and making a difference to our students. And for those would-be helpers still out there, there are many other projects that would benefit from your support—like the repair of our BMA sign on I-78.



David Morgan
Principal

Students Enjoy Park Outing, Helping Others

Blue Mountain Academy staff enjoy getting occasions to take the students on outings, such as the recent In the Park event. While there staff treated the student body to live music, a free meal and the opportunity to enjoy one of Hamburg, Pa.'s scenic parks.

Shawnessey Cargile, pastor of the BMA church, backed up by friend and skilled bassist Andy Wlasniewski, took the stage and offered several melodic numbers. Lead vocalist and guitarist Edgar Gálvez, one of BMA's own multitalented freshmen, presented a violin solo accompanied by his father on the piano. Others lent their voices to the contemporary mix, including senior Avonelle Davis.

Students also took the opportunity to volunteer at a nearby state-run facility for mentally challenged people. They played games, conversed and created art with the residents.

Later that afternoon, BMA cafeteria head cook Matt Anderson whipped up haystacks for anyone within the park's radius. Students and faculty partook in the meal as they enjoyed the sun's warmth and each other's

company. More events are being planned as the academy continues to seek ways of reaching out to the Hamburg community and beyond.—*Stephen Acosta*



Sophomores Shirley Martinez, Sarah DeJesus and Nathalie Robinson enjoy the In the Park event.

My BMA Story

Laura Joann Baut, Junior: For most of my life, I didn't really belong, not to friends, family and especially not to God. I would always ask myself, "Where am I supposed to be? Where do I fit in?" My journey to find the answer began three years ago.

I was going through a rough patch in my life when I discovered a pamphlet for an evangelistic series. My mom and I decided to go to several meetings and couldn't believe what we heard. I had to know what church this was; it felt like the right fit for me. After more private studies with Pastor Chris Buttery of the Mifflintown church, I was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church March 27, 2010. It



was a choice I have never regretted. I finally belonged to God.

I found a new family and new church. All I needed was a new school. At schools I attended in the past, I was ferociously bullied. Someone told me about Blue Mountain Academy. I attended the annual Academy Days, and here I am! I have finally found where I belong.

Julie Foster (pictured with her husband, Jason), Junior Bible Teacher: I'm always nervous when I walk into a new classroom. I wonder, "Will they get it? Will they get me? More importantly, will they get God?" That's the point I try to get across to juniors in each class that I teach, to get God in their life. I am driven to help them realize that there's no high like the Most High. It's one thing to say, "Jesus loves me," because even though I know it, trying to inform a generation of teenagers that want proof that Jesus is madly in love with them is challenging.

It's also an amazing privilege. How many people get to share good news every time they talk to others? In the end, that is my evidence, that Jesus loves me because the Bible tells me so, and it's telling them as well. I always tell students, "Know it and show it." So even though I get nervous, I know I've got the proof in my backpack: a leather-bound Bible ready to spout the truth. And, I've got at least one witness—my life living for God.



Tracy Enochs, Assistant Girls Dean: I became an Adventist 20 years ago and then married the man that introduced me to the beliefs of the church. In 2005 Cory and I were called into the ministry at Enterprise Academy (Kan.). While there, I learned that the Lord doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. For three years I served as the development director/recruiter, my husband as the boys dean.

In 2008 BMA called my husband about an opening. It was a bit scary to leave the state where both our families are located, but we learned



that once you give your all to the Lord, He leads you into unexpected places. Cory accepted the position, but it wasn't until two weeks before we were to arrive that I received a request to work in the cafeteria.

Since coming to BMA, I have been blessed to work as an assistant to the food director, recruiter and girls dean. Regardless of my role, I have found that it is a blessing to share the gospel with our students and to let everyone know what a great school BMA is. With each position I have held, I have learned something valuable to assist me in the next job.

BMA's Core Values

Relationship With Christ—Seeking a relationship with Christ through prayer, Bible study, service and evangelism.

Mission Focus—Joining Jesus and His mission to reach our friends, community and world.

Academic Excellence—Preparing students for success through an exceptional instructional program.

Family Atmosphere—Respecting and caring for each other in a safe, nurturing community.

Student Leadership—Empowering students to serve others through leadership.

Communiqué is published in the *Visitor* by Blue Mountain Academy 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526 Phone: (610) 562-2291 ■ Fax: (610) 562-8050 bma.us ■ Principal and Editor, David Morgan ■ Copy Editor, Louise Corbin

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

NOVEMBER 2012

Missing Girl Reunited With Parents

Meri Yuranda was 8 years old when she was tragically washed out to sea by the devastating Indonesian tsunami of December 2004. Unable to find her later, her parents believed Meri had perished along with 230,000 others that fateful day.

But Meri had not died. Rather, a woman had taken her and forced her to beg for money on the streets. After eight years of abuse, the woman finally freed Meri. It was a tearful and joyous reunion when Meri, then 15, returned to her parents' home. The daughter they had long given up for dead was alive!

Sometimes our lives are punctuated by personal tsunamis—crises that sweep us far away from family, friends and even church. It is estimated that there could be more than 50,000 such persons living in the Chesapeake Conference—people who once attended church, but no longer come.

Look around your church next Sabbath. Are there empty places next to a parent, wife or friend? If so, know these empty spaces also mean lonely hearts. And, the person with the loneliest heart is Jesus. He never leaves us when we stop attending church or even when we stray. His love weathers every storm. But, He still longs for our fellowship and worship.

What is your church doing to reconnect with missing loved ones? Now is the time to pick up the phone, visit or drop a card in the mail to let them know you care. Certainly don't badger them to "come back to church." Let your friendship be enough. And, if you are the person who hasn't been to church for some time, don't wait. Be like Meri—come home. Jesus will come with you.



Gary Gibbs

*Evangelism and Ministries
Development Director*

Thousands Tour Tabernacle Replica in Hagerstown

PHOTO BY KIM PECKHAM

More than 2,000 community members recently toured a life-size replica of Moses' tabernacle when it was set up on the campus of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. Several Seventh-day Adventist churches in the area cooperated on the outreach project that received endorsements from pastors of many denominations.



"When I asked people how they heard about Messiah's Mansion, almost invariably they said 'My pastor told me,'" recalled volunteer greeter Barbara Brostrom.

The project got off to a damp start when a thunder-shower and 70 mph winds blew down parts of the tabernacle on the first Sabbath. But the staff quickly recovered and went on to provide 250 tours that day.

The traveling tabernacle is a ministry of Oklahoma Academy, which provided teen guides who discussed the symbols of salvation with each tour group. During the 10 days of the event, about 4,000 tours were given. School groups came from as far away as Baltimore.

"I had lots and lots of good conversations with people about spiritual things," said Franke Zollman, pastor of the Williamsport (Md.) church. One woman he met had been reading Ezekiel and had prayed to have a better understanding of the sanctuary. When the clock radio woke her up the next morning, it was playing an announcement about Messiah's Mansion. "I was thrilled with how this went," says Zollman, who estimates about 100 visitors asked for Bible studies after their tour.—*Kim Peckham*

A tour guide from Oklahoma Academy describes the Ark of the Covenant to visitors.

Adventurers Visit Fort McHenry

More than 350 Adventurers, families and staff, representing 11 Chesapeake Adventurer clubs, gathered recently at Fort McHenry in Baltimore for the conference's annual Adventurer Fun Day.

The coastal, star-shaped fort is best known for its role in the War of 1812, when it successfully defended the Baltimore Harbor from an attack by the British navy in Chesapeake Bay September 13-14, 1814. It was during the bombardment of the fort that Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

As part of the bicentennial activities, the children helped unroll an

enormous replica 15-star, 15-stripe flag and practiced the motions of loading and dry firing an 1812 cannon. The group also participated in a kite derby—building and then flying their red, yellow and blue kites.

"I loved the cannons and flying my kite way high," said Shane Tallman, a first-grader and Busy Bee member of the Dover (Del.) Gems for Jesus Adventurer Club.

"Being at Fort McHenry made me feel very patriotic, especially when the kids had fun unfurling the huge flag," added Shane's mom, Kirsten Tallman, club director.—Ann Reynolds



Adventurers help unroll an 1812 replica American flag during a recent visit to Fort McHenry in Baltimore.



Adventurer clubs pose with a Fort McHenry ranger who served as their tour guide.

Korean Churches Host Satellite Evangelistic Meetings

The Baltimore Korean church in Ellicott City, Md., and Washington-Spencerville Korean

church in Spencerville, Md., recently co-hosted a satellite evangelism series, and people watched from some 60 sites across North America. Hundreds of visitors came to the combined sites. The series was planned in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first Korean church established in North America. Speaker Dwight Nelson, senior pastor for the

Pioneer Memorial church (Mich.), spoke on the topic "A Future and Friendship You Can Count On."

"It was a privilege and blessing to be the host of this special event in our church. God is working in a great way in the Korean ministries of North America," commented David Sul, senior pastor of the Baltimore Korean church.—Ray Valenzuela

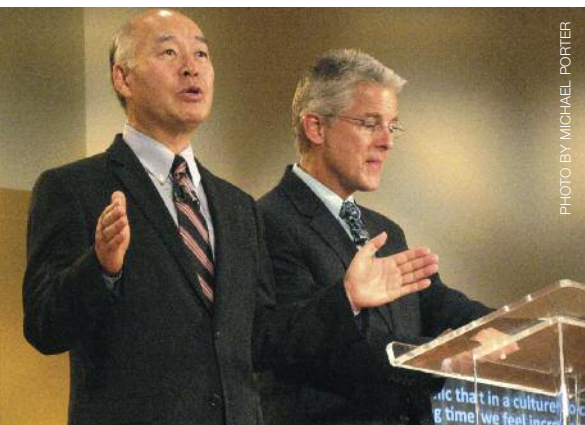


PHOTO BY MICHAEL PORTER

Don Kim, former president of the North American Korean Association, translates for Dwight Nelson (right) during a live broadcast from the Baltimore First church.

The Challenge is published in the Visitor by the Chesapeake Conference 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org President, Rick Remmers Editor, Samantha Young

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

NOVEMBER 2012

Women Learn to Appreciate God's Timing at Retreat

All Things Beautiful ... in His Time," the theme of Mountain View Conference's recent women's retreat at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., was intricately woven into messages during that week-end. Speaker Denise Reinwald, a licensed massage therapist from Pennsylvania, covered topics such as God's perfect timing, how God grows us, how He shows us and even slows us. While telling the story about the woman at the well on Sabbath morning, Reinwald said, "There's a hole in our hearts that only God can fill—only Jesus can meet that deep, deep well of our need. ... In His time, as our hearts are healed enough to receive it, He wants to plant the unshakable assurance that no one else can take the unique place we hold in His heart."

Over the weekend, attendees participated in seasons of prayer led by Kathy Pepper, conference prayer coordinator; seminars; watched a DVD; journaled; hiked; rested and visited with friends. Each year the group selects a mission project, and this year was no exception. The women and their churches collected items to assist women and children at four women's shelters in West Virginia.

Regina Boyce, a member of the Fairmont (W.Va.) church, especially liked the women's retreat because she received spiritual food just for women.



PHOTO BY ALETA DUSTIN

Prayer Leads Woman to Parkersburg Church

When Patricia Freeman, 79, moved to Parkersburg, W.Va., to live with her son Allen and his wife, Marilyn, the Sabbath/Sunday question began to surface in her mind. In 2008 during a Bible study group at the local Methodist church, she asked the pastor why the Sabbath day had been changed from Saturday to Sunday, but did not receive a satisfactory answer.



She prayed about it, and a few months later, received a card in the mail with an offer for free Bible studies. Later a gentleman came to her door and showed her the card with her request on it. She agreed to begin Bible studies, by herself in her home, with the promise that in a week, he would pick up the completed lesson and would leave the next one for her to work on.

As a friendship grew between Freeman and the gentleman, they would chat and he would ask her if she had any Bible questions. Soon Freeman asked the gentleman where he worked. That was when she discovered that the gentleman, Daniel Morikone, was pastor of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church and that the church was only a few blocks from her house.

Freeman then began asking questions about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and on June 2 visited the church for the first time. In August Morikone stopped by for his weekly visit with Freeman and was pleasantly surprised to hear her say that she would like to join the Adventist Church. Freeman (pictured with Morikone), was baptized on September 1 and is already reaching out to church members with a card ministry. "I am so very glad that I asked God to help me receive the answer to my Sabbath/Sunday question," she said.

Wellness Campers Testify to Positive Life Changes

I made up my mind before I [came to] Wellness Camp that even if no one else here did it and stuck with it, I had to," said one recent attendee to the Mountain View Conference Wellness Camp. "I can't help others for the Lord if I don't take care of my temple. I'd never heard of the health laws according to the Word, and it really hit me hard. Wellness Camp changed my whole life."

Over two weeks at the conference's annual Wellness Camp held at the Valley Vista Adventist Center, a total of 10 participants saw life-changing results and had similar stories to tell. Glen Pate, manager at the Roane Better Living Center in Spencer, W.Va., and member of the Spencer church, lost eight pounds while at camp (and is still losing) and his blood sugar went from 231 to

125. His wife, Deborah, also attended camp and in a little over a month lost 32 pounds. They have adopted a new meal plan schedule, have cut out offending foods and have been applying new principles of love and respect in their marriage. According to them, only God could have helped them achieve all these victories and learn helpful information from Wellness Camp.

Collectively, the campers lost more than 50 pounds, saw a reduction in their blood pressures, walked at a much faster pace and some even went completely off their diabetic medications. In addition to taking home healthy new practices, campers also took to heart Ellen White's charge that "God's people ... should be familiar with the principles of health reform, that they may show others how, by right habits of



Kester Erskine and Glen Pate enjoy their after-meal walk.

eating, drinking and dressing, disease may be prevented and health regained" (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 127).
—Chris Hasse

Pastor, Teacher Receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

While he was teaching a Bible class, he informed one woman that he was going into hospital administration after graduating from Union College (Neb.).

However, nearly 40 years later, J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, along with his wife, Dianne, a teacher, recently retired from active ministry. For the past three years, Wayne served the

conference as pastor of the Morgantown (W.Va.), Kingwood (W.Va.) and Mountaintop (Md.) churches as well as Adventist Community Services (ACS) director, while Dianne taught at the Mountaintop School in Oakland, Md.

In recognition of their many years of service, conference leaders presented the couple with

lifetime achievement awards from the North American Division. For over 30 years, Dianne served as a conference classroom supervisor, principal and teacher. Wayne was recognized for his 38 years in ministry as a superintendent of schools, pastor, hospital administrator, ACS director and Trust Services director.



From left to right: Seth Bardu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer; Dianne Hancock; J. Wayne Hancock; Larry Boggess, president of the Mountain View Conference; and Victor Zill, conference secretary/treasurer

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

Living in the Cities or Ministering in the Cities?

Although I like country living, I also feel great passion for cities. Why do I feel this way about great metropolises like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Mexico City, Tokyo, Seoul and Philadelphia? Why do I feel this same passion for cities in my own state like Newark, Union City, Jersey City, Trenton, Vineland or Bridgeton? I must admit it has nothing to do with towering skyscrapers nor impressive architecture. The world of finance and business is not the reason; nor do I feel drawn to the grand attractions of stage and theater. The cities are full of people. My interest in great cities has everything to do with the people living there for whom Jesus died. In those concentrated centers, there are millions upon millions of candidates for eternal life. Yes, of course, our hearts also beat for others who live in smaller cities, towns and rural areas.

However, it is this human population that constitutes what is most important on Earth in God's sight and for whom He formed the plan of salvation. The social and spiritual needs in those enormous conglomerates are beyond all reckoning. For this reason, the small group ministry is so well received. All these good people need a circle of friends with whom they can relate, and who can provide them that sense of belonging, which every human being longs for. Small groups create community and that is very important for isolated post-moderns living as they do in a fragmented society. These people are not anxiously searching for a church, a priest or a pastor; those things have so far failed to minister to them. What appeals to their needs is something more akin to a family circle, which all too often is missing. It is there that they can truly feel the presence and the love of God. Will you start a small group and reach these lost souls today?



José H. Cortés
President

NEWS

Colingwood Park Couple Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Evalina and Ronald Weeks recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Collingwood Park church in Tinton Falls. They were married June 22, 1962, in Germany. The couple is blessed with six daughters, 20 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The church experienced a one-of-a-kind vespers during which the couple renewed their vows. Amoy



Chang, the church's hospitality leader, prepared a special reception for the enjoyment of family and friends.

Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, New Jersey Conference Superintendent of Schools and pastor at the Collingwood Park church remarked, "The Collingwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church praises God for the beautiful and concrete example of love given by Brother and Sister Weeks to our church family."

Strategic Planning Sessions Slated for November

The New Jersey Conference will conduct two strategic planning sessions to gather input from constituents as to what should be the conference goals and themes for the next five years. Instead of regional English and Spanish meetings, the officers are calling for two conference-wide meetings where leaders from the churches will come together at Meadow View Junior Academy for an afternoon of open discussion and planning. The Spanish-language meeting will be held November 10, and the English-language meeting will be held November 17. Both meetings will start Sabbath afternoon at 3 p.m. The school is located at 241 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road in Chesterfield.

West New York Children Bless Others Near and Far

The littlest members of the West New York (N.J.) church know Matthew 25:36 well. They not only know the verse, which says, “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,” they also live it. Over the past 10 months, the children have raised nearly \$10,000 to help others at home and abroad. The kids have donated money to build churches overseas, provide blind kids with reading materials, send Bibles to Rwanda and food to Ghana, and collect personal supplies for a women’s shelter.

This all started two years ago when “we received a letter from the Dominican Republic,” recalls Alberto Portanova Jr., the church’s



Children’s Ministries director. “It was around Christmas, and they were asking for help with toys for children. We asked the kids to help and they brought 100 new toys.”

When they set out to raise \$1,500 to build a church in India, Abigail Doria (above in red) so wanted the kids in India to have a church like the one at West New York that she donated her entire piggy bank, which had \$186.

Pedro Canales, the church’s pastor, says the children’s participation in fundraising, makes him hopeful. “Our kids are on fire,” he says. “They are seeing that they can help others

Alberto Portanova Jr., the church’s Children’s Ministries director, says the children can be missionaries just like the people in the Bible.

and that’s great. With church, school and home working together, we can have a better future for our children.”

Canales and Portanova have also seen how the children are inspiring their parents. The church has approximately 125 members, many of whom are working class. “This is a special church. Our church is prosperous, not because we have money but because we have big hearts,” Canales says.

“We believe that our kids today can be missionaries just like people in the Bible,” says Portanova. Lea esta historia en español en columbiaunion.org/westnewyork.

The children also distribute magazines and other Christian literature to their relatives who are not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Alan Paredes collected \$35 for Christian Record Services.



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

Worthington Members Assist Refugees Displaced by Fire

Refugee families from Bhutan, Somalia and other countries of conflict were recently displaced by an apartment fire in northern Columbus and forced to rebuild their lives yet again. The fire claimed everything, forcing families to flee with what was on their backs, leaving cell phones and identification documents behind.

The Northland Alliance (NA), a nonprofit organization that improves the northern Columbus area and life for immigrants who reside there, was one of the organizations called upon for assistance. Worthington member Kennedy Dulo called on his friend Kwesi Gyimah, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's Columbus African church and a member of the NA board of directors, for



Worthington member Kennedy Dulo dishes out food to refugee children.



Worthington church members feed refugee families recently displaced by an apartment fire.

assistance. Together they spent the night of the fire and the next day trying to find shelter for hundreds of people. Once completed, Dulo started looking for ways to feed the masses. Despite having to overcome language barriers and strong accents, Dulo and Gyimah fed the refugees one meal a day at the Worthington church until more permanent housing was located.

The church also helped provide personal hygiene items, clothing, school supplies, linens, furniture and other supplies. Dulo turned the church gymnasium into a market so people could “shop” for what they needed to get back on their feet. They also provided transportation. “It was a blessing to interact with immigrants and help,” said Dulo. “It was another opportunity to share Christ’s love with them.”

In an effort to distract them from the stress and turmoil

around them, Dulo also took 22 children to a local park to play. The youth adored this break from the crisis, and regularly asked him when they could return. Adults also showed their appreciation for Dulo’s assistance and often opened the doors to their new homes and invited him in for a cup of tea.

The experience sparked in Dulo and area church members the desire to begin more community-based programs, covering anything from finance seminars for young adults to a children’s ministry outreach, to starting a Ping-Pong club. “It’s not about individual conferences or churches ... it’s about people,” said Dulo.



Kwesi Gyimah, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's Columbus African church, presents supplies to people displaced by the fire.

Ohio Members Develop Deeper Understanding of Jesus

Attendees filled most of the 820 available seats at a daylong Bible conference in Wilmington, where presenter Elizabeth Talbot



(above) provided a spiritual feast focused on the theme “A New Song: The Mega Joy of the Redeemed Heart.” Talbot is the speaker/director of the North American Division’s Jesus 101 Institute.

“The gospel was preached with clarity, passion, boldness and authenticity. No one who listened to Elizabeth could have gone away with any confusion or doubts as to what the gospel is and what Jesus

accomplished on the cross,” said Raj Attiken, conference president.

“This was truly an inspirational experience for me and for 16 other people that came from the Elyria church,” added Pastor Robert Bjelica. “I love [Elizabeth’s] wholistic/inclusive approach to biblical preaching, seasoned with much sanctified imagination and creativity. To put all that together with so much depth and clarity, and paint it with such bright colors of hope

and joy, is truly an art form.”

The day also included worshipful music by Grace Notes (below), a praise team from the Worthington church. Mariya Marton from the Mansfield church and Kathy Ladd from the Centerville church also led special programming for children up to age 10. The ladies invited youngsters to dive into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Video from the daylong event is available at ohioadventist.org.



Mount Vernon Residents Learn About Healthy Living

PHOTO BY SHARI BELLOCHAMBERS

Residents of the Mount Vernon area and surrounding communities learned how to say “Goodbye, Health Problems” during Mount Vernon Hill church’s biennial wellness weekend. More than 160 people attended, many for the second, third and fourth time; 82 were visi-



tors from the community. Wes Youngberg, DrPH, a practicing nutritionist from Temecula, Calif., and son-in-law of Dale Glass, Health Ministries coordinator for the church, was the guest speaker. He covered “Diet & Detox: The Whole Food Connection; Disease-Proof Your Kids & Yourself,” and also explored simple prevention, testing and natural treatments for anything from diabetes to heart disease.

Students from the weekend used their newfound knowledge and found quick results. “I had heartburn so bad I could not get to sleep,” said a community attendee.

Nutritionist Wes Youngberg answers questions about health following his presentation during Mount Vernon Hill church’s wellness weekend.

“I remembered that Wes said to use lemon juice and water to increase the acidity of the stomach and improve its functioning.” Her heartburn went away. Another heeded counsel to include Chia seeds in her diet and to avoid eating after 6 p.m. As a result, she has already lost four pounds.

The Mount Vernon Hill church is already planning a follow-up healthy cooking school for the spring and additional outreach programs for 2013.

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

Pennsylvania *Pen*

NOVEMBER 2012

Laurel Lake Church Hosts Camp for Visually Impaired

Jacob had never attended summer camp before. Being visually impaired made it difficult for him to participate in typical summer camp activities. That changed this summer when he attended a camp specifically designed for the blind and visually impaired at Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter.

Randy Mallory, first elder of the Laurel Lake church, and his wife, Cindy, had previously volunteered at camps for the blind and visually impaired in Michigan. When he shared his idea of offering a camp at Laurel Lake with his church members, they all began praying, dreaming, planning and working.

Laurel Lake members took his idea to the nearby community of Punxsutawney. Many local businesses and local churches donated money and food for the camp. Word spread, and more than 20 people volunteered one week of their summer to help.

Campers enjoyed archery, horseback riding, go-karting and swimming. They made pottery and tie-dyed shirts. Their team won every game of beeper ball against the volunteers, who were blindfolded during this game modeled after baseball—the ball beeped so they could easily hit it or find it in the outfield and a base that buzzed so they knew which way to run. They also participated in worships each morning and evening.

“This camp, for me, is just another affirmation that we serve a God who answers prayer. He gave us the right people, at the right place, at the right time and all the means necessary for this special purpose,” Mallory says. “What a blessing! Praise God!”

For more information about next year’s camp, which will be held August 19-23, contact Laurel Lake Camp at (814) 938-9300.



Deb Bandel leads blind camper Jacob.

Four Baptized at Pennsylvania Hispanic Youth Retreat

Eduard Diaz and his daughters Eduanny and Amandy were among four people baptized at this year’s Pennsylvania Conference Hispanic Youth Retreat held at Camp Hebron in Halifax. The Diaz family are now members of the Reading Hispanic church. Ten-year-old Shirley Echevarria was also baptized that weekend. She is now a member of the South Philadelphia Hispanic Company.



The retreat attracted some 240 people, 40 of whom were not members of the church. Leandro Robinson, the conference’s Youth Ministries director, said leaders were intentional about getting youth to take ownership of the weekend, which was themed “Reflecting Jesus.” The youth participated in all facets of the program. As a result, he said young people attended every segment. One of the most popular segments was the talent show where young people showcased their music, poetry and comedy. Still, Robinson said the retreat was not just a place to have fun. “At these retreats, young people grow spiritually and are empowered to minister,” he said.

Pastor Gabriel Montalvo baptizes Shirley Echevarria.

Bucks County Member Starts Motorcycle Ministry

When John Van Aken, a member of the Bucks County church, saw an article in the *Visitor* about a motorcycle camp meeting, he contacted the Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry (SKMM) to learn more. Seventh-day Adventist Motorcycle Riders in Hollister, Calif., founded the club in 1997. After several phone calls and visiting meetings at area motorcycle clubs, Van Aken started the first Sabbath Keepers ministry on the East Coast. SKMM is committed to "... Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"Jesus met people where they were. We want to meet people where they are and help them grow in Christ," shares Van Aken. "We want to present the gospel in the best way we can."

The Bucks County SKMM recently participated in the Lansdale Bike Night and at Bucks



County church's Heroes Day event. They set up a tent with plenty of literature to give away. Members and their families also distributed free water and began conversations with those they met. They've followed up those meetings with phone calls and invitations to join them for rides. One biker they met recently told them, "You know, I've always believed in the fourth commandment and not Sunday. I never

John Van Aken (left) started the first Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry on the East Coast.

knew a church like this existed."

To learn more about this ministry, contact Van Aken at (267) 249-8729 or jva@bww.com. Visit them on the web at sabbathkeepersmm.com, and click on Bucks County Chapter.

Eight Baptized in Berwick

As they went through the stack of mail that waited for them after vacation, Dave and Amy Marich saw the invitation to Berwick church's opening night of "Islam and Christianity" evangelism series as they ate dinner. "We can still make it if we leave now," they realized and immediately got up, leaving their unfinished dinner on the table. They and their two young boys had been visiting various churches searching for an understanding of the Bible.

They were among the more than 65 guests who attended the opening night of the series presented by Pastor John Peters at the McBride Memorial Library in Berwick. That was the church's largest attendance for an evangelistic series in recent years.

After attending the "Islam and Christianity" series, as well as a weekly "Revelation Speaks" follow-up series, also led by Pastor Peters, the Marich family were among eight

people baptized. David and Debbie Whittig, Bion and Pearl Hartman, Debra Zagata and Linda Altman were also baptized.

"We are really excited with this new thematic approach to evangelism," Peters says. "The 'Islam and Christianity' theme captures the attention of the public and coincides with the Israel/Iran standoff persistently in the news cycles and leads directly into the everlasting gospel."



Pastor John Peters (back row, left) gets ready to baptize new believers in the Evansville Lake.

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

Potomac People

NOVEMBER 2012

Beltsville Church Opens Social Services Branch Office

The Beltsville (Md.) church recently opened a branch office of the Department of Social Services, which will offer emergency temporary cash assistance, food stamps and medical assistance. The office, located in the Adventist Community Services house directly behind the church, served as a parsonage for many years, but has been repurposed.

“Our church wants to serve our community. Having an office at our site will be a useful benefit to the residents in this part of Prince George’s County,” explains Glenn

Holland, Beltsville’s associate pastor, and an advocate for organizing this ministry. He adds, “Traffic, long lines and distance to the Hyattsville, Md., office have created a substantial barrier to services in this part. More importantly, this service positions us to form relationships with



Volunteer Richard Peters helps prepare the house for its new purpose.



A home located behind the Beltsville (Md.) church, which served as a parsonage for years, has been repurposed as a branch office for the Department of Social Services.

people in need near our church, which goes far beyond simply opening our doors to a government agency.”

Currently church volunteers provide services, such as crisis counseling and assistance with budgeting, résumé writing and job searching. A department staff member also trains Beltsville members to use the Services Access and Information Link tool. This training allows members to assist people with various departmental services using secure online forms, bypassing the need to see a live agent. Holland says there are also plans to start a food pantry, a public computer lab, after school tutoring, temporary emergency housing for crisis situations and classes for English as a second language.

Norfolk Couple Responds to Local Man’s Struggle

When Diana and Dennis Ruud (pictured) of the Norfolk church heard the story of a local young man whose life had been tragically altered by a single bullet, they inexplicably felt the need to visit him—a perfect stranger.

Five years ago, Diana says she began praying that God would allow her and Dennis the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life. “I want to tell you, be ready for His answer. When you call, He does respond,” explains Diana. They didn’t want God to teach them how to give Bible studies or the courage to be a part of the pulpit experience. Instead, they asked Him to show them another way. That’s when they were hit with the question: How far would you go to help a stranger in need?

Through a remarkable series of events, the Ruud’s found themselves intimately involved in this young man’s day-to-day struggle for life, which led to an amazing result. Watch the story unfold at pcsda.org/stevestory.



Potomac People

Fredericksburg Church Celebrates Toddler's Health

Kira Glock's friends, family, neighbors and caregivers—all dressed in orange—recently gathered at the Fredericksburg (Va.) church to celebrate the girl's third birthday. The day also marked another special occasion; it has been one year since Glock, who also has Down syndrome, has been free from leukemia. Orange is the color for leukemia awareness.

Wanting to help the little girl in any way they could, Fredericksburg

members came together two years ago to host a sacred benefit concert on Glock's behalf. Members not only helped raised money for her cancer treatment; they also took turns visiting with her and her family.

With her illness behind them, Glock's parents, Tracy and John, wore smiles of relief, happiness and pride as they described their daughter's accomplishments. Glock is now walking, learning to use utensils and saying many new words, including "horse," which is one of her favorite animals. She can also say "Thank you" in sign language, and her golden locks have grown back.

At the birthday celebration, Glock wore an orange gown and delighted in the festivities, which included a delicious spread of food,

Three-year-old Kira Glock of the Fredericksburg church has been cancer-free for one year.



The Glock Family: Tracy, Kira, Allina and John

birthday cake and orange ribbon sugar cookie party favors. Guests, especially Glock's little sister, 18-month-old Allina, enjoyed whacking at the horse piñata.

"A special thank you to all those that prayed for Kira during her battle with leukemia," said Glock's parents.—Susan Ware



Ford/Petersburg/Yale District Pastor is Ordained

On a warm, humid Sabbath afternoon, more than 100 friends, family members and Potomac Conference leaders gathered to celebrate the ordination of

Brandon Koleda (pictured greeting guests). "I'm thrilled to have so many people here to celebrate this milestone," said Koleda. "I can't think of a better way to share this day than with those I care about most."

In addition to the "Welcome to Ministry" message shared by Bill Miller, conference president, and the charge given by Jorge Ramirez, vice president for administration, Koleda's close friend and colleague, Travis Walker, pastor of the Christiansburg district, shared what it meant to see his best friend take this important step in his life.

Koleda says his ministry passions are administration, personal spirituality, discipleship, evangelism

and inspiring worship. He strives to lead his congregations in an ever-deepening journey of discipleship that will impact both the members and their communities in relevant and life-changing ways. He considers it both an honor and a privilege to serve the Lord and his church in full-time ministry. For him, there is no greater cause to which he could dedicate his life.

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



Spotlight on Spencerville

NOVEMBER 2012

No Thanks

Living in the United States in the 21st century can be a blessing and a curse. We have so much to be thankful for, but in the vast sea of “things,” where do we begin our thanks? We remember that the pilgrims were essentially thankful for being alive. The basic necessities of life had nearly eluded them.

Fast forward to today, and we can see how difficult it is to see God’s blessings amidst the abundance in our lives. However, when we really step back and take an inventory of the important things around us, it is obvious that it is not the list of things for which we are thankful. In fact, I would say “no thanks” to my things and refocus on my God, family and friends.

I encourage you to write out a list of your significant relationships and spend your time, not your money, investing in them. After all, when our things are gone, all that is left is our relationships.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

Middle Schoolers Choose Godly Adventures

This year Spencerville Adventist Academy’s (SAA) middle school is embarking on an exploratory journey. Each Friday Somer Knight, the middle school chaplain, and the middle school faculty meet with the four middle school classes to focus on an aspect of working positively toward the school body’s shared treasure and goal of being with Jesus for eternity. Each quarter participants focus on walking with and representing Christ in our thoughts (first quarter), actions (second quarter), habits (third quarter) and character (fourth quarter). A large map, charted by student “cartographers” each week, demonstrates the discoveries of their journey, and will continue to reflect their lessons each week.



Eighth-graders Ryan Banks and William Seo lend their musical talents to a chapel program.



Middle school student reporters interview Moses, played by principal Brian Kittleson, during chapel to get information about the recent Israelite rescue through the Red Sea.

Student involvement in the process is critical to the adventure’s success. Each week one of the middle school classes takes responsibility for leading in worship and communicating the central point. Leading up to the chapel program, Knight and math teacher Mike Kahler meet with the class faculty representative and students during their Bible class time to develop an idea and plan involvement with music, art, drama and technology.

“Each week students have been volunteering their gifts and talents to be used in worship and learning new skills that will enable them to confidently share their faith,” reports Knight.

Spotlight

Student Body Enjoys "Let's Move!" Days

The crisp morning provided a wonderful backdrop for SAA's pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade "Let's Move!" Day. Linda McEowen, physical education teacher, divided students into mixed-age groups that rotated through eight stations, with a break mid-morning for granola bars and



fruit snacks. The older students in each group helped younger ones participate successfully in the activities. When asked what she liked best about the day, second-grader Sidese Tiruneh quickly chose the obstacle course. Alternately, eighth-grader Josh Kwon said, "The most fun was helping the little kids."

The next day, the high school actively engaged in their version of the event. All students and staff divided into teams and spent the day rotating through 12 activities.

"Let's Move!' Day gave us a great opportunity to be out in God's creation and exercise," said sophomore Nayeli Moretta. "We played lots of fun games! Despite the heat, we all got together and had an amazing day full of movement, friends and motivation!"

Kalla Carballo and Reagan Sutton work together to complete the three-legged race during the PK-8 "Let's Move!" Day.



The throwing rotation allowed students, like junior Gayoun Pak, to practice throwing skills that are used in a variety of sports.

Students Record Pledge of Allegiance for WGTS 91.9 FM

Every weekday morning during a week in September, Washington Adventist University's radio station WGTS 91.9 FM, based in Takoma

Park, Md., featured elementary and middle school students from Spencerville Adventist Academy offering the Pledge of Allegiance. Spencer White, the station's morning show host, visited the school and prerecorded the voices of five classes.

"I think it's kinda cool that we get to be on the radio," said third-grader Stefanie Rackley. To hear them, visit WGTS919.com.

Kathy Young and her third-grade class record the Pledge of Allegiance for WGTS 91.9 FM.



Calendar

November

- 11 National Honor Society Induction
- 19-23 Thanksgiving Break
- 27 School Board Meeting

December

- 1 *Messiah* Sing-a-Long
- 11 Band Christmas Concert
- 13 PK-12 Choral Christmas Concert
- 16 Student Council Christmas Banquet
- 21 Christmas Break Begins
12:15 Dismissal

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by the Spencerville Adventist Academy 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868 ■ Phone: (301) 421-9101 spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



NOVEMBER 2012

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

God is Working on Our Campus

The Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) faculty, together with the ministry team of the New Market (Va.) campus church, is a very dedicated group focused on mentoring students and teaching them that being exceptional is achievable. This school year we've chosen the theme "New Creatures in Christ by Choosing Daily to Follow Jesus," based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, because we want students to know that being exceptional is always attainable through Christ. To help convey this theme campus-wide, the deans developed dormitory programs that actively engage students in character- and spiritual-building activities.

The great news is that our students are obviously eager to make a mark. They aren't providing any grand gestures; it's the little things that they do every day that indicate they are going to leave a meaningful legacy. In the dorms, several students have started Bible studies. Student leaders have been stepping out and letting it be known that our campus will be a place of respect for others. There is a feeling on campus that God has amazing plans for our students and campus this year. God is working and moving, and everyone is ready to get on board with His plans.



Travis Johnson
Principal

Live Heart Surgery Impacts Anatomy Students

At 4:30 a.m. on a recent school morning, the dual Enrollment College Anatomy and Physiology class left Shenandoah Valley Academy to watch surgeons in action at the INOVA Heart and Vascular Institute in



For College Anatomy and Physiology students Earl Eiselstein, Mikayla Martin and Ian Durias, watching an open heart surgery helped solidify their interest in pursuing medical careers.

Fairfax, Va. INVOVA's program is the only program in the country that allows students to view live heart surgeries, such as the cardiac artery bypass. Here are some student responses from the day:

"Although the surgery was three hours long, I enjoyed every minute of it," said Ian Durias, a potential future cardiac surgeon.

"It's one thing to look at diagrams and videos; it's an entirely different experience to see open heart surgery performed in front of you," shared Emily Dickerhoff, who is also interested in pursuing a medical career. "I have not only learned the anatomy of the heart, but I now seen how it is applied to saving lives."

Earl Eiselstein was hesitant to watch the surgery, "but I finally went in and dared to look at the TV screen. I was hooked. It was really amazing to actually see God's craftsmanship displayed. I just couldn't fathom thinking up all the structures and necessary things to operate the heart."

Shanti James added, "Seeing the surgery made everything we were learning more tangible for me, and was a great way to apply all the theoretical knowledge we had gained."

HAPPENINGS

SALT Attendees Learn Positive Leadership Skills

This year's Columbia Union Conference Spiritual Academy Leadership Training (SALT) weekend took place at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va. Over three days, educational leaders hoped to train the 175 student leaders from 11 Adventist academies from across the mid-Atlantic area how to best use the leadership skills God gave them for His work.



“LEGACY (Leadership, God, Actions, Commitment and You) in Leadership” was this year’s theme. Guest speakers were Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md.; Bruce Peifer, WAU vice president for advancement and alumni relations; and Fred Warfield, executive pastor of the Takoma Park church. Collectively, they informed attendees about the importance of taking leadership roles in Seventh-day Adventist schools and churches. One speaker even encouraged them to start a “rebellion” at their school, adding, “We need to rebel against society’s standard of low expectations for teens.” The leaders clearly intended each message to stimulate the students to take a stance for God.

SVA students Alexandra Wilson, Emily Dickerhoff, Sreyleak Sok, Gabe Garcia and Randy Wiedemann say they enjoyed learning how to be better leaders on campus.



SALT attendees enjoy an afternoon on Spy Rock.

WAU’s leaders also hosted breakout sessions to teach and offer advice on how the students could improve leadership roles on their campuses. Attendees commented that the weekend encouraged spirituality and that it was positive to see so many young people who love God get the opportunity to learn and worship together. —Alexandra Wilson

Week of Prayer Speakers Promote Grace

“We want to tell stories of Jesus in a new way,” said guest speakers Litch and Shelly Litchfield as they opened the Fall Week of Prayer. Litch recently retired as chaplain at Collegedale Academy in Tennessee, where

Shelly taught English and Bible. The couple fulfilled their claim by adding probable yet undocumented details to numerous Bible stories, adding an occasion for some introspection. At each meeting, Shelly shared a “Justice Heroes” segment

about a person who stood up for what’s right in the face of adversity. Litch followed, and in his classic storytelling method, brought the students to laughter, tears and deep thought with his grace-oriented messages. He stated that Christians should spend less time judging others and more time demonstrating the love of Christ.

The Litchfields also spent time on campus teaching Bible classes and offering counseling to students. “Our goal is get everyone here a step closer to God and His Word,” they said.



Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 ■ Phone: (540) 740-3161 shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Travis Johnson ■ Editor, Mary Long

The Millennials

This fall semester, I accepted a request from the Betty Howard Center for Student Success to teach a section of the First Year Experience course. This program is deliberate in its design to help first year students at Washington Adventist University (WAU) make the adjustment from high school to a university learning community. This is also a valuable experience for me, because I get to personally be involved with our new students.

In preparing to facilitate the learning process for this generation of learners, I did some research that indicates that some of these new students, born after 1981, would be labeled “Millennials” or the “Net Generation.” They are the largest generation since the Baby Boomers. They are also the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in United States history. This generation is motivated, goal-oriented, assertive and confident. They are civic minded and value service learning and volunteerism. They expect to advance rapidly in the workplace. They believe college will help them get a great start in life.

It is important that WAU’s administrators, faculty and staff understand Millennials and make adjustments to meet their needs. I believe we are already doing this. With our tradition of creating a community focused on student success, I know that we will help positively impact our students’ lives long after they have left our campus. This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

Renovated Dining Hall Re-opens

After undergoing \$1 million in renovations, administrators, faculty, staff and students recently gathered in the WAU dining room to get a first look at the updated space.



“This is a proud moment,” said President Weymouth Spence, EdD. “This is symbolic of our effort to ensure that our students have the resources and the kind of environment that they need to be successful in their college careers.”

This major facility upgrade, the first since the construction of Wilkinson Hall, which houses the dining hall, includes dramatic changes in both the aesthetics and functionality of the space. The renovation includes the

removal of all existing carpet and the installation of quarry tiles and planked wood flooring, repairing and repainting walls, new ceilings, new light fixtures and upgrades to the air conditioning vents.

The next phase of the renovations will occur during the Christmas break and will include installing new serving stations, a salad bar and beverage machines.

WAU Music Major Directs Orchestra

Michael Patterson, a senior music major, recently organized a concert featuring his 73-piece ensemble, the PianoForte Symphony Orchestra, a group he started at age 18.

The concert, which took place in central California, was televised worldwide and received a three-minute standing ovation from a packed house.

“He shows such fine promise in pretty much any musical field to which he applies himself,” said Preston Hawes, WAU’s assistant professor of music and Patterson’s conducting coach. “I predict a very bright future for him!”



New Chair Eager to Grow Nursing Department

Emily Mize, RN, PhD, newly appointed chair of WAU's Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, is already focused on the prospect of growing the department, which is part of the School of Health Professions, Science and Wellness.

"The department is at a point of transitioning from a college program to a university program. I am excited about this opportunity to give back to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to nursing education," Mize said. "I am passionate about teaching and mentoring both students and faculty."

Mize points to the Institute of Medicine, which recommends that 80 percent of all nurses have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing by 2020. "Our opportunity is to help

meet this need by continuing to provide quality education with several methods of delivery to meet today's diverse adult learner," she said. "The challenge is to quickly learn about the unique culture that has ensured WAU's success, and to use those strengths to build for the future."

Mize comes to WAU with more than 30 years of experience in healthcare leadership and nursing education. She holds a bachelor's in nursing from Walla Walla College (Wash.), a master's in nursing from the University of Washington and a PhD in nursing from the Oregon Health and Science University. Additionally, she is a certified community health clinical nurse specialist and also has certifications from the



Emergency Nurses Association. She has worked at Pacific Lutheran University and Clover Park Technical College.

Faculty and Staff Dedicated at Special Worship Service

The Washington Adventist University community recently celebrated its annual Dedication Sabbath at the campus' Sligo church. Scores of students, faculty and staff attended the worship service, symbolizing renewed commitment to the mission, vision and core values of the university.

"Sabbath at Sligo was beyond an amazing experience," said

Regina Johnson, chaplain of ministry. "God most definitely spoke to us, and seeing so many students, faculty and staff of one accord was wonderful."

WAU holds as its mission a commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service and challenges students to "seize the opportunities for learning in the nation's capital in

order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world."

"It was a great experience to lead in the worship service," said Ramone Griffith, a WAU theology and music major who led the song service. "It was also great to see so many students participate."

A potluck at historic Votaw House, the official home of the WAU president, capped off the day's event.



Washington Adventist University faculty and staff are dedicated during a special Sabbath service at Sligo church.

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



Winsome Witness

NOVEMBER 2012

God Leads

A Hawaiian street preacher glared at me. His knuckles glowed as he gripped his tattered Bible. "Arrrrreeeee yooooooooooooooooo saaaaaaaaved?"

"Well, I um," I stuttered with the confidence of a mouse at a cat show.

"Judgment is coming!" he scowled, his finger jabbing at my nose. "Sinners will be destroyed. Are you saved?"

"Yes. I am."

Instantly, his face softened. "OK," he quipped as he left me shaking on Ala Moana Boulevard.

While I admire that man's convictions, I can't help wondering how many people respond favorably to his approach. Personally, I found it as inviting as a bee sting.

Show, Don't Tell

When Jesus talked about God to people on the street, he tried to be as understandable as possible. He shared stories. He melted their defenses and penetrated their hearts. This is what made Jesus a winsome witness.

Even Peter, the disciple who usually didn't catch on, learned Christ's technique of witnessing. He counseled: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (1 Peter 2:12).

Ellen White shared a similar idea: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Churches and Hospitals Laboring Together

Leaders at Kettering Adventist HealthCare are brainstorming these days about how we can mingle with our neighbors and leverage our hospitals to share God's healing hope in a dying world. We wonder: How can we witness for God in a winsome way?

Toward this end, the Kettering Adventist HealthCare is collaborating with the local Seventh-day Adventist churches to spread God's Word in the community. For example, all patients visiting the emergency rooms receive a booklet that speaks of God's close presence in distressing times.

In short, Kettering Adventist HealthCare seeks to minister to the needs of neighbors, win their confidence, and share God's love. One patient at a time.



Karl Haffner

Senior Pastor
Kettering Seventh-day
Adventist Church

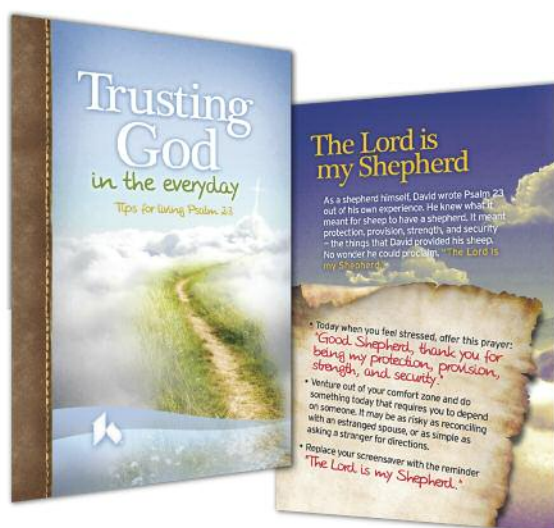
Kettering Adventist HealthCare seeks to minister to the needs of neighbors, win their confidence, and share God's love. One patient at a time.



your healing MINISTRY

Emergency Witnessing

by Kevin Christenson, Kettering Adventist HealthCare Intern



Trusting God in the Everyday

The ambulance races. In and out of consciousness, you grab for your phone, wallet, someone's hand - anything to hold onto. As you hit that point where you are consciously unconscious, a question begins to emerge within. Although you are asleep to the world, a stirring awakens. Will I live for the now, or in the now for eternity?

Many people have this kind of life-changing experience when unexpected trauma thrusts itself into their lives. But when these big questions about their ultimate future arise, where are they to turn? As an Adventist hospital, we believe they do not need to look far. Kettering Adventist HealthCare has begun placing prayer booklets in all of the hospitals' emergency rooms. These booklets focus on the 23rd Psalm, encouraging people to follow the Great Shepherd and offering study materials free of charge.

"I have always dreamt and felt that as we are privileged to be entrusted with the care of individuals at a anxiety causing time of their life, we also have the privilege of inviting patients to turn to the Divine Healer of hurting persons," said Larry Kositsin, Director of Spiritual Services. "This booklet is only one way of allowing individuals to turn in trust to the Good Shepherd who cares for them throughout their entire lives and every event in their lives."

The booklets were launched during Kettering's Week of Prayer, with this year's theme being Psalm 23. During Week of Prayer, the booklets were first dispersed to staff, bringing everyone together through becoming more spiritually focused within the workplace. Short devotional videos featuring *It Is Written's* John Bradshaw were sent daily to employees' emails, as well as being shown in town hall meetings. The booklets allowed everyone to have something they could physically take home with them as a reminder of the spiritual emphasis from work.

Following Week of Prayer, more booklets were printed and given to patients. Each booklet talks about practical ways to keep in touch with God daily. Some tips include doing things as simple as thanking God for the little things throughout the day or signing up to receive Bible verses via text message. In the back of each booklet there is an opportunity to request additional Adventist literature from *It Is Written*. Kettering Adventist HealthCare is underwriting the costs for these materials so that patients and visitors may receive them free of charge. In fact, some people were surprised that there was no cost to them, asking, "Wait, so I'm not billed" and "What's the hook?"



Employees and chaplains hand out booklets to hospital patients.

So far, the booklets have brought in more than a hundred responses from the community requesting the free literature. In addition to being able to order materials, there is a section to request a personal Bible study. Around 68% of those requesting materials have also asked to be part of a Bible study. This information is passed along to local Adventist churches where trained church members are providing the Bible studies. Due to this outpouring of responses, some churches have even hired additional Bible workers to accommodate all the incoming requests.

"I think it's demonstrating a way to other communities that have medical institutions how hospitals and churches can work collaboratively for the health and wholeness of the total person," said Larry Kositsin. The booklets are traveling throughout the community, and some out of state, spreading the message of God's love. Our goal is to provide them with a healthy future that extends beyond the emergency room, and into eternity.



Employees watch one of the It Is Written short devotional videos before a meeting.



Jennifer Swenson, President of Fort Hamilton Hospital, informed employees about the booklets

NEWS



Network News

NOVEMBER 2012

Women's Health Boutiques: One-Stop Preventative Care

Hundreds of women have been taking advantage of Kettering Adventist HealthCare Boutiques in August and October. The boutiques were designed to provide women with quick and easy access to preventative care, free of charge. The unique range of services offered women a "one-stop shop" for many of their healthcare needs. They had the chance to get important screenings such as blood pressure and osteoporosis, and the often forgotten mammogram, all in a few short hours.



Guest speakers presented on a variety of lifestyle topics from organizing tips to heart health, nutrition to Yoga. The events also gave women the opportunity to treat themselves to hand massages, brow waxes, and Zentangle™ (a meditative art form).

Fort Hamilton Breaks Ground on New ER

Construction is underway on the renovations for the emergency room at Fort Hamilton Hospital. The updates focus on a more efficient operation and a better experience. The waiting room will be an attractive and comfortable place for patients and families. There will be an expanded Behavioral Health area with a dedicated entrance for safety. Also, EMS will enjoy a more welcoming lounge area and employees will find a more efficient work space.



The generosity and spirit of Dr. Benjamin Schuster and his wife Marian lives on with the Schuster Heart Hospital

Dr. Benjamin Schuster Passes Away at Age 89

Kettering Adventist HealthCare said goodbye to Dr. Benjamin Schuster, a cardiologist, philanthropist, and dear friend. Known as the "father of Dayton cardiology," Dr. Schuster was a much-loved and much-admired pioneer in cardiology in the Dayton region. A cardiologist at Kettering Medical Center from its early years, he was specifically recruited by our founding President, George Nelson. He spearheaded Kettering's cardiac program in 1965 along with Kettering's first dedicated cath lab.

"It was a pleasure working with Dr. Schuster and his family on our dream of establishing the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Heart Hospital," said Fred Manchur, President and CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "I'm so pleased that he was able to see that dream fulfilled and to know that his legacy will live on at Kettering Adventist HealthCare and the entire Dayton community."

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Romans 10:15

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EMPLOYMENT

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: (formerly Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences) in Orlando, Fla., seeks an assistant program administrator for the nurse anesthesia program. Qualifications: CRNA with current recertification; eligible for Florida licensure; minimum of master's degree from regionally accredited institution, with doctoral degree preferred; and academic experience. This is a faith-based institution, which seeks candidates who fit its unique culture and mission. Submit letter of interest and CV to Dr. Alescia DeVasher Bethea, alescia.devasher@fhchs.edu or fax: (407) 303-9578.

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must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Doctorate required. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, hgadd@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks dean for School of Business and Management. A doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. Priority given to applications received by January 31, 2013. The successful candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ and be an Adventist church member in good and regular standing. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Pat Coverdale, Director of Human Resources, plcoverdale@southern.edu, or Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37363.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in biology, business and chemistry. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

GLOBAL MANAGER NEEDED for international CHIP program. The South Pacific Division has recently acquired the worldwide rights to the CHIP program, therefore, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing is looking for a manager to lead and manage their international team. The position will be based in either Australia or USA and will be pivotal to the success of the CHIP program globally. For more information and to apply, visit sanitarium.com.au.

LIVE-IN NANNY with a car needed to care for my 3-year-old

daughter. She attends preschool three days per week. We live in southern Maryland. Duties to include: bathing, assistance with dressing, preparing vegan meals, driving her to school and play dates, keeping her area tidy, reading to her and playing with her. Great neighborhood. Please email me at: memcapt@gmail.com. References required.

MISCELLANEOUS

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LOMA LINDA VEGETARIAN CONGRESS: Researchers and experts will present the latest scientific facts about plant-based diets and health, February 24-26, at Loma Linda University. Speakers include Dr. Gary Fraser, principal investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2, and Dr. Neal Barnard, author and advocate. Visit vegetariannutrition.org to learn more.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

"WE WOULD SEE JESUS,"

Focusing on Families Revival Meetings, November 4-10, 7 p.m. nightly (No meeting Thursday; Sabbath meetings 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.) at the Liberty church, 3301 Milford Mill Rd., Baltimore, MD 21244 - (410) 922-0050; website: libertysda.org. Presenter: Pastor Jeremiah Davis, Messengers of Light Ministry. For more information, email: libertyconnect@gmail.com.

GLEN BURNIE CHURCH

is hosting the Nature's Remedies Health Training program. John Glenn Clark, MD, a Loma Linda University School of Medicine (Calif.) graduate, will give clear, simple,

Sunset Calendar

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Baltimore	6:05	4:57	4:51	4:47	4:44
Cincinnati	6:36	5:29	5:23	5:19	5:16
Cleveland	6:21	5:13	5:06	5:01	4:58
Columbus	6:29	5:21	5:15	5:11	5:08
Jersey City	5:52	4:44	4:38	4:33	4:30
Norfolk	6:07	5:00	4:55	4:51	4:49
Parkersburg	6:24	5:17	5:11	5:07	5:04
Philadelphia	5:58	4:50	4:44	4:39	4:36
Pittsburgh	6:16	5:08	5:02	4:57	4:54
Reading	6:00	4:52	4:46	4:41	4:38
Richmond	6:11	5:04	4:59	4:55	4:52
Roanoke	6:21	5:15	5:09	5:05	5:03
Toledo	6:28	5:20	5:14	5:09	5:05
Trenton	5:56	4:48	4:42	4:37	4:34
Wash., D.C.	6:07	5:00	4:54	4:50	4:47

Bible-based presentations on weight control, cancer, cholesterol and diabetes. The meetings will be held every evening at 7 p.m., November 11-18. Location: 508 Aquahart Rd., Glen Burnie, MD 21061. For more information, call (240) 793-5401 or (443) 867-6658, or visit Glenburnie.netadvent.org/GBClark.pdf.

OBITUARIES

DALES, Esther Lucille, born September 26, 1916, in Lorain County, Ohio, to Elmer G. and Rosella M. (Draper) Prosser; died December 13, 2011, at the Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She was a member of the Mount Vernon Hill church in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Esther was a graduate of the Mount Vernon Academy and had spent the greater part of her lifetime in the Mount Vernon area. She was a former employee of the Seventh-day Adventist City Laundry in Mount Vernon. Surviving are her sons: Gary (Nancy) Dales of San Antonio, Texas; Gregory (Linda) Dales of Georgetown, Calif.; William Dales of Mount Vernon; and Michael Dales of Arrowbear, Calif.; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and her brother, Donald Prosser of Redding, Calif. Besides her parents, Esther was preceded in death by her

husband, William Hill Dales; her brother, George Prosser; her sisters Naomi Prosser Bell and Florence; and a granddaughter, Pamela Dales.

MYERS, Kenneth G., born June 28, 1920, in Cherry Tree, Pa.; died December 21, 2011, in Seattle, Wash. He was a member of the Auburn City church in Auburn, Wash., at the time of his death, but was a member of the Silver Spring (Md.) church for over 65 years. He actually helped in the construction of the Silver Spring church. He was a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. His hobby was building campers, and he loved his Harley motorcycle. He is survived by his daughter, Darlene Myers Hildebrandt of Maple Valley, Wash.; his granddaughters, Robin A. and Isabella A. Cardoso of Enumclaw, Wash.; his grandson, Jackson A. Cardoso of Enumclaw; and his sisters, Dorothy Detweiler and Mary Lee Keeler, both of Silver Spring, Md.

PENNINGTON, Merchie (Rhymmer), born Dec. 3, 1923, in Konnarock, Va.; died January 22, 2012, in Wytheville, Va. She was a longtime member of the Marion (Va.) church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ray E. Pennington in 2001. Survivors: her daughter, Joy K. Faehner of Brinklow, Md.; son, Alan R. (Dianne) Pennington of New Bern,

Bulletin Board

N.C.; a brother, Billy M. Rhymer of Konnarock; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces.

SCHAAL, Robert L., born June 10, 1920, in Camden, N.J.; died December 16, 2011, in Voorhees, N.J. He was a member of the Camden (N.J.) church for 17 years, then a member of the Cherry Hill (N.J.) church for 45 years. He served as a deacon, elder, church treasurer and church school treasurer for many years. He is survived by his wife, Helyn, of Marlton, N.J.; his daughters, Lana Schaal of Marlton, Debra (Randal) Schleenbaker of Lexington, Ky.; grandson, Bradley (Kate) Schleenbaker of Loma Linda, Calif.; and great-granddaughter Jenna Schleenbaker of Berrien Springs, Mich.

SWAISGOOD, John F., born November 16, 1935, in Lodi, Ohio; died December 17, 2011, in Ashland, Ohio. He was a member of the Mansfield (Ohio) church. John enjoyed running the church booth at the local county fair, helping at various health fairs, and served on the local church board. He is survived by his wife, Anna Mae; his sons: Pastor Mark (Carmen) Swaisgood, Roger Swaisgood, Roy (Diane) Swaisgood and Michael (Debbie) Swaisgood; and his daughter, Anita (Monte) Jackson.

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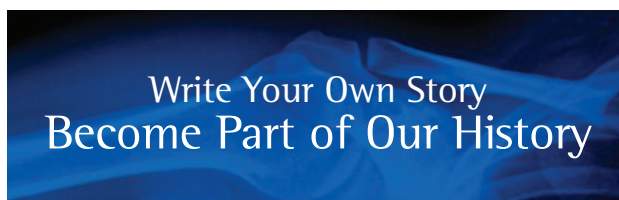
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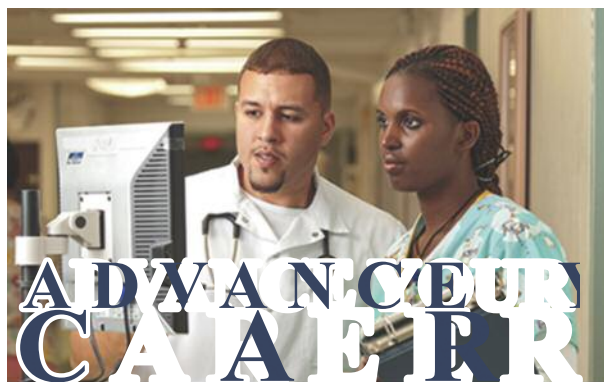
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