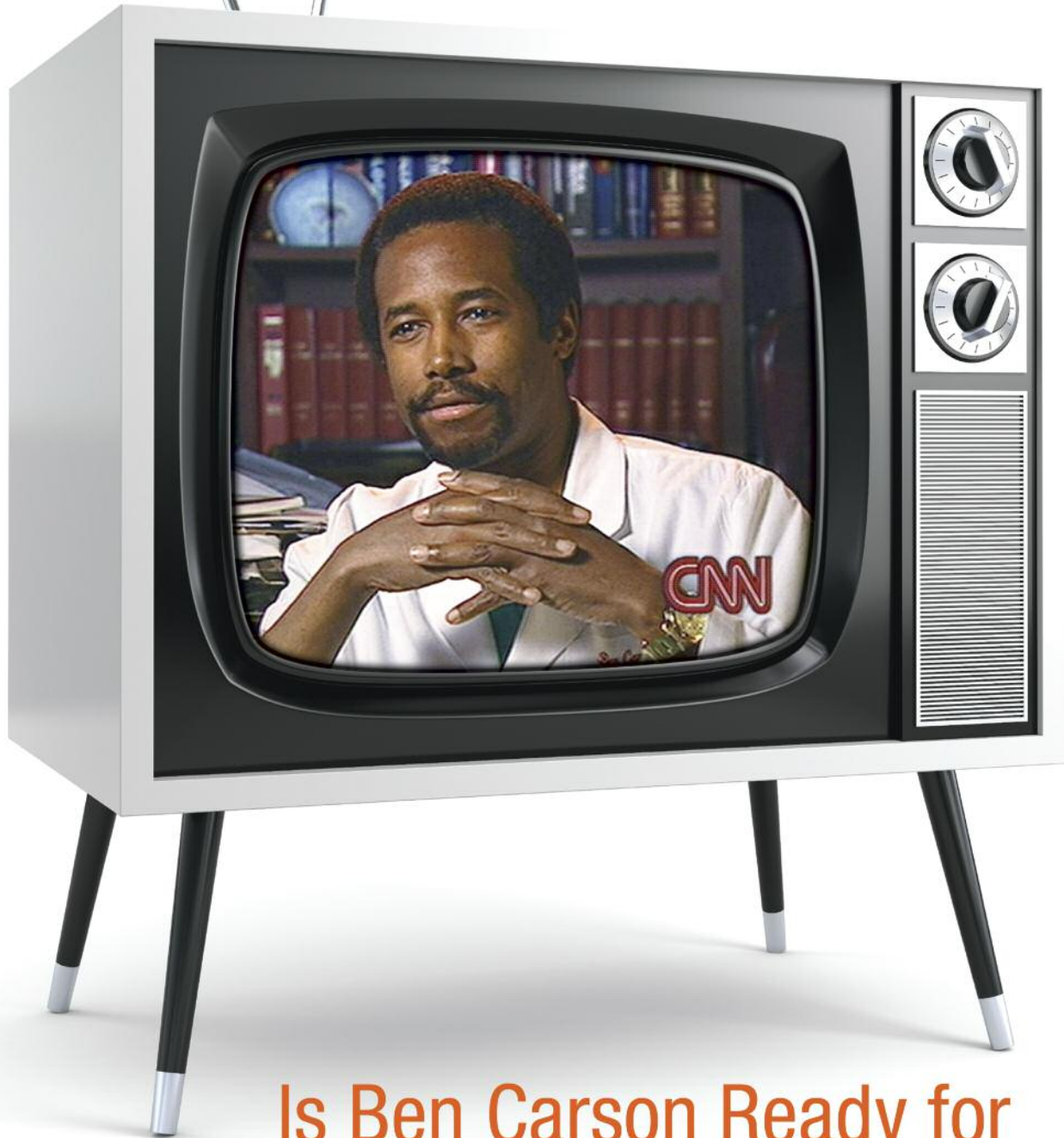


VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JUNE 2013 • VOLUME 118 • ISSUE 6



Is Ben Carson Ready for
Prime Time? [And, are we?]

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Is Ben Carson Ready for Prime Time?

Robert Jepson

At the dawn of 2013, the thought of Ben Carson—pioneering neurosurgeon, author, philanthropist and Columbia Union churchgoer—as our country’s commander in chief was way off the radar screen. But now the thought has entered the minds of more than a few people across the country. Will he run for president? And, should he?

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FACEBOOK PAGES WE LIKE

▪ **Adventist HealthCare** works to improve the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing. Its page shares news, events, useful links, health tips and a weekly meditation from president and CEO William G. “Bill” Robertson with 15,000+ fans. A recent posting, titled “Who Moved My Haystack?” is printed in this issue on page 47.



▪ Through the **Adventist Retention Study**, church leaders aim to find out why so many young adults are leaving the church. This page includes a link to their 20-minute online survey and invites open dialogue.

TWITTER FEEDS TO FOLLOW

@RPCSDA.ORG – That’s how we learned about #biblebootcamp, themed “Preparation for the Final Crisis.” Each day in April at 5 a.m., participants watched a half-hour online devotional by Paul Graham, pastor of Potomac’s Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md. “It’s a wonderful way to start your day,” he said in a promo video. “If we’re going to be prepared for the final crisis, we need to be ready every day.”



@ItsMyRonlive – MyRon Edmonds, pastor of Allegheny West’s Glenville church in Cleveland, tweets nonstop and recently published *40 Days to Life-changing Family Worship*, which suggests that just 15 minutes a day could change your marriage, home life and family. Read more and get the book on the pastor’s page at gvillesda.org.



GOING TO CAMP MEETING?

Find addresses, driving directions, phone numbers and contact persons for each camp meeting in the Columbia Union at columbiaunion.org/findacampmeeting.



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Why I Want to Run for Public Office



As wide-eyed Seventh-day Adventist children, we often fielded the commonly-posed question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” In youthful exuberance, some exclaimed, “I want to be president of the United States.” Such answers were usually met with parental approbation and encouragement.

After several years of maturation, when asked the same question, most of my friends had moved on to lawyer, doctor, pastor or teacher. Not me. With sincerity and certainty, I responded to such queries: “I want to run for political office.” This time, however, I was greeted with apprehension and discouragement. *Why is that?*

At first glance, the words “community” and “public” appear to be connotative cousins. Both ideas trigger thoughts of neighborhoods, people and society, among other things. This conceptual connection, however, is inexplicably severed with the attachment of the word “service.” Think about it. A distinct asymmetry in the relative moral value of community service and public service seems to pervade much of Adventist thought. On one hand, a desire to conduct *community service* is considered gallant, generous and godly. Conversely, the pursuit of *public service* is often seen as suspicious, self-serving and secular.

GOD'S PLAN

Despite these divergent views, I believe and am thankful that the will of God operates on a plane infinitely higher than the mere musings of men. From the saga of Joseph's life, I've gleaned instructive insight relative to my situation and that of others God used similarly. I consider two aspects of God's role in Joseph's narrative as particularly germane to any aspiring public servant. The first point is that Joseph's rise to political prominence was God's plan, not his own. It's extremely unlikely that the son of a middle-class, nomadic chieftain could even dream that he would become the governor of a world superpower. Though Joseph could not foresee his epic future, God placed something in his heart at an early age that drew his gaze to something beyond his familial expectations. The second point is that God elevated Joseph to a position of power for service, not selfish gain. God used Joseph to improve and even save the lives of thousands of Hebrews and pagans alike. That is the impact that any faithful public servant can have.

I have felt a call to improve the quality of life in my community. If God's plan takes me to political office, I will strive to be a public servant first. After all, isn't that what we're all called to be?

Sanjay Thomas, JD, a member of the Takoma Park (Md.) church, serves on the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee.

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE



ALLEGHENY WEST DELEGATES VOTE OFFICERS

Last month at the Allegheny West Conference's Third Quadrennial Constituency Session, some 220 delegates gathered at the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, and elected William T. Cox Sr., president; Marvin Brown, executive secretary; and Zenobia Seward, treasurer. Read more on p. 25.

“Artur Stele, a General Conference vice president, said to us, ‘While we are deciding who should be distributing bread, people are starving.’”

—Tara VinCross, pastor of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, reporting a comment made at a General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee meeting

UNION COMMUNICATORS DISCUSS ADVANCING COMMUNICATION

Last month some 30 communication leaders from throughout the Columbia Union met at the union headquarters in Columbia, Md., for a communication advisory.

Greg Kihlstrom, vice president of strategy for carousel30.com, gave a presentation in which he

shared the different ways communicators can reach church members via mobile applications, as well as responsive and mobile websites. This was followed by a brainstorming session where communicators talked about how they can specifically reach members who are under 35. They also shared some of the innovative ways their local churches and conferences are engaging members and communities.



UNION LEADERS DISCUSS YOUNG ADULT ATTRITION

Last month A. Allan Martin, PhD, a former professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.) and a current young adult pastor at a thriving church in Texas, hit the members of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee with stark numbers: some 60 to 70 percent of young people leave the Adventist Church. Over the nearly two-hour long presentation to committee members meeting at the union headquarters in Columbia, Md., Martin brought the gathering up to speed on the whys and wherefores of persistent young adult attrition from churches across North America.

With young adults continuing to leave, the union's executive committee members have made engaging and partnering with young adults to further the mission of the church one of their six priorities for 2011-2016. Bringing in Martin to address the leadership on this critical issue was one small step toward stanching the exodus of young adults from the church.

“I hope this presentation was beneficial to all of us,” said Dave Weigley, union president. “If we are serious about engaging young adults, we must realize that this was just one step in the process of intentionally reaching them.” Read more at columbiaunion.org/youngadultattrition.



NEW PRESIDENT NAMED TO KETTERING COLLEGE

This month Alex Bryan, DMin, (below) becomes the sixth president of Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio. He replaces Charles Scriven, PhD, who retired this spring after a 12-year tenure at the college.

Bryan has been senior pastor at the Walla Walla University (WVU) church in College Place, Wash., for the last four years. In addition to teaching on the faculty in both the School of Business and the School of Theology, he was a member of the WVU president's cabinet.



Bryan has traveled widely as a public speaker and is the author of a recent book, *The Green Cord Dream*, which explores a fresh vision for Seventh-day Adventist Christianity. He also is co-founder and co-chair of the ONE project, a grassroots organization exploring Christ-centered service.—Mindy Claggett

COMMONWEAL GRANT TO BENEFIT 100 EDUCATORS

The Columbia Union Conference Board of Education recently received a \$14,000 grant from the Commonweal Foundation to fund the three-day “Differentiated Instruction for the 21st Century” workshop. Some 100 instructional leaders (superintendents, associate superintendents, principals/teachers) at union schools will be able to take advantage of the training. According to Donovan Ross, an associate director in the union’s Office of Education, the training kick-starts a recent board of education approval of “a four- to five-year plan to place a sustained, deliberate, union-wide emphasis on differentiated instruction.”

“Differentiated instruction” has become somewhat of a buzzword over the last few years as it recognizes that each student learns differently and emphasizes that teachers use multiple tools to reflect varied learning styles. The training takes place at the union office in Columbia, Md., June 11-13.

24 WAU STUDENTS BAPTIZED

Tamayo Rodriguez was one of 24 students at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., who were recently baptized. She is

pictured with Baraka Muganda, the university’s vice president of Ministry. Read more on p. 46.



PHOTO BY RANDOLPH ROBIN

“During the nine years that we lived in Abidjan, [Ivory Coast], a longtime friendship developed with Elder and Mrs. Davis. His tremendous commitment to the Lord and to young people was evident in his life and his work. The church is grateful to him and Betty for their dedicated service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

—Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president, speaking of Danny Davis, a former Columbia Union Youth Ministries leader who recently died. Read more on p. 23.

SIX PATHFINDER TEAMS PLACE FIRST AT NAD BIBLE QUIZ

Six teams from the Columbia Union placed first at the second North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience in Lincoln, Neb. The teams are the Beltsville Broncos (pictured), blue and purple teams from the Potomac Conference; Westlake Witnesses from the Ohio Conference; Triadelphia Sparks from the Chesapeake Conference; and the Liberty Light Bearers, teams 1 and 2, from the Allegheny East Conference.—Pamela Scheib





LOS PASTORES DE ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE SE REÚNEN

Unos veinticuatro pastores de habla hispana se reunieron recientemente en Westchester, Pa., para su retiro espiritual. “Fue un tiempo de renovación espiritual, de volver a coordinar, dedicación y oración”, dijo Ramón Escalante, que dirige el concilio hispano de iglesias. “Nos concentramos en la planificación estratégica para hacer ministerios más eficaces”. El pastor Félix Amaro fue el orador invitado.

VEINTICINCO BAUTIZADOS EN LAS IGLESIAS DE CLEVELAND

Unas veinticinco personas se bautizaron recientemente en las iglesias hispanas de Ohio Conference en Cleveland. Bajo el liderazgo del pastor Peter Simpson, dos personas se bautizaron en el grupo hispano de Willard Spanish, dos en el recién formado grupo East Side, cuatro en la iglesia Ebenezer, y diecisiete en la iglesia Cleveland First Spanish. Los bautismos ocurrieron el sábado de tarde intercalados con cantos,



testimonios, y lágrimas de gozo. Los miembros nuevos fueron recibidos por más de doscientos de sus hermanos y hermanas. El pastor Oswaldo Magaña, secretario ministerial y director de los ministerios hispanos de la Asociación, también ayudaron a officiar.

¿CÓMO IMPACTA O MOTIVA LA GRACIA LA PREDICACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO?

“El llamado de Pablo al ministerio de la predicación del evangelio, lo recibí por la gracia de Dios. El llamado a cada creyente a la predicación, lo hemos recibido también por la gracia de Dios sin importar nuestro origen o nuestro pasado. Ahora el Apóstol expresa qué gran privilegio es dado a una persona tan insignificante como él. Pero fue Dios quien lo escogió y le dio el poder para hacerlo.

“... Si tú sientes que no eres

digno de ser un predicador y que tus talentos son muy limitados, medita en la siguiente declaración: ‘No tiene límite la utilidad de quién, poniendo el yo a un lado, da lugar a la obra del Espíritu Santo en su corazón y lleva una vida dedicada por completo a Dios’ (*Ministerio de curación*, pág. 116)”. —pastor Juan López, coordinador de ministerios hispanos de Pennsylvania Conference



CORRECCIÓN

En un artículo titulado, “Dundalk Spanish Company obtiene estatus de iglesia,” que apareció en las noticias de la revista de abril del 2013, incorrectamente publicamos que la iglesia hispana de Dundalk se reunía en un centro comunitario antes de asegurar su hogar actual. Los miembros de la iglesia adoraban en una oficina.

LAS CINCO FELIGRESÍAS MULTILINGÜES MÁS GRANDES EN COLUMBIA UNION

HISPANOS
23,566

FRANCESES/
HAITIANOS
1,306

COREANOS
1,125

BRASILEROS
744

GHANESES
558

Fuente: Oficina de ministerios multilingües de Columbia Union del 2012

LOS PASTORES DE COLUMBIA UNION SE REÚNEN PARA FORTALECERSE, RENOVARSE, Y RESTAURARSE

Algunas setecientas personas se reunieron recientemente en Baltimore para la primera convención de pastores de Columbia Union en nueve años. Bajo el título “Permanecer” cuyo eslogan fue “fortalecer, renovar, restaurar,” los organizadores se propusieron hacer exactamente eso.

“Hemos estado trabajando para esta convención durante cinco años”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente de Columbia Union. “Es muy importante reunirnos como obreros y pastores para ser inspirados, conectarnos, y adorar unos con otros”.



Los pastores Paolo y Jose Esposito de Potomac Conference fueron unos de los varios padres e hijos que estuvieron en la convención.

El programa presentó oportunidades para el aprendizaje y la renovación espiritual. Los oradores incluyeron a Elizabeth Talbot (en la foto), fundadora de Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, y habló de José en las sesiones de la mañana. Ella dijo: “El tiempo de Dios no coincide con mi tiempo”.



Los pastores también tuvieron una variedad de sesiones para elegir en inglés y español. En su seminario “la vida espiritual del pastor”, Oswaldo Magaña, director de los ministerios hispanos de Ohio Conference, compartió con los pastores hispanos cuatro aspectos importantes para mantener una relación diaria e íntima con Cristo.

Marcellus de Oliveira, pastor de un distrito de cuatro iglesias de Ohio Conference dijo que esta fue su primera convención de pastores. “Fue emocionante obtener información nueva de los grandes oradores”, dijo él. “Muchas veces como pastores, podemos agotarnos al servir. Pero en un lugar como este, he sido henchido y renovado y encontrado personas que pueden hablar a mi corazón y a las necesidades de mi alma”.

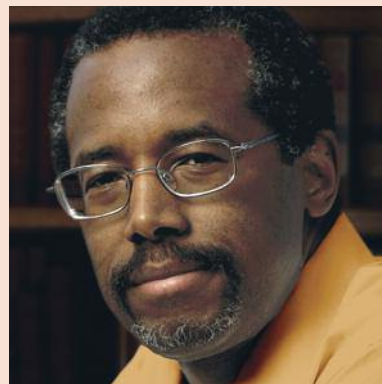
ARTICULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR: El Dr. Carson va a Washington

A principios del 2013, el pensar en Ben Carson—pionero neurocirujano, autor, filántropo, miembro de iglesia en Columbia Union—como presidente de los Estados Unidos no estaba en el radar, es más, estaba muy lejos. Pero, ¿ahora? Bien, ahora ese pensamiento ha entrado en la mente de más de una pocas personas en el país.

Para los adventistas del séptimo día se forma un nivel adicional de intriga. ¿Podría un adventista del séptimo día ser en realidad el presidente? Y, después de ver la disección de las creencias religiosas de las otras figuras políticas, ¿qué significa para la iglesia y nuestra escatología única el que un adventista sea posible candidato al puesto mayor de la nación?

Conjetura del involucramiento del Dr. Carson en las políticas comenzó con su aparición dramática en febrero en el National Prayer Breakfast [desayuno de oración nacional], una reunión generalmente tranquila de los elitistas políticos de la nación.

De la atención política y los medios que atrajo Ben Carson, podría decirse que es el más famoso adventista del séptimo día en los Estados Unidos, y esto suscita un tema antiguo y a veces incómodo de la conexión que hay entre los adventistas—defensores de la libertad religiosa y la separación de la iglesia y el estado—y la política, a menudo un curso de negocios de distintos ganadores y perdedores. Los adventistas han ascendido al escenario nacional sirviendo en el Congreso, pero *presidente*, es algo diferente. Lea más en inglés en las páginas 18.—Robert Jepson



Underscore

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett: Retired but Not Tired

Even before his 20 years as a congressman, Roscoe Bartlett accomplished more than many do in a lifetime. Still, the 87-year-old says he still has more to achieve.

Prior to joining the political arena, Bartlett graduated from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md.; got his master's and PhD in physiology; and taught at the University of Maryland, Loma Linda University (Calif.) and Howard University in Washington, D.C. He conducted research at the National Institutes of Health as well as the former U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine (Fla.), where he worked on technology that extended the length of time astronauts, pilots and fire/rescue personnel could stay on their missions by using breathing equipment that recycles oxygen. He went on to patent 19 of his 20 life-support equipment inventions.

In 1961 Bartlett bought Gayfield Manor, a 145-acre farm in Frederick County, Maryland, with a 32-room, white brick farmhouse. From 1962 to 1967, he raised milking cows and



grew hay and corn. While running the farm, Bartlett, a long-time member of Chesapeake Conference's Frederick (Md.) church, also worked at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, where his team helped NASA's Gemini, Mercury and Apollo missions safely travel to the moon and back.

He later worked at IBM on several biomedical engineering and

defense-related projects, and started his own construction company that built solar-powered homes.

When Bartlett married Ellen and combined their families at Gayfield Manor in 1966, the farmhouse became instantly full with eight kids and in-laws. They were later complete with 10 children.

In 1980 and 1982, Bartlett lost congressional races then retired for a short time. It was in 1992, at age 66, that Bartlett was elected as the congressman for Maryland's 6th District, which launched his 20-year journey with the U.S. government.

"I ran for Congress because I was concerned that my kids and grandkids weren't going to grow up in the same country I grew up in," he explains.

TOUGH DECISIONS

During his years in Congress, Bartlett focused on energy, military and fiscal issues. For every decision, he says he asked himself "a very simple question: Would this burden future generations?"

Working Toward Sustainable Preparedness

■ Roscoe and Ellen Bartlett often retreat to their solar- and wind-powered cabin in West Virginia, where they plan to start the Simmons Run School of Sustainable Preparedness. At this hands-on learning facility, the couple will teach others how to grow a garden and how to use a wood cook stove, wind machines and DC power. They hope students will in turn teach others these skills, which the Bartletts say will be useful for the end times or if the infrastructure collapses. Roscoe even appeared in the documentary film *Urban Danger*, which urges people to move to the country and become self-reliant.

He also carried a copy of the U.S. Constitution as a tool to help make tough decisions. This philosophy often led him to vote independently from his majority Democratic colleagues, and even from his fellow Republicans.

Bartlett says he is most proud of his votes against the stimulus package, corporate bailouts and the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind Act. Bartlett, a conservative Republican with some Libertarian views, is also a staunch believer in conservation.

"We're in total denial in our country; our oil supply will not go on forever," he states. "I think that ... God expects us to be environmentally responsible."

LEARNING THE VALUE OF COLLABORATION

Although an independent thinker, Bartlett says he understood the need to collaborate with others in Congress, an attitude appreciated by his peers.

"While Congressman Bartlett and I may have had disagreements on a variety of policy issues, we were still able to work together on areas of common ground. We served together as co-chairs of the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus for years, and I always respected his willingness to speak out on the important issues of energy security and climate change," shares Rep. Chris Van Hollen.

Rep. Steny Hoyer agrees and adds, "Although we had differences when it came to policy, he was willing to work across the aisle to address important issues for Maryland families and businesses."

Bartlett explains, "Everyone in Congress fundamentally wants the same thing—safe streets, strong military, etc. ... We just have very different ways of getting there."

He jokingly credits his ability to "love the sinner and hate the sin" as the reason he could work so well

with his ideological opposites, like Van Hollen and Rep. Nancy Pelosi. (Pelosi was even his high profile, bipartisan "date" at his last State of the Union address in 2011.) He also credits God and faith for his ability to say the right thing at the right time. "I never prepared a speech when I went somewhere ... but would offer a silent prayer, asking for the right words, and they were always there," Bartlett marvels.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Bartlett lost his seat in 2012 after his district was redrawn to include an area of Maryland with more Democrats. He says he won't run for office again. Instead, he is spending most of his time catching up on the things he neglected for the past 20 years. That list so far includes installing a new wood floor in his attic, fixing drywall in his home, cleaning his two-story greenhouse and mounting 42 solar panels onto his cabin in Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

Ellen says he hasn't changed a bit since she's known him. "He works, works, works; always has to get something done. He has a lot of energy. It's amazing!" she notes.

As a matter of fact, Bartlett says he attempts to spend 12 hours a day working. Right now, part of that time is spent with a company that is developing technology to draw blood with a laser, and with a group dedicated to preserving Second Amendment rights. "I'm very jealous of our civil liberties," he says.

A Legislative Legacy

Roscoe Bartlett spent a majority of his time in Congress working on defense issues, but also helped pass the following legislation:

- A bill ensuring that all new major surface combatants (aircraft carriers) are nuclear powered, instead of relying on oilers to refuel them. Submarines are already powered for 30 years, says Bartlett.
- A bill that requires the military to put their retired dogs up for adoption, rather than killing them
- A bill removing pornography from all military base exchanges (on-base retail stores)
- A bill that allows homeowners to fly an American flag despite what their local homeowner association states

"This should be very important to Seventh-day Adventists because this is what we fear in the future."

After all of his experiences with some of America's most powerful people, and being named in 2008 by *Slate* magazine as one of the 80 most powerful octogenarians in America, Bartlett is humble. "Every day I had to pinch myself [and would think], 'You're really in Congress.' ... I was a poor depressed kid, a farmer, and was lucky enough to go to school and get a doctor's degree and teach and do research. I just felt that I had been a very fortunate person," he says.



The Bartletts enjoy time with some of their grandkids at their farm in Maryland.

What is Comprehensive Health Ministries? Katia Reinert Shares More

The growing interest in medical missionary work has generated quite a bit of discussion among church leaders and members alike. To follow up “How Should Adventists Respond to the Growing Interest in Medical Missionary Work?” published in the April 2013 Visitor, we asked Katia Reinert (right), Health Ministries director for the North American Division (NAD), to offer more insight on this method of ministry.

VISITOR: SO, HOW DID MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK GET COINED COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRIES (CHM)?

REINERT: Last year the General Conference (GC) called a diverse group to brainstorm how the church could implement an effective renewed focus on medical missionary work by following Christ’s



method of ministry (see Ellen White’s *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143). As the Holy Spirit led, positive recommendations resulted and the term Comprehensive Health Ministries was born as a contemporary equivalent. Subsequent meetings proposed a definition of CHM centered in meeting people’s needs in a practical way by showing God’s love and compassion.

V: IS CHM NOW A WORLD-WIDE CHURCH EFFORT?

R: Earlier this year, Health and Ministerial department directors of the 13 world divisions met to solidify a plan. Chaired by Mark Finley, assistant to the GC president, the CHM committee brought a recommendation that was voted at the spring meeting in Battle Creek, Mich., to launch CHM at the fall meeting as an important aspect of the world church’s “Tell the World” and “Mission to the Cities” initiatives.

Once CHM is officially launched this fall, the divisions will then make their own plans on how to contextualize it for their field. Meanwhile, NAD Health Ministries had already incorporated many aspects of CHM in its vision, mission and new training, and will continue to expand these concepts once CHM is launched.

V: CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT CHM MEANS TODAY?

R: Sure. I think the best way to define it is to clarify what it is and what it is not. Here are three characteristics:

First, CHM is *comprehensive*, both in participation and content. Comprehensive participation means that not only health professionals will get involved. Every member can be a medical missionary or comprehensive health minister: pastors, lay members, educators, all church ministries as well as sup-



porting ministries, healthcare institutions and health professionals. Everyone plays a role.

Being comprehensive in content means the ministry is not only about diet or exercise. It will cover all areas of health (physical, social, mental, emotional, spiritual) across the human lifespan. Thus, CHM is not just a once-a-year health event. It should become part of the very fabric of the church and be based on meeting real assessed needs in the local church and surrounding community.

CHM should not be used as a hook but as a way to show true disinterested kindness toward people, regardless of whether or not they become members of the church. Its success is not measured by baptisms alone, but by the number of people served and relationships formed. It is about intentionally connecting with people in a meaningful way, introducing them to the Life Giver and allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work.

V: SECOND?

R: CHM is also *sound and balanced*. That means its content follows the *Health Ministries Working Policy* (p. 309), which includes three characteristics: it is biblically sound, aligned with Spirit of Prophecy and grounded in scientific evidence.

There is much health and wellness information out there and people have a hard time separating gold from dross. When it comes to CHM, White urges us to “educate, educate, educate, pleasantly and intelligently” (*Medical Ministry*, p. 262).

It also means we must respect the different roles people play in various settings in order to avoid potential litigation. For example, hospitals, clinics or lifestyle centers may diagnose and prescribe treatments, whereas the expression of CHM in local churches will focus primarily on health promotion and education, carefully following the laws of each state for activities such as screenings.

So, on activities sponsored by and held at local churches, lay

people or health professionals must avoid providing diagnosis and treatment recommendations, unless there is a special arrangement with the local conference and with Adventist Risk Management for malpractice coverage. The NAD has developed guidelines to guide pastors and church leaders about these issues. (See nadhealthministries.org or email nadhm@nad.adventist.org.)

In addition, spiritualistic practices or unfounded treatments will not be taught through CHM. And, CHM does not support individuals interested in personal gain through sales of health products and who share their health beliefs without regard to the Health Ministries policy and guidelines.

V: WHAT IS THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC?

R: CHM is *Christ-like* in essence and practice, following Christ’s character and method of ministry described in *Ministry of Healing* (p. 134): “... He *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*’” (italics added). That means CHM is about building relationships and meeting people’s needs with love and compassion.

As such, CHM is not divisive or confrontational in its approach, and CHM leaders do not judge people for their wrong habits or unhealthy choices, but rather take a positive approach to health education and outreach. (See Paul’s recommendation in Romans 14:15-17.)

V: WHY IS CHURCH LEADERSHIP PLACING SUCH AN IMPORTANT EMPHASIS IN CHM TODAY?

R: It is all about mission. White tells us in *Testimonies*, “The gospel and the medical missionary work are to advance together” (Vol. 6, p. 379). That means we must make use of the right arm of the gospel in the right way, as Christ intended. This is the only method for success in

WHY ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SHARING THE ADVENTIST HEALTH MESSAGE?

As a licensed graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists (at Loma Linda University in California), I chose to specialize in lifestyle medicine—the use of therapeutic lifestyle changes in the treatment and prevention of disease. My education and research reveals that without making lifestyle changes, conventional treatments are ineffective and their benefits short-lived. In the vast majority of cases, all that is needed is to correct bad habits, remove that which is injuring the body and put into practice the simple principles of health given to Adventists to share with the world.

My own passion is teaching ordinary people the power of simple health principles to turn their life around and give them more of the abundant life God wants them to have. These things are safe, simple and available to everyone. I encourage everyone to practice them and share them with others. This is medical missionary work all of us can do, and which can help millions who are suffering needlessly.—*John Kelly, MD, MPH, medical director for the Potomac Adventist Book Center LivingWell Lifestyle Program*



Underscore



reaching the people.

CHM supports the church's effort to "Tell the World" as we reach urban cities and rural areas. CHM also supports the NAD's mission to "Reach North America With Hope and Wholeness" through transformational evangelism, the top building block guiding church leaders in North America. In transformational evangelism, everyone is invited to use their spiritual gifts to participate in ongoing outreach to the community by following Christ's method of meeting people's needs. This is CHM.

As people become involved, CHM will help us fulfill the Health Ministries department's vision for "every church being a center for health, healing and wholeness in the community." As such, people will find not only helpful health information, but also experience Christ's love in action.

V: HOW CAN MEMBERS GET INVOLVED IN CHM?

R: Several places offer medical missionary training, and some may offer to come to your church to teach it. While there are good trainings out there, one must choose carefully. Some groups may not be balanced or aligned with the above CHM principles. Important questions to ask are: What are the credentials of the teachers? Are they recommended by the local

conference, union or division Health Ministries director?

In order to facilitate training, the NAD Health Ministries department launched the official training track titled "Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry" in January 2012. It covers the issues listed above and prepares attendees to engage in CHM by giving them a sound foundation. The training includes community and church assessment tools and a list of resources to meet people's health needs. For more information, visit adventistsinstepforlife.org, adventistrecovery.org and nadhealthministries.org.

V: WHAT DO YOU HOPE THIS NEW EMPHASIS ON CHM WILL ACCOMPLISH?

R: First, I hope it will bring people together to work intentionally, with one voice, in doing what Jesus would do if He were here. Secondly, that we will replace a spirit of criticism with a spirit of love and compassion toward each other with regard to health—all of us are learning and growing in our journey. Third, that we will see many more people finding Jesus and joining us in the proclamation of His love and plan for abundant life—here, but more importantly, for eternity.

Let's keep the dialogue going. Send me questions or comments at katia.reinert@nad.adventist.org.

My passion for the biblical Adventist health message began with my conversion. In 2004 I found a book called *Ministry of Healing* on my front door. After it sat in my house for a year, I decided to read it. I did not know the author or from where the book came, but I found in that wonderful book God described in a way that I had never seen or heard before—"all together lovely." Thus, my love affair with Christ began.

After implementing the principles I learned in that book into my life, I saw my health become tremendously better. After realizing the results of the health counsels, my heart was deeply impressed to share and to encourage others to see the beauty of Christ's health message. Consequently, my wife and I began to fully dedicate our lives to spreading the biblical health message to all who would listen.—*Beniam Astatkie, a member of Potomac Conference's Light Bearers church in Clinton, Md.*



YOUR TURN:
Tell us how you share the health message at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor) or tweet us @VisitorNews using #columbiaunion.

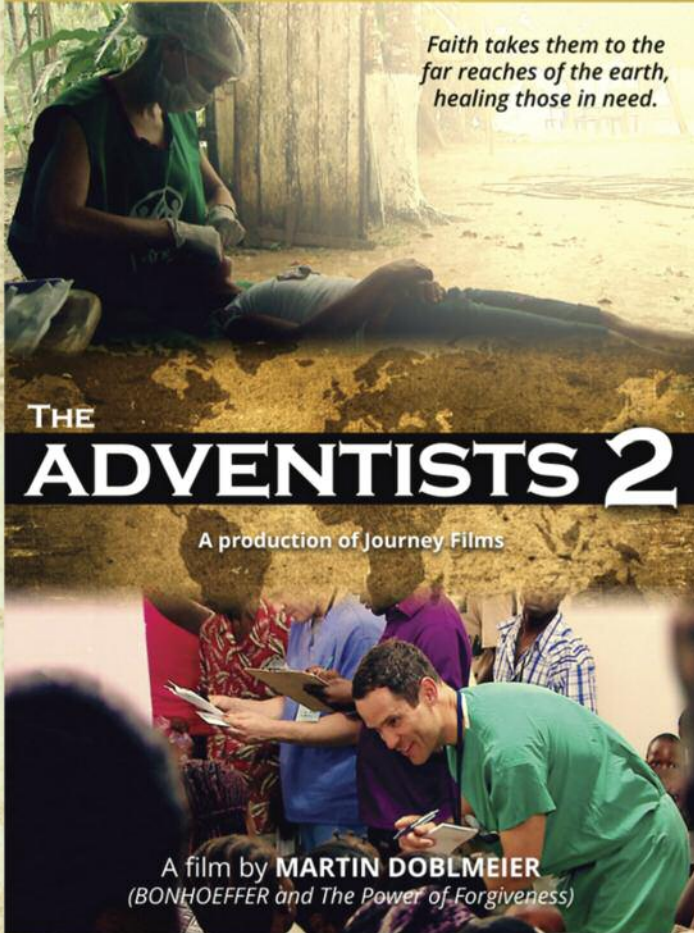
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Columbia Union Pastors Gather for Strength, Renewal, Replenishment

Over the course of three days, some 700 people gathered in Baltimore for the Columbia Union Conference's first pastors convention in nine years. Themed "iAbide" with the tagline "Strengthen, Renew, Replenish," convention organizers set out to do just that.

"We've been working on this convention for five years," said Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. "It's so important for us to come together as workers and pastors

and be inspired, connect and worship with each other."

Spearheaded by Weigley's office and organized by Frank Bondurant, the union's vice president for Ministries Development, the program featured many opportunities for learning and spiritual refreshment. Weigley said the team was careful to schedule plenty of free time, and encouraged pastors to turn off their phones.

The program started Sunday evening with a sermon from Henry Wright, pastor of Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va. He preached from Judges 21:25 and reminded his colleagues, "What God does to save us does not add up. You have been called to the ministry

to save your carcass. It wasn't your voice, pedigree or degrees. ... God is willing to abide in odd places, like in me and in you, and at your worst He doesn't leave you."

He also cautioned pastors not to neglect their families for the sake of the ministry. "Do not sit here today with broken children, broken spouses and broken families. One of the dangers in the [Seventh-day] Adventist ministry is the Adventist ministry."

Wright then made an appeal, and that evening, hundreds of pastors did something they don't often do, they responded to an altar call.

Other speakers included Elizabeth Talbot, founder of the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, who in discussing Joseph in her morning session, said, "God's timing doesn't match my timing."

At Monday's lunch meeting, speaker Roger Hernandez, Ministerial and Evangelism director for the Southern Union, challenged pastors not to be afraid to live up to the vision that God has given them. "As Adventists, we are well educated above our level of obedience," he said. "A person of vision acts regardless of fear. God did not call you to be on the cutting edge of mediocrity. The reason why you feel a lack of purpose right now is because you took the vision God gave you and put it in the backseat."

Pastors also had plenty of breakout sessions to choose from, in Spanish and English. They not



Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, addresses the hundreds of pastors who attended the iAbide convention.



Gary Banks, an Allegheny East Conference pastor, takes some time to praise God during the iAbide pastors convention.

only had a taste of seminary life with classes called “Islam and Christianity in Prophecy,” “Art of the Appeal” and “Current Trends in Theology,” but also had practical classes on how to brand their churches, improve their small churches and use technology.

In his breakout session “A Small Church to be Proud Of,” Loren Seibold, an Ohio Conference district pastor, said, “Small churches at their best are places where people are more important than programs.” When asked later about the importance of his session, Seibold, who has 35 years of pastoral experience, noted, “There are some people who have no interest in small churches, but a vast majority of Adventist churches are small. Most people are focused on growth, but they should be paying attention to health.”

In his seminar “La Vida Espiritual del Pastor,” Oswaldo Magaña, Ohio Conference’s Hispanic Ministries director, shared with Hispanic pastors four important aspects of maintaining a daily, intimate relationship with Christ.

SEMINAR BRINGS TO LIGHT CHILD SEX ABUSE

Pastors also attended a three-hour, afternoon, general session sharing how they can protect children against sexual predators. Cory Jewell-Jensen, MS, with the Center for Behavioral Intervention in



Pastors at the iAbide convention approached the front of the podium following Pastor Henry Wright’s altar call.

Oregon, schooled the gathering on how to spot and prevent sex abuse in churches and schools. She explained that the Adventist Church is at a higher risk for these abuses because of the additional services offered by the church through its schools, Pathfinder/Adventurer programs and camps. Jewel-Jensen shared some chilling statistics: predators often have dozens of victims before they are caught, and

A person of vision acts regardless of fear. God did not call you to be on the cutting edge of mediocrity.

—Roger Hernandez



News Feature



Stephen Lee (left), a New Jersey Conference pastor, said he enjoyed the camaraderie at iAbide and was impressed and inspired by many of the speakers.



churches. Our church board has already voted a new policy to do background checks on those who work with children, and our conference has also been proactive in emphasizing ways that we can protect our kids.”

AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT

While pastors were treated to master classes and seminars, the convention also served as an opportunity for attendees to connect with their spouses and fellow pastors. Laughter was heard in the hallways as groups of two, three and four pastors chatted between classes. Mario Thorp, a New Jersey Conference pastor, happily shared jokes with his friend Ramon Escalante, an Allegheny East Conference pastor. Other pastors took the opportunity to pray for each other.

Pastors Glen and Donna Holland were a rare sight—since both serve as full-time ministers at Potomac’s Beltsville (Md.) church.

Marcellus de Oliveira, an Ohio Conference pastor of a four-church district, said this was his first pastors convention. “It was exciting to get new information from great speakers,” he said. “Many times as a pastor, you can be drained from serving. But at a place like this, I have been refilled and refreshed and found people who can speak to my heart and the needs of my soul.”

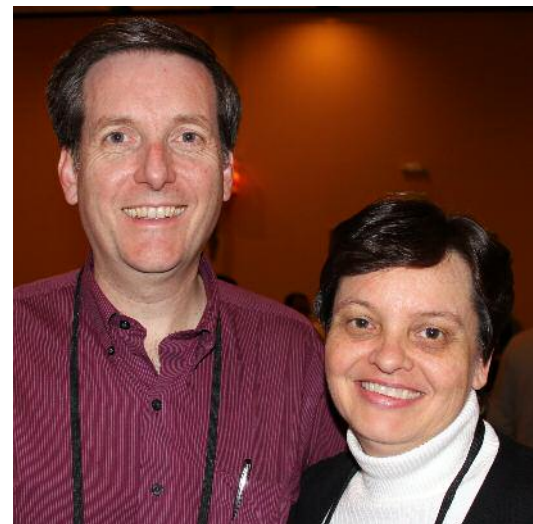
The convention concluded with pastors meeting with their conference leaders. Several expressed their thoughts on the convention.

Although he has 42 years of ministry under his belt, D. Robert Kennedy, an Allegheny East pastor, said he was leaving with more information on how to make the church more welcoming to visitors, and will be sharing some of what he learned with his elders.

Seibold said the convention was important because, “There is value in fellowship. Lots of pastors are very lonely, and I suspect they generally have to leave the ministry to become an expert on the pastorate.”

Kasper Houghton, a 28-year-old pastor at Ohio Conference’s Kettering church, said, “This was such a huge investment in human resources. It feels good to know that we were invested in. This was a great opportunity to build each other up.”

Get More: *Watch a video about this event at columbiaunionstory.org.*



20 percent of all church members have been or will be abused.

She also showed a video in which a young pastor, who had 95 victims, said, “The church is not an accidental place for people like me to hide. Church people generally are generous in their opinions of others.”

At the end of the session, Bondurant prayed, “Lord, although this was hard to hear, please empower us to prevent harm and protect the children.”

Elvis Mogoi, a pastor at Chesapeake Conference’s West Wilmington church in Delaware, said he was glad he attended the session. “I can’t really say I was surprised at the information I learned today,” he said. “Still, it was eye-opening in a way. ... I’m glad to see that our church is acknowledging that these things *do* happen in our

At iAbide, Women Clergy Share Joys, Challenges Over Dinner

Minutes away from the main convention hall, where hundreds of pastors attended iAbide, the Columbia Union pastors convention in Baltimore, some 20 women sat down for a simple dinner at a nearby restaurant. The women chatted and laughed, teased each other and shared sage advice. These women were also pastors, pastoral interns, chaplains, conference administrators and Bible workers who minister throughout the Columbia Union.

Esther Knott (right), an associate in the North American Division's (NAD) Ministerial Department and an associate pastor at the Pioneer Memorial church in Michigan, organized the special dinner because "we are hungry for fellowship."

Marilynn Scott, an associate pastor at Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., agrees, "You can feel isolated sometimes in ministry. Having time together, to know each other better and network ... helps us realize we are not alone."

As the dinner progressed, some shared their accomplishments. Chesapeake's Carolyn Scheller said after working with her husband, Ken, on the Eastern Shore for 20 years, first as a teacher, then as a Bible worker, she finally got the title of associate pastor in March. The women applauded wildly. They repeated this when a colleague announced that Paula Olivier, who pastors Allegheny East's First church in Montclair, N.J., completed her Doctor of Ministry.

When Therezinha Barbalho introduced herself as the senior pastor of Potomac's Richmond Brazilian Community church in Richmond, Va., and the only woman pastor in

the entire world to serve in a Brazilian congregation, an audible "wow" went around the room. She requested, "Please pray for me."

Lisa Reid Smith, pastor of Allegheny East's New Life church in Hampton, Va., is also a trailblazer. She was the first female pastor in any of the regional conferences and has been in ministry for 20 years, seven of which have been at New Life. "One of my challenges is to get leadership to see we are not just female pastors, we are just pastors," she said.

Knott told the women, "Some of the work we do paves the way for others."

The women also found support from division leadership. Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial secretary, said he and his associates "pray for you all, serve you and are advocates for you. We support you 100 percent."

Read the full story at columbiaunion.org/womenclergy.



Below: Tiffany Brown, an intern pastor with the REACH Philadelphia church plant, embraces Paula Olivier, senior pastor of the First church of Montclair in New Jersey.



IS BEN CARSON READY FOR PRIME TIME?

BY ROBERT JEPSON

WILL THE RENOWNED SURGEON LEAVE MEDICINE TO LEAD THE NATION? AND, SHOULD HE?

IT'S **8:30** on a Tuesday morning, five years removed from his historic election, and the president of the United States is in his usual seat in the oval office as the director of National Intelligence continues with the President's Daily Brief. The president pinches the screen of his iPad, focusing on a map of a country where, the director reports, chatter of a military coup against the new pro-U.S. government is gaining strength. The CIA requests additional assets to suppress the threatened uprising. The president looks up at a portrait of James Madison, then consents, his words calm and measured. The country's leader—tall, thin, a little grayer—stands and thanks the director, then walks to his study to prepare for his next appointment.

He is a daily presence on the nightly news, his face—dark complected with a warm smile—is instantly familiar around the world, his political philosophy despised by some, admired by others.

The “he” here is not who you think. Not Barack Obama, who has long since left the nation's highest office. The year is 2021 and this is Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr., president of the United States.

A N ADVENTIST PRESIDENT?

At the dawn of 2013, the thought of Ben Carson—pioneering neurosurgeon, author, philanthropist, member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.—as our country's commander in chief was off the radar screen. Way off. But now? Well, now the thought has entered the minds of more than a few people across the country.

For Seventh-day Adventists, there is an additional level of intrigue to this scenario. Could a practicing Adventist really be president? Should they? And, after watching other political figures have their religious beliefs dissected, what does an Adventist, who is a viable candidate for the nation's highest office, mean for the church and our unique eschatology?

THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Conjecture about Dr. Carson's involvement in politics started with his dramatic February appearance

at the National Prayer Breakfast, a normally sedate gathering of the nation's political elite. With President Obama seated just a few feet away, Carson began his remarks by referencing four Bible texts (Prov. 11:9, 12 and 25; and 2 Chron. 7:14) and cautioned it was not his intent to offend anyone. He challenged political correctness and its detrimental effects on free speech and creative thought. He spoke about the familiar theme of education, focusing not just on personal development, but how education creates an informed and engaged citizenry, necessary ingredients for a thriving democracy.

Dr. Carson also waded into highly charged political topics, warning of the consequences of fiscal irresponsibility and moral decay, with ancient Rome as an example (“They destroyed themselves from within. ... If you don't think that can happen to America, you get out your books and you start reading ...”). He addressed skyrocketing debt (“... our deficit is a big problem. ... We have to deal with this.”) and a compli-

cated taxation system (“When I pick up my Bible, you know what I see? I see the fairest individual in the universe, God, and He’s given us a system. It’s called tithe.”). He also touched on healthcare (“For people who are indigent, who don’t have any money, we can make contributions to their [health savings account] each month because we already have this huge pot of money, instead of sending it to bureaucracy. ...”).

The speech was stunning on many levels, engendering both criticism and praise. Political commentator Bob Beckel railed against Carson: “He had no right to use essentially a religious ceremony to spew that in front of the president of the United States or anybody else.” Others, though, were supportive of a fresh perspective, ready to usher Dr. Carson into the White House. Under the headline “Ben Carson for President,” *The Wall Street Journal* editorialized: “The Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon may not be politically correct, but he’s closer to correct than we’ve heard in years.”

Carson has become a regular presence on news programs, Fox News, CNBC, ABC and CNN, among others. Elite newspaper outlets *The New York Times*

and *Washington Post* profiled his swift ascent into the political realm, heightened further by a prime speaking role in March at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) gathering outside Washington, D.C.

ADVENTISTS AND POLITICS

The political and media attention drawn to Carson, arguably the most famous Adventist in the U.S., raises the longstanding issue of the sometimes uncomfortable connection between Adventists—pious proponents of religious liberty and separation of church and state—and politics, an often course, transactional enterprise of distinct winners and losers. Adventists have ascended to the national stage by serving in Congress, but president? That’s entirely different.

Many Adventists still struggle to find a comfortable relationship with politics, especially the space

August 12, 2001, Baltimore: Dr. Carson is profiled for a CNN program called 'America's Best: Science and Medicine,' for his preeminence in the field of neurosurgery.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

EVERYBODY KIND OF ASSUMES THAT IF YOU HAVE A VOICE AND YOU SPEAK OUT, PARTICULARLY AGAINST SOME THINGS THAT YOU THINK PERHAPS ARE MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, THAT YOU’RE GOING INTO POLITICS AND THAT YOUR GOAL IS TO BECOME A POLITICAL FIGURE.—BEN CARSON

“SEEN & HEARD 2013 BEN CARSON

ON THE SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE NATION ▼

“I think there is virtually no better setting than something like the National Prayer Breakfast to talk about the spiritual state of the nation. I believe the spiritual state of the nation is not good.”—Baltimore Sun, February 18

ON TALKING ABOUT GOD ▼

“We have to resist this war on God. People don’t want to talk about God, and don’t you ever dare mention Jesus Christ. And, this is supposed to be a country where we have freedom of religion and freedom of speech? ... Let’s let everyone believe what they want to believe and that means, ‘PC police,’ don’t you come down on the people who believe in God and who believe in Jesus.”—CPAC speech, March 16

ON THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE ▼

“Marriage is a very sacred thing, and we need to maintain it as a sacred thing. The fact of the matter is the Bible and God have set very specific standards. It’s very clear what’s being said. God doesn’t change. Man changes.”—*Interview with Andrea Mitchell, MSNBC, March 29*

ON HIS POLITICAL FUTURE ▼

“I don’t necessarily think that I am going into politics. Everybody kind of assumes that if you have a voice and you speak out, particularly against some things that you think perhaps are moving in the wrong direction, that you’re going into politics and that your goal is to become a political figure.”—*Interview with Andrea Mitchell, MSNBC, March 29*

between voting and active campaigning. To some, heavy political engagement is suspicious and compromising. To others, it’s a natural extension of one’s belief, an opportunity where positive values can make a positive difference in one’s community.

The Council of Interchurch/Interfaith Faith Relations of the General Conference has adopted a statement on church-state relations that is used by the church’s Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, and which also provides some guidance for Adventists engaged in public service. “When Adventists become leaders or exert influence in their wider society, this should be done in a manner consistent with the golden rule,” the statement reads. “Adventists who are civic leaders must endeavor to adhere to the highest standards of Christian behavior.”

When asked if the cautious, wary attitude many Adventists traditionally have toward the political process is changing, Nicholas Miller, PhD, director for the International Religious Liberty Institute at Andrews University (Mich.), sees some difference. “I think it is changing somewhat, and I think it is good, as we have taken our principles of church/state separation perhaps too far in trying to make a complete wall between Christians and politics,” he states. “We should not overlook our role as citizens in the process of self governance, in both voting and service. Ellen White had negative things to say about partisan politics, especially for church employees, but church members have greater room to serve in

the political sphere, though minimizing partisan involvement is a good thing, I believe.”

Walter Carson, Columbia Union Conference’s vice president and general counsel, highlights the distinct difference between official church engagement and an individual member’s involvement in politics. If someone is elected to office, he says, “I’ll be glad to say, ‘You know, he’s a fellow Adventist.’” But, he cautions, the church is not in the business of backing candidates or influencing elections. “The success of individual Adventists in the political realm, while admirable, is not the reason for the church’s existence,” Carson adds.

‘BE PART OF THE SOLUTION’



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee is an Adventist serving in Congress, where she has represented the Houston area for nearly two decades. In Congress, she is a member of both the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees.

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, another Adventist, recently completed 20 years of service representing Maryland’s 6th Congressional District (Read about him on p. 8.).

Freshman congressman Raul Ruiz, the most recent Adventist to serve in Congress, won a highly contested election in California’s 36th Congressional district, defeating veteran legislator Mary Bono

Mack. Like Dr. Carson, Ruiz has a compelling personal narrative boosted by education. The son of poor farmworkers, Ruiz earned three graduate degrees from Harvard University, including his MD. His official biography begins by stating what he is not—a politician. “He is a public servant and physician dedicated to serving the community,” it reads.

Dr. Ruiz told the *Visitor* that his work, both as an emergency room physician and an engaged member of his California community, compelled him to seek

an additional means to assist people in need. “My father told me never to complain unless you are going to be part of the solution, so I ran for Congress to try ... and help the community that had given so much to me,” he said.



RED STATE/BLUE STATE

Politics today, with this country’s red state/blue state divisive mindset, is not for the faint of heart. Are you a high profile political figure who asserts liberal positions? Prepare to feel the vitriol of right wing bloggers and media outlets. Do you have a conservative point of view on financial and social issues? Brace for ridicule from liberal media outlets and cable commentators. The power of ideas seems lost in a tide of nightly cable shout fests, where animated debate is valued more than respect for consensus or a competing idea.

Carson’s position and choice of words on same-sex marriage were harshly criticized, prompting this opening paragraph from a March 29 *Baltimore Sun* article: “Dr. Ben Carson got a tough lesson in the past week on how quickly the angry and divisive world of cable TV can chew you up.”

The cost of speaking out on issues one cares deeply about is high in today’s political environment, but so, too, according to Carson, is the price of remaining silent. A common theme in his speeches and his most recent book, *America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great*, is the importance of an educated and engaged populace to our country’s success.

“My goal is to help move our country in the right direction,” Dr. Carson told Andrea Mitchell in a March 29 interview on MSNBC. He added, “At some point,



PHOTO REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

July 1987, Baltimore: Dr. Carson attends to his 4-year-old patient Kathryn Busan.

we’re going to have to tone down the rhetoric and just move toward solutions to the multitudinous problems, or we’re going to go right down the tubes, just like every other pinnacle nation that has preceded us, that has done many of the same things that we’re doing.”

It’s quite clear Carson values the opportunity to use his voice to challenge assumptions and make a difference in the country he loves. Whether that translates into a formal political run for office remains to be seen. What is undeniable is that this man of God, who rose from grinding poverty and famously separated Siamese twins, has made a definable impact in every realm he’s entered.

Robert Jepson writes from Frederick, Md.

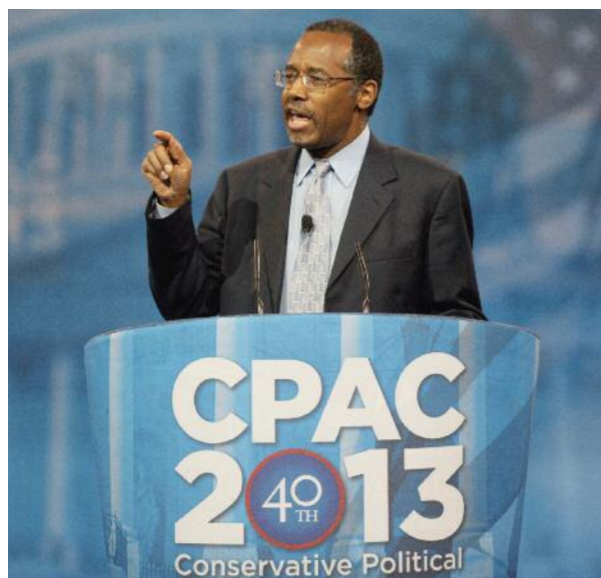


PHOTO: ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

March 2013, National Harbor, Md.: Carson speaks to the 2013 Conservative Political Action Conference attendees.



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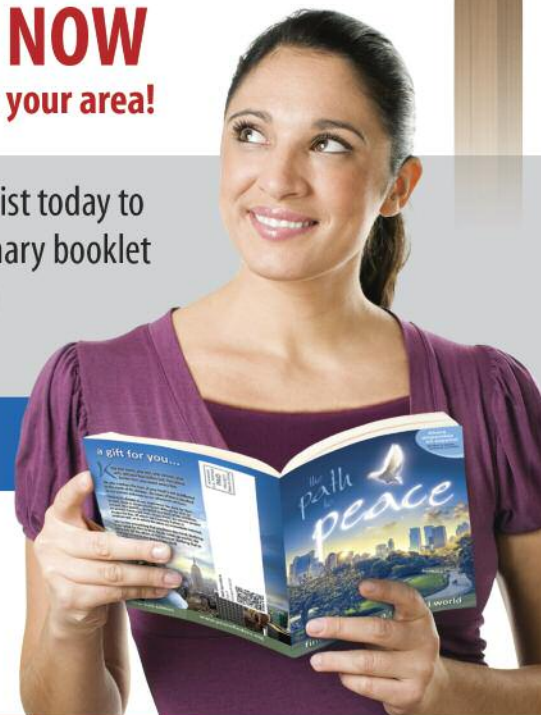
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Metro New York[†] Fast Facts

Nation's Largest Metro Area

22 million residents

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Includes:

29 counties

1,298 ZIP codes

8,602,705 homes

Nation's Largest Mission Field

**Missionary Opportunities:
Unlimited**

Projected Mission Outcome:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14

[†]The New York metropolitan area's counties extend east to west from Suffolk on Long Island to Pike in Pennsylvania and north to south from Ulster in the Hudson Valley to Ocean on the New Jersey shore.



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Five Youth Accept Jesus at Retreat

Some 170 young people, aged 12-19, recently descended upon the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) grounds in Pine Forge, Pa., for a fun, spirit-filled youth retreat weekend. Teenagers came from Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., to enjoy a weekend of friendship-making, spiritual growth and lively discussions.

All workshops fell under the umbrella of the Youth Ministries 2013 theme “3D: Devotion, Deliverance, Discipleship” and were designed to help teens explore their Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and address hot topics often unaddressed in the church setting. During the course of the weekend, five individuals accepted the call to baptism.

“I’m so grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the youth retreat. I received knowledge there that I would never get anywhere else. I met new friends and had fun fellowshiping with everyone. Pastor [Patrick] Graham, [Youth Ministries director], was right when he said, ‘You will walk out as a different person.’ I know I

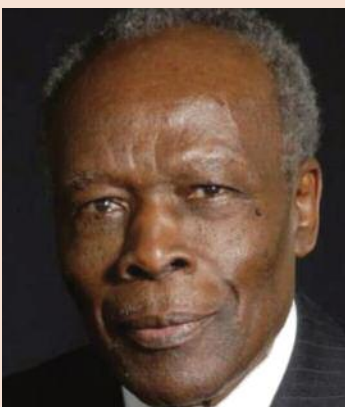


Andre Hewitt, a volunteer, prays with a young man at the retreat.

did,” shared Amber Patton from the Sharon church in Baltimore.—*LaTasha Hewitt*

Former Columbia Union, Allegheny East Youth Ministries Director Dies

Pastor Daniel Davis, who served the Seventh-day Adventist Church on multiple levels for some 60 years, died on April 3 at his home in Georgia. He was 88. He began his career in the AEC in 1951 as a pastor-



evangelist for some 13 churches. In 1963 he joined the conference office where he led several ministries for some 10 years. He went on to serve six years as director of Youth Ministries and Health and Temperance for the Columbia Union. From 1982 to 1993, he served the world church as Youth

Ministries director in the former Africa-Indian Ocean Division. When he retired in 1994, he continued serving AEC for another seven years as a volunteer trust officer,

director of senior citizen housing and eventually as president of the Fifty-Plus Association.

Davis’ wife, Elizabeth, shared that although he was a Christian when they met, Davis knew nothing about the Adventist Church. He learned about the church after he left the military and began attending Friday night services at her house. “He just fell in love with this church and fell in love with God,” she said.

Davis was a medical student in Pittsburgh when he visited Oakwood College (Ala.), now a university. After doing so, he transferred schools to continue his medical training, but soon switched to ministry. “We’ve thoroughly enjoyed the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” Elizabeth said.

Davis, whose name graces AEC’s Camp Danny Davis youth camp, was also credited for innovations in outreach, Prison Ministries, community services and Pathfinders.

Davis leaves behind Elizabeth, his wife of 65 years; his daughter, Elizabeth Davis-Bell; his son, Danny and his wife, Kathy; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Pine Forge (Pa.) church April 28.

Macedonia Members Support Better Living

Members of the Macedonia church in Chester, Pa., have taken a flying leap of faith. Looking around their community, they saw many of their neighbors in need and wondered how they could help. So after surveying residents, they renovated an empty building on their property to the tune of \$100,000 and are now using it as a community center. Calling it the Better Living Center, members opened the center last fall. The building has a nearly \$90,000-a-year operating budget, and the church, which has a membership of 70, is committed to supporting this project to the tune of \$30,000 annually. They have also received help from the North American Division, Allegheny East Conference and corporate donors, but church members are by far providing the highest subsidy both in monies and volunteer time.

“On the balance sheet, it doesn’t make sense,” says Blane Stoddart, president of the center. “This is a huge cost center for our church, but we believe it’s going to change lives and it *has* changed lives.”

According to the 2010 United States Census, some 32.3 percent of Chester residents are below the poverty line, and church members aim to help through distributing food to some 30 families each month; tutoring 80 kids a month; and providing a computer lab for training, homework and job seeking. They’ve even teamed up with a nearby YMCA to provide summer programs for youth and are preparing inmates at the local prison for re-entry to society when they are released. All these services are offered free of charge.

“We are not just about having church services each Sabbath; we want to be there as a service to the community. The church exists to help people on a regular

basis,” says George Jackson, the church’s pastor.

“The numbers don’t add up, but God is faithful,” Stoddart says. For more information, or to donate, contact Stoddart at (610) 497-1082.



Macedonia members pose in front of the Better Living Center on the day of the center’s grand opening.

PHOTOS BY PATRICIA WAGNER



Church members give away backpacks filled with school supplies at the center’s opening.

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Conference Delegates Vote Officers, Face Tough Numbers

At Allegheny West Conference’s Third Quadrennial Constituency Session, some 220 delegates gathered at the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, and re-elected William T. Cox Sr., president, and Zenobia Seward, treasurer. Marvin Brown, who previously headed the conference’s Ministerial Association, Stewardship Ministries and Trust Services, was elected executive secretary.

In his President’s Report, Cox addressed some of the challenges facing the small conference. Among them is a budget deficit of nearly half a million dollars. In order to reduce the deficit, a specially assigned financial taskforce recommended several actions, including reducing the conference office workforce. Cox said conference leaders implemented many of the recommendations and ended the quadrennium with an increase in working capital.

Although the quadrennium covered 2008 to 2012, Cox focused heavily on 2012. He noted that the conference, which has an estimated membership of 12,230 members, had 286 baptisms that year. He also noted that some 33 churches had none or very low baptisms. He encouraged delegates to take evangelism more seriously. “If you think you can finish the work without lifestyle evangelism, then you are deluding yourself,” Cox said. “Jesus can’t come anywhere until the gospel is spread everywhere.”

Cox also noted that while the conference was not growing as fast as he’d like, he was pleased to see that the church had grown in diversity. Due to the efforts of Walter Castro, director of Multicultural Ministries and



Elected Officers: Marvin Brown, executive secretary, with his wife, Grace; Zenobia Seward, treasurer; and William T. Cox Sr., president, with his wife, LaTonya

church planting, 10 churches were planted during the quadrennium. The conference now boasts 52 English-speaking churches, seven Spanish-speaking churches, two Korean churches and two Haitian churches.

Education was also a bright spot. The conference’s two schools have seen record enrollments. Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus claims 105 students, and Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland has 88.

In outlining his plans for the conference’s future, Cox discussed infrastructure development and professional development for clergy and making evangelism their number-one priority. He also shared the conference theme for 2013: “We are a FAMILY,” with the acronym standing for faith, acceptance, mission, integrity, love and you.

Robert Moore, who served as executive secretary in the previous quadrennium, welcomed four churches that joined the conference during the past quadrennium, and announced two closings. Moore also spoke about the conference’s relatively low rate of baptism and noted that many of the conference’s churches have memberships of 50 and below.

In the treasurer’s report, Seward reported that the conference has taken in \$27 million over the past four years and detailed how the monies were spent.

In addition to listening to reports and electing officers, delegates also voted to include a position on the executive committee for one young adult and one multicultural representative. Read the full report at columbiaunion.org/awconstituency.—Taashi Rowe



Some 220 delegates attend Allegheny West Conference’s quadrennial constituency session.

250 Ladies Worship at Conference's Annual Retreat

Amid the rolling hills and rustic backdrop of the Stonewall Resort State Park in Roanoke, W.Va., about 250 Allegheny West Conference women found a peaceful embrace for their annual retreat. Most agreed it was an appropriate spot to focus on obedience—responding to God's voice quickly and completely!

From Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, "the [Holy] Spirit was truly in the place as the women worked together for a common cause—obedience—and putting it into practice in the real world," said one attendee. There were musical renditions and seminars, while Augusta Yetunde Olaore from Nigeria, West Africa, offered the Word of God.



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE HUNT

Ladies Unite: Jennifer Odima, a member at the Northeast church in Parkville, Md.; Shirley Benton, conference Women's Ministries director; Natasha Iheme, Northeast member; and guest speaker Augusta Yetunde Olaore



Ladies from around the Allegheny West Conference traveled in from various cities and states across the Columbia Union.

Saturday evening was filled with multiple talents, including a hula-hoop contest, and topped off with a good dose of laughter by comedienne J. Lynn Gibson. Sunday morning's meeting closed with a sacred consecration service.

One elder summed up the retreat this way: "The visitation of the Holy Spirit occurs at these retreats, leaving me awestruck, feeling endowed and privileged to be a servant."—Ruth-Ann J. Thompson

Shiloh Young Adult Earns Oakwood University Alumni Honor

During Oakwood University's (Ala.) annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend, the university's alumni association and its chapters present awards to former students. Included in the annual awards are Certificate of Merit honorees chosen by each association chapter. This year the Greater Cincinnati Chapter named Raquel Henry, an Oakwood alumna who attends the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio, as their 2013 honoree. All awardees were featured at the alumni weekend divine service and during a subsequent banquet. This year Henry and other Certificate of Merit honorees raised between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to benefit current, worthy Oakwood University (OU) students.

"Oakwood prepares you for life, and I was honored to catch the OU experience and raise funds for OU students," Henry said. "I was also asked to be a part

of the young alumni [association] and assist with mentoring OU students."



PHOTO BY TRULY BLESSED PHOTOGRAPHY

Raquel Henry (center), from the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, accepts a Certificate of Merit award from Oakwood University alumni association leaders Shellie Palmer and Daryl Foster.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JUNE 2013

For Fathers and Mothers

During May and June, we take time to remember our mothers and fathers. We recognize them for their love and commitment. But for those of us who are parents, perhaps we need to ask ourselves what we can do to be valued and exceptional parents to our children. Whatever the age of your children, the following principles can help:

- Maintain your own relationship with Jesus Christ. If you don't have a close walk with Jesus, it will be difficult for you to model it for your children. Take time to be with God and let Him mold your life.
- Seek God's counsel and wisdom in the Bible and through prayer. There are certainly many times when we're at a loss to know how to handle a situation. God can help. He can give us peace and patience when we feel ready to explode.
- Be proactive—and less reactive—as a parent. Take the initiative to engage your children in positive projects. It takes time and energy, but is worth the investment.
- Tell your kids you love them. Let there be no doubt in their minds how you feel about them. This takes so little time and costs nothing.
- Commit time to the relationship. Of course, more time is needed when our children are young, but they will always require a commitment of time in order to talk, share experiences and build or maintain the relationship.



Rick Remmers
President

Aberdeen Members Welcome Sisters

When Marita Fernander stepped into the Aberdeen (Md.) church on Sabbath morning a few months ago, it had been decades since she had regularly attended a worship service. Stirred by a phone call from a friend, she felt an urgency to find a nearby Seventh-day Adventist church to visit.

Andre Hastick, associate district pastor, says Fernander grew up in the Baltimore area and attended church as a teen, but was never baptized and left the church before adulthood. Since her first visit in January, she has been attending the Aberdeen church each week and is studying the Bible with Pastor Hastick in preparation for baptism.

The Aberdeen congregation is intentional in their efforts to be a friendly family of faith, and as part of a conference-wide Reconnecting to Worship initiative, is particularly focused on welcoming persons who aren't actively engaged in church life.

Fernander's sister, Brenda Garlington, lives in Aberdeen but is disabled and hasn't been able to attend church in years. Cesar Lopez, head deacon, learned of her plight and recently brought her to church, where she worshipped alongside her sister for the first time in more than five years.

"Cesar single-handedly picked her up and placed her in his truck," says Hastick. "He treated her with

such dignity and grace. It was really beautiful to witness the Body of Christ in action."

One phone call from a concerned friend made the difference for two sisters. For information about how to reach out to someone you miss seeing in church, visit ccosda.org and select "Connect 2 Reconnect."



Marita Fernander and her sister, Brenda Garlington, spend a recent Sabbath together at the Aberdeen church (aberdeensdachurch.org).

PHOTO BY ANDRE HASTICK

Spencerville Pathfinders Raise \$2,150 to Help Homeless

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURROW



Eighteen Pathfinders participate in the 12-hour rock-a-thon to help homeless people in central Maryland.

The Spencerville Polar Bear Pathfinder Club rocked all night—in rocking chairs—during a 12-hour rock-a-thon held recently in the church fellowship hall. The goal was to raise \$300 for the charity A Hat for Harold (ahatforharold.org), which gives micro-grants to homeless persons to meet needs not met by traditional shelters.

The young people gathered at the Silver Spring, Md., church and rocked and rocked and rocked—some until 8 a.m.

“It was tiring, but one of the funnest things I’ve ever done,” said participant Ryan Kueter. “It was even more fun because I knew it would help the homeless.”

Sherri-Ingram Hudgins, the charity’s founder, said, “The 1 a.m. phone call I received reporting they had raised \$2,150 was the best late-night phone call I have ever received.”—Lisa Burrow

WSK Celebrates 50 Years, Associate Pastor Ordained

The Washington-Spencerville Korean (WSK) church in Spencerville, Md., drew a crowd on a recent Sabbath to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the church—the result of a merger of the Washington and Spencerville Korean churches—and to witness the ordination of associate pastor Unjong “Charles” Yang.

Several of the church’s former pastors shared their memories and an historical perspective. In the afternoon, the sanctuary choir, with strings accompaniment, performed a cantata based on the life of Christ. Kwon Oh Young, a former WSK pastor and now president of

the Korean Church Association, presented the sermon.

Yang’s ordination during the morning worship service was a highlight. Chesapeake Conference representatives participated in the service, and conference president Rick Remmers preached a message to encourage and inspire both Yang and attendees.

PHOTO BY JAE SHIN



Ordained ministers gather in support of ordination candidate Unjong “Charles” Yang and his wife, Yeonsu, (center) during a prayer of dedication.

Federalburg Members Celebrate Love



PHOTO BY DOUG RENNEWANZ

Lydija Collins (79) of Browns Mills, N.J., and Sherman Dearth (87), get married at the Federalburg (Del.) church, where Dearth is a member. The couple met through an Adventist social club.

Science Teacher Chosen as a 2013-14 Einstein Fellow

The Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology, an “organization that works to lead the nation in advocating for improved STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] education,” recently released the names of 22 newly selected Einstein Fellows for the 2013-14 school year. The Triangle Coalition selected

Ophelia Barizo, Highland View Academy (HVA) science department chair and science teacher, for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program, a paid fellowship for K-12 STEM educators with demonstrated excellence in teaching. The fellowship allows educators to inform national policy and improve communication between the K-12 STEM education community and national leaders.



Ophelia Barizo, science department chair and science teacher, poses with “Albert Einstein” after being selected for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program for the 2013-14 school year.

Teachers from across the United States go through a rigorous application and interview process to be considered for the fellowship. The newly selected professionals and five returning fellows will serve this upcoming school year—11 months total—at a U.S. congressional office or sponsoring federal agency in Washington, D.C., including NASA, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Barizo will serve her fellowship at the NSF’s Directorate for Engineering, in the Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation Division. “I am excited about this wonderful professional development experience, and I praise God for this amazing opportunity,” Barizo says.

During Barizo’s 17 years at HVA, she has won several awards and earned about \$800,000 in grant monies for HVA, which has funded innovative projects, technology, textbooks, field trips and equipment.

New Staff Join Academy Team

Ashley Dunbar ('07) says she is happy to serve her alma mater as the new assistant girls dean, a position she just held at an academy in Texas, along with full-time history teacher, girls basketball coach and Student Association sponsor. Dunbar earned a bachelor’s in history with a minor in English from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) in 2011.



holds a master’s in education specializing in curriculum and instruction from La Sierra University (Calif.). He is entering his ninth year of teaching in subjects such as Bible and history. He has also been a campus chaplain and sports coach.

Maestro Joseph Eunkwan Choi, the new music director, is transferring his leadership from Valley Grande

Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., with bachelor degrees in history and political studies. He also

Adventist Academy (Texas). Choi is originally from Korea but spent most of his childhood in Brazil until he moved to the United States in 1987. He finished his bachelor’s in music at Southern Adventist University, where he was also chosen a 2009 Alumnus of the Year. Choi obtained his mas-



ter’s in orchestral conducting and later his doctor of musical arts in choral conducting. In addition to sharing his talents at a number of Adventist academies, he has also assisted and led numerous local and university orchestras.

Clifton Gadsden, HVA’s new history teacher, is a graduate of Washington

SPANISH CLASS NEWS

Our Day of Cultural Enrichment

Highland View Academy's Spanish 1 class, under the direction of "Señora" Celinda Bauer, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., for a day of cultural enrichment. Our day began at the Mexican Cultural Institute, part of the Mexican Embassy housed within an ornate mansion. We learned about Mexican history and culture through an extensive mural, painted by artist Cueva del Rio along the mansion's main stairwell. We were also able to explore an exhibit featuring Mexican-made books and art.

At the National Museum of Natural History we watched a 3D film on the flight migrations of the monarch butterfly. We also learned of the many different types of indigenous orchids that thrive throughout South America. At the National Museum of American History, we viewed multiple exhibits, including one on the life of Clotilde Arias, a Peruvian woman who, upon the request of the U.S. government, translated America's national anthem into Spanish. We also saw the actual flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem.

PHOTOS BY TRISHA FURTADO (14) AND CAITLYN WORDEN (13)



Spanish 1 class members learn about an historical mural painted inside the Mexican Cultural Institute.



Josh Calhoun and Caitlyn Worden help Paul Bauer (center) lead divine service at the Hagerstown Spanish church.

I believe that this enjoyable trip helped show us the many connections between the Latin American and North American cultures, and helped us understand that the two cultures are not as different as one might think.—*Jennifer Harvey ('14)*

New Club Raises Cultural Awareness

This school year, HVA students organized a Spanish club whose goals include cultural awareness, language familiarization and mission outreach.

The club recently got the opportunity to provide the Sabbath divine service at the nearby Hagerstown Spanish church. Each student, whether offering prayer, welcoming the offering or performing special music, participated in Spanish. Paul Bauer, whose wife, Celinda, teaches Spanish at HVA, gave the sermon in English while she translated the message. Club members stayed for potluck and enjoyed many Spanish dishes while fellowshiping with church members. Club members said they greatly appreciated the hospitality of the Hagerstown Spanish church!—*Caitlin Worden ('13)*

New Opportunities Give Students Financial Options

HVA has new opportunities for incoming students to earn scholarships or money toward their tuition fees during the 2013-14 school year.

There are new scholarships in music, sports and leadership. Applications require previous evaluations by music or athletic directors and/or a teacher or pastor. The deadline for applying is July 15. A special committee will choose the awardees.

Incoming students selected for HVA's new Student

Evangelist team will promote the Seventh-day Adventist message to others, while also earning money for tuition. "This is a wonderful opportunity to earn funding for tuition, but what a wonderful witnessing tool this will be for our students as well," says Renee Williams, director of recruitment and development. "We hope to have about 15 students on the payroll."

For more information and to apply, write to williams@highlandviewacademy.com.

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

JUNE 2013

Bible Worker Says Evangelism is Her Life

It's my life. Evangelism is what I've been called to do, and I love it!" Daniella Pusic, Mountain View Conference's Bible worker, says about her work. "I'll be involved in full-time evangelism in some way, shape or form for the rest of my life."

Growing up as a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist, Pusic went to church regularly and enjoyed it, but didn't really have a personal relationship with God. As a teenager, she attended a youth conference,



where she participated in a door-to-door ministry for the first time. She got to see how many people are hurting and in need of God. After the youth conference, she attended the Mission College of Evangelism in Oregon. Following her schooling there, Pusic became active in her local church and served as a missionary in South America and as a Bible worker in Washington state. She began working in the Summersville area in 2010.

"Jesus said, 'Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.' It's a privilege to be able to study with hungry souls," Pusic says.

Besides being the Bible worker at her church, Pusic is also the conference's Young Adult Ministries coordinator and last year worked with Generation of Youth for Christ to encourage Mountain View members to serve as homeland missionaries. Their work generated over 160 Bible study interests!

Pastor Jim Buchanan, and his wife, Elaine, who shepherd the Summersville church, say Pusic "loves her job. She is self-motivated and there is nothing else that she would rather be doing."

Although Pusic is trained to do Bible work, she is quick to say, "I think God intends for all of us to be 'Bible workers' in our own way. The gospel commission is for all of us."

Young Adults Learn to Allow God's Will

Approximately 20 young people recently gathered at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., for a weekend of prayer, fellowship and connecting with God.

According to Geoff Starr, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for Mountain View Conference, the focus for the weekend was on the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Enoch Brownell, the guest speaker from California, spent time talking to attendees about allowing themselves to be used by the Holy Spirit. He began with the story of Jesus' birth and how Mary, at such a young age, was so willing to allow God's will in her life. Brownell said there are many distractions in our busy lives and explained that only when we empty ourselves and become "without form and void" can the Holy Spirit come upon us and recreate us as part of our preparation to carry out God's mission. Attendees reported enjoying Brownell's illustrations along with worshiping and fellowshiping with other believers their own age.—*Angelina Dickson*



Valley Vista Family Campout

July 21-24

Come and enjoy

- Horsbackriding
- Volley Ball
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Ropes course
- 200 ft zip line
- Remote control cars
- 400 ft slip-'n-slide
- Crafts
- Archery
- Campfires
- And much much more

Families should plan to arrive by 3pm on Sunday, July 21.

Campout will conclude Wednesday, July 24 at 10am

Register by calling 304-422-4581
or by going online to vvscamp.com



\$25/person (2 and under are free)

(max \$150/immediate family)

The fee is for all the activities that we will be doing.

Families should plan on bringing their own food.

However, meals can be purchased for \$6/meal.

**This family campout
is designed for tent camping
(some cabins may be available upon request)**

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

JUNE 2013

How Week of Prayer Blessed Us

At Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), we are always pleased when Week of Prayer comes around, but at the most recent Week of Prayer, we were especially blessed. Our speaker, Pastor Rashad Burden (right), came to us from Oakwood University in Alabama. During that week, Pastor Burden taught us to see Jesus in a new way. Instead of seeing Him as a far off, unapproachable God, we learned to see Him as someone who is extremely connected to us. Looking at the story of Jesus in a different light, we saw someone who picked the undesirables and made them “Avengers for God.”

Chaplain Paul Torchia also blessed us by setting up a prayer room with many activities to connect us to Christ in prayer. Many students came out of the prayer room feeling renewed with God and possessing a peace that for some of them, surpassed all understanding. This year’s Week of Prayer was a huge spiritual blessing, and we pray that this blessing will follow us, not only for the rest of the year, but for the rest of our lives.—*Alyssa Thompson* (’15)



Sophomores Seek to End Human Trafficking

Students often ask, “What does this have to do with real life?” Teachers know that the information they share with students must be connected to the real world and lead to applicable skills they can use outside the classroom. One way that this connection is accomplished at Mount Vernon Academy is through a service project in sophomore English class. Each year the

sophomores write research papers about a current problem, such as depression or bullying, then participate in a service project related to the problem.

This year the class focused on human trafficking. People from all around the world are trafficked, including in Ohio. According to the Polaris Project, Ohio is one of the top 10 states for human trafficking. Statistics also show that there are about 783 people currently being trafficked in Ohio (see stophumantraffickingdayton.org), and that many of these people come into human trafficking as young as age 12.

Every sophomore fills a slightly different role. Roles include writing and speaking tasks like writing letters, announcing the project in churches and calling churches in other areas. The sophomore English class is helping a Christian organization in Ohio called The Daughter Project (thedaughterproject.org), which provides shelter for girls leaving human trafficking. Students are collecting donations and items that are needed for the shelter.

MVA students are asking for help by praying for trafficking victims, donating to the Daughter Project and raising awareness about this problem. The students strongly believe that with more awareness, this tragedy will come to an end.—*Gabriella Hernandez and Lawrencia Robinson*



Sophomores Emily Charvat and Adly Altidor’s research for their English class reveals how human trafficking impacts Ohio.

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

JUNE 2013

Students Touch HEARTS on High School Mission Trip



Seven high school students at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) and their four sponsors spent their spring break in Georgia working with women in the HEART program. HEART is an eight-week Healing Environment for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Recovery Training program for women, regardless of race or faith affiliation.

Some students worked outside mulching all of the garden beds while others worked with the clients. Everyone attended the worship services held each day and led in music and skits. The best skit was saved for last and depicted just how Jesus took all our sin onto Himself at the cross.

Chaplain Brooke Wong shared, "We were most touched by the personal testimony of one 19-year-old girl who shared her story of addiction with us. After nearly being killed in a car accident in which she was

revived twice, she made the decision to stop doing drugs and began the long road to recovery. She encouraged our kids to finish their education and not to make poor choices like she had. Needless to say, our students walked away feeling energized and excited about the education they get to have!"

Senior Receives Caring Heart Award

Senior Lindsey Conkle was honored at SVA's commencement as this year's recipient of The Caring Heart Award, presented annually by the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education. The award is given to a junior or senior who possesses an exemplary character and is active in witnessing and service activities throughout the school year and, of course, they must possess a tender heart.

Conkle has gone on three mission trips and is an active member of the Youth Core group at the Kettering (Ohio) church, where she volunteered more than 100 hours of her time at their Vacation Bible School program in summer 2011, and last summer helped run a sports camp for young children, also sponsored by the Kettering church.



Students Learn European History

SVA students and teachers pose for a photo in front of the Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam outside Berlin. Their visit to Germany was one of their stops on a five-country tour of Europe for history students in grades 8 to 12. Freshman Abby Jackson shared, "The trip was not only fun but educational. It helped us imagine history in a whole new light."

Connections is published in the Visitor by the Spring Valley Academy ■ 1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville OH 45458
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Vern Biloff ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

NEWS

NEW JERSEY

JUNE 2013

It's God's Responsibility

We usually see people asking God to bless their plans, instead of seeking Him to find out His plans about their church or their personal lives. There are many out there sharing where we can get a vision for our churches or our lives, but the vision should always come from God. God is a visionary God; He knows the future better than anybody else. His vision will always be the best for us. Life itself is too complicated and difficult to live without God's guidance. The church is God's idea; therefore, it is God's responsibility to make it grow and be successful. If I really believe that growing the church is God's responsibility, then every time I come up with my own plans and ideas for the future of the church, I am taking on God's responsibility.

Jesus Himself didn't follow His own plans, but He followed God's will for His life (see John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:28-29). If we follow Christ's principle, then all the pressure will be taken from those of us who are engaged in any type of ministry. We need to impress no one, but simply be connected with Christ and be able to hear His voice and follow His plan for our lives and ministries (see Ps. 16:11; Col. 1:9; Jer. 29:11). When we do this, our ministries will bear fruits (see Matt. 13; Jer. 17:7-10; John 15:2-8, 16).

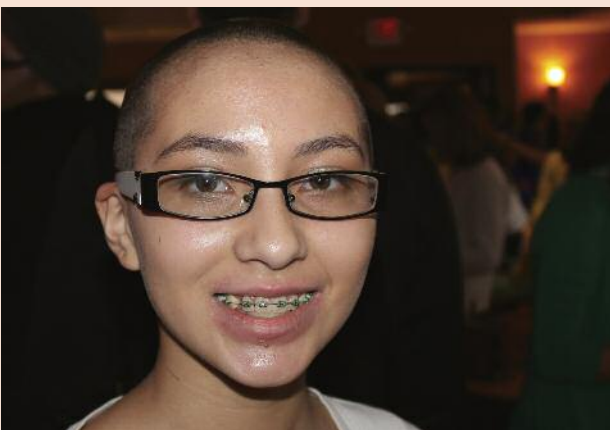


Paulo Macena
*Communication and
Youth Ministries Director*

NEWS

Robbinsville Preteen Raises \$880 for Cancer Research

Veronica Rodriguez, a 12-year-old who attends New Jersey Conference's Robbinsville church, raised more than \$880 for the St. Baldricks Foundation, which gives the funds to various research groups studying children's cancers. She also shaved her head to show support for children with cancer. She and at least one other girl also donated their hair to Locks of Love, which uses the hair to make wigs for cancer patients.



Lake Nelson School to Expand its Reach

Built in 1958, the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School (LNS) in Piscataway, the largest school in the New Jersey Conference, has weathered several storms and two fires, but always emerged stronger and better.

"It is only by God's grace that we are still here, reaching the heights we have achieved," says Elisa Maragoto, LNS principal. "We have been blessed to maintain enrollment above 120 students for five consecutive years, in spite of the drops experienced across the country."

Maragoto adds that plans are underway to expand the school. Currently LNS stops at the eighth grade and has reached its physical limits. The proposed expansion would build upon the pioneers' physical, educational and spiritual foundations to transform the school into a K-12 academy. With God's guidance and the involvement of every church member and community at large, LNS will welcome more students and increase the gospel's influence in their territory.—*John Hakizimana*



Matthew Harris, an eighth-grader, leads out in the spring Week of Prayer.

Elders and Deacons Gather for Annual Retreat

Elders and deacons from all across the New Jersey Conference recently gathered at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility to share moments of inspiration, motivation and training. The Spanish-language retreat drew 300 leaders while the English retreat drew 150 leaders. In addition to the inspiring sermons preached by Pastor Leslie McMillan, they attended training seminars and received updates from all the conference departments.

After listening to a report from the Youth Ministries Department on the monthly worship by zones program, designed to gather youth for praise and fellowship, Frankzua Reyes, first elder of the Morristown Spanish church and a young adult, couldn't contain his excitement. "I have seen the youth leaving their churches one after another," he said. "It is time that we elders take the matter into our own hands. We have to do our part to keep the youth in the church by supporting



Frankzua Reyes, a first elder from the Morristown Spanish church, shares his concerns about the number of youth leaving the church.



Some 150 attended the English elders and deacons retreat.



Pastor José H. Cortés, conference president, embraces James Creighton, from the Wayne church.



José H. Cortés, conference president, and Paulo Macena (second from left), conference Youth Ministries director, embrace a group of young leaders.

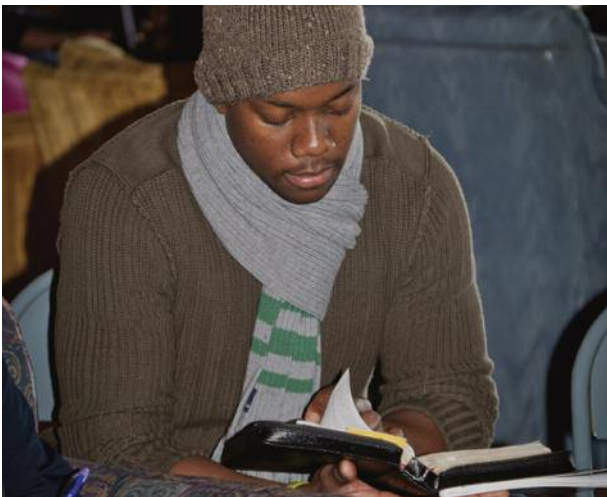
all the youth programs and activities. If we don't do that, what's going to be of our churches 10 years from now?"

During the English elders and deacons retreat, about 15 deacons and deaconesses were younger than 15 years old. The youngest elder from the Collingwood church was only 19. Pastor José H. Cortés, conference president, embraced them saying, "People say the children and youth are the future of the church, but I say, they are our present!"

Elders, deacons and deaconesses left both retreats recommitted to serving their churches with the help of the only One who can touch hearts and change lives.

Ohio Young Adults Seek to Encounter God

Everyone wants to connect ... [but] nobody wants to talk about connecting. They want to experience it," said Steven Carlson, conference youth director. He shared that talking about God is very different than experiencing Him, and that is what he hoped to illustrate at the conference's first GODencounters weekend, a worldwide movement sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist



A GODencounters' attendee refers to his Bible during an interactive session.

Church. "A God who longs for connection ... for a relationship, for an encounter, that's what GODencounters is all about," he added.

Carlson believes they reached their goal for the weekend, which was held at the conference's Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville. Nearly 100 young adults from across Ohio and beyond met to worship, pray and experience God. Sessions included uplifting praise music led by Carlson's worship team, followed with talks by Matthew Gamble, senior pastor at the Elmshaven church in California, and an advisor to the North American Division Young Adult Advisory. He encourages young adults to explore the concept of grace, follow Jesus as a "countercultural alternative to the rat race" and live free and light in Christ.

There were also times for attendees to meet at café tables or in "Living.Room.Sessions" to discuss questions, like "In what area of your life do you need to trust God more?" and "Why do you personally worship God?"

Christopher Atkins of Toledo said of the event, "I was blown away by some of the thought-provoking conversations I had, and overall just blessed to be a part of it."

Kayla Robinson, who visited from Eau Claire, Mich., added, "GODencounters ... provides a way to meet God in a more personal way. ... It was amazing!"

To learn what will take place at the 2014 event, visit ohiosdayouth.org/event/godencounters.

Student Talents Highlighted at Annual Worship Festival

Students from across Ohio, as well as school staff, family and friends, nearly filled seating at the conference's annual elementary worship festival hosted by Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon. Kimberly Bulgin, music teacher at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) based in Kettering, coordinated the two-day event themed "Spiritual Soldiers."

"We're here to praise and worship God through music, art and other activities," said Ken Knudsen, SVA guidance counselor. During his Sabbath sermon, he encouraged youth to be who the Lord wants them to be. There was also a Sabbath afternoon program showcasing the talents of Ohio elementary students, and an offering that resulted in more than \$700 to go toward the students' service project of helping wounded soldiers.

"The festival created an environment for students to worship God by using their gifts and talents," noted Alison Jobson, education superintendent.



Elementary students from across Ohio unite for the weekend's closing choral performance.

Japanese Leaders Learn About Ohio's Ministry Model

Six groups of church leaders in the Japan Union Conference recently spent time learning about the leadership and ministry paradigm developed by the Ohio Conference. At the invitation of the Japan Union, Raj Attiken, conference president, spent seven days in Japan addressing union administrators and department leaders, pastors, hospital administrators and lay leaders.

Attiken shared the story of Ohio's 10-year effort to forge a fresh leadership paradigm, detailing respectful collaboration between Ohio leaders, local pastors and congregational leadership. Attiken's new monograph, titled *Refreshed: A New Paradigm for Church Leadership*, served as the basic curriculum for the overseas meetings. *Refreshed* explores the thesis that the "flourishing of God's mission in Western societies will be largely dependent on the flourishing of individual congregations, and that fresh models of leadership, governance and organizational relationships are needed within our denomination to foster such healthy and robust communities ... that usual approaches to leadership do not empower and release congregations or their leaders to achieve their God-inspired potential."



Raj Attiken, conference president, shares information and feedback about Ohio's fresh leadership paradigm with Japanese leaders who seek new ways to get their members involved in mission.

Due to similar societal trends, the Adventist Church in Japan is facing comparable challenges to those faced by churches in North America. The Japan Union has approximately 15,000 members, 180 churches, and 70 parish pastors within its territory in two conferences and a mission. Recognizing that the church must find new ways to be engaged in mission and create a new culture of mission and ministry in their country, the Japanese leaders became interested in what is being done in Ohio.

"I was honored to be asked to tell the Ohio story," Attiken reflected. "We were able to carefully examine the various aspects of our ministry here, the rationale for what we do, the processes we follow and the outcomes we have seen." Each of the six-hour sessions included open discussions and question-and-answer periods.

Besides preaching at two Sabbath services, Attiken also led conferences in Osaka and Tokyo.



Women to Focus on Strength, Beauty at Annual Retreat

The Ohio Conference Women's Retreat Weekend returns to the Mohaven Camp and Retreat Center in Danville, September 20-22, for "Women of Strength & Beauty." The weekend's special guest speaker is author, pastor and educator Jo Ann Davidson, PhD (pictured), from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich). Her topics include "The Great Sabbath Welcome;" "Women Like Us: Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced;" "Sabbath: A Day for Miracles" and "Another Look at Proverbs 31." Activities will include nature walks, morning fitness classes, a prayer room, horseback riding, canoeing and much more. Multiple lodging options at a budget-friendly price are available and *must be booked separately*. For details, visit ohioadventist.org and click on Women's Ministries, or call (740) 397-4665, ext. 114.



Pennsylvania Pen

JUNE 2013

¿cómo impacta o motiva la gracia la predicación del evangelio?

Efesios 3:8 A mí, que soy menos que el más pequeño de todos los santos, me fue dada esta gracia de anunciar entre los gentiles el evangelio de las inescrutables riquezas de Cristo.

El llamado de Pablo al ministerio de la predicación del evangelio, lo recibió por la gracia de Dios. El llamado a cada creyente a la predicación, lo hemos recibido también por la gracia de Dios sin importar nuestro origen o nuestro pasado. Ahora el Apóstol expresa qué gran privilegio es dado a una persona tan insignificante como él. Pero fue Dios quien lo escogió y le dió el poder para hacerlo.

Lo mismo ocurre con nosotros, somos tan indignos pero a pesar de ello por su gracia, Dios nos da ese privilegio de ser Sus colaboradores en la predicación de Su Palabra. A cada uno que le hemos conocido nos autoriza para que le comuniquemos al mundo Su amor incondicional.

Además de ser un un gran honor el que Dios nos concede de predicar, es un medio por el cual todo seguidor de Cristo que desea involucrarse en la misión, puede mantenerse firme y efervecente en la fe y en la vida espiritual.

Si tu sientes que no eres digno de ser un predicador y que tus talentos son muy limitados, medita en la siguiente declaración; “No tiene límite la utilidad de quién, poniendo el yo a un lado, da lugar a la obra del Espíritu Santo en su corazón y lleva una vida dedicada por completo a Dios (*Ministerio de curación*, pág. 116).”



Juan Lopez
Hispanic Ministries
Coordinator

York Member's Vacation Turns Into Mission Trip

When Mark Sorensen, a member of the York church, decided to visit his son, Chris, he was planning a quiet vacation to enjoy his son and family. But, Chris' church had other plans. They invited Mark to speak at their six-day evangelistic series.

Chris and his wife, Shannon, are missionaries with

Adventist Frontier Missions in Surin, Thailand. Their mission field is 97 percent Buddhist. Thailand is a country where it's difficult to become a Christian because of family and societal pressure and threats.

Still, some 50 Buddhists, Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians crowded into the church to hear Mark's basic gospel presentation with Chris translating. As a result of the meetings, three people were baptized.

Back home Mark shares the gospel through music to both Adventist and other groups. He regularly receives numerous invitations to share his music, along with several invitations to preach to other denominations. He sees his music as an opportunity to build bridges with others and his community. “I try to do my part where I live,” says Mark, who is also a member of the Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee.

He recently participated in a concert where he not only had the opportunity to sing, but also to mention his trip to Thailand and how God had worked. A leader from a local Lutheran church heard him and invited him to come to their church to share about his trip to Thailand.



Maranatha Member Builds Churches in Mexico

David Negro's passion for sharing Christ with others recently led him on an 11-day mission trip to Mexico. A member of the Maranatha church in Philadelphia, Negro joined a group that ended up building four churches. The group purchased a pallet of Bibles and got a pallet of *The Great Controversy* to give away. Negro also mentored a group of young people who went door to door sharing literature and Jesus.

As Negro and JR, a young man on the trip, went door to door, they met a group of people in one home who were eager to learn more about God. Several members from a Baptist church had begun Bible studies with them, but had not visited in more than a month. They asked Negro if he would study the Bible with them and he gladly agreed. He then went next door where the same thing happened. "It was as if John the Baptist had gone before us and prepared the way," shared JR. He and Negro also invited them to attend the evangelistic meetings his fellow missionaries held, and several committed their lives to Christ.

"The experience has brought me closer to God," Negro says. "My trust and love for Him is stronger than



David Negro, second from the right, and his team members prepare for door-to-door work in Mexico.

ever. More than five people gave their lives to Christ as a result of what God was doing through us."

The group also held a Vacation Bible School and offered a health expo and dental services.

Conference Organizes Newest Hispanic Church



The Lancaster Hispanic 2 church was recently organized into a church with 91 members. The church began as a plant from the Lancaster Hispanic 1 church. Ray Hartwell, conference president; Ron Christman, treasurer; Will Peterson, vice president of mission and administration; and Juan Lopez, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, joined Pastor Feleide Garcia, church members and friends for the day's special services. Garcia pastors both the Lancaster Hispanic 1 and 2 churches, along with the York Hispanic church.

Blue Mountain Academy Happenings

Recently Blue Mountain Academy students (some pictured) gave a one-week, joint worship exploring what Seventh-day Adventists believe. The religion department organized an optional Bible study. Students then took what they learned and shared it with their fellow students. Attendance was high throughout the week.



Potomac People

JUNE 2013

Donors Give Olney Prep \$1.8 Million to Build

Staff members at the Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md., say they've witnessed God's will in action recently. The school has been operating out of the Olney church or temporary buildings since it opened nearly 15 years ago. After spending years searching for property to build on, staff and administration now feel God leading them to build on the church's current property.

With a \$1.55 million grant from the Commonwealth Foundation, which operates and supports educational programs and projects assisting underserved children and youth, and \$250,000 from the Potomac Conference, the Lord has provided a way for this school to build in one of the country's most expensive areas.

Conference prayer warriors continue to pray over the construction process and the additional funds needed to finish the building, while the school continues to shine in their community. They offer high-quality, Christian education resulting in standardized test scores that place their students in the top 5 percent nationally. Learn more at olneyprep.org.—*Jami Walker*



Olney Adventist Preparatory School students are ready to build and excited for educational opportunities their new facility will offer.

CPC Launches Conference's First Multisite Campus



Two Potomac churches recently joined efforts to embark on an uncharted journey: a dual campus. Since September Pastor Jennifer Deans (left) and a core team have maximized live-streaming services and other necessities that will allow a Dulles (Va.) church plant to function as one with the bustling Community Praise Center (CPC) in Alexandria, Va.

Pastor Deans' team officially opened the doors of CPC-Dulles this spring.

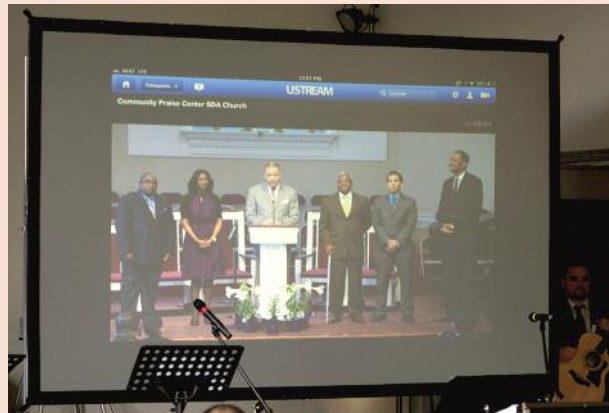
With such a dense population in the Dulles area, yet no Seventh-day Adventist churches within 35 miles, CPC pastors Henry Wright, Dean Waterman and Deans brainstormed a way to reach that community.

"Some of the biggest churches in the world function with multisite campuses," notes John Cress, Potomac's vice president for Pastoral Ministries. "The idea is to take the DNA of a healthy church, plant it in another area and watch another healthy church grow out of that." Before the launch with 150 attendees, CPC-Dulles experienced a slow and steady

attendance growth, starting with 30 members.

Deans, who leads the new campus, believes strongly in this mission. "We are here to listen to the needs of this community," she says. "We have creative license to create a worship service and environment that meets those specific needs while still being connected to a solid church. I believe God has great things planned."

Read more at dulles.cpcsd.org.—*Tiffany Doss*



Potomac People

Campers Have Fun, Learn of Christ at Camp Blue Ridge

Soon the sounds of praise to our Creator will fill the air as campers worship around the campfire bowl at Camp Blue Ridge, nestled in the mountains of Montebello, Va. Excited shouts will surround the go-kart track as campers cheer their new friends on, and laughter will echo off a lake filled with swimmers and canoes.

“Summer camp presents an exciting and unique opportunity for our church to connect with its youth,” says Jerrod Gabel, camp director. “This beautiful place provides us with an opportunity to teach kids about Christ’s love in a safe environment. From activities and mentorship to the quiet conversations late at night, kids who come to camp will have an experience they won’t forget.”

Each day campers choose a skill to learn and hone, like shooting arrows, swimming and even cooking. In the evening, all campers and staff come together for a big event, like a game of “capture the flag” or “dare base”— anything the program team conjures up.

“The intent is to bring campers together and have a good time in fellowship,” explains Gabel. “Our staff has spent months in prayerful preparation for their arrival. Our entire program has components meant to be fun, but we are intentional about our ministry and focus. We are committed to Christ being present in every aspect of camp.” He adds, “Each instructor develops a curriculum that teaches and refines skills in their activity but is also centered around the intention of developing kids in Christian faith. It’s a humbling experience to be part these campers’ decisions for Christ. Not only are angels rejoicing in heaven, but we rejoice here with them.”

To support this ministry or to register a child for Camp Blue Ridge this summer, visit campblueridge.org.
—Jennifer Gabel



BY THE NUMBERS

Camp Blue Ridge Spiritual Commitments 2011-2012

	2011	2012
I want to get to know Jesus.....	123	71
I want to commit my life to Jesus.....	25	39
I want to be baptized soon	58	76
I want to recommit my life to Jesus	76	74
Actual camper baptisms	0	9

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Alumni Weekend Sees Highest Attendance in Decades

More than 800 people returned to Takoma Academy's (TA) campus for alumni weekend, making it the event's highest attendance in decades. The three days were also marked with memorable highlights: innovative features, a new memorial, a new association president and an impressive Worthy Student Fund donation.

New innovations added to this year's event included electronic registration, where alumni could update or provide their current contact information via the computer. Attendees were able to reminisce and enjoy alumni graduation pictures that adorned the walls of the J.P. Laurence Auditorium. There was also a catered gourmet luncheon, free gifts for the honored classes, professionally designed programs and a return of the annual Roll Call, performed by David Hall ('53), which some claim was probably the best in decades.

Event presentations included a spiritual charge by Ted Wilson ('68), General Conference president; a thought-provoking Sabbath School message from Marcel Wright ('93); and a rousing vision for TA's future by Carla Thrower, principal.

TA leaders took the weekend to unveil a new outdoor attraction, the Harvey Bristow Memorial (pictured, above) designed by Jamila Silvera, art department chair, and Erin Castillo, horticulturist. The late Harvey Bristow served as TA principal from 1988 to 1992. The ceremony featured Dunbar Henri, chaplain and former principal, and former professor Ken "Uncle Willie" Wilson. Bristow's daughter, Teresa Bristow Kelchner, along with her husband and son, represented the family at the unveiling.

"We are certain that the memorial will become a viable, integral part of the campus, which will allow students to have a pleasant place to gather outdoors, and at the same time, acknowledge the invaluable contributions



Carla Thrower, TA principal, enjoys a moment with Susan Laurence Cooksey ('79), the newly elected alumni association president.

Mr. Bristow made during his tenure," said Ronnie Mills, assistant to the principal for fundraising and alumni.

Mills also later proudly announced to attendees that a group of alumni established a matching donation of \$10,000 for TA's Worthy Student Fund. Since the weekend gathering, additional donations have been sent to the school, bringing the total donations to more than \$24,600. The monies will go toward tuition fees for graduating, current and incoming students.

At the annual business meeting of the TA Alumni Association on Sunday morning, the association elected Susan Laurence Cooksey ('79) as their president. Cooksey is the granddaughter of TA's beloved former principal "Professor J.P. Laurence." Professionally she is the vice president of business development for IBM.

Alumni traveled from as far as Sweden to attend this year's gathering. Elaine (Tarr) Dodd ('53) conveyed the sentiment of many: "Thank you for the outstanding alumni weekend program!"



Profile: New Graduate Kayla Hall Claims Growth

With Takoma Academy's 79th commencement behind them, the Class of 2013 received their marching orders to go conquer the world. A few minutes spent with class members, like Kayla Hall (pictured), class president, make it clear this is exactly their intent!

Hall was a four-year TA student, a member of various school programs, including the distinguished Camerata and chorale, and one of the lead defensive players on the Lady Tigers basketball team. The Lady Tigers were champions of their league for three consecutive years while she played.

Hall recently reflected on her journey at TA, and one of the first things she recognized is that she matured at TA. "This is where I put away childish things to become the woman of God that He meant for me to be," she notes. Contrary to her initial thought as a freshman, that the four years would be slow and long, she says she now realizes that they "flew by." She adds, "The friendships I've gained with my peers and faculty will last me a lifetime."

Because TA exposes students to many interests and skills, Hall says it will be difficult to decide on a career. "The college prep course prepared us to do well—academically, spiritually and mentally," she explains. "Taking honors and [Advanced Placement] classes gave me the push to aim high in my education."

Hall says the graduates are excited to start the next chapter of their lives. "We have had the Takoman experience, and now it's time to experience higher education. The Class of 2013 will no longer be able to see each other in the hallways every day, but we wish each other the best of luck," she says. Hall adds, "My advice to the



New TA graduate Kayla Hall demonstrates her comfort on the court as the Lady Tigers' lead defensive player.



future students of Takoma Academy is to cherish each relationship and each day spent here. It's extremely important to get involved. Go on a mission trip, start a newsletter, try out for an athletic team or help organize a chapel program. Student involvement is what keeps TA alive. Four years may seem like a long time, but it is time meant for creating lifelong memories."

"Hall has represented Takoma Academy with great distinction, and is a true representation of a student body determined to excel and win this world for the kingdom of God!" says David Turner, vice president of student services.

CALENDAR

June

- 4-11 Chorale Trip to Jamaica
- 10-28 Math Enrichment Camp
- 10-21 Basketball Camp
- 24-28 Rising Tigers Summer Camp (Grades 6-8)

July

- 8-Aug. 2 Rising Tigers Summer Camp (Grades 6-8)
- 8-26 Freshman Enrichment Program
- 15-26 Sophomore Science Program
- 22-26 Juniors/Seniors ACT/SAT Test Prep

Parenting College Students

I was recently invited to visit Pennsylvania Conference's Boulevard church in Philadelphia. I happily accepted and spoke on the topic "Parenting College Students." The central theme of the evening's presentation was that Christian education begins at home.

In her book *Adventist Home*, Ellen White states, "In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is the first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of: respect, obedience and self-control" (p. 182).

Another source recommends that parents of adolescents must provide both stated and unstated messages that say, "I value you," "You can think" and "You have control." A key message to parents is to model the desired behaviors to our children. Model your own healthy self-concept to your children by taking care of yourself as much as you take care of them. The concept is that responsibility is caught, not taught, and that unconditional love must be demonstrated at all times. Lectures and threats are not the best methods of parenting. Interacting with teens as if they were adults conveys a strong message that we expect them to act as responsible adults and own their problems and their solutions.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

National Security Lab Director Named Alumnus of the Year

Washington Adventist University (WAU) recently named Charles McMillan, PhD, alumnus of the year during alumni homecoming weekend. McMillan directs the Los Alamos National Laboratory and is president of Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS). The Los Alamos Lab, based in New Mexico, falls under the National Nuclear Security Administration.

McMillan was the guest of honor at the annual alumni awards banquet held in Bethesda, Md. In his brief address, he paid tribute to WAU's emphasis on service as a valuable part of the learning experience. "Service of the highest level requires education of the best quality," McMillan said. "Education is not just about the acquisition of knowledge; it is about asking the right questions and [knowing] if the answers make sense."

McMillan graduated from WAU with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics. He earned his doctoral degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PHOTO BY AL PEASELY



PHOTO BY KEVIN MANUEL

60 Inducted Into Honor Societies

Some 60 WAU students were recently inducted into two national honor societies: Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Chi. The inductees, who became members of the highest college academic honors available to students, were challenged to exhibit three highly important qualities necessary to succeed in the world today: excellence, humility and integrity.

D. Paul Monteiro, an attorney and the associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, gave the keynote address.

Two other awards were presented at the ceremony. Interim Provost Patrick Williams received an honorary Alpha Chi membership, while student Robert Machado, a graduating senior, received the Edward Davis Award for leadership and service to the community.



Students Put Feet and Hands to Faith on Service Day

More than 400 Washington Adventist University students recently blanketed the greater Silver Spring, Md., area, to perform acts of service to the community. They cleaned up several neighborhoods and offered health clinics and service to the sick or marginalized.

“Service day is a time when students put feet and hand to their faith,” said Baraka Muganda, vice president of ministry. “Faith in action is seen all over the university during our two annual service days.”

At a health clinic, set up in the nearby Langley Park Shopping Center, students—led by Professor Rebecca Hacker—checked for heart disease, breast health, STDs, blood pressure and diabetes, among other ailments.

“Students get practical experience meeting people where they are, rather than having them come over to us. We are reaching people who might not otherwise get medical care. We are also educating the patients so that they can be informed consumers,” said Professor Hacker. Bibles were also distributed to those who took advantage of the clinic.

A WAU nursing student takes a passerby’s blood pressure.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MANUEL

24 Baptized Following Revival Week

For WAU’s spring week of revival, a small white tent on the Washington Adventist University commons was a meeting place for dozens of students hungry to explore topics of addiction and liberation under the theme “Can I Live?”

By the end of the week, 28 students took a stand for Jesus, and from that number, 24 were baptized. Regina

Johnson, chaplain of ministry, said the theme was selected to force people to think about how they live and the change that Christ can bring. “We wanted to see the students understand that life is short, and God has called them to a higher standard than they have set for themselves,” Johnson said.

She said it was also intended to appeal to those who might have lost interest in the church as a physical space. Johnson said conducting the meetings in a neutral place was just as impactful as the practical sermons delivered by guest speaker Noah Washington, pastor of the Bladensburg (Md.) church.

“I am grateful that I had an opportunity to learn practical Christianity,” said Alant Francois, a junior religion major, who attended every night.

The nightly program involved lively singing led by different praise teams and testimonies from students and staff. Prayers were held in small groups.

“To see students packed in the tent every night singing, praying, testifying and giving their hearts to Jesus brought joy in my heart,” said President Weymouth Spence, EdD.

The next week of revival will be held in spring 2014.

Baraka Muganda, Washington Adventist University’s vice president for ministry, gets ready to baptize Edson Depina, a graduating senior majoring in business marketing.



PHOTO BY RALPH VIEUX

Profiles in Caring

'It's kinda fun with Haystacks, but it's a lot harder with life. The changes come, and the choices are all ours about how to respond. That's just the way it is.'



Washington Adventist Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
of Maryland
Adventist Behavioral Health
Adventist Home Care Services
The Reginald S. Lourie Center for
Infants and Young Children
Adventist Medical Group
LifeWork Strategies

An April 2013 column on John Konrad, former WGTS vice president and general manager, incorrectly stated that he was a registered nurse. Adventist HealthCare regrets the error.

Who Moved My Haystack?

The goal of the mission: “Haystack Perfection,” the most complete expression ever created of the meal that is so ubiquitous in the subculture I grew up in that most of the people I grew up with not only have their own list of the essential ingredients for the perfect Haystack, but have strong opinions about the way these ingredients are assembled—and can tell you when and where they were when they last ate a perfect Haystack.

Some people were coming over. We were serving Haystacks. Nothing less than perfection would do. My assignment: get the right ingredients.

Haystacks are nearly unique to Seventh-day Adventist culture, at least by that name. It is basically a taco salad that you assemble yourself—starting with corn chips (generally), followed by some sort of beans and then topped with cheese, lettuce, olives, guacamole, onions, etc. (Variety is encouraged at this stage.)

When I was growing up, we ate Haystacks at nearly every communal meal—particularly those where young people were attending in great number. Oh, we had pizza, and we had veggie burgers, but right up there among the four food groups would be Haystacks. We loved ‘em. And now—as an adult, with all the experience and training, and my own wheels—I was dispatched to the grocery store to get The Right Stuff for Haystacks. This was a serious assignment.

The trouble started with the beans. I was shown a label and told to Get These Beans. OK. No argument from me. Trouble is, they’ve changed the labels. Now “Whole Pinto Beans” and “Chili Beans, Mexican Style,” look exactly the same. What to do? I got both.

Now the cheese. Whose idea was it to combine three types of cheese? I wasn’t asked about this. Grated or block? We always grate our own, but this looks pretty convenient. Wait—what’s this grated multi-blend gonna cost? And here is one with SIX different cheeses! Is that even legal? I defaulted to a block of Colby. Seemed safe. Most of the ingredients were easy—lettuce is lettuce, tomatoes are tomatoes, onions are onions. The avocados may have been too hard, but they were the only ones for sale, so someone else could deal with them. There was a slight delay amongst the olives, but I managed.

I didn’t know there were so many choices of fresh salsa. And I was in uncharted territory here, with no guidance, no label to fall back on, just the words, “Fresh Salsa” on the list. And I doubt you can return this stuff. What to do, what to do? Casting caution to the wind, I went for the Chunky Mild, and an additional container of Pico de Gallo. (Who was Pico de Gallo, anyway? Maybe a famous cocinero.)

Just one last thing on my list: the corn chips. As kids, the choices were Fritos or Fritos. But now there’s a whole aisle filled with corn chips. This is too much. Guacamole flavored? Lime Flavored? Spicy Sweet Chili Flavored? Where does this all end?

And why is life always like this? Just when you get comfortable, someone changes the label. Comes up with a new way of combining things. Suggests new ways of doing things. Confronts you with unripe avocados. Introduces Ranch Dressing, or something like that. Where does it all stop?

It doesn’t. With apologies to Forrest Gump, Life is like the perfect Haystack—it’s always changing, always confronting us with decisions about the perfect ingredients, and the right mix of all these wonderful things together, and what to do when you run out of salsa or got the wrong one. It’s kinda fun with Haystacks, but it’s a lot harder with life. The changes come, and the choices are all ours about how to respond. That’s just the way it is.

So take your time there amidst the corn chips, if you need an extra minute. Accept the world’s apology if your first choice is no longer available—but here are the choices we’ve got now. It’s your Haystack—enjoy building it.

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



Maryland Honors Washington Adventist's Tobacco Cessation Program

Washington Adventist Hospital's inpatient Tobacco Cessation Program was highlighted as a best practice at the 2013 Maryland Million Hearts Symposium in February. The symposium brought together the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Delmarva Foundation, the Quality Improvement Organization, and key stakeholders aimed at maximizing Maryland's efforts to prevent and control heart disease.

Tobacco cessation plays an important role in lowering one's risk for heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, a smoker's risk of developing coronary heart disease is two to four times that of a nonsmoker's. Those who smoke a pack of cigarettes a day have more than double the risk of having a heart attack compared to those who have never smoked.

The Maryland Million Hearts Symposium featured keynote presentations that focused on why it is crucial to leverage statewide resources and partnerships to improve cardiac health. Julinda Massey, Tobacco Cessation Coordinator at Washington Adventist Hospital, and Judy Lichty, Regional Director of Health & Wellness for Adventist HealthCare, presented on Washington Adventist Hospital's Tobacco Cessation Program, sharing best practices including providing counsel-

ing, nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), and collecting follow-up data from patients.

"Our program strives to keep open and ongoing communication with patients, accommodating their needs to ensure their continued success," said Massey, a member of Southern Asia Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring.

Washington Adventist Hospital officially established its Tobacco Cessation Program in 2003, although the hospital has a long history of urging the community to quit smoking. Patients are monitored and receive follow-up for up to one year at the intervals of two weeks, three months, six months, nine months and one year, in order to track each patient's progress and minimize relapse.

"In addition to our inpatient program, our ongoing tobacco cessation classes and support groups allow us to extend the reach of supporting those who have quit smoking and help those who are going through the process of quitting," said Lichty.

Washington Adventist Hospital also promotes smoking cessation through its tobacco free campus policy. This policy prohibits

smoking and the use of any type of tobacco on the Washington Adventist Hospital campus and applies to all patients, visitors, employees, contract workers, volunteers, and physicians.

"Washington Adventist Hospital is dedicated to promoting a healthy community and a healing environment for all of our patients," said Joyce Newmyer, President of Washington Adventist Hospital. "Our Tobacco Cessation Program and tobacco free campus are vital to this mission."

For more information about the Tobacco Cessation Program, visit www.WashingtonAdventistHospital.com.

For information on classes and support groups, visit www.AdventistHealthCare.com/calendar or call 800-542-5096.

 **Washington
Adventist Hospital**
A Member of Adventist HealthCare



Julinda Massey is the Tobacco Cessation Coordinator at Washington Adventist Hospital.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Welcomes John Sackett as New President

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital is pleased to announce John Sackett as its new president. Sackett previously served as president and chief executive officer of Avista Adventist Hospital in Louisville, Co. In joining the Adventist HealthCare senior leadership team, he brings extensive experience in hospital administration that includes working with the community, physicians and hospital staff to provide exceptional patient experience and quality care.

“John is closely aligned with our mission to improve the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing. He has a unique combination of expertise in hospital administration, compassion and commitment to holistic health care,” said Terry Forde, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Adventist HealthCare. “We are pleased to welcome him to our Adventist HealthCare team and to Montgomery County.”

As president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Sackett oversees the management of the acute care hospital with 331 licensed beds and prestigious quality designations and accreditations in several medical specialties. Sackett officially began work as president in April.

“I am pleased to take on the leadership role at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. I see my role as working closely with the team of caregivers – employees, physicians and hospital leaders – to create an environment in which we can ensure our community that Shady Grove Adventist Hospital is the best place to receive quality medical care,” said Sackett.

During his 24 years leading Avista Adventist Hospital, Sackett produced physician and employee satisfaction that consistently ranks among the top U.S. hospitals. He also oversaw quality cardiac, emergency, joint and spine care, as well as the area’s largest birth center.



John Sackett (right) meets with employees on his first day as Shady Grove Adventist Hospital President. From left: Edith Johnson, Medical-Surgical Director, Shelvan Arunan, Executive Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care.

“John understands how to work together with physicians to do what’s right for our patients in a demanding and changing health-care landscape. He comes from a competitive market and understands what is needed for Shady Grove Adventist Hospital to deliver comprehensive, quality care to our community now and in the future,” noted Wayne Meyer, M.D., president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital’s medical staff. Sackett received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Walla Walla College in 1980, and his Master’s in Health Administration from Loma Linda University in 1982. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has served on many community boards and legislative councils. He was a City Council member for Louisville from 1986 to 1991, and a board member of the Chamber of Commerce.



Members of the Shady Grove Adventist and Adventist HealthCare executive teams join others to gather around John Sackett for a prayer during his dedication service as the new hospital president.

 **Shady Grove
Adventist Hospital**
A Member of Adventist HealthCare

Maryland destaca el programa de Dejar de Fumar del Washington Adventist



El programa de Dejar de Fumar para pacientes hospitalizados del Washington Adventist Hospital fue destacado como un ejemplo de mejores prácticas en el simposio Maryland Million Hearts de 2013 en febrero. El simposio reunió al Departamento de Salud e Higiene Mental del Departamento de Maryland y a Delmarva Foundation, a la organización de la calidad mejoramiento y a partes interesadas claves con el ánimo de maximizar los esfuerzos de Maryland por prevenir y controlar la enfermedad cardíaca.

Dejar de fumar es un elemento importante para reducir el riesgo de enfermedad cardíaca. Según la American Heart Association, el riesgo de un fumador de desarrollar enfermedades coronarias es el doble que para un no fumador. Quienes fuman un paquete de cigarrillos al día tienen más del doble de

riesgo de un ataque al corazón comparado con quienes nunca han fumado.

El simposio Maryland Million Hearts contó con presentaciones principales que se enfocaron en porqué es crucial hacer uso de recursos y asociaciones a nivel del estado para mejorar la salud cardíaca. Julinda Massey, coordinadora del programa de Dejar de Fumar del Washington Adventist Hospital y Judy Lichty, directora regional de Salud y Bienestar de Adventist HealthCare, realizó una presentación del programa de Dejar de Fumar del Washington Adventist Hospital, en la cual compartió las mejores prácticas, entre ellas la de ofrecer consejería, terapia de reemplazo de nicotina (NRT, por sus siglas en inglés) y la recolección de datos de los pacientes para seguimiento.

“Nuestro programa se esfuerza por mantener una comunicación abierta y permanente con los pacientes y acomodar sus necesidades para garantizar su éxito continuo”, señaló Massey, miembro de la iglesia adventista del Séptimo Día Southern Asia en Silver Spring.

Washington Adventist Hospital estableció oficialmente el programa de Dejar de Fumar en 2003, aunque el hospital ha tenido una larga historia de animar a la comunidad a dejar de fumar. Los pacientes reciben supervisión y seguimiento hasta por un año en intervalos de dos semanas, tres meses, seis meses, nueve meses y un año, a fin de hacer seguimiento al progreso de cada paciente y evitar recaídas.

“Además de nuestro programa para pacientes internos, las clases permanentes para dejar de fumar y los grupos de apoyo nos permiten extender el alcance para apoyar a aquellos que han dejado de fumar y ayudar a aquellos que están pasando por el proceso de dejarlo”, señaló Lichty.

Washington Adventist Hospital también promueve dejar de fumar a través de una política de instalaciones libres de tabaco. La política prohíbe fumar y usar cualquier tipo de tabaco en las instalaciones del Washington Adventist Hospital y la deben observar todos los pacientes, visitantes, empleados, trabajadores por contrato y médicos.

“Washington Adventist Hospital está dedicado a promover una comunidad saludable y un ambiente de sanación para todos nuestros pacientes”, señaló Joyce Newmyer, presidenta de Washington Adventist Hospital. “Nuestro programa de Dejar de Fumar y unas instalaciones libres de tabaco son vitales para esta misión”.



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Cleveland	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05	9:04
Columbus	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05	9:04
Jersey City	8:25	8:29	8:31	8:32	8:31
Norfolk	8:22	8:25	8:28	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:50	8:54	8:56	8:57	8:56
Philadelphia	8:27	8:30	8:33	8:33	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:48	8:51	8:54	8:54	8:53
Reading	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37
Richmond	8:29	8:32	8:34	8:35	8:35
Roanoke	8:38	8:41	8:43	8:44	8:44
Toledo	9:06	9:10	9:12	9:13	9:12
Trenton	8:26	8:30	8:32	8:33	8:32
Wash., D.C.	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37

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OBITUARIES

DANIELS, Lucius E., Sr., born May 7, 1926, in St. Augustine, Fla.; died January 18, 2013, in Detroit. He was a member of the Cornelius First church in Mt. Clemens, Mich. He served for over 21 years as a pastor, evangelist and missionary, and then as a nursing home administrator. He was in the South Atlantic Conference for 12 years, a missionary in Liberia, Africa, for seven years, and in the Allegheny East Conference for two years. He married his college (Oakwood College, Ala.) sweetheart, Naomi Hamlin, November 2, 1947. From their union were born two boys, Lucius E., Jr. (deceased) and Arthur, Sr., of Dale City, Va. He is also survived by his grandson, Arthur B. (Lindsey) Daniels, Jr., of Gaithersburg, Md.; his great-granddaughter, Aaliyah Daniels of Gaithersburg; his brothers, Dr. Ernest P. (Joyce) Daniels, Sr., of

Fort Worth, Texas, and Dr. Wilbur L. (Kathern B.) Daniels, Sr., of Upper Marlboro, Md.

HARBAUGH, Betty, born May 10, 1928; died January 18, 2013, in Hagerstown, Md. Betty was baptized in 1980 and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. She is survived by her son.

SETH, Courtney M. (Hendryx), born November 13, 1930, in Baker, Ore.; died March 1, 2013, in Collegedale, Tenn. She was a member of the Collegedale (Tenn.) church. From 1953-56, Courtney was employed as the secretary for the education secretary at the Columbia Union Conference office in Takoma Park, Md. (now in Columbia, Md.) From 1974-79 she was the church secretary at the Takoma Park (Md.) church. Then in 1980, she began working as a secretary at the Medical Center Hospital in Punta Gorda, Fla., and then from 1995 to 2000, was the church secretary at the Port Charlotte (Fla.) church. She is survived by her husband, William Seth, of Collegedale; her daughters: Marie Petrelis of Frederick, Md., Karen Seth of Germantown, Md., and Barbara Edens of Ooltewah, Tenn.; her son, Doug Seth, of Meridian, Miss.; and Ken Seth, of Mt. Airy, Md.; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

STOUT, Anna M., born December 17, 1921, in Shenandoah County, Va.; died November 3, 2012, in Clark County, Va. She was a member of the Winchester (Va.) church. Anna was a deeply devoted Seventh-day Adventist. She was one of the early colporteurs (1940s-1950s) and gave exceedingly of her time in presenting the Adventist truth. Successfully, she claimed many converts for Christ and was named Layman of the Year in 1971. She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Stout, of Winchester, Va., and her grandsons: Dean R. Rodgers of Winchester, Raymond E. Austin of Ukiah, Calif., and Caleb A. Austin of Loma Linda, Calif. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl F. Stout, and her daughter, Kathryn Stout Austin.

TOSCANO, Bette Anne, born September 1, 1942, in Dover, N.J., to Robert and Bertha (Guilmette) Matthews; died January 29, 2013, at her home in Howard, Ohio, surrounded by family. Bette was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Hill church in Mount Vernon, Ohio. She was educated as a professional secretary and earned her degree as a paralegal at Indiana University. Surviving are her husband, Louis "Lou" Toscano, whom she married January 19, 1963; sons: Mark (Christine) Toscano of Columbus, Ohio, Robert (Nicole) Toscano of Powell, Ohio, and Timothy (Cheryl) Toscano

of Fort Meade, Md.; grandchildren: Gabrielle, Samantha, Jonathan, Alexandra, Nicholas, Isabella, Vincent, Joshua and Sophia; sisters: Doris (Richard) Crater of Chatham, N.J., and Nancy (Tom) O'Connell of Richfield, Conn.


WHITESIDES, Cyril G., born August 17, 1925; died January 5, 2013, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. Cyril worked for the Southern Publishing Association (Tenn.), before moving to Maryland in 1981 to work for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown. He is survived by his sons, Cyril G. Whitesides, Jr., and Steve Whitesides; and his daughters: Vivien Jenkins, Jeanne Bursott, Sharon Charnoski, and Christine MacKey. He was preceded in death by his wife, Laura Jean, who died in 2008.

ZENTZ, Robert L., born October 25, 1917, in Carroll County, Maryland; died January 7, 2013, in Carroll County. He was a member of the Westminster (Md.) church. Survivors: his son, Carl (Chong) Zentz of Glenn Dale, Md.; daughter, Joyce Schaum of Westminster; grandsons: Joshua (Cherrie) Zentz of St. Paul, Minn., Jeremy Zentz of Oldenburg, Ind., Jason (Bryna) Schaum of Abingdon, Md., and Adam Schaum of Virginia, Minn. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mae H. Zentz, who died August 31, 2008.

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Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Speaker Schedule:

June 29	Robb Long
July 6	Stephen Chavez
July 13	Larry Evans
July 20	Terry Johnson
July 27	Kermit Netteburg
August 3	Derek Morris
August 10	William Johnson
August 17	Fred Kinsey
August 24	Charles Tapp
August 31	Robert Quintana
September 7	Vladimir Corea
September 14	Mark Sigue
September 21	Nikolaus Satelmajer
September 28	Gary Gibbs

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