

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

SEPTEMBER 2013 • VOLUME 118 • ISSUE 9

My Journey Out of Darkness

WHY I WALKED FOR
SUICIDE PREVENTION

Contents



4 | Newsline

7 | Noticias

8 | Underscore

10 | Feature

My Journey Out of Darkness

Meredith Carter

On August 1, 2011, Meredith Carter got a call that changed her life. In this cover story, she shares the grief and growth she experienced after losing her husband to suicide.

15 | Newsletters

44 | Bulletin Board

About the Cover: Charles Arnhold photographed Meredith Carter at the Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk in Washington, D.C.

EDITOR'S CORNER

WELCOME MICHELLE!

Six weeks ago, Michelle Bernard, a daughter of the Pennsylvania Conference, joined the *Visitor* team as digital media coordinator. Since “social communication” is now part of our corporate communication culture, she’s tasked with managing our Facebook and Twitter pages, pitching our stories to public media and helping raise awareness of our church in the community at large. #columbiaunion



NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

Bernard's efforts to help raise awareness of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) 35th Annual Fit 4 You Retreat yielded coverage in the local *Boyetown Times*, whose editor stopped by to interview A. Leah Scott, AEC Health Ministries director. She wanted to know how this lifestyle program helped 60 participants change their lives for the better.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you have an event, announcement or classified ad to share with the 55,000 households in the Columbia Union family? Contact Sandra Jones, classified advertising manager, at sjones@columbiaunion.net or (888) 4-VISITOR. We also run obituaries (free) to honor the memory of our deceased members, and now accept digital ads for the *Visitor News Bulletin*, our weekly email newsletter.

I LOVE THIS SIGN

Every time I drive to the Potomac Conference headquarters, I miss my turn for their complex. Not anymore! Their new highway sign is not just nice, it's *helpful*, and now I imagine that many more thousands of people are aware that there's a Seventh-day Adventist organization in Staunton, Va.



YOUR TURN

This month upload a photo of your organization's sign at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor). If you're in need, order directional signage with our church's official logo from adventsource.org or by calling (402) 486-8800. You may also visit stewartsigns.com for larger lawn or digital signs.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden

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

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It's OK to Get Help

A few years ago, my father-in-law committed suicide. That tragedy changed our family forever, and the resulting agony and anxiety caused tremendous emotional distress. The same week we learned of his passing, my wife and I also learned we would be having our third child. She attempted to put her emotions aside and avoid dealing with the symptoms, but after the baby was born, they hit with a vengeance. She started having anxiety attacks that turned into serious panic attacks. At times, she would feel helpless, hopeless, depressed, frustrated or out of control, and she often had terrible feelings of impending doom. On occasion, she would leave the house to escape the attacks. One morning while driving through an intersection, she had a panic attack that prevented her from stopping the car, and she had an accident. After several visits to the emergency room, she was finally diagnosed with an anxiety disorder. Thanks to medication, help from a psychiatrist, support from friends and family and continued counseling, my wife now lives a full and happy life.



DEMONSTRATING GOD'S CARE

During the difficult months of uncertainty prior to her diagnosis, we had friends who provided space and presence for us. I also had a very special professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., who listened to my struggles and prayed with me. His presence and support helped us get through those dark moments and realize that there were many other people struggling with similar issues.

Oftentimes our human tendency toward self-sufficiency or self-preservation leads us to minimize or ignore symptoms of depression and anxiety, but this is the last thing a person suffering from any mental disorder needs. I'm thankful for the professional help and spiritual support my wife and I received during our time of greatest need.

Today I lead a group of 28 staff chaplains, interns, student chaplains and volunteer community clergy at Adventist HealthCare's hospitals in Maryland and New Jersey. Our mission is to demonstrate God's care to those who are suffering and experiencing difficult times. Our role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's ministry of healing is to provide space, help, hope and a calm and nonjudgmental presence that allows patients and families to share their stories and receive professional pastoral care.

If you or someone you know is suffering, please don't hesitate to seek professional help and spiritual care today.

Pastor Ismael Gama, MA, MBA, serves as associate vice president for Mission Integration & Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare, Inc., headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md.

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE

PHOTO BY DARYL GUNGADOO/ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK



WORLD CHURCH LEADERS RECOGNIZE WAU VP

Gilbert Cangy (center), Youth Ministries director for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Jonatan Tejel (right), his associate, recognize Baraka Muganda, EdD, vice president for ministry at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., for his many years of service to the youth of the church. The event took place in South Africa. Read more on p. 37.

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE BOARD GAINS 3 MEMBERS

Rick Remmers, Thomas L. Werner and Donald Melnick, MD, recently joined the Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees for three-year terms, ending March 2016. All three are members of the Adventist Church. Remmers is president of the Chesapeake Conference. Werner previously served six years as president of the Adventist Health System in Orlando, Fla., and is a member of the Florida Hospital church. Melnick currently serves as president of the National Board of Medical Examiners and attends Pennsylvania Conference's West Chester church.

—Susan Griffiths



BY THE NUMBERS: Review and Herald

This summer the Review and Herald Publishing Association celebrated the 30th anniversary of their move from the Washington, D.C., area to Hagerstown, Md. Here are a few tidbits about the church's oldest publishing house:

170

The number of current employees

0

The number of production days lost during the move

1849

The year the press was founded in Rocky Hill, Conn.

400

The number of employees that relocated with the company in 1983

6

The number of acres the facility occupies

The number of *Visitor* magazines they print each month

55,046

PUBLISHING HOUSES END MERGER TALKS

In the August issue, the *Visitor* reported that the General Conference (GC) and North American Division had requested the boards of the Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho) and Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., to consider a merger. A taskforce was formed to study the matter. However, last month GC officials released a statement saying the taskforce will not continue.

The statement notes, "The nature of a restructured relationship, in whatever future format that may develop, requires deeper analysis and modeling. It is felt, in the best interest of the publishing work of the church at this time, for there to be no change to the governance of the two institutions."

WAS JESUS A POLITICAL DISSIDENT?

The newly released book *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* is getting a lot of attention. In it the author, Reza Aslan, claims Jesus was no passive peacemaker. Instead, he called Him a political rabble-rouser. Is Aslan correct?



The book is clearly limited in biblical scope and filled with errors and exaggerations. The core of my personal faith calls me to accept the sure reliability of the Bible being God's inspired Word with the help of the Spirit in understanding and believing that Jesus is my only Savior. Let's leverage the buzz around this best seller and bring fresh engagements to persuade neo-Nicodemuses that Jesus' reach goes beyond mere social context to the very depth of each human heart.—Chris Daley, a member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.



Jesus was not at all political, but He did not shy from spiritual controversy. His truth about God's character was radically different from the teachings of the Jewish leaders, and He put this truth into action when He drove the money-changers out of the temple, for example. Although He passively submitted to crucifixion, His sacrifice had the radical result of saving humankind from Satan and winning the great controversy.—Lori Zerneck, an English teacher at Chesapeake Conference's Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md.



I would describe Jesus as a religious rabble-rouser but not a political one. He wanted to turn people away from viewing salvation as an act of performing rituals and doing good deeds, and showed them that a grace-oriented relationship between God and mankind was key. Although the Jewish leaders during Jesus' time on Earth were both political and religious leaders, one finds no evidence of Jesus tearing down the political system of either the Jews or the Romans.—Victor Zill, treasurer and executive secretary of the Mountain View Conference

Talking About Freedom Goes Digital

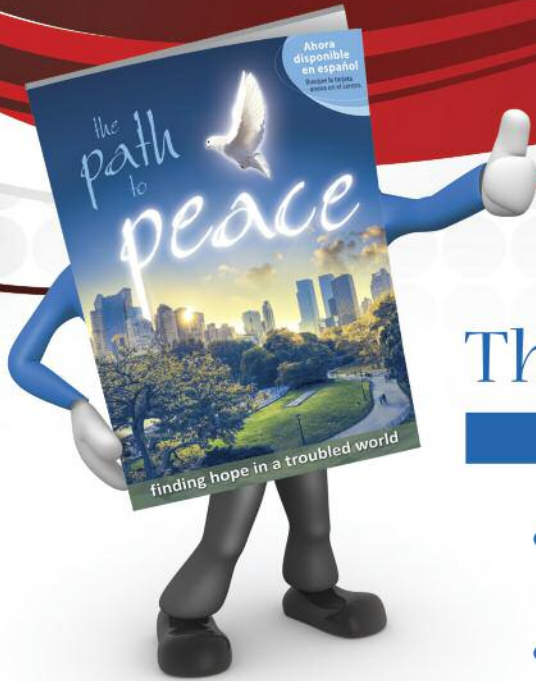
Starting this month, Columbia Union members can access a familiar radio program with an updated twist. The *Talking About Freedom* broadcast, which aired on WGTS 91.9 FM between 1994 and 2009, is being relaunched as a podcast at columbiaunion.org/talkingaboutfreedom. Once hosted by Adrian Westney,



former union religious liberty leader, Walter Carson, the union's current vice president for Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, will take over the program, along with his associate Gary Ross, who will act as producer.

"The program gives us an opportunity to address some interesting and timely church/state issues," Carson says. "We'll interview academics, lawyers, authors, newsmakers and other headlines so people in our union can stay current on religious liberty."

The duo plans to release a new, 15-minute podcast each week. They've already lined up guests to discuss workplace accommodation, recent Supreme Court decisions and how God is working on behalf of His church. The program is also available on iTunes.



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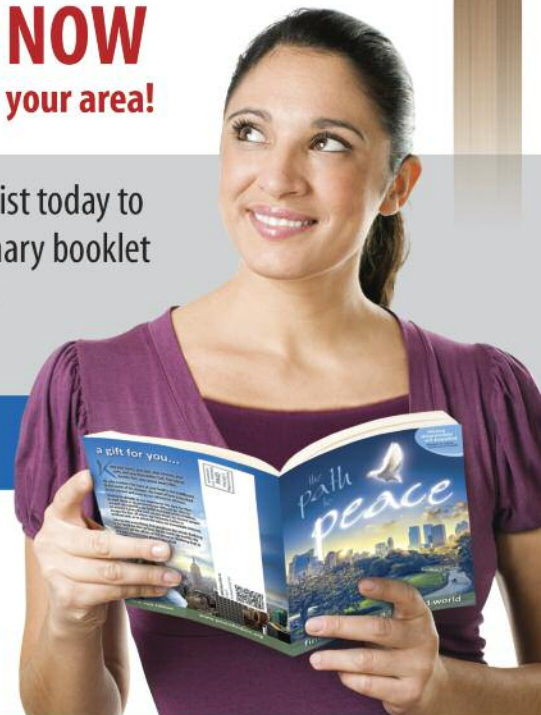
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Metro New York† Fast Facts

Nation's Largest Metro Area

22 million residents

11,168 square miles

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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NUEVO FELIGRÉS DE POTOMAC ESTÁ FELIZ DE ESTAR EN CASA

Florencio López (centro) se alista para el bautismo a celebrarse en la iglesia Takoma Park 1 Spanish de Potomac Conference, en Takoma Park, Md., con el apoyo de su amigo Rene Pérez (izquierda), un diácono de la iglesia. El pastor José Barrientos, padre (derecha), bautizó al joven que recientemente llegó de Guatemala. López, cuya familia es católica, dice que conoció la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día hace quince años pero que la había dejado por cinco años. Cuando se trasladó al área en junio, lo primero que preguntó fue dónde estaba la iglesia Adventista más cercana. “Estoy feliz de regresar con Jesús”, dijo él. “Yo sé que Él es mi Salvador”.

“ He visto jóvenes tras jóvenes dejar la iglesia. Es hora de que nosotros los ancianos tomemos cartas en el asunto. Tenemos que hacer nuestra parte en retener a los jóvenes en la iglesia apoyando todos los programas juveniles y sus actividades. Si no lo hacemos, ¿qué será de nuestras iglesias en diez años? ”

—Frankzua Reyes, primer anciano y un adulto joven de la iglesia Morristown Spanish, hizo el comentario en un retiro de New Jersey Conference para ancianos, diáconos y diaconisas.

ANOTA LA FECHA

El concilio de iglesias hispanas de Allegheny East Conference (AEC) presenta:

Un día de confraternidad

Fecha: 14 de septiembre de 2013

Orador: Víctor Burgos, secretario ejecutivo de la misión de El Salvador

Presentaciones: Seminarios, graduaciones de la escuela de discipulado, promociones de los Guías Mayores, y bautismos

Localidad: Campamento de AEC, 237 Pine Forge Road, Pine Forge, PA 19548

ARTICULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR:

Mi travesía saliendo de la oscuridad

En el número de septiembre de la revista *Visitor*, Meredith Carter, feligrés de la iglesia Spencerville, en Maryland, comparte por qué participó en Darkness Overnight Walk [caminata saliendo de la oscuridad] auspiciado por el American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org). Carter—cuyo esposo cometió suicidio hace dos años—, dijo que participando “he encontrado un propósito en medio de la tristeza— estoy sobreviviendo para hacer una diferencia”.

Hablando sobre la caminata dijo: “Al concluir el evento, me fortalecí en mi propósito, pero también creció mi aprensión. Sabía que esta caminata no sería fácil física o emocionalmente. Estaría rodeada de personas afectadas por el suicidio, la depresión, y la enfermedad mental. Me preguntaba si debía pasar por esto y volver a todo el dolor que había trabajado tan arduamente por superar en el pasado. Mi respuesta siempre me llevaba a Romanos 8:28: “Sabemos, además, que a los que aman a Dios, todas las cosas los ayudan a bien, esto es, a los que conforme a su propósito son llamados”. Dios nunca dijo que la vida sería fácil, pero prometió que nunca nos dejaría ni abandonaría. Meredith sigue abogando por la prevención del suicidio.



Back to iSchool! How Technology is Advancing Adventist Education

Last school year, Richmond Academy (RA) in Richmond, Va., completely eliminated the use of SMART Boards, a '90s device that has drastically improved classroom tasks. Now they, like many schools in the Columbia Union, have moved onto newer technologies like televisions and tablets. "There is no place in my classroom to write anything—no chalkboard, no white board," reports Robert Fetters, RA vice principal. "I am able to project my iPad onto the TV, and then I have the freedom to move anywhere in the classroom that I wish."

RA also now gives a MacBook Air to every high school student, which they use in part to turn in homework through online programs like RenWeb. Likewise, the George E. Peters Adventist School (G.E. Peters) in Hyattsville, Md., now gives a NOOK to their students. They have also equipped every classroom with flat screen televisions and Apple TVs (digital media receivers), and all teachers get iPad minis and docu-



ment cameras, which project texts and images from books.

"Essentially, [teachers] can use the television as a white board; they can use it to stream YouTube videos or do a PowerPoint presentation. [They can] teach with everything they need at their fingertips," explains John Alberty, G.E. Peters principal.

This school year, Takoma Academy (TA) in Takoma Park, Md., is giving every student access to a Microsoft Surface RT tablet. The devices come with Web browsing capability and Adobe Flash Player, and will give students access to some 50,000 educational apps. The tablets will also "eliminate the need for several student textbooks. This will not only save money, but it will lighten the load in their backpacks," says Carla Thrower, TA principal.

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) in Spencerville, Md., piloted 15 tablets last school year before selecting those that support

Will Lucasin, a recent Richmond Academy graduate, tries out a MacBook Air.

Android and Apple platforms. Other schools, like Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy in Lynchburg, Va., are also moving away from textbooks and will provide students with tablets or notebook computers this school year. Alternately, Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio, is trying the Bring Your Own Device program this year, where they will attempt to use gadgets students already own.

A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

How have all these upgrades impacted the educational process? "Clearly the students are digital citizens. They're born into the digital age, the information age," says Brian Kittleson, SAA principal. "We need to engage with them in a language that they're accustomed to."

Marilynn Peeke, principal at Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md., agrees. She notes that because today's students already use many technologies in their day-to-day activities, they do much better in school when they are used as teaching tools. But that means "a knowledge of technology

and how to integrate it into the curriculum has become an integral part of teaching,” she adds.

There are certainly benefits to embracing technology. According to Malcolm Hutchinson, RA principal, 2012-13 national test scores show that RA students are doing as well or better than before these new technologies were introduced.

Fetters adds, “Looking at the overall academic outcomes, 40 percent of Richmond Academy students scored in the top 15 percent of the nation and ranked with the very best public schools, as measured by Virginia Standards of Learning.”

G.E. Peters has also seen test scores improve and enrollment triple since it embraced technologies two years ago. Students have also become more engaged, says Alberty.

Kittleson concurs and adds that SAA students have become more excited about the learning

experience and the prospect of attending college. “The use of tablets in our classrooms is a more interactive and hands-on way to learn the material,” says SAA junior Hanna Thompson. “I’m more excited about [learning] and to have something to keep me focused.”

Unfortunately, school administrators say the use of technologies also ushers in its own set of challenges. Kids tend to misuse the gadgets or get distracted by them while in class, says Alberty.

Dan Kittle, MVA principal, also points out that a number of Adventist schools, like his, were constructed 50 to 100 years ago or more. This makes significant upgrades structurally challenging and adds additional expense to building renovations they already struggle to afford.

“The biggest challenge I see is, how do we maintain our technology with fewer and fewer human

resources,” wonders Stephen Doss, Desmond T. Doss principal, referring to the long-standing financial limitations Adventist schools face. Peeke agrees and adds that fast emerging technologies also require regular upgrades and regular staff training.

MORE TO COME

Despite the challenges, school leaders say they will continue to seek technological advancements to continually improve the classroom experience and to remain competitive with other schools. Apparently, this mindset is working.

“When it comes to technology, we are currently one of the most respected nonpublic school systems in the country,” reports Larry Blackmer, the North American Division’s vice president for education. It’s for this reason that the National Council for Private School Accreditation asked Blackmer eight years ago to serve as its president, as well as chairman of their IT and distance education commission.

As Adventist schools move forward, technology might also change the way they retain and gain students. Last school year, RA tested video conferencing as part of the Connected School program it co-operated with Desmond T. Doss (pictured, opposite page). According to Fetters, four RA ninth- and 10th-graders attended the school remotely from Desmond T. Doss’s campus. Several more students from other schools will join remotely this school year.

“Predominantly, the children in our area do not leave home to go away to academy. What that has meant in the past is our students either go to local public schools or another [parochial] school,” explains Doss. He reports that at least half of their students would have left had it not been for Connected School.

MVA is hoping to mirror this effect with a curriculum management system. This will not only keep absent students up to date on assignments, but might also allow the school to “extend enrollment to other classrooms, maybe to individual students in remote areas,” says Kittle.

Clearly, the possibilities are endless.

The NAD Effect: Out With the Books, in with the NOOKs

The North American Division (NAD) is also turning to technology to help keep Seventh-day Adventist education a viable option for members. Sometime this school year, they will roll out the *Adventist Learning Community (ALC)*, an online initiative that uses technology to promote education *and* evangelism.

“In the North American Division, we’ve lost over 100 Adventist schools and approximately 10,000 students in the last decade,” states Adam Fenner, PhD, director for the initiative. “If we don’t try to do something, we’re going to see this trend continue.”

The ALC is a Web portal that will allow users to browse a course catalogue to select a wide range of free and tuition-based courses, along with eTexts, videos and interactive quizzes. The program will automatically generate a certificate for professional and informal learners. It will also house valuable resources for church leaders and staff. “Whether you’re a teacher seeking professional development or an elementary student looking for an online Bible course, once you find what you’re looking for, you’ll be able to begin your learning in moments,” adds Fenner.

The NAD is also considering the use of Massive Open Online Courses. Fenner reports that Stanford, Harvard, MIT and Yale currently use this system to offer courses online, free of charge. “We should be providing the world with the gospel and Adventist education in a similar fashion,” he says. “Learning doesn’t just happen in a classroom anymore. With technology we can bring the very best of Adventist education and evangelism to anyone, anywhere, anytime at an extremely low cost. What an opportunity!”

my journey OUT OF DARKNESS

Why I walked for suicide prevention

I remember the moment I got the call:

“No, no, noooo he didn’t!” I screamed. *He couldn’t have*, I thought, as my body went numb and my mind spun in disbelief. I tried again to digest the emergency responder’s words: “I’m sorry, ma’am. I have some bad news for you. Your husband has died.”

I collapsed on the hard, cold floor in the hotel lobby where I was staying for a business trip. I demanded from her: “What? How?!” She softly replied, “I’m so very sorry, ma’am. He took his own life.”

He committed suic ... ?! I couldn’t even finish the word in my mind, but in my heart, somehow I knew it was true. “My God, help me!” I repeated over and over. After someone assisted me to a nearby couch, I sat in a daze, then realized I needed to call my parents. I could barely whisper, “He’s dead, Mom.” She also screamed and cried, then desperately asked me, “Honey, are you going to be okay? Can you make it back?” I answered robotically, “I don’t know, but I have to.”

The night was torturous and long, but I finally got home where I was met with a barrage of loved ones, neighbors and co-workers. As we wept together, I realized I simply wasn’t ready to face my daughters, Mylah and Madalyn, only 4 and 2 at the time. In an instant, their lives had been forever changed and they didn’t even realize it yet. Later, as I gazed upon them napping peacefully, I fell to the floor and wept again. The reality hit me like a bus—the life that we had together as a family of four, the one I was so proud to call my own, no longer existed.

BY MEREDITH CARTER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES ARNHOLD

A LOOK BACK

During the following weeks and months, the question that continued to run through my mind was, "Where did it all go so terribly wrong?" McCants and I were happy. Sure we had our ups and downs, but we were committed to making it work. We were both raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and went to Adventist schools. In fact, we met in 1998 while attending Washington Adventist University, located in Takoma Park, Md. From that moment on, we were inseparable. We dated for seven years then blissfully married in 2005. That was the happiest day of our lives, besides the later births of our daughters.

As I look back over our last year together, there were signs my husband was suffering from depression. He isolated himself from family, slept more than usual, easily became irritable and sullen, and made erratic spending choices. The one time I confronted him about possibly being depressed, he got extremely defensive. Every day brought new challenges. At times, he was on top of the world. On other days, he distanced himself completely. I became resentful and ashamed for constantly making excuses for his absence at family gatherings. I was bitter that I carried the load of watching over the children while he left the house to do as he pleased. He simply wasn't himself, and our marriage suffered as a result. But, never for a second did I think he would take his own life.

Nothing could prepare me for the physical, emotional and spiritual pain that crippled me in the following months. Having to tell my children that their father would never come home again left me empty and aching. I spent many nights rocking Mylah to sleep after hours of searching for



"God never said life would be easy, but He did promise He would never leave us or forsake us."



The author (center) relied on friends Kristen Pangborn (left) and Lisa Wolfe to support her through the emotional walk.

daddy or sobbing uncontrollably by the door. Only then would I also surrender to sleep on my tear-stained pillow. There were seemingly endless nights of wonder and guilt, and the what-ifs engulfed me: What if I had just stayed home from my trip? What if I had called to say “I love you” one last time? Did he think of me, the girls, his mother? If so, how could he go through with it?

My questions were endless, but even worse, the answers were not there. I had nowhere to go but to God, but I was angry with Him. How could a loving Father allow such a tragedy to happen to us? Yet, through this anger, I clung to Him with every ounce of my soul. I knew in my heart I could not take one breath or one step without Him by my side. When I

challenged God with, “You said you would never give me more than I can handle. What have I done to deserve this?” He gave me verses of comfort, like “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Phil.

4:13, ESV), and “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5, ESV).

LEARNING A “NEW NORMAL”

As the months rolled on, the girls and I developed a “new normal.” We resumed daily activities, but I still barely felt like I existed.

When I returned to work and church, I was met with mixed reactions. Some shared an awkward glance as they passed me silently in the hall. Some asked more questions than I cared to answer. Others offered their opinion about his thought process or his spiritual outcome. I tried

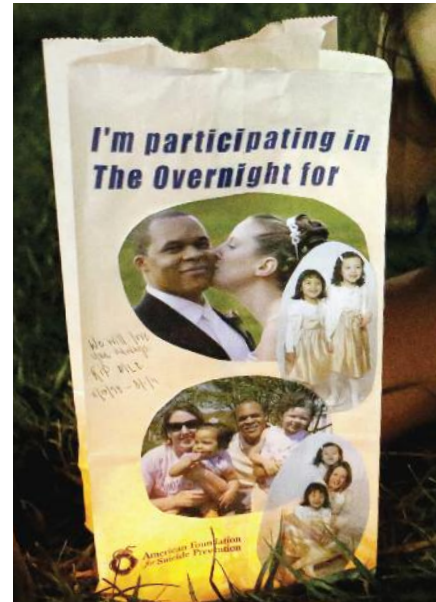
desperately not to take anything they said or didn’t say personally, but it was difficult. Some days I just wanted to be left alone; other days I wanted someone to let me unburden my thoughts and feelings. I was thankful to those who offered a simple “I’m praying for you” or “I’m here for you if you want to talk.”

While I continued to search for purpose in all of the grief, I began to think about what Jesus would do. Would He wallow in self-pity? Would He detach Himself from those around Him? The answer was undeniably “no.” It was then I knew God had a special plan for me, and I began to feel that He would use this tragedy for good.

FINDING PURPOSE IN THE PAIN

The most significant part of my healing started to take place on a typical morning drive into work at the General Conference building in Silver Spring, Md. I was listening to the radio, which I rarely did in those days, and heard an announcement about the annual charity event Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). I learned that participants walk 16-18 miles overnight to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention research, education and advocacy. I immediately knew this was something I had to do. I rushed into work and logged into the AFSP website (afsp.org) to register for the upcoming walk in Washington, D.C. Within 24 hours, I exceeded raising the necessary \$1,000 to participate. I knew I’d found a purpose in all this sadness—I was surviving to make a difference.

As the event drew closer, I felt stronger in my purpose, but my apprehension grew as well. I knew this walk would not be easy, physically or emotionally. I was going to be surrounded by others who have been affected by suicide, depression and mental illness. I questioned if I should put myself through this and bring up all the pain I had worked so hard to move past. My answer always came back to Romans 8:28 (ESV), “And we know that for those who love God all



things work together for the good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” God never said life would be easy, but He did promise He would never leave us or forsake us.

As I arrived at the event, with two of my closest friends by my side, I was overwhelmed by the feelings that washed over me: excitement, a sense of kinship with the other walkers, indescribable sadness for the loss so many of us had experienced and strength from deep within. I knew that God guided me to this point and had used my pain to mold me into the person He wants me to become. It would take strength and courage to complete this walk, but I remembered God is “close to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Ps. 34:18, ESV).

As we walked that night, I shed many tears passing historical landmarks that my family had visited. I longingly gazed upon the spot where the four of us sat, under the cherry blossoms, for a picnic lunch. As we approached the Washington Monument, my stomach churned as I recalled the first time we took the girls to visit the tall structure. But with each weary and painful step, my determination grew. I thought of my beautiful girls, and how grateful I am to have them—they are a light in my life. I thought of my parents, who have been my rock. And, I thought of McCants, who I loved and missed so dearly. That night my anger toward his decision was replaced with sweet memories and sadness for the unimaginable pain he must have endured to want to end his life.

As we crossed the finish line, the adorned luminaries that lined the sidewalk took my breath away. Each one told the story of a lost person. Then one by one, exhausted walkers fell down in the grass to wait for the sun to rise and the closing ceremony to begin. There was a peaceful silence, and I tearfully reflected on the previous 22 months. I could never have imagined such growth, and, at that moment, I thanked God for leading me here. When the sun broke the horizon, I felt a new chapter begin. No, the pain had not vanished nor the sense of loss, but my faith was strengthened.

I will continue to advocate for suicide prevention, if only to save one life. I simply pray that my testimony might offer others peace. If I can conclude with one thought, it is to quote the mantra, “Only God can turn a mess into a message, a test into a testimony, a trial into a triumph, a victim into a victory.” God’s plan is not always our plan, but it is perfectly divine.

Meredith Carter attends Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

Meredith’s 8 Tips for Survivors of Suicide Loss

- 1. Take one day at a time.** Sometimes I had to live hour by hour, or even minute by minute.
- 2. Allow yourself to feel any emotions that surface.** I originally felt guilty for my anger, but learned that all emotions are normal.
- 3. Learn to accept that you may never know why it happened.** It took awhile for me to accept that there were no answers.
- 4. Surround yourself with compassionate people.** Although most people have good intentions, I had to learn not to take insensitive statements to heart.
- 5. Don’t be afraid to seek professional help.** I found healing through counseling, participating in suicide survivor groups and reading self-help books, like *Grieving a Suicide: A Loved One’s Search for Comfort, Answers and Hope* by Albert Y. Hsu.
- 6. Remember that God is closest when He feels furthest away.** God’s promises helped me through my darkest moments.
- 7. It’s okay to laugh again.** I felt guilty for finding joy in my life, but it was necessary and healing.
- 8. Know you will never be the same, but you can survive—even thrive!** I found a new purpose in my pain. So can you!

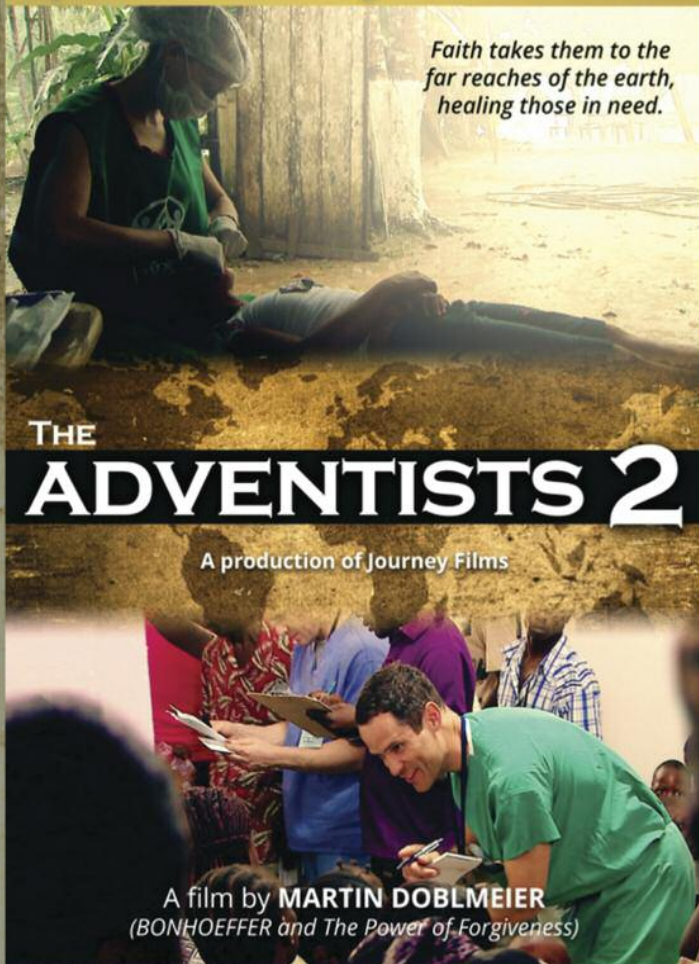


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Saturday Nov.16

To view a clip of the film visit: www.journeyfilms.com



For information about organi
John Dillon: john@jou

At Camp Meeting, Attendees Meditate on Giving Back

Hundreds of Allegheny East Conference members recently enjoyed a 10-day camp meeting in Pine Forge, Pa. This year the event was themed “What Shall I Render?” Below are photos from the “best camp meeting this side of heaven”:



1. Carlton Byrd, current speaker for the Breath of Life Ministries, chats with his predecessor, Walter Pearson. 2. Henry Fordham, Allegheny East Conference president, addresses the crowds at the 50-plus banquet. 3. Errol T. Stoddart, pastor of the Miracle Temple in Baltimore, preaches the Word.



PHOTOS BY KEITH GOODMAN

Right: Noah Washington, pastor of the Bladensburg (Md.) church, and Marquis John, assistant pastor at the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., get the crowds excited for the drum corps competition.



Ordinations, Fellowship a Highlight at Camp Meeting

1. Henry Wright, pastor of Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., preaches. 2. Fred and Ivey B. Goodman, who will celebrate their 50th anniversary in November, listen keenly during a presentation at the 50-plus banquet. 3. Uzooma Erundu, pastor of the Maranatha Adventist Fellowship in Bowie, Md., and Living Faith church in West Orange, N.J.; David B. Franklin, assistant pastor for the Berea Temple in Baltimore; and George Howard, pastor of the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va., stand to receive the ordination charge. Not pictured is Seth Bardu, treasurer for the Columbia Union, who was also ordained.



Jackson Doggette, director of the conference's Philanthropy and Trust Services Department, addresses the crowd.



Conference Churches Engage in Evangelism

Evangelism is ablaze in the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) as every church is engaged in winning souls for the the kingdom of God. Each of the five ministerial areas of the conference—Virginia/WestVirginia, Southern Ohio, Central Ohio, Northern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania—are actively hosting evangelistic meetings. Some began as early as March and will end as late as November. They have held traditional meetings, like Daniel and Revelation seminars. One church held a series that focused on the family, hope and the sanctuary.

Bryant Smith, pastor of the Bethel church in Staunton, Va., reached beyond the boundaries of normal meeting places—church, school auditorium and hotel banquet hall—and preached the gospel where all of the city’s decisions are made: city hall. “If decisions are to be made for Christ, what better place than city hall, where life decisions are made every day?” he asked.

Several pastors equipped their members to conduct evangelistic series, including Andre’ Saunders, DMin, from the Alpha and Omega congregation in Warren, Ohio, and Kenneth Washington, PhD, from the Greater



Elwin St. Rose, pastor of the Central church in Columbus, Ohio, baptizes Jaden Thompson during their spring revival.

New Hope Community in Canton, Ohio. At their churches, elders and female leaders preached the nightly sermons and invited new believers to come forward during altar calls.

Jason Ridley, pastor of the Hilltop Community Praise Center in Columbus, Ohio, chose an innovative and effective way to create an awareness of his church in the community. His members held a gas giveaway. While one member pumped \$20 worth of gas for customers, another asked about needs and prayer requests.

Pastors MyRon Edmonds and John Coaxum, from the Glenville church in Cleveland, took the 12-step approach to evangelism. Under the theme “Rehab,” they shared lessons about creating lives and destroying bad habits from the book of Revelation.

Elwin St. Rose, pastor of the Central church in Columbus, invited Pastor Laurent Grosvenor, a seminary student from Andrews University (Mich.), to speak for his spring revival campaign. They titled the series the “Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow Bible Conference.”



Pastor Elwin St. Rose welcomes attendees to his “Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow Bible Conference.”

Administrators Welcome, Challenge Teachers at Retreat

Integrity, perseverance, positivity and competence are just a few of the values that Allen Baldwin (below), Children’s Ministries director, challenged the teachers of Allegheny West to treasure and hold dear throughout the 2013–14 school year. Baldwin presented his challenge last month at the annual teachers’ orientation and retreat, where leaders consecrated and dedicated to the Lord each teacher for another year of service. During the candlelight ceremony, teachers received, among their gifts, a special devotional book as a reminder to start each day with the Master Teacher.



“As the teachers stood, hands clasped, in the candlelit room praying for God’s blessing on this upcoming year, Isaiah 54:13 came to my mind, ‘And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord,’” says Yvette Cooper (right), superintendent. “That is our supreme goal this year in the Allegheny West Conference—teachers dedicated to the cause of God, preparing His children for the kingdom.”

At the retreat, educational staff gave warm greetings to four new teachers who joined the conference team. Three of the new educators join Columbus Adventist

Academy (CAA) in Columbus, Ohio, this school year. Geneva Fraser transferred from Mt. View, Calif., to teach first grade. Her favorite Scripture is Isaiah 30:40.

Tom Gammon—joined by his wife, Fe, and two sons—is from Berrien Springs, Mich. As he teaches second grade, he says he will claim the many promises in the Psalms. Rhonda Blake transferred from Connecticut. As she teaches CAA third-graders, she says she will rely on the Master Teacher.

Staff members at Ramah Junior Academy, located in Cleveland, welcomed Paula Saunders as homeroom teacher for grades 5 and 6. Saunders already lived in Cleveland, where she has been helping her husband, Pastor Andre’ Saunders, shepherd the Alpha and Omega church. The couple has one son and two daughters.

“As we extinguished the candles during the final evening of our retreat, and teachers prepared to go to their respective classrooms for final preparations, the words to our theme song was still ringing in my ears: ‘Looking to God for wisdom, as we teach His children, guiding their minds, moving their hearts upward,’” concludes Cooper.





Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER 2013

New Recycling Program Keeps Funds on Campus

When Aaron Weber (below), Blue Mountain Academy's (BMA) director of operations, told fellow administrators that he knew a way BMA could help curb the rising cost of Christian education, they were all ears. Especially when they realized his idea could help them fulfill the school's mission: "to provide a Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist education that leads students into lives of service for God." The answer, he said, could be found in the many dumpsters that quietly gobble up valuable dollars better used toward education expenses.

Weber, a graduate of Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and former principal of the Miracle Meadows School in West Virginia, explained, "After close study

and evaluation, I believe we can make our trash earn us money instead of costing us money." He suggested that, as students and staff become more educated about recycling, much of the everyday waste the school pays to be removed, instead, can be separated and sold for a profit.

As it turns out, the proposed program has been fairly easy to implement.



Recent graduates Caleb Roberts, Damian Graeff and Harry Benson demonstrate their support of BMA's new recycling program.

One dumpster on campus is designated for single stream recyclables, such as plastics and steel or aluminum cans, a second one will hold cardboard and yet another is for garbage. Students enrolled in the environmental services portion of the vocation education program now regularly collect the items to be recycled. They then separate the items by type and prepare them for transport to the appropriate facility, effectively completing the process of turning BMA's trash into money.

"Not only will students learn to be good stewards, as God has called us, they will also take satisfaction in knowing they are making a difference for this planet, as well as making it possible for us to reduce our costs at BMA," comments Weber. He adds, "This allows for a more affordable experience. I see it as a win/win opportunity."

According to Dave Morgan, principal, Weber's "laser focus" has also effectively contributed to the administration's mandate to go beyond just managing BMA's assets; they are maximizing them. In this case, as the saying goes, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."



Kelsey Landa ('13) chucks a bag of trash into a school dumpster for later sifting.

Principal Opens Academy Doors to Korean Students

While many Christian schools look to secular agencies to bolster their enrollments with Asian exchange students, Dave Morgan, BMA principal, believes that, “Blue Mountain Academy has been called to instill the unique Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the gospel in the hearts and minds of our international students, encouraging them to accept God’s calling in their lives,” he said.

To that end, BMA recently negotiated an agreement with the Korean Union Conference: Any student who wishes for an English experience at an Adventist school may attend BMA for the same cost as U.S. Adventist students. “We see our mission as a global one and will continue to work toward helping students discover God’s calling in their lives,” Morgan added.

Morgan put that goal into action during a recent two-week trip to South Korea, where he recruited students and participated at an English camp for 100 fifth- and sixth-graders. The camp, which focused on the “fruits of the spirit,” took place on the campus of Youngnam Sahmyook, part of a network of Adventist schools operating within the Korean Union. According to the Youngnam Sahmyook principal, the school has 40 branches with about 175 foreign missionaries who teach English and Bible classes to approximately 25,000 students.

When asked why he felt this trip was such an important endeavor, Morgan’s answer was twofold. “First, it



While in South Korea, principal Dave Morgan meets the Chois, the parents of BMA sophomore Joanna Choi.

was an opportunity to partner with a sister school in an effort to expose young people to the love of God, and to further train the minds of these young people to give their life in service to God. The mission of the Adventist Language Institute in Seoul is very much the same as the mission of Blue Mountain Academy.” He added, “Secondly, this was an opportunity to invite interested students to BMA to explore God’s calling for their lives.”

Teachers Learn to Implement Love and Logic



Teachers Eric and Diana Engen (pictured) recently attended a Love and Logic Conference (loveandlogic.com) in Denver, where institute speakers presented “21st Century Solutions for Creating Respectful, Responsible and Self-Controlled Kids.” They learned practical skills for reversing the tide of apathy and entitlement in schools and homes, including how to set compassionate limits with others while empowering them to take responsibility for their own actions. They also learned how to spend less time on discipline and more time enjoying kids.

The Engens are the eighth and ninth BMA staff members to receive the training. By following Love and Logic principles, which align very closely with those outlined by Ellen White in the book *Education*, BMA leaders hope to create an atmosphere that will encourage students to put the brakes on begging, arguing and manipulative behaviors, and to take more responsibility for their own lives.



Eric Engen, director of BMA’s LaSonnette Bell Ensemble, teaches music to students during a recent mission trip.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

Service With a Smile

We live in a culture where the concept of service evokes some mixed responses. It sounds a lot like servitude, and that is not an appealing thought. On the other hand, we all appreciate being the recipient of outstanding customer service, and “service with a smile” is a winning slogan in business.

“Through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13) is the counsel God gives us. The motive is love and it flows out in service to all around. Jesus, our example, explains that, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). What an incredible model of servanthood.

When we follow Jesus in service, we will find that “our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say as upon what we are. Men may combat and defy our logic, they may resist our appeals; but a life of disinterested love is an argument they cannot gainsay. A consistent life, characterized by the meekness of Christ, is a power in the world” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 142).

“Personal interest, and vigilant, individual effort will accomplish more for the cause of Christ than can be wrought by sermons or creeds” (*Christian Service*, p. 12).

So how is your service? Do you want to grow in this area of your spiritual life? If so, I encourage you to start small, right where you are. Don’t discount the value of seemingly small words and acts in impacting people for God. We don’t need to take on huge challenges to accomplish something good. Instead, break it down into small steps that add up to a big difference. Remember, service brings a smile to both the server and the served.



Rick Remmers
President

Hispanic Camp Meeting Attendees Train for Lay Evangelism

PHOTO BY MELVIN GALDAMEZ



Chesapeake’s annual Hispanic camp meeting recently drew nearly 1,000 attendees, representing some 18 nations, to the campus of Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. Evangelist Alejandro Bullón delivered Christ-centered messages under the theme “The Joy of Sharing Jesus,” and Ruth Esther Sandoval enriched the weekend with music.

Alvin Payne, a pastor from Florida, was the featured speaker for the youth. The staff of *My Best Friends*, a magazine published at the nearby Review and Herald

Publishing Association, brought special programming to the children’s divisions.

Some 40 attendees gave their hearts to the Lord and requested further Bible studies, and four were baptized at the meeting. Another highlight of the event was the graduation of 88 students participating in the School of Theology and Discipleship (pictured). The training has prepared graduates to lead small groups and work as Bible instructors.

“This graduation is a Divine accomplishment,” said Kleyton Feitosa, conference Multilingual Ministries coordinator. “We thank God for the ability to partner with our pastors in equipping and training our members for the work that God has called them to do.”—*Orlando Rosales*

At The Gathering, Attendees Focus on Jesus



Boys enjoy free time following morning family worship.



Women share conversation during a Sabbath afternoon church potluck.



The daily, early morning Bible study is a popular class at The Gathering.

PHOTOS BY ANDRE HASTICK

The Gathering, Chesapeake Conference's annual camp meeting, was themed "It's All About Jesus," and meetings pointed attendees to a closer relationship with Christ.

"I appreciated the practical sermons that I can apply to my everyday life, and loved the evangelism stories and testimonials," said one attendee.

Events designed for friendship and relaxation included a watermelon feast, an inflatable obstacle course and moon bounce, a Christian film festival and a fireside sing-along with stories. Sabbath was a highlight with home and foreign mission stories, a special evangelism offering and an afternoon concert.



Derek Morris, keynote speaker, shares the importance of "Praying the Radical Prayer of Jesus."

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MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

SEPTEMBER 2013

Living the Experience of “REACH Appalachia”

What you are about to read are the “living experiences” of some of the members of the Mountain View Conference who have invited the Holy Spirit to work through them in reaching their community for Jesus through the Voice of Prophecy initiative “REACH Appalachia.” You will sense the joy they are experiencing as they visit every home in the conference that received and will receive Bible study request cards in the mail this year and next. As you envision the experience of the person who is sharing with us, keep in mind these words from Ellen White, who knew faith and experienced the Savior of mankind: “The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour” (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5., p. 386).

Vicki Hedrick, a member of the Romney (W.Va.) church, said: “Kathryn Styer and I have had some wonderful experiences with our Bible students so far. The people we spoke to were so excited we came to visit them. Already we have three personal in-home studies going on. God has been blessing us so much with these studies; what a wonderful experience it is to work with Jesus. One gentleman is going to use the guides to teach in his church. One lady asked for healing on her

eyes so she can read the Bible better. Another wanted prayer because his parents disowned him due to his belief in God. I’m very excited so far!”

Jim and Sandee LeVos, members of the Toll Goll (W.Va.) church, said: “In July [our church] hosted a Vacation Bible School and, later in the one-week program, a 10-year-old boy began attending. His mom, Leona, was taking the Discover Bible studies from Carol Bearce and young Dakota not only came to the evening VBS, but the next Sabbath, Dakota, and his mother were in attendance for Sabbath School and church. Two young people also showed up at our home and asked for someone to teach them more about the Bible. We quickly signed them up for the Discover lessons.”

Larry Murphy, a Bible worker in Charleston, W.Va., met Albert, a grandfather, working on his truck. When asked if he would like to take the Discover Bible lessons, Albert replied “yes,” and his three sons and his four grandchildren signed up too.

Janelle Morikone, a Parkersburg member, who has been following up on the interest cards in the community of Vienna, W.Va., said, “As church members and pastors go door to door, the response has been very positive with many people eager to take the Bible studies from the Voice of Prophecy. No one has come to the door at my visit and said ‘no.’ Some have even shared their testimonies of how the Lord has rescued them from worldly lifestyles. It’s been very positive.”

Kathy Pepper, conference prayer coordinator, said, “The Voice of Prophecy initiative has been a God thing from the beginning. Not only do we pray about this in our Monday morning phone conferences, but prayer leaders in other conferences have asked their church members to pray for us. It is amazing and wonderful to know that there are many more prayers going up than just ours. It’s definitely a God thing!”

We are privileged to see the hand of God working in Mountain View. Please keep our efforts in your prayers and stay tuned for more stories.



Larry Boggess
President



Vicki Hedrick and Kathryn Styer, members of the Romney (W.Va.) church, enjoy giving Bible studies in their community.

Montessori Program “Feeds” Parkersburg Academy

The Parkersburg Academy in Parkersburg, W.Va., which closed in 2009, will reopen this school year with an enrollment in the 30s. What’s spurring the turn around? Rich Fullmer, the school’s chairman is crediting the Montessori Adventure, a pre-K and kindergarten program that opened at Parkersburg Academy in 2011. “We wanted to use Montessori education as an avenue to reach the community, where before we couldn’t be effective. The ultimate goal was for it to be a feeder to

grow the elementary grades,” Fullmer shares. “Once the parents saw a quality educational experience, we were sure God would open the way to once again offer Adventist education for grades 1 and up.”

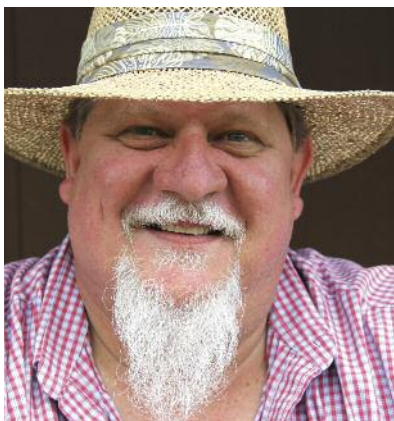
This fall Parkersburg Academy will have classes through grade 8. Principal Miranda Starr shares, “We have seen more than 50 percent of the kindergarten Montessori students enroll into first grade for this current school year, making the switch from Montessori into the Adventist education system. We firmly believe that this is God’s school, where His love is clearly displayed. Our individualized learning paths for each student, hands-on discovery methods and dedicated, Spirit-filled staff set us apart from other schools in our community. Our parents and students recognize the difference.”

Parents agree. One parent shared, “We have complete confidence that our son will receive the best education possible at Parkersburg Academy. It is very rewarding knowing we are sending him somewhere that he will not only grow academically, but socially and spiritually as well. Due to the experiences we have received over the past three years, we are excited to start our youngest son at Montessori Adventure this year as well.”—*Monica Zill*



What Do You Especially Like About Your Sabbath School?

“I like the discussion and interaction. The Sabbath School [class I attend] has about 10 people, so it’s like a small group. There’s plenty of time for everyone to participate.”—*Rich Fullmer, a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church*



PHOTOS BY DANIEL MORIKONE



“It draws me closer to the Lord by my studying and thinking, and also [I enjoy] the people who participate as they share their views.”—*Eugene “Shorty” Johnson, a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va.*

“I like Ms. Jean [Martin]. She teaches us Bible stories.”—*Micah Ackman, age 7, attends the Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va.*

“I think Ms. Jean [Martin] is a kind teacher. She makes Sabbath School fun to go to.”—*Abbe Ackman, age 9, attends the Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va.*



NEWS NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 2013

Celebrating Old and New Members

Did you attend either of our New Jersey Conference camp meetings this year? I found spending time with brothers and sisters from across the state a joyful celebration. Held at our Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC) in Tranquility, both weekends were filled with people praising and worshiping the Lord, singing and praying together, studying the Bible and baptizing new disciples of Jesus. This convocation marked the midpoint of our evangelism program for the year. It was at camp meeting that we rejoiced in our growing membership that includes Caucasians, Hispanics, Brazilians, African-Americans, French, Indonesians, Koreans, Filipinos and others.

As you may know, we have been working with the General Conference to reach the people of New York City, many of whom live in New Jersey. New Jersey churches have been hosting the "Revelation of Hope" evangelism series and, as a result, we have 300 baptisms so far! To God be the Glory!



José H. Cortés
President

80 Baptized During Camp Meeting

This year's camp meetings provided a place for people to celebrate together, share stories of conversion, enjoy inspiring concerts and rejoice with their friends who surrendered their lives to Jesus through baptism. New Jersey Conference members witnessed, with tears in their eyes, as more than 80 people from English and Spanish churches got baptized on the Sabbath during Spanish camp meeting weekend. A huge pool was built in front of the main stage. One person after another entered the baptismal waters and was raised as a new person in Christ. The baptisms were also broadcast live through 3ABN.

Many of the new members joined the church as a result of the conference working with the General Conference for the NY/NJ 2013 initiative. Throughout the year, New Jersey Conference churches hosted more than 100 evangelism campaigns across the state.

The pastors didn't bring these folks to Christ alone. They have been working with the brothers and sisters of their churches to conduct Bible studies and prepare their visitors and friends for baptism.

Yarleth Paola Gomez, a student at Andrews University (Mich.) and a member of the Trenton Spanish church, draws a picture of Jesus during the afternoon music program.



Multiple baptisms highlight camp meeting weekend in Tranquility, N.J.



Justified, a group from the Elizabeth Spanish church, sings in an afternoon concert.

NEWS

Robbinsville/Princeton Members Welcome New Pastor

Members of the Robbinsville/Princeton church district recently welcomed Tacyana Behrmann as their new associate pastor. Also present for this special installation service was Behrmann's fiancé, Michael Nixon (the two were married last month), and both of their parents.

Carl Behrmann, a pastor in the Northern New England Conference, spoke words of counsel and wisdom to his daughter as she entered into pastoral ministry, and Timothy Nixon, a chaplain at Andrews University (Mich.), said a special prayer for his future daughter-in-law's installation.

Behrmann is a graduate of Andrews University. While she was a student there, she served on the staff of the Pioneer Memorial church, assisting with the coordination of the worship program.—*Jim Greene*



Jim Greene (right), New Jersey Conference executive secretary, welcomes Pastor Tacyana Behrmann and her then-fiancé, Michael Nixon.

West New York Children, Youth Raise \$1,300 for Missions

Under the leadership of Nelly Arroyo, Nelly Rojas and Alberto Portanova, 50 children and teenagers from the West New York (WNY) church raised \$1,300 for missions around the world. In April they collected \$600, which they donated to Christian Record Services, a Seventh-day Adventist organization that helps blind people have access to Bibles and Adventist literature. In June they raised \$700.50, which they sent to an ADRA project that helps native kids in Paraguay. The money will buy medicine, notebooks, shoes and books for around 116 kids.

"This beautiful missionary work is possible due the hard work of teachers who have dedicated their time and talents to rush Jesus' return. The children are on fire! They



Nelly Arroyo and Nelly Rojas, Sabbath School teachers at the West New York church, light candles on a cake in celebration of the monies raised. Right: Janiel Cruz Arroyo collected \$118.



want to help!" says Portanova, a Sabbath School teacher at the WNY church, and a coordinator for the conference.

Last year the children collected more than \$2,000 and built a church in India.

15 Join the Luzo-Brazilian Church

Planning, prayer and action were the components of a successful evangelistic campaign recently held at the Luzo-Brazilian church in Newark. The weeklong effort featured speaker Luis Gonçalves, evangelism director for the South American Division. Every night Gonçalves, anointed by the Lord, preached messages of faith and encouraged visitors to make a decision for Jesus. Fifteen people (some pictured) were baptized.



Manchester Church Celebrates a Decade of Service

Shortly after the New Year in 2000, I began to sense God wanted the Manchester church to begin a personal care ministry to meet the needs of this poor, rural community in which services like the Red Cross and United Way are desperately needed and noticeably lacking,” said Ken Ferguson, Manchester’s now retired pastor. When he shared this vision with his smaller, aging church family, he understandably encountered apprehension, but Ferguson was determined. “I was reminded that the greater the opposition ... the greater the opportunity for God to work,” he said. That fire led to prayer and a phone call—a call to the city’s mayor to discuss this exciting, new opportunity for the Village of Manchester.

During their meeting, Ferguson shared, “Mayor, we have very little money. Most of our people are older and unable to help, and I have absolutely no idea of a location from which we could operate. Mayor, all I have is a dream—a vision of what we could do in this community that could make a difference.” He also shared his dream with the village council, who closed their meeting with a simple reply: “With a dream like that, how can we say no?”

In August 2002, the village rewarded them with an old municipal building at no cost. Today the Community Care Center (CCC), as it’s now called, has expanded into two large buildings on Manchester’s main street, both of which they use rent free!

From their meager beginnings, using Matthew 25 as their model, they have grown into the largest food pantry in Adams County. CCC volunteers serve 500 families each month with food, clothing, household and



Manchester church members and volunteers enjoy celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Community Care Center.



school supplies, and community health and wellness programs. They do this in just two days a week, four hours each day.

After more than 10 years of continual operation, the CCC volunteers decided to host an anniversary celebration. The current Manchester mayor attended, and Sen. Rob Portman and governors of Ohio and Kentucky sent several letters of commendation and proclamations.

When asked about acting as CCC’s first and only executive director, Ben Wright said, “The clients have needs that have to be met,” and respectfully declined to celebrate during CCC’s hours of operation. He opted to work instead. According to Ferguson, “Ben’s contributions can be summed up in two words: selfless devotion.”

CCC is more than just a community center. By partnering with area organizations, churches and businesses, they have become part of the way of life in Manchester. “The Village of Manchester cannot exist without the center,” stated the mayor.



Manchester mayor Troy Jolly reads a city proclamation to the church.

120 Attend Conference's First Hispanic Youth Festival

Some 120 youth attended the conference's first Hispanic Youth Festival, where they spent several days growing in spirituality and getting a greater understanding about the importance of studying the Bible. The youth, who represented the conference's four Hispanic districts—Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton-Hamilton and Findlay—met at the Camp Mohaven Camp and Retreat Center in Danville. Not only did they participate in recreational activities like horseback riding, sports and a mud-run, they also enjoyed drama, music, devotional memorizations, a preaching competition and a Bible bowl. “The talent and potential of the young people was evident, and is a true testament of



The Dayton-Hamilton District presents their drama “A New Heart.”



Eduardo Lopez, Roy Simpson, Ryan Simpson and Alex Fernandez, from the Ebenezer Spanish church in Cleveland, enjoy time together and learning more about Bible study.

how God can manifest Himself through them,” commented Oswaldo Magaña, conference Hispanic Ministries director. “It’s exciting to see the potential in the Hispanic youth of the Ohio Conference.”

Manny Rodriguez, an active member in the Cleveland Hispanic district, was the weekend speaker. He shared a series of messages focused on “Letting Go and Letting God,” where he encouraged the young people to allow God to take control of their lives and to share His love with others.—*Edgar Rios*

The Findlay District wins third place in the Bible Bowl at the youth festival.

Mount Vernon City Church Feeds Residents in Need

For nearly 10 years, members of the Mount Vernon City church have come together to provide a free meal each Sabbath to feed the area’s homeless and impoverished residents. Sabbath School classes rotate responsibilities each Sabbath at 5 p.m., preparing and serving fresh, healthy vegetarian meals for anyone in need or who wants to visit.

“While intended to provide meals for the homeless, it has been proven to be an evangelistic outreach,” says Bob Hoyt, retired pastor and current head elder. “Frequently, nonchurch goers as well as Seventh-day Adventists and members of other churches are visitors for the meals.” Hoyt encourages members to not only support the program but also to make friends with the people coming to dine. Attendance varies from a dozen or so regulars to as many as 30.

The church also has a prime parking location for Mount Vernon’s Independence Day fireworks display. For many years, visitors have made donations to the church for parking privileges, and the church distributes bottles of water and copies of the *Great*

Controversy as gifts. This year they raised more than \$500, which went toward their summer camp.

“City church is a perfect example that a church need not be large nor hold elaborate events in order to have an impact on their community,” says Raj Attiken, conference president. “They simply show God’s love in very practical ways.”



The supper team pauses from preparing a hot meal for local residents in need.

Pennsylvania *Pen*

SEPTEMBER 2013

Will We Be Too Late?

Shortly after the allied landing of Normandy Beach on a summer afternoon in 1944, a young officer, Sergeant W. Stott, falls behind enemy lines. With only a crate of carrier pigeons and a small amount of bird feed, he pens an encoded message. Stott places the message into a red capsule, attaches it to the bird's leg and sends it on its way. As the pigeon flies off, Stott hopes that it will reach Bletchley Park, Britain's main decryption establishment, with the vital message.

Seventy years later, as David Martin cleaned his chimney in Surrey, England, the bones of the pigeon fell to the floor. Attached to its leg was the coded message—seven decades too late.

We are involved in war, a great controversy, where people's eternal lives are at stake and we, behind enemy lines, have an encoded message to share. Paul says that we are "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1). The church has been entrusted with the message of God's grace, and as Christ's stewards, we are to share this message with the world. How tragic would it be if, when Jesus returns, someone was lost because we did not share the message of God's grace with them?



Tim Madding
Director of Leadership
and Spiritual Growth

Young Adults Take Mission Trip to Allentown

Twenty-six young people (pictured) from across the United States recently gathered for a 10-day mission trip to Allentown as part of GYC INTERmissions. GYC INTERmissions are biannual missions, both national and abroad, where young people are trained and mobilized for service.

The young people worked alongside others from the Pennsylvania Conference, Simplicity, ASI Atlantic, GYC Atlantic and Habitat for Humanity to install insulation in a home for a single mother with four children. The next day, when half the team returned to finish the job, a crewman who was not a Christian commented that he could never forget this group because of how hard they worked while harmonizing hymns. The other half of the team hauled cement from the basement of a future homeless shelter.

Every afternoon the missionaries went into downtown Allentown to pray for people and offer Bible studies. In only six to eight hours of outreach, the team members prayed with 110 people and received 197 Bible study interests. They had to stop searching for Bible study interests two days early because they found too many for the church to handle.

In the evenings, the young people held an interactive health seminar and Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Hamburg church. At VBS, the children raced through the doors every night, giddy with joy to see "Joseph" tell them all about his latest adventures in Egypt.

Although the young missionaries did not go to some exotic foreign country, they found people longing to hear from God in one of the most urbanized states in the country.—*Callie Williams*



Lancaster Teen Works to Make a Difference

As 13-year-old Makaela Smith begins eighth grade at Garden Spot Middle School in New Holland this fall, she has more than just academics and cheerleading on her mind. Smith (pictured with her mom, Joline Martin) became a baptized member of the Lancaster church in February and is determined to make a difference in the world around her.

Two years ago, Smith asked her principal if the school could do a fundraiser for cystic fibrosis, a disease that took her uncle's life. He told her no. However, Smith wouldn't give up and contacted the school district superintendent. He encouraged Martin to bring her daughter in so they could explain why the school couldn't participate. By the time Makaela left that meeting, they had come up with an idea to make it happen. Smith helped form the Do Something Club, where some 30 students meet each quarter to do something that makes a difference. Smith, club president, led the group as they not only raised \$500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, but also organized a coat and food drive



that helped 12 families in the community, raised enough monies for 25 micro loans through KIVA in honor of the Sandy Hook (Conn.) victims, organized a "pay it forward" event at their school and raised \$982 in one day for those impacted by the Oklahoma tornado. "I want to live my whole life caring for other people," Smith says.



*What do
you crave?*

Craving God?
Longing for a deeper walk?
To trust His love more?

Join us for "Craving God"
Pennsylvania Conference
Women's Retreat
September 27-29, 2013
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East

For more info, go to paconference.org or email thorst@paconference.org.

Potomac People

SEPTEMBER 2013

Hispanic Camp Meeting Results in Church Plant, Baptisms

This year Hispanic camp meeting was specifically geared toward evangelism and growing the Word of God in a longlasting way," reports Jacqueline Sanchez-Ventouris, Potomac's assistant to the director for Hispanic Ministries. "Our preparation began long before camp meeting. We held 10 evangelism series in the Richmond area to generate a curiosity and thirst in the community. We hoped this would draw people to our camp meeting and, ultimately, they would desire to be part of something long term."

Hispanic Ministries leaders had been wanting to fulfill the conference's mission of planting a church group in each community of 20,000 or more people. That's when they realized there are more than 300,000 living in Chesterfield County, a large Hispanic population with no Seventh-day Adventist churches. They decided to



Above: Homero Salazar, pastor of the Washington Spanish church, helps baptize several of the 14 who dedicated their lives to Jesus. Right: José Ocampo shares his talent during a Sabbath afternoon concert that featured local and visiting artists.

ask camp meeting attendees to help them plant a church there. Since the meetings ended, 55 people have committed to being charter members of the plant.

Something else amazing happened at camp meeting. As coordinators finalized reservations for the three-day gathering, they received word that the hotel's large conference rooms were no longer available. "The Richmond Convention Center was the only other building in town that could hold as many people as we were expecting," says Sanchez-Ventouris. Although their prices were much higher, the hotel sales manager explained that funds were sometimes available for religious organizations' events. Several days later, coordinators learned that the center waived all costs. "We know that it was only God that could have allowed for something like this to happen," says Sanchez-Ventouris.

More than 2,000 people convened for the meetings, and, by the end, 14 were baptized and 134 graduated from the School of Theology as Bible instructors, home church leaders, evangelists and assistants to the pastor.

Keynote speakers included Bill Miller, conference president; Victor Burgos, vice president for the Salvadorean Union; Omar Grieve, director of La Voz de la Esperanza; and Alejandro Bullón, an international hope evangelist. They all focused on how Jesus is the hope of our family—as an individual family member, a family unit and as a Potomac family.—Tiffany Doss

PHOTOS BY TONY VENTOURIS/ANCIENT CITY PHOTOGRAPHY



Members walk the streets of Richmond Sabbath afternoon to distribute Steps to Christ and tell others that "Jesus is the hope for the family."

Potomac People

Elkton Explorers Help City, Veterans

The 36-foot caboose, originally built in 1954 for the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, and now an iconic piece for the town of Elkton, Va., badly needed a paint job. City leaders asked area youth groups to help give the caboose a facelift, along with a small monetary contribution.

"In late March, a representative of Elkton asked us to help," explains Linda Gildner, Elkton church's co-director for the Explorers Pathfinder club. "The proposal was met gleefully by the Explorers, but the amendment to do it for free was quickly stated." The only detail to be settled was when they would paint. The city approved the small group to paint on Sunday, instead of Saturday like the rest of the volunteers.

"This project helped the Explorers fulfill their three parts to the Community Service Honor," says Gildner. "They had to complete a service for the local town government, for community residents and for a specific group within the town."

To complete the second criteria, the group invited local veterans to a special church service, which involved a full drill and flag presentation. The Explorers read a



To help the Elkton Explorers complete a three-part community service honor, they provide service to the local town government by painting Elkton, Va.'s iconic train caboose.



"declaration of thanks" to the veterans and commended them for their sacrifices and services. "We had local veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. It was a very powerful service," comments Gildner.

Lastly, the club distributed empty bags to community residents requesting nonperishable food for the Elkton Area United Services food bank. The Explorers have been a part of this ministry, in conjunction with the church's Adventurer team, for the past three years. Over the years, 2,400 to 3,200 pounds of food have been collected.

"I know I can always trust and count on these young people," comments Gildner. "They are the future for our church, and the future is bright."—*Tiffany Doss*

Conference Initiative Produces Five Church Plants



Potomac's vision is to double its membership by the year 2020. To that end, they implemented five new church planting initiatives this year to better engage and meet the needs of communities in the northern Virginia, Virginia Capital, Virginia Valley and Washington, D.C., metro areas. Because each community attracts a different culture, these unique church plants are addressing and meeting needs in very different ways. For more details, watch related videos by visiting youtube.com/potomacconference and click on the "Church Planting Initiative" playlist.—*Tiffany Doss*

One of Potomac's church plant initiatives, *ARISE*, hopes to provide a ministry and setting that is relevant to second- and third-generation Hispanic Americans.

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Spotlight on Spencerville

SEPTEMBER 2013

New Leaders Add to Administrative Team

There are three new faces in the administrative team at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) this school year. Darlene Rackley (pictured, below), who already spent six years at SAA teaching and integrating technology across the curriculum, moves into the elementary vice principal position. Rackley has a bachelor's in elementary education, a master's in educational technology and holds a North American Division (NAD) Professional Teaching Certificate. She has 15 years of teaching experience in grades ranging from pre-K through 12th.

Rackley and her husband, Scott, have two children: Michael, an SAA seventh-grader, and Stefanie, a fourth-grader. "It is humbling to know that my career experience thus far has led me to this new job. I look



forward to seeing how God leads and embrace this new opportunity to serve Him," Rackley says.

Steven Adams, EdS (pictured, right), joins the team as the new high school vice principal. Adams started his career in the United States Naval Reserve as a religious programs specialist and served in the Persian Gulf War of 1991. He then transitioned into Seventh-day Adventist education and served at the secondary and university levels in varying positions, including dean, teacher, coach and leader. He also holds an NAD Adventist Professional Teaching Certificate. Most recently he was the principal at the Taipei Adventist Preparatory Academy in Taiwan. During his five years there, enrollment grew 37 percent and retention rates dramatically improved.

Adams and his wife, Kate, enjoy working with students and being active in church groups, as well as traveling for speaking appointments and educational conferences. "With my background in sports and physical education, I know very well how great it is to be part

of a dynamic team. I see joining SAA as an educators equivalent of 'making it to the big leagues,'" Adams says. "I can't wait to get to know the entire community of employees, students and their families, and the church constituents who clearly have given a lot of support in Adventist education."

Don Perkins takes the helm in SAA's business office as a full-time manager. He transferred from Paradise Adventist Academy in California and brings a wealth of experience from his 23 years as an academy business manager, eight years as a dean and four years as a principal.

Don and his wife, Sue, are the parents of seven children and grandparents to 16. He says he enjoys golf and reading, and loves sports in general. "Christian education doesn't cost, it pays!" states Perkins. "It is my goal that we are able to find a way for any student who wants to come to SAA to be here."



Why Tablets Top Our Back-to-School Supply List

Over the next few years, textbooks should be obsolete,” declared Arne Duncan, United States Secretary of Education, to the National Press Club on Oct. 2, 2012 (*eSchool News*). These words seem impossible to those who hauled backpacks full of textbooks home each evening. Yet, it’s true. Spencerville Adventist Academy leaders, recognizing the need to be fluid and forward thinking in regard to technology, are implementing a tablet-based program for the high school for the 2013-14 school year. Students may bring their own device or will be provided one by the school.

For nearly three years, SAA’s team researched the idea of establishing a 1-to-1 tablet program by following the latest news from educational technology publications, attending conferences, watching webinars, piloting various tablets in the classroom and onsite visits to area schools that had initiated tablet programs. The journey of moving from integrating curriculum with technology in the lab to integrating a student-owned mobile device into every classroom is a carefully plotted course. In the end, SAA students are now wired to learn in the 21st century.

Just a few weeks ago, while weeding through old library books, a high school student came across a



SAA piloted a variety of tablets in the classroom last school year before choosing those that best met the needs of their students and teachers.

10-volume set of craft books. “These are all the same book,” he said. “No,” I replied. “They are each different. When I was your age, if a book was too large to be bound, they would divide it into separate volumes.” He shrugged and noted, “We just use the Internet.”

This high school student is just one of the digital citizens we seek to educate. They live in a world wrought with data, both good and evil. Though a tablet is not a cure-all for education, it is a necessary layer. Technology serves as an enhancement to an already strong and vibrant program. It can magnify student efforts through better products and increased cooperation.

Alan November, a keynote speaker at the 2012 NAD education conference, suggested the term “one-to-world” in reference to tablets in the classroom. Later, in the February 10, 2010, entry of his blog *November Learning*, he wrote, “It changes the focus ... from technical training to understanding how to design assignments that are more empowering—and engages students in a learning community with 24-hour support.”

As Adventists, we understand that if each of us can impact the world, we will soon complete our mission that every eye shall see and every ear shall hear, and soon our digital citizens will finally claim their citizenship in their heavenly kingdom.—Darlene Rackley



Brianna Kittleson ('15), who is surrounded by many forms of technology, believes “it will be nice to be asked to bring out my tablet instead of put it away. It seems more natural to use than paper.”

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS



SEPTEMBER 2013

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Academy Days 2.0—Improving a Tradition

Last month Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) commenced its 105th school year. Friends reunited after their long summer break, and all quickly joined to welcome new students and faculty into the dorms and classrooms. The air has been heavy with optimism and excitement.

One of the challenges of a new school year is to blend time-honored traditions with new ones. As usual, the first week of school was filled with orientation assemblies so that everyone was well informed and equipped to successfully navigate the coming school year. One notable departure from tradition, however, was the announcement that there will be a shift in Academy Days this school year.

In SVA's constant quest to better serve its students and their families, special attention last year was given to figuring out how better to inform potential parents and students about all of the programs and advantages SVA has to offer. Academy Days has traditionally been held the first weekend in April, but recent research revealed to us that parents begin thinking about where to send their high schoolers well before spring. In response, SVA will now split Academy Days into two parts: fall and spring.

Academy Day (note the singular usage) will be held October 15, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In many aspects, this day will follow the longstanding SVA open house format. Students can enjoy tours of the school and dorms, a taste of cafeteria food, meet the teachers and faculty, enjoy fun and games with potential classmates, and get a chance to mingle with current students. Visitors are encouraged to ask lots of questions. We want every student to leave with a plethora of information about all



Madeline Ware waits for instructions during last year's Academy Days. She is now a freshman at SVA.



Visiting students gather in SVA's cafeteria to engage in traditional Academy Days activities.



Eighth-graders pose with the scholarship certificates they received during last year's event.

the wonderful programs SVA has to offer, and a clear picture of how their lives will be enriched by joining us.

In conjunction with our fall Academy Day, we will host two Scholarship Sundays in the spring: April 6 and 20, 2014. During these days, students will get the opportunity to try out for academic, athletic and music scholarships. There will be a special Q&A session for parents to visit with the administration, as well as campus tours and a special ice cream social, where visitors and faculty can spend some relaxed time getting to know one another.

If you have a high school-aged student or know one, mark your calendar and plan to join us for one of these three events. For complete information and registration forms, visit shenandoahvalleyacademy.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Kim Twomley
Recruiter

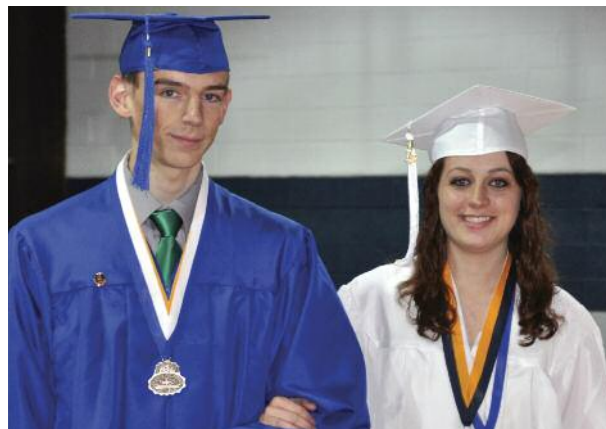
HAPPENINGS

Graduation Highlights Success, Family, Faith

According to Shenandoah Valley Academy staff, throughout the past school year, the Class of 2013 consistently lived up to their class aim, “To put our dreams in our hearts and our hearts in God’s hands.” It was especially evident to staff during graduation.

The weekend started with the Friday evening Consecration service in the nearby New Market church, where school administrators presented 27 seniors—half of the class—with four-year medals. Several had been together since kindergarten. Additionally, eight were second-generation graduates, three were third-generation and one was fourth-generation.

Dan Jensen, communication director for the Potomac Conference and father to four-year senior Andrew Jensen, delivered the Consecration address. Under the theme “We Want You There,” his presentation



Four-year seniors Ben Swanson and Carly McWilliams march during graduation morning.



Randy Wiedemann (center), a third-generation SVA graduate, poses with (left to right) his father, Werner Wiedemann; his mother, Charlene Koliadko Wiedemann ('77); his grandmother, Lillian Shanko Koliadko ('20); sister, Kelly ('03); and brother, Brody ('07).

included a prayer that he would see each class member in heaven. At his conclusion, Jensen had the senior boys stand to sing “Be Ye Holy,” under the direction of Jeff Twomley. As a surprise, all the men in the congregation rose and joined the seniors on stage.

Andrew Rester, a former SVA staff member and the 2013 class sponsor for three years, gave the Baccalaureate address Sabbath morning. In his message “God Has Called You to be His Ambassador to the World,” he challenged the graduates to step out of their comfort zone and minister to those around them.

Academically, this was an outstanding class with nine graduates achieving a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74, 13 with a GPA of 3.75 and above and one with a 4.0 GPA. Saturday

evening, during the Class Night program, the school awarded Christina Champion the salutatorian medal, and then split the valedictorian award between Emily Dickerhoff and Shanti James. James and Dickerhoff also received Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which means they ranked in the top 2 percent of 1.5 million applicants.

In her address Sunday morning, Lissette Rivera, class president, reminded her classmates, “As we go out and try to figure out this whole thing called life ... we must remember this: ‘Good, better, best; never stop until your good is better and your better is better than the best.’”

Travis Johnson, principal and the keynote speaker for Commencement, summed up his advice in three points: “I’m proud of you. SVA will always be your home, and your take-home message is, ‘No matter where you go or what you do in life ... as long as you keep God number one, everything will find its proper place.’”



Class officers participate in the Consecration service.

The Keys to Success Are Not What You Think!

This spring I worshiped with members of New Jersey Conference's First church of Newark and, shared with them the benefits of attending Washington Adventist University (WAU). And, at the end of the service, the youth leader requested that I return to conduct a week of revival for the youth in the summer.

The theme for the week was "Your Pathway to Success: Empowering Youth to Shape Their Future." I emphasized the value of life, growth, excellence, choices, commitment and relationships. But, I think the most important thing I shared with them was the text, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6, NIV). I told them that, ultimately, it is not *what* you have in your life that determines a successful future, but *Who* you have in your life.

Every day I have the opportunity to impact the lives of young people, and you, too, can make that impact. Share with them how much Jesus loves them. This doesn't always involve a sermon, in fact, like most people, our young folks want to experience Jesus in practical, tangible ways. There are so many ways to do this. Invite them over to your homes for pizza, make a donation to their book fund and offer them your friendship. Who knows, one small gesture can be the building block of their future educational and spiritual success.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

World Church Leaders Recognize VP

Leaders for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church's Youth Ministries department recently recognized Baraka Muganda, EdD, WAU's vice president for ministry, for his outstanding contribution to the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. The recognition took place in front of 1,000 young people who gathered for the third Youth and Community Service Conference in Pretoria, South Africa, an event Muganda founded while he served as world church Youth Ministries director.

Israel M. Kafeero, PhD, director of the Uganda Union's Youth, Children's and Chaplaincy ministries, wrote the following about Muganda: "He started college in the late '60s, with a worldview miles apart from the postmodern world, but he refused to be left behind. His ideas, words and behaviors always marched with the generation. Like the apostle Paul, he mastered the art of speaking the language of the people before him, of whatever generation."

Muganda said of the recognition, "I was humbled and grateful to God for using me to impact the lives of so many youth around the world and leading them to the cross of calvary."

Muganda served as the world church's youth director from 1995 to 2010. During that time, he oversaw activities for 8 million young people around the world and developed programs and strategies for the Adventurer, Pathfinder and Ambassador clubs and senior youth.



NEWS

WGTS Board Names New Manager

The board of Washington Adventist University's WGTS 91.9 FM recently named Kevin Krueger, a Christian radio veteran, as their new vice president and general manager. Krueger comes to the Takoma Park, Md., station from Washington state, where he served as general manager for KGTS 91.3 and Positive Life Radio Network (KGTS/PLR) at Walla Walla University.

"It's an honor to be invited to guide the team at an industry-leading station and ministry. KGTS/PLR and WGTS have a long, rich 'sister station' history that I plan to continue. I anticipate many wonderful opportunities to serve the people in our nation's capital, just as we have served those in the Inland Northwest. Whatever the scale or location, it really boils down to service—one person serving another," says Krueger.

Krueger began working as a student announcer at Walla Walla University's radio station in 1982. After graduating from there in 1987 with a degree in communications, he became program director and general manager a year later. Under his leadership, the station grew from a single local station into a regional, Christian radio network with 120,000 listeners. Stations in the Positive Life Radio network are based in

15 cities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

"I'm humbled by what lies ahead. The opportunities to serve others and share Christ are huge. I feel fortunate to be joining a team of professionals and student interns that know their craft," he says.

Krueger's appointment comes after John Konrad, longtime WGTS general manager, died unexpectedly in January. Douglas Walker served as interim general manager for six months.

WGTS, which was founded in 1957, serves the Washington, D.C., area, by broadcasting contemporary, Christian music to more than 600,000 listeners. It ranks among the top 10 in the Washington, D.C., market.

President to Serve on Board of Maryland College Association

The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) recently elected Weymouth Spence, EdD, president of

Washington Adventist University, to serve as association secretary/treasurer.

MICUA is a member-driven organization devoted to serving the interests of independent higher education and supporting the work of campus leaders throughout the state. Established in 1971, the association provides services to foster cooperative efforts among its member institutions and all segments of higher education. As the voice of independent higher education in Maryland, MICUA seeks to inform the broader public about its member institutions and the vital importance of independent colleges and universities to the future.

Former Allegheny East President, Trustee Receives Gateway Award

Charles Cheatham, former president of the East Allegheny Conference and a former member of the WAU Board of Trustees, recently received the Gateway Distinguished Service Award.

Weymouth Spence, WAU president, presented the award to Cheatham during camp meeting. "Charles Cheatham served WAU with great distinction for 12 years. He was a valuable member of the board, and the university was enriched by his presence. We wish him well in retirement; it is very well earned," Spence said.

Cheatham served as a member of the WAU board from 2000 to 2012. He was a member of the marketing and enrollment and executive committees. Cheatham, who holds a master's degree in theology from Andrews University (Mich.), has done extensive missionary work in Africa, Russia, Europe, India and the Caribbean. His numerous roles in the church include those of pastor, director and executive secretary.



Henry Fordham (left), current Allegheny East Conference president, and Weymouth Spence, flank Charles Cheatham during the award ceremony.



your healing MINISTRY

Slow Down and Listen

SEPTEMBER 2013

On any given day throughout Kettering Adventist HealthCare, our employees, volunteers, and physicians are giving their best to meet the needs of our patients. Our employees care about the people who entrust us with their care. Whether it is the employee delivering a meal, cleaning a room or performing a test, I have seen firsthand how much our employees demonstrate our mission - to improve the quality of life for the people we serve and to convey God's love in a caring environment. That is why it is so important for us to take one week out of the year to intentionally provide a focused spiritual resource for our staff.

Each year our Spiritual Services Department sponsors a Week of Prayer that is meant to strengthen and support those who are the instruments of hope and healing every day. Our theme for this year is **Joining God in the Everyday** and focuses on key words from The Lord's Prayer. Each day every staff member receives a link to a video presentation by Peter Bath, Regional Vice President for Mission for Adventist Health System (former Kettering College president and former Senior Pastor of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church). The daily video aligns with a booklet that offers staff practical ideas on how to find spiritual support in their busy lives.

But our Week of Prayer is not only for our employees. Our patients benefit from having caregivers who are in tune with the spiritual principles found in The Lord's Prayer. Our patients also receive a copy of the booklet upon discharge throughout the year. An annual Week of Prayer is a great way to remind ourselves just how important it is to stay spiritually focused as we serve our patients.

Roy Chew is a member of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Roy J. Chew

Roy Chew

President, Kettering Medical Center
and VP, Kettering Health Network

"...it is so important for us to take one week out of the year to intentionally provide a focused spiritual resource for our staff."



your healing MINISTRY

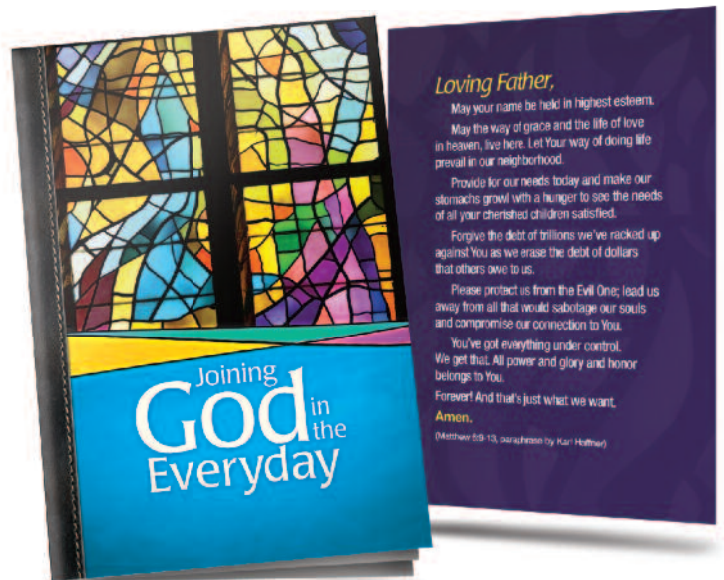
Powerful Words

By Christina Keresoma

Kettering Adventist HealthCare is working with local Seventh-day Adventist church volunteers to spread the word of God.

A mother was starting to give up and lose faith. She had been praying for her child's parole evaluation, hoping to see her child soon, but later found out they were denied. That same afternoon there was a knock on the door from a Bible worker. They were responding to the Joining God in the Everyday response card that was mailed in by the mother. She was shocked to find out someone read the prayer request she had written on the card and actually came out to see her. **"I felt like God didn't even know I existed anymore, and then he sent you," said the mother.**

Bible studies were being dropped off at a young man's home and his fiancé happened to be the one who kept answering the door. Finally curiosity got the best of her and she hung around during one of the lessons and asked her fiancé, "What are you taking these lessons for anyways?" He replied, **"I want to be a daddy that can help my kids know Jesus, so I guess I better get learning first."**



Volunteer Team (from left to right) Christa Carlson, Nannette Wright, Vincent Waln, Darla Waln, Madelyn Callender, Betty Brandel, Janet White, Gaspard Desroches, Gerry Greene, Glenn Hoffman



Each year Kettering Adventist HealthCare's Spiritual Services team strives to reach out to the employees through a booklet and daily videos. These materials are created for the organization's Week of Prayer which covers a different spiritual theme each year. Last year, a tear out page was added that allows individuals to write prayer requests, order free books, and request Bible studies that are turned over to local Dayton Seventh-day Adventist church volunteers. This has given Kettering Adventist HealthCare an opportunity to reach 10,000 employees and their families. Kettering Adventist HealthCare decided the booklets should be passed out to every discharged emergency patient allowing patients, like the mother and the young man, the opportunity to read them. Through the year we have had over 260 responses to Bible studies and have been working with the Dayton area Seventh-day Adventist churches to fulfill those requests by sending volunteer church members to visit those individuals who have mailed in the cards. The high volume of response we have received from last year's tear out page compelled us to add it to this year's booklet as well.

As a medical facility we see hundreds of people a day and reaching these people not only medically but spiritually is our calling. The community strongly supports our faith-based mission and what better way to help support our community than sharing God's love.

Please visit our website to view the booklet and watch the videos.

ketteringhealth.org/spiritualservices/everyday.cfm



NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2013

Prayer Breakfast Tradition Continues

Greene Memorial Hospital held its annual Prayer Breakfast on May 29. About 125 employees and friends of the hospital came together for music, food, and fellowship, along with the presentation of the Rev. Kenneth Beam Award. Beth Stiles from Greene Medical Foundation was this year's honoree.

The award recognizes a volunteer or staff member who not only serves the hospital faithfully, but also serves their church and community faithfully. Beth serves as our administrative assistant for our Foundation and administrative leadership.

Following the breakfast, six prayer teams spread throughout Greene praying over specific areas, departments, and staff.

Kettering College Names New Humanities and Social Sciences Chair



Mark Carr, Ph.D., has been selected as chair of the Kettering College Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, announced Dean for Academic Affairs William Nelson on Wednesday. Professor Carr replaces James Londis, Ph.D., who retired after

eight years on the Kettering College faculty and two years as department chair.

Professor Carr is currently associate scholar in the Center for Christian Bioethics and professor of religion at Loma Linda University, where he has been a faculty member since 1997. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Professor Carr also has served as the program director of the Master of Arts in Bioethics (1999-2010) and as the director of the Center for Christian Bioethics at Loma Linda University (2001-2010).

"We are delighted to have someone of Mark's experience and academic accomplishments joining our faculty," says Dean Nelson.

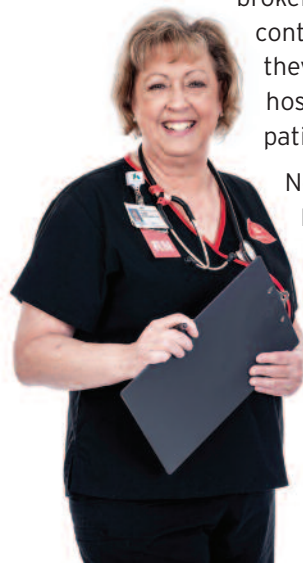


Rising Out of the Rubble in Oklahoma

Dixie, an RN and the EMS/Trauma Coordinator at Grandview Medical Center volunteered in Moore, OK with the American Red Cross after the city experienced a mile-wide tornado on May 20.

However, among the aftermath of the tornado, Dixie was inspired by the way she observed churches, businesses, and individuals from near and far coming together to help.

Dixie came across the local hospital in Moore, which was destroyed in the tornadoes. The workers there told her stories of what went on during the 16 minute warning they had to get patients moved to shelter. Workers also shared stories of nurses who suffered broken arms and lacerations, yet continued to care for others. "If they hadn't been working at the hospital, they would have been patients," says Dixie.



Now Dixie is bringing back the lessons and observations from Moore to Grandview. She is preparing a presentation to Nursing Leadership and will meet with the Safety Committee to discuss ways to improve Grandview's disaster planning and preparedness.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING for the Hamilton Seventh-day Church, 3570 Hamilton-Middletown Rd., Hamilton, OH 45011. Former pastors, members and friends, please join us Sabbath, Dec. 7, all day, beginning at 10 a.m. Guests include Raj Attiken, Lonnie Melashenko (speakers) and much more. RSVP or questions, email Dianne: prayerrequest09@hotmail.com.

SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, October 3-6. Honor classes are 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008. Activities begin Thursday evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet and on Friday, career day. The Sabbath speaker is Ron Scott, Class of 1959, and former youth director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

MARYLAND MEN OF FAITH 2013 Conference

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Sabbath, October 5

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Sabbath, September 21

9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School

10:45 a.m.
Worship Celebration

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Fellowship luncheon will follow

3 p.m.
Dedication of Garden and Grounds

Reunion Concert

Dessert reception/reminscing

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Sunset Calendar

	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27	Oct 4
Baltimore	7:31	7:19	7:08	6:57	6:45
Cincinnati	8:02	7:51	7:39	7:28	7:17
Cleveland	7:53	7:41	7:29	7:17	7:05
Columbus	7:57	7:45	7:34	7:22	7:11
Jersey City	7:22	7:10	6:58	6:46	6:35
Norfolk	7:27	7:17	7:06	6:55	6:45
Parkersburg	7:50	7:39	7:28	7:16	7:05
Philadelphia	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51	6:39
Pittsburgh	7:45	7:33	7:22	7:10	6:58
Reading	7:29	7:17	7:05	6:54	6:42
Richmond	7:33	7:22	7:11	7:00	6:50
Roanoke	7:42	7:32	7:21	7:10	7:00
Toledo	8:00	7:48	7:36	7:24	7:12
Trenton	7:24	7:12	7:01	6:49	6:38
Wash., D.C.	7:32	7:21	7:10	6:58	6:47

Sunday is the alumni golf tournament and 5K walk/run. For additional information, call (573) 682-2164 or visit sunnydale.org.

OBITUARIES

WALTON, Gregory Tyrone, born November 1, 1951, in Washington, D.C.; died June 12, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Greg was educated in the District of Columbia Public School System, graduating from Dunbar Senior High School in 1971. He also studied business management at Federal City College. Greg entered the Peace Corps after high school, and there learned the masonry trade. When he returned from the Peace Corps, Greg gave his life to the Lord. He was baptized in 1974 and became a member of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C. He served as a greeter and Sabbath School superintendent, and was a member of the Sunshine Band and Personal Ministries team. Greg was also an employee of the Capitol Hill church as custodian since 2002, and was always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. Even though his official title was "church custodian," his calling was "ambassador to the neighborhood." Greg ensured that each person and pet that passed by as he worked got a personal, heartfelt greeting. His

smile caught the attention of National Public Radio (NPR) in 2009, and he was featured in a special NPR *Knights in Training* series called "Rush Hour Interrupted." Greg loved dogs and was the proud owner of Major, Smokey and Tiger. He is survived by his mother, Ethel Lee Walton; his aunt, Bessie Gilchrist; brothers, Willie and Donald Walton; his sister, Sharon Becton; sister-in-law, Linda Walton; nephews, Durrell Becton, Michael Coleman and Paul Forman; nieces, Kayla Becton, Tina Walton and Adair Walton; and a host of cousins and close friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Willie Walton.

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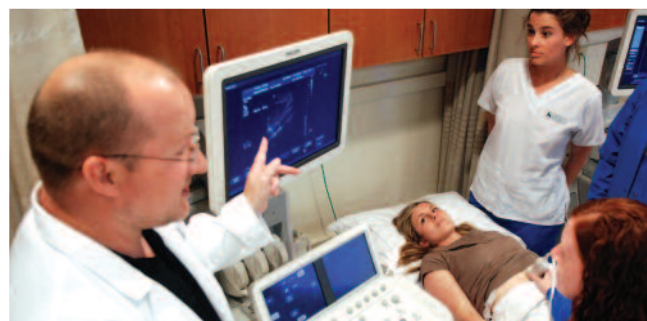
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