

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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*The
Mann
Family



**It is More
Blessed to Give**

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PHOTO BY BEIRA BROWN

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It is More Blessed to Give

Sylvia Garcia Urrutia

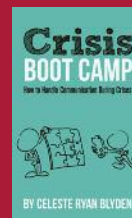
During a season filled with indulgence and overabundance, two families remind us why giving is better than receiving.

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About the Cover: Kayla Schneider photographed the Mann family in Cleveland.

EDITOR'S CORNER



READ MY BOOK

The North American Division has teamed up with its resource arm, AdventSource, to publish six new resources for communication leaders, pastors, administrators and others interested in learning about social media, photography, mobile media, media relations, etc. Included is *Crisis Boot Camp*, a handy guide that draws from my experiences helping our church effectively communicate around more than 50 crisis situations during the last 15 years. Get it in e-book or print at adventsource.org.

GET READY TO BE INSPIRED

I just came across Inspire, a Web community for the creatives among us. Launched in 2012 by the Pacific Union Conference, it attracts, features and connects members passionate about creative arts. "Songwriting, drawing,



painting, photography, sculpture, poetry and more can be used in powerful ways to convey God's story of hope and healing to our churches and surrounding communities," says its curator Rich Dubose. Find your tribe in "Art That Heals," "Blacksmith Art" or the "Attic" at visitinspire.org.

TALKING ABOUT INFERTILITY

What happens when you want to have children but the doctors tell you it's not possible? One in eight couples struggle with infertility, and as a young pastoral couple, Ray and Jeanne Hartwell were among them. This season on *Real Family Talk with Willie and Elaine Oliver*, a weekly Hope



Channel talk show, Ray, president of Pennsylvania Conference, and Jeanne, its Family Ministries director, candidly share their experiences with infertility and later raising two adopted children, Josh and Abby. Watch at hopetv.org/realfamilytalk.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden

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Volume 118 ■ Issue 12

Christmas Unwrapped

Boycott Christmas!" I gasped, staring with disbelief at the words on my computer screen. My browsing had led me to a website bidding me to join the "Christmas Resistance Movement" and rebel against the consumerism and materialism of the holidays.



In my heart, I reflected on my own family's holiday rituals, and I had to admit, for the most part, that we, too, had fallen into the excesses of Christmas consumerism. Except for my daughter, Grace. She had recently broken the ranks by announcing that, in lieu of gifts for herself, she wanted family and friends to make donations so she could participate in a spring break mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where she could serve, give and meet the needs of others. Her example was a powerful reminder to me about the *real* reason for the season.

THE BLESSING OF GIVING

Acts 20:35 says: "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (NKJV).

This year amidst the steady, pounding drum beat of holiday consumerism and materialism, a different spirit vies for our attention—the spirit of giving. Recent scientific research has drawn a strong link between giving and happiness. Giving makes us feel happier and can actually improve our health. When we give, whether it be donations of money, random acts of kindness or service, we are happier, healthier and enjoy a greater sense of well-being. Many people will give during the holidays, and they will be happier because of it. Will you be one of them? When we give to others, our own hearts become "uncrooked."

I'm not ready to boycott Christmas, but I hope above the din of the holidays, I will hear and respond to God's call for me to be a giver. He desires that I answer it, not only during the season of giving, but long after the tree and lights come down. May this holiday be a starting point to a life of year-round giving, resulting in a truly happy new year.

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Newsline

TAASHI ROWE

19 HOMELAND MISSIONS PROJECTS IMPACT COMMUNITY

“These are not union projects,” explains Frank Bondurant, the Columbia Union Conference’s vice president for Ministries Development. “In fact, it’s completely flipped. These projects start at the local church.”

Bondurant is speaking about the union’s annual homeland mission projects, a three-way partnership between the union, conference and local church to fund and encourage community outreach. Over the past five years, the union has given more



than \$1 million toward homeland missions. This year the union helped fund 19 projects. The result?

“We’re producing real men by watering them with the Spirit of the Word so they can be leaders for the kingdom,” says James Hiers, whose mission project is called Calvary Rites of Passage, a program that mentors boys (pictured above) at Allegheny East Conference’s Calvary church in Newport News, Va.

“We have small groups across the city of [Allentown, Pa.], including over 70 guests each week; 25 Bible studies are being given in people’s homes; and each Wednesday during the school year, two missionaries visit with students at the local

high school (pictured left) and lead out in a Christian club,” reports Wes Via, who directs Pennsylvania Conference’s Simplicity Urban Outreach project.

Shane Anderson, pastor of Potomac Conference’s New Market (Va.) church, is working with Pastor Reed Richard to build a network of house churches in the Shenandoah Valley area. After already seeing results, he is asking Columbia Union members to “please pray that, through the Holy Spirit, these Adventist communities will increase the church’s surface area and provide a less threatening setting for others to come into contact with Jesus and His truth.”



A SAMPLE OF THE 2013 HOMELAND MISSIONS PROJECTS

- An Allegheny West Conference second-generation Hispanic church plant in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Mountain View Conference’s evangelistic outreach in Charleston, W.Va.
- A storefront youth ministry started by Ohio Conference’s Sandusky church
- Three church plants in the New Jersey Conference



Somer George and Wendy Moulder chat at a house church picnic.

HOW DID HOMELAND MISSIONS IMPACT YOU?

“I would not have been open to attending a traditional church. But, after connecting and worshipping with people at a house church, I now want to know God and study the Bible.”—A visitor at a Shenandoah Valley house church

\$212,000

The amount distributed in 2013 for homeland missions projects

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PASTORES DE ALLEGHENY EAST INVESTIDOS COMO CAPELLANES

Seis pastores fueron recientemente investidos como miembros del U.S. Chaplains International—un ministerio fundado por el consejo de iglesias hispanas de Allegheny East Conference (AEC). “El ministerio nació debido a la gran necesidad de contar con capellanes en la comunidad”, explicó Ramón Escalante, director de Ministerios Hispanos de AEC. De izquierda a derecha, los capellanes son los pastores Roberto Reyes, Josué Prada, Alexander Santeliz, Escalante, Juan José Silva y Martho Lujan. Los capellanes trabajarán como consejeros y traductores en los tribunales, los hospitales, las estaciones de policía y en otros servicios sociales locales.

¿Para qué continuar estableciendo iglesias hispanas?

Este territorio [el área de Washington, D.C.] tiene el número más alto de inmigrantes hispanos no angloparlantes—70 por ciento de las familias hispanas hablan español en el hogar. Solo Nueva Jersey tiene un porcentaje más alto, con el 80 por ciento de hispanos no angloparlantes. Si no llegamos a estos grupos, perderemos una gran oportunidad.

—Rubén Ramos, asistente del presidente para los Ministerios Multilingües de Columbia Union Conference



UNA IGLESIA DE POTOMAC ENSEÑA A LOS NIÑOS ACERCA DE UN ESTILO DE VIDA SALUDABLE

La iglesia hispana de Manassas, Va., en Potomac Conference, fue recientemente la sede de una feria de salud para niños. Los niños aprendieron acerca de la importancia del aire apuro, de tomar agua pura todos los días (en la fotografía), de ingerir alimentos saludables, de lavarse los dientes y de la higiene personal.

Se instalaron puestos para que los niños rotaran y así enseñarles varios mensajes de salud. En el



puesto de deportes, aprendieron sobre deportistas famosos y participaron de entretenidas competencias. En el puesto de descanso, pintaron y realizaron otras manualidades, y en otro puesto, hasta cantaron con karaoke. “Cuando estableces un contacto con eventos preparados para los niños, puedes atraer a toda la familia”, explicó Tatiana Ovalle, coordinadora del programa. “Es una manera segura de divertirse y hacer nuevos amigos. Invitamos a nuestros vecinos para que se unieran a nosotros y alrededor de 10 familias de la comunidad asistieron. Ciertamente creemos que esto es solo el comienzo”.—Yasira Gonzalez

FOTOGRAFÍA DE SUE KIRSCHBAUM



EL GRUPO AKRON CONSIGUE LA CATEGORÍA DE IGLESIA MISIONERA

En otoño pasado, el Comité Ejecutivo de Ohio Conference votó conceder al grupo hispano de la iglesia Akron First el estado de "iglesia misionera". Durante varios años, los miembros hispanos de la iglesia de Akron tenían una clase de escuela sabática en español por separado y luego se unían a la congregación en inglés para el sermón.

En las reuniones regionales hispanas en otoño de 2007 en

Juan Carlos Garay, uno de los diáconos, ayuda en el culto divino.

Youngstown, los líderes hispanos de Akron First descubrieron un grupo de hispanos autocongregados en el área de North Hills, en Akron, que se reunía en el subsuelo de una casa de la zona, bajo el liderazgo de Neri Aguilar. Hasta ese momento, los dos grupos no se conocían.

Luego de mucha oración y reflexión, los dos grupos decidieron intentar unirse y llevar a cabo la escuela sabática y el sermón de manera combinada. Ambos grupos disfrutaron el trabajo conjunto; por lo tanto, decidieron explorar la posibilidad de formar un grupo hispano combinado.

En la primavera de 2008, los líderes de la asociación votaron de manera unánime formar un grupo hispano dentro de la iglesia Akron First. Comenzaron a tener servicios de escuela sabática y sermón en español en las instalaciones de Akron First y a llevar registros de la asistencia y las ofrendas y diezmos del grupo. A este grupo se lo conoce en la actualidad como la Iglesia Misionera Hispana de Akron y tiene alrededor de 40 miembros habituales. Lee más en columbiaunion.org/akronhispanic.

PEDIDOS DE ORACIÓN DE PYC

Este mes, las 25 familias que asisten a la iglesia Philadelphia Youth Connect (PYC) en Pennsylvania Conference están orando por siete bautismos. El grupo, que se creó en mayo, ya tiene planeada una campaña evangelística para este mes, que comenzará el 7 de diciembre. Gabriel Montalvo, pastor de la iglesia, dice que el grupo es una iglesia de habla inglesa cuyo objetivo es llegar a la segunda generación de hispanos e instarlos a que sean discípulos activos de Cristo. Oremos para que Dios los use para cambiar la vida de más personas.



FOTOGRAFÍA DE BEIRA BROWN



ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR: Mejor es dar

En la edición de este mes de la revista *Visitor*, dos familias nos recuerdan que es mejor dar que recibir. En vez de tomar unas vacaciones tradicionales, Tim Madding, director de liderazgo y crecimiento espiritual de Pennsylvania Conference, su esposa Andrea y su hijo Ethan prefieren servir. Cuando su hijo cumplió 10 años de edad, los Madding (en la fotografía) se embarcaron en un crucero. En vez de mirar las atracciones turísticas en los diferentes puertos, la familia Madding encon-

tró oportunidades para predicar y servir a los miembros de la comunidad.

Olietunja "Ollie" Mann y su esposa, María, miembros de la iglesia Westside de Allegheny West Conference en Cleveland, también creen en el servicio a su comunidad. Aunque tienen cuatro hijos propios, con alegría se han convertido en "padres temporales" para otros jóvenes. "Recibimos a jóvenes que vienen y se quedan con nosotros durante días e incluso semanas", dice María. "Mi madre siempre me enseñó que si tengo suficiente para mí, tengo suficiente para la comunidad". Lee más sobre estas familias en inglés en la pág. 10.

Are Childfree Couples Accepted in our Church?

Back in the 1950s, my parents believed that being a good Seventh-day Adventist meant you had kids. No children? Then there must be something not quite right going on," says Monte Sahlin, Ohio Conference's director of research and special projects. "There was a tragedy in being childless." But is that still true today? Are child-free couples accepted in our church?

In a provocative blog post titled "Does the Church Love Those Without Children?" the author, Suzanne Burden, expressed her feelings of vulnerability about having no children and attempted to start a discussion on the issue. Hundreds of views and many comments later, it was evident that the topic hit home for many—whether childfree by circumstance or choice.

WHAT DOES A FAMILY LOOK LIKE?

In the '50s, the Cleaver family from the *Leave it to Beaver* TV show fame were considered the ideal American family. In the '90s, it was the Cosbys, who had both aging parents and grandchildren within their family unit. Today childfree couples are featured in sitcoms like *How I Met Your Mother*, among others (all pictured).

During the Cleaver era, half of American homes consisted of a married couple with one or more children, wrote Sahlin in his 1997 book *A New Generation of Adventist Families: What It Means to You and Your Church*. But, that is no longer the case. A 2010 Pew Research Center study reports that childlessness has risen—across all racial and ethnic groups. One in five American women may never have children today, compared to one in 10 women in the '70s.

The Adventist community reflects this trend, reports Sahlin. As a matter of fact, the Adventist birth rate continues to be significantly lower than the national population, and there has been a major decline in the number of Adventist homes with children present over the past 20 years.

A correlating trend, says Sahlin,



FACEBOOKED:

Are Childfree Adults Welcome in Church?

I think my church likes that I don't have kids. I'm now the youth director! Funny how God works, huh? I feel like what I do gives parents much needed breaks.

—Melody Crandall Schreck

The problem, as I see it is that anyone who doesn't fit the stereotype of a "good Adventist" is made to feel uncomfortable. Too many children, not enough children, too vegan, too on fire for the Lord ... the list goes on. We, as a church, need to focus on accepting people as they are rather than on what the "ideal Adventist" is thought to look like.—Jennifer Fisher Fulton

is that the number of younger people in Adventist families—thus, in our churches—is also declining. This translates into fewer “traditional” families, which in turn, yields additional ramifications. For Protestant churches, an increase in the number of childfree families is more than a change in demographics; it can become an issue of survival. “In the ’70s, if you wanted to grow a church, you started a church school. A strong children’s ministry was a magnet for families,” explains Sahlin. “That magnet is virtually gone.”

THE PRESSURE TO BE A PARENT

For Lori Landa, a staff member of the Pennsylvania Conference, the path to parenthood was challenging. “My husband and I were childless by choice for eight years,” she says. “We enjoyed our life but then decided we had so much love to give, we had to share it.” Four years and three failed in vitro fertilization attempts later, the couple felt mired in deep disappointment. “We heard lots of comments from people for years. It was fine until we hit the difficult years. That was a tough time,” she recalls. She particularly remembers a pastor’s comment that not having kids is selfish. “There was a lot of hurt and insensitiveness,” she adds.

Michelle Riley Jones, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., agrees that people can be insensitive. Jones, who is childfree by choice, recalled being asked the “kid question” not long after she and her husband married. “I just wasn’t interested,” she says, which surprised people. “I was told we were being very selfish. I recognized, though, that that wasn’t the standard answer people were used to getting.”

Alanzo Smith, PhD, director of counseling, Men’s Ministries, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School for the Greater New York Conference, and his wife, June, studied the influence of religious practices, biblical texts and a spiritual environment on childfree couples. In their report “Treating Faith-Based

Infertile Couples Using Cognitive-Behavioral Counseling Strategies: A Preliminary Investigation” (*Journal of Counseling and Values*, Oct. 2004), the Smiths looked at the intense pressures couples feel to procreate. “Couples are expected to have children as part of the normal functioning of their marriage,” they wrote. “Children provide existential meaning, identity and status; they grant parents the traditional means of participating in the continuity of a family, a culture and the human race.”

In a phone interview for this article, Alanzo explained further: “Childlessness can be tough on families—the nuclear, the extended and church families. In certain cultures, it is almost a requirement to have kids. When a couple doesn’t—for whatever reason—the couple, particularly the woman, can be stigmatized.”

This pressure can even come from an unlikely source: a Bible story. Landa shares that she couldn’t even teach stories of Mary or Hannah in the children’s division at her church because they hit “too close to home.”

Considering the strong reactions, it is no wonder that childfree couples tend to isolate themselves, says Alanzo adding, “In my travels all around the world, I’ve never come across a ‘childless couples club.’ So, these families tend to stay off by themselves. They either stop coming

to church altogether, or on ‘special days,’ like Mother’s Day or Father’s Day, they visit other places. They don’t feel welcome or comfortable.” The latter was Landa’s experience for many years. She and her husband eventually adopted two children.

SO WHAT’S A CHURCH TO DO?

Landa, Riley Jones and the Smiths agree that the church can have a big role in helping, supporting and reaching out to childfree members. Alanzo suggests three ways:

Be accepting. Seek to understand the challenges and realities faced by childfree couples and don’t make or perpetuate assumptions about them.

Be sensitive. Yes, “children are a heritage from the Lord,” but ministers must include the term “If it’s God’s will.” Develop sermons that embrace this thought, offer support and help people find fulfillment in their lives.

Be inclusive. Include all types of families, especially childfree couples, in events, programs and on special days that center around the family unit. For example, “Sister Morgan, you are a mentor to young women at the church and should be celebrated along with all of the other women here on Mother’s Day. Please come to the front.”

Shifting American Attitudes Toward Childfree Families

- 59 percent of adults disagree that people without children “lead empty lives,” up from 39 percent in 1988 (general social survey)
- 41 percent of adults say that children are very important for a successful marriage, down from 65 percent who said so in 1990 (2007 study)
- About half the public (46 percent) say it makes no difference one way or the other that a growing share of women do not ever have children (2009 study); however, 38 percent of Americans (2009 survey) say this trend is bad for society, an increase from 29 percent in a 2007 survey.

Source: 2010 Pew Research Center Survey, “Childlessness Up Among Women; Down Among Women with Advanced Degrees”

*During a season that's filled with indulgence
and overabundance, two families remind us that*

It is More Blessed to

Give

Sylvia Garcia Urrutia



Andrea,
Tim & Ethan
Madding



I remember Ethan turning to me and saying, 'Dad, before I preached this sermon, I didn't feel fully prepared, but when I started preaching ... I felt like the Holy Spirit took over and preached through me.'

—Tim Madding

Maddings on a Mission



hen a typical family plans their vacation, some of the first items that make it to the must-have list are pools and water-slides, Disney princesses and comfy resort beds. But the Madding family, who attend Pennsylvania Conference's Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading, is anything but typical. Their list of vacation must-haves is a community in need, people who yearn to know Jesus and a local family willing to take them in.

"Mission work is in our blood. It is something we have always done as a couple, so we knew that when we had children, we wanted to make it a part of their life as well," recalls Andrea about the decision she and Tim made early in their marriage. So, when their son, Ethan, turned 10, they decided it was time to start their tradition of service-focused family vacations. Ethan remembers when his parents first told him about the mission trip vacation idea: "At first I was shocked, but then excited about it!" After experiencing two of these vacations, he says they are well worth it.

Tim and Andrea wanted to make sure that Ethan's first mission trip experience was positive, so they merged it with a cruise. It was not a mission trip-specific cruise but included stops in towns they had served as a couple. With a little extra planning, Tim and Andrea lined up mission opportunities at each port stop. Their main goal: to have Ethan involved as much as possible.

The first sign of the positive impact they were making came when they returned from one of their stops. As the Madding family joined other cruise patrons around a table for dinner, talk turned to what everyone had done during the last port stop. While some talked of exciting tourist attractions or exotic animal sightings, young Ethan shocked the strangers by excitedly reporting that his family "cleaned windows" at one stop and that he preached his first sermonette at another. It thrilled their fellow travelers to hear of the Madding's unique vacation,

and they continued to ask for updates on their latest mission adventures. It became clear that the Madding's mission impact went beyond their work at each port.

For their latest mission trip vacation this year, the Maddings hosted a 10-day evangelistic series in the Dominican Republic. While Andrea, a physical therapist, gave health lectures during the day, Tim, who is the director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth at the Pennsylvania Conference, preached each evening. Again, they involved Ethan as much as they could, this time giving him the responsibility of preaching the main sermon on both Sabbath mornings and assisting Tim with the equipment each night. To add to their experience, they fully immersed themselves in the culture. For 10 days, they lived with the locals and ate their food. This helped them relate to the people on a different level, the family says.

At the end of their stay, the Madding family was able to witness 16 baptisms as a result of their evangelism, with 20 more people starting Bible studies in preparation for baptism. This type of mission trip really instilled in their family that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide denomination, says Tim.

But to Tim and Andrea, the biggest impact from these trips can be felt in their home. The vacations have sparked in Ethan, who is homeschooled, a love for ministry. He prepared and preached his first full-length sermons in the Dominican Republic, and since returning, has already volunteered to preach at local churches.

Tim remembers, "After Ethan's second sermon during our trip, we were putting away the equipment from the meeting, and I was telling Ethan how sometimes we can prepare our sermons, but really, when it's time to speak, sometimes the Holy Spirit will take over and just speak through us. I remember Ethan turning to me and saying, 'Dad, before I preached this sermon, I didn't feel fully prepared, but when I started preaching, that's exactly how I felt, like the Holy Spirit took over and preached through me.'"

For Tim, that made all the hard work worth it. "You cannot imagine what a father feels when he hears something like that. That's why we do this," he says.

Teaching Teens to “Mann” Up

I was a teen dad, drug addict and lost. I've been through the ringer and made it out. I recognize the struggle some young people go through,” says Olietunja “Ollie” Mann.

His wife, Maria, says she endured her own challenges growing up. But, it was those experiences that continue to help the couple make connections with the young people in their community and at Allegheny West Conference's Westside church in Cleveland where they are members. They knew they were called to do something special—pulling from their pasts help them understand today's young people. As a result, teens find in them someone who will listen and provide mentoring and guidance where no one else does.

The Manns also raised four children, who are now young adults, and continue to serve as youth directors at their church with several ministries. They have always

made sure to be available to their children and for their home to be a place where they felt comfortable hanging out with their friends.

“Our house is where they all come to, with their issues and all. We want to be sure to be available,” says Ollie. On any given night, they have a house full of young people. They take time to learn about their struggles and have been able to minister to their needs. And, many times, those needs have gone beyond a simple word of advice. The Manns have become mentors to some of the young people, even “temporary parents” to others. In fact, Ollie and Maria have provided a temporary home to 10 young people over the years.

You can almost hear a smile in the words as Maria admits, “Our home has a revolving door. We have young people coming and staying with us for days or even weeks at a time. My mom always taught me that if I had enough for me, I had enough for the community.”

They admit it is not always easy to house more people, especially since they are usually young people without work or direction, and some with a lot of problems. But, the Manns have made it a point to treat each of them like their own children, including the enforcement of a few simple rules: they must attend church, go to school and leave negativity at the door.

Regardless of the challenges, Ollie and Maria say the rewards have been immense. They remember one young man who arrived after having a falling out with his mom. He felt he needed to find himself and arrived at their doorstep with nothing. The Manns took him in.

Young people and adults in church today feel a great divide, but it doesn't have to be like that. The [young people] need to know they are worth something. We need to show them that.—Olietunja Mann



The Manns: Olietunja, Javont'e, Chelsea, Dalont'e, Ashley, her son, Kaleem Fadzil, and Maria



'Tis the Season to Give

You can change the world a little—or a lot. Here are some ways you can use your time to impact others this holiday season:

IF YOU HAVE ... TRY ...

- 10 Seconds** Smile at someone.
- 1 Minute** Surprise your waitress/waiter with a note to thank them for their great service.
- 5 Minutes** Pay for the person behind you in a drive-thru line. Log on to wgts919.com and click on “Drive-Thru Difference” for their details.
- 10 Minutes** Donate time or prayers to ADRA, or purchase an animal or water well for a family overseas in need through their *Really Useful Gift Catalog*. Visit adra.org and click on “Get Involved.”
- 15 Minutes** Support or thank our troops overseas. Go to operationgratitude.com for a list of ways to help.
- 30 Minutes** At homelessshelterdirectory.org, get a list of homeless shelters near you, where you can organize a clothing or food drive or volunteer your time.
- 1 Hour** Follow the example of Steve Chavez, managing editor of the *Adventist Review*, and spend your lunch break picking up trash in the community near your work site.
- 1 Day** Help Habitat for Humanity build a house for someone in need—no experience necessary! Log on to habitat.org and click on “Get Involved.”
- 1 Week** Use your Christmas holiday to “vacation with a purpose.” Get more details at cruisewithamission.org.

Within weeks of honoring the house rules, this young man had acquired a job, started attending church with them and found direction in his life.

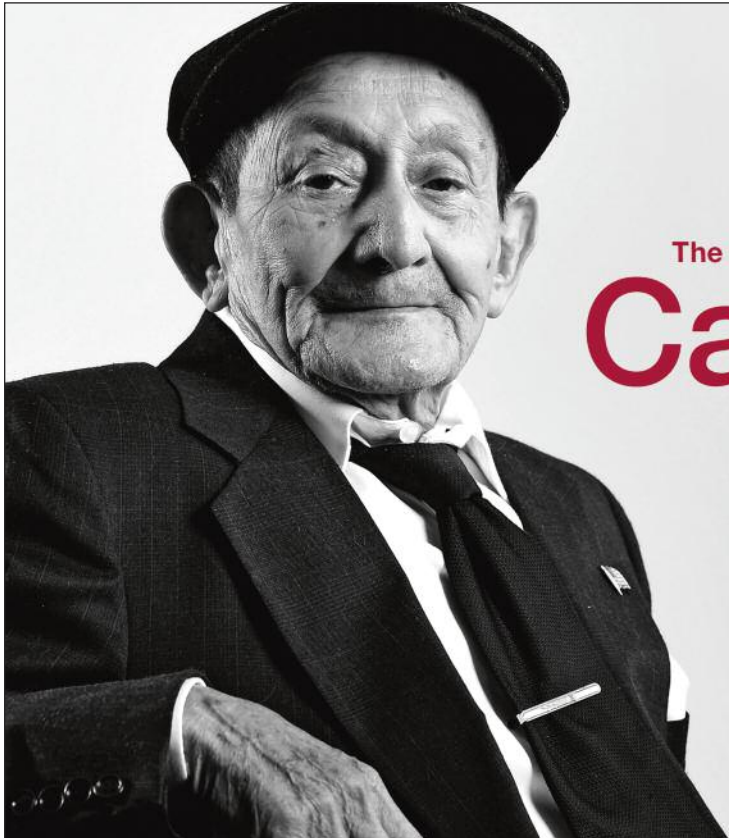
His story is repeated in so many other young people who have passed through their home. Some have even joined the church and been baptized. But, regardless of where they continue on in life, one thing is certain, Ollie and Maria make sure to stay in contact with each one of them, always making themselves available and offering words of encouragement and advice. On occasion, some of their “temporary children” will even return to stay with them for a few days.

The best thing for this generation, say the Manns, is to meet the young people where they are, but not excuse where they are. The couple agrees that they, like all Christians, are still in their walk with God, so they don’t believe their job is to tell the young people what to do, but to invite them on the journey.

Although their work with young people seems like an additional full-time job, they know it is what God has meant for them to do. “It’s an investment,” says Ollie. “The young people are the church, and we might not get another chance to live a sermon for these kids. Young people and adults in church today feel a great divide, but it doesn’t have to be like that. They need to know they are worth something. We need to show them that. It could even be as simple as a handshake after church.”

The Manns will continue to leave their revolving door open to young people as long as God continues to guide young people to that door.

Sylvia Garcia Urrutia is a member of the Arise church in Temple Hills, Md.



The 2014 *Visitor*
Calendar
COMING THIS MONTH

For free copies, or additional copies to share, please call Becky Weigley at (888) 4-VISITOR, ext. 4, or email bweigley@columbiaunion.net.

Words of Wisdom

MERRY CHRISTMAS *from the*
VISIT  **R**

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of Christ's love at Christmas and always.

Beth, Kelly, Taashi, Sandra, Michelle & Celeste
The Columbia Union Visitor Magazine Team

Glenridge Church Welcomes New Members

Although Dwayne Stevenson's wife, Christina, grew up a Seventh-day Adventist, he never thought he would ever join the church. However, all that changed this fall when his best friend invited him to the "Happy Family Bible Seminar" at the Glenridge church in District Heights, Md. The three-week seminar, which attracted 85 people on the first night, was focused on building and maintaining stronger families inside and outside of the church by applying fundamental principles of the Bible. On the third night, Stevenson made a decision for baptism.

"I grew up worshipping on Sunday, which later I found out was a tradition. After studying the Bible, I accepted the Sabbath truth. Pastor Vernon Waters helped anchor this truth in me through his seminar presentations."

At the conclusion of the seminar, three people were baptized. Pictured left to right with Pastor Waters, who is third from the left, are new members Christina and Dwayne and Janice Albornoz.

Glenridge was planted by the Metropolitan church in 1992 and now has an average of 130 people attending

each Sabbath. Now firmly ensconced in their permanent church home at 5501 Marlbo Pike, members are relentless in their efforts to fulfill their mission: "Love God, Grow Together, Reach the World."—Ivett Scott



Community Outreach Draws 45 to Southwest Philly

It was a Friday afternoon and energy levels had reached an overflowing high in the Cobbs Creek section of West Philadelphia. And, Paul Turner, pastor of the Southwest Philadelphia church, along with elders, deaconesses and deacons worked feverishly to transform an area of the nearby park in preparation for the upcoming baptisms.



Elder Duwaine H. Jenkins baptizes Dominique Wilberforce (forefront) while Pastor Paul M. Turner baptizes LeShawn Browne.

Church members had already set up a large tent, under which Conklin B. Gentry, Allegheny East Conference (AEC) evangelist, had been preaching for the past several weeks. On that day, they erected several smaller tents to be used as changing rooms for the baptismal candidates. The next day, which marked the conclusion of a series of evangelism meetings, the church welcomed 45 newly baptized members.

Southwest Philadelphia's evangelism meetings came after much prayer and vigorous outreach to community members. For several weeks, they flooded the community with literature on tips for spiritual growth and healthy living and followed with Bible workers. Those with specific needs were identified, and their needs met. During the evangelistic meeting, articles of clothing and food were provided to persons in need. They also distributed school supplies to 300 school-aged children in the area.

"The culmination of prayer, planning and hard work resulted in an amazing showing of the power of God," said Janice D. Jenkins, community services leader. "It is now the duty of each member to nurture and support each new member."

D.C. Area Community Service Members Recognized

Harriet Langley, 82, a member of the Pisgah church in Bryans Road, Md., was among the 31 people who received the conference's lifetime service award for spending 20 or more years in Adventist Community Service (ACS). The awards were presented at the recent

Washington Metropolitan ACS federation meeting. Federation leaders also recognized 10 people who served for 10 years and 16 who served five years. Members belonging to ACS teams from the Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md.; New Joy Fellowship in Hagerstown, Md.; Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C.; First church in Washington, D.C.; and Columbia Community church in Columbia, Md., were also recognized.

Langley, who has been in the Adventist Community Services ministry since 1979, says her love for people motivates her to continue to do the work that she does.

In addition to recognizing those with longtime commitments to the ministry, the daylong meeting served as an opportunity to unify the 24 AEC churches in the Washington, D.C., area.

Cece Lester, MD, who became the new federation leader in March, has big dreams for what these 24 churches can accomplish. "We plan to have a disaster response van that goes out weekly to feed people, and we are working on putting together a warehouse on one of our campuses so we can immediately reach people in crisis," she said. "It's important that we do this ministry because the world is hurting." Read more and see more photos at columbiaunion.org/dcacs.



Pisgah Church's Adventist Community Service

Team: Callie Brown, Harriet Langley, Clifford Mae Fields, William Johnson, Jay Johnson and Gloria Simmons

D.C. Area Women Honor Local Men of God

It was a fall Sabbath afternoon, and the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., was filled to capacity. The audience gathered for the Men of Honor program, an annual event that the conference's Washington Metro Area Women's Ministries (WMAWM) team sponsors, to recognize some 113 men who faithfully serve their churches and community.

Men of Honor from the Class of 2013 were recognized in three areas. In the category of "helping hands," 44 men were nominated for their selfless acts of kindness; 27 were acknowledged for their commitment to community service; and another 42 received nominations in the "unsung hero" category for their significant service to mankind that had not been publicly recognized. Each of the recipients received a Men of Honor pin. For the first time in the four-year history of the program, six nominees had no affiliation with any of the 11 sponsoring churches. This year's group of honorees joins the nearly 300-strong fraternity of men who have received this honor.

Denise Crearey, WMAWM leader, said, "Honoring our

men should be a foregone conclusion. When they, through their various acts of kindness, reveal their true unselfish nature, it then becomes incumbent upon us through this noble gesture to recognize and honor the work they do." Read more at columbiaunion.org/menofhonor.—*Debra C. Anderson*



Academy Students Serve Pancakes to Pastors

Students at Allegheny West Conference’s schools—Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) in Columbus, Ohio, and Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland—recently decided to do something neither had done before. They sent invitations, some of them handwritten, to their area pastors asking for their attendance at an appreciation brunch hosted by their schools.

Students literally rolled out red carpets to celebrate their pastoral leaders and showered them with praises, singing and applause. Pastors from all across each city and from various denominations say they were delighted to see where the children of their churches attend school, and also enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with their colleagues.

“This was a moving moment in ministry, receiving the appreciation of my school-aged children,” expressed Harry Britt, pastor of the Present Truth church in Cleveland.



Pastors Willie D. Bradley and Larry Macon (foreground) and other local denominational leaders are ready to enjoy a special breakfast sponsored by Ramah Junior Academy.

During the brunches, CAA and Ramah students both performed a dramatic recitation of Psalm 100, recited adjectives from A to Z to describe their pastors and sang their school anthem “Our God is Awesome.” They also prayed for the overall well-being of each leader.

Marayah Asamoah, a second-grader at CAA who attends the Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio, was ecstatic to see her pastor, Bryant Taylor. “I wrote him and invited him and he came!” she declared.

At the end of the brunch, the pastors took a tour of the school and expressed their appreciation and joy for all that the staff and students did for them.

Jeremy Anderson, who pastors a nondenominational church in Columbus, greets two of his students who attend Columbus Adventist Academy.



Donald Burden, pastor of the Ephesus church in Columbus, enjoys his trip down the red carpet as Columbus Adventist Academy students show him their appreciation.

Conference Leaders Recharge at Fall Retreat

Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) pastoral team and departmental directors, along with the three officers, recently gathered at the conference campgrounds in Thornville, Ohio, for their annual fall retreat themed "Ministry in 2020." According to attendees, speakers Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First church in Huntsville, Ala., and Stan Hood, pastor of the Danville/South Boston District in Virginia, "electrified" each morning with the Word of God.

Workshop presenters used biblical examples to challenge the pastors to provide nothing less than excellence



Mercidieu Barionnette, pastor of the Ohio Philadelphia Haitian church, joyfully responds to the sermon.



The pastoral team links arms as William Cox, conference president, prays for unity and an unbroken chain of leadership in their churches.

to the members of the church and shared principles of successful collaboration, including the necessity of coordinated practices and policies. Attendees were also presented with case studies to discuss and resolve.

"I could relate to the real-life case studies and examples we were given. They helped to cement the principles that were being taught," expressed Derrick Moffett, ThD, pastor of the Akron Bethel church in Akron, Ohio.

Dale Wright Church Honors Community Leaders

Members and friends of the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, recently hosted Community Day by inviting the town mayor and fire chief to be their special guests. The church has taken



Pastor Shaun Arthur presents the Germantown, Ohio, mayor and fire chief with gifts of appreciation.

a more active role in community events and wanted to show appreciation for those who serve in the public sphere.

During the divine service, after being asked to the pulpit, Fire Chief Dan Alldred explained why he chose a life of public service. "I grew up in it. My dad was a fire fighter and police officer, and I always had a concern for the community," he said. He also informed attendees that the Germantown Fire Department provides fire prevention, fire suppression and rescue services, utilizing up to 28 paid on-call firefighters during emergencies.

Mayor Ted Landis also stepped forward and shared that he and six council members govern Germantown. He said that he became a public servant after becoming aware of problems in the community. "I wanted to be a part of solving them," he said.

The service was followed by a vegetarian luncheon in the Nathan and Willa Wright Activity Center. Pastor Shaun Arthur and his wife, Lauren, also made sure every first-time visitor received a gift.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

DECEMBER 2013

When You Find a Stable

Things don't always turn out the way we plan. Sometimes we reach for the stars, dreaming of wonderful ways our desires will be met, and we end up with a great deal of disappointment and disillusionment. The wise men had this experience after they went through considerable effort to find Jesus. They were looking for a king but found His people were indifferent and His family was impoverished. So what did the wise men do that transformed their dismay into delight?

First, when they found the stable, they looked for God. The gospel writer tells us, "When they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him" (Matt. 2:11, NKJV). They remembered they were following signs from God. So, they humbly submitted their expectations to Him and bowed down to worship. They trusted God's leading.

Second, they offered their best to God. "And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense and myrrh" (verse 11). They had already invested significant time into this venture. So they gave of their treasure to honor the King, as only their best would be fitting for Jesus.

Finally, they changed their direction. The wise men, "being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way" (verse 12). Change doesn't come easily to most of us. However, when we meet the King, our lives are transformed. We don't want to go back to where we've been. He calls us to move forward with confidence in His leading.

Be wise: worship, give and allow God to redirect your course.



Rick Remmers
President

Annual Conference Inspires Men to Love and Serve

The eighth annual Maryland Men of Faith (MMOF) Conference recently drew some 175 men to the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for a day of spiritual refreshment. About 25 youth participated, too, with several arriving by bus from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.

Shane Anderson, keynote speaker and senior pastor of Potomac Conference's New Market church, focused his messages on three covenants he says every man should make: a covenant with God, a covenant to serve in a mission outside the home and a covenant to love and serve his wife and family.

An array of seminars was offered covering topics such as health, family life, current issues and developing a personal relationship with Jesus.

The offering collected benefits the Bread of Life Ministry. "We raised about \$2,300 this year," says Anthony Williams, event coordinator. The center, based at Allegheny East Conference's Fourth Street church in

Washington, D.C., provides homeless persons with meals, spiritual support and job skills training.

To learn more and listen to recordings of seminars, visit mmof.org.

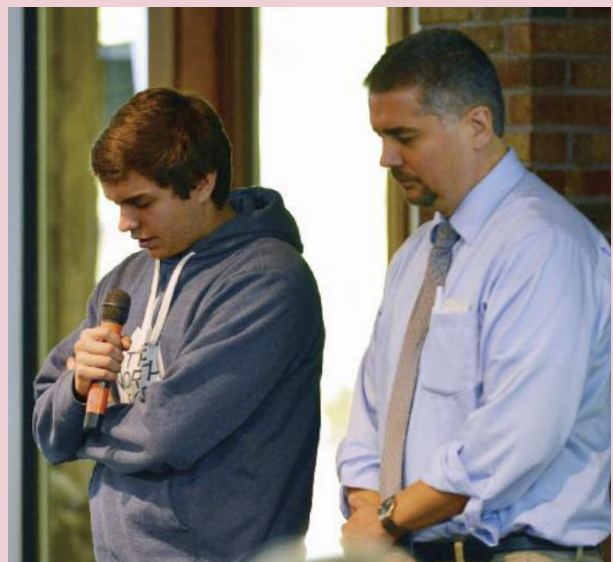


PHOTO BY MARLON MING

Ben Williams, pictured with his father Anthony Williams (right), offers prayer during a group meeting. Both are members of the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md.

Cambridge Meeting Draws 300

The annual Eastern Shore Gathering recently drew some 300 to a riverfront venue in Cambridge, Md., to worship together. Jim Ayer, Adventist World Radio vice president, spoke about God’s transforming power.

The event offered programs geared for all ages. Children were engaged in the story of Moses and visited miniature horses. Youth sailed on the Choptank River and discussed Christian beliefs. Highlights for adults included a lesson study taught by Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union Conference vice president for Ministries Development, music by local



PHOTO BY THOMAS COLEMAN

Carl Rodriguez, conference Youth Ministries director, discusses Christian beliefs during a cruise down the Choptank River.



talent Eden’s Hope (left) and a health seminar led by Oluwole Olusola, MD.

Gary Gibbs, conference Ministries Development director, hosted a home missions report featuring conversion stories of new members and the outreach experiences of Brittany Sherwin, a Bible worker partnering with the Dover First church in Dover, Del.

Eastern Shore Students Visit Harriet Tubman Sites

Students of the Gateway Christian Academy in Salisbury, Md., and Chester River Adventist School in Chestertown, Md., recently toured the area where Harriet Tubman lived as a child. In both schools, the upper grade students have been reading *Amos Fortune*, a true story about a former African-American slave, and *Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad*, a true story about a Dorchester County, Md., slave turned abolitionist. The

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS MILLER



stories—required reading as part of the North American Division’s Pathway to Excellence Through Literacy series—were highlighted during the field trip.

“Among many sites, students visited the Bucktown Village Store where Tubman received a serious head injury when trying to protect a runaway slave,” said Diana Bailey, head teacher at Chester River. “The students not only were immersed in sites that carry real historical significance, they [also] had an enjoyable time.”

Organizing field trips and getting a group rate for a small number of students can be a challenge, so the two schools are planning several joint field trips this year.—Jennifer Miller

On a recent field trips, students at Gateway Christian Academy and Chester River Adventist School get a close-up view of Harriet Tubman’s early years. Teachers Jennifer Miller, far left, and Diana Bailey, far right, coordinated the outing.

New Honor Society Named After Alumni

The past is pointing the way to the future at Highland View Academy. At an induction ceremony this fall, a group of HVA students became charter members of the Byrd-Delong Chapter of the Rho Kappa Honor Society. The chapter is named after Nolan Byrd and Ronald DeLong, two HVA alumni who gave their lives as medics during the Vietnam War. The Rho Kappa Honor Society is sponsored by the National Council for Social Studies.

The requirements for enrollment in this new chapter are completion of four semesters of history and a cumulative GPA of 3.0. This school year's honor society members will explore topics in history and explore various historical sites around the area.

For further questions about the chapter, contact Clifton Gadsden, the Byrd-Delong Chapter sponsor, at cgadsden@highlandviewacademy.com or (301) 739-8480, or scan the QR codes below.



Clifton Gadsden
History Teacher

Our New Scholarship Fund Offers New Opportunities

I really want to attend academy, but I am not sure if my family will be able to afford it." I have heard and felt this concern from Highland View Academy (HVA) students and their families over the past few years.

The good news is that students have scholarship opportunities, worthy student help and work opportunities at our school. Still the cost is sometimes more than some parents can handle. I am happy to say we have an additional opportunity that will help students attend HVA—the DeHaan Scholarship Fund, which has been created by various generous donors and named for Frank and Dolly DeHaan.

The DeHaans have given so much to our school through the years, from construction of our girls dormitory, to our church, four of our faculty homes and many work opportunities for our students through out the years, in their salad factory, pretzel factory and bakery. Here are some important questions and answers about the fund:

Who should apply?

The DeHaan Matching Fund is designed for academy students who have shown outstanding academic ability despite facing economic challenges. The students raise money on their own, outside of the immediate family, then that money is matched by the scholarship fund—up to \$1,000 for community students and up to \$2,000 for dormitory students.

How to give?

Those who are able to give can send checks payable to Highland View Academy, Development Office, 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Donations are tax deductible.

For more details, visit hva-edu.com or call me, Renee Williams, director of recruitment, at (301) 739-8480.
—*Renee Williams*

Professionals Assist Seniors in Career Planning

Barbara Suddarth, PhD, and David Reile, PhD, are both licensed psychologists and specialists in career development and career counseling. When asked if they would help Highland View Academy (HVA) seniors with their career planning, they jumped at the idea.

Suddarth, a graduate of Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., and Reile, a graduate of Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., met at Washington Adventist University when it was called Columbia Union College. “We both felt a [need for] career advising in academy and college,” Reile recalls.

Suddarth adds, “We believe that career counseling and advising is critical for students. We found the students at HVA very receptive. Even those who were at first reluctant to participate came back and asked for a meeting time after they heard how meaningful the sessions were from their classmates.”

Suddarth and Reile provided each senior with a private session to discuss the results of their Strong’s Interest Inventory. During this session, students were given an 18-page, in-depth analysis of their results. Students learned about career “themes” of social, artistic, investigative, enterprising, conventional and realistic career choices. Students were also able to see their top-five interest areas and their top-10 occupation suggestions, and benefited from seeing the lists of a wide variety of occupations that fell in their area of interests. Additionally, students were able to hear from experts about what their results meant and, just as importantly, what they didn’t mean, and were able to get ideas, seek counsel and ask questions.

Most professionals in the career guidance and career development fields will attest that the Strong’s Interest Inventory is a premier and very useful tool that has been successfully used for guiding individuals toward career choices that will be fulfilling and meaningful to them. After completing the inventory and discussing their results, many students reported feeling more assured of the career direction they were already planning or stated they felt they now had good information to help them make a career choice.



Suddarth and Reile believe this program can be expanded to assist parents in having career-related discussions with their children. They have offered to continue working with HVA and also hope to see this program at every Seventh-day Adventist academy.

“There are good things happening at HVA,” says Reile (above). “We had lunch with students one day, and I asked those at my table if they [had known] ... what they know now about being at HVA, if they would choose to come back. Unanimously they all said ‘yes.’ Several who didn’t attend as freshmen said they would have come sooner. I think that is a testimonial that every academy recruiter would love to hear.”

CALENDAR

December

7 Christmas Concert, *Highland View Church*

February

15 Second Annual Spelling Bee, Grades 4-12

16 Middle School Basketball Tournament

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

DECEMBER 2013

Charleston Bible Workers Reunite for Ministry After Yearlong Separation

Larry and Annabel Murphy, newlywed Bible workers, are leading the Voice of Prophecy initiative for the Charleston (W.Va.) church. The story of how they came to the Mountain View Conference began in fall 2011 when they met and fell in love at the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism.

They got married in May 2012 in Hong Kong and honeymooned in China where some of Annabel's family lives. Annabel, who is a Belgian citizen, had a visitor's visa for the United States. But, when they tried to re-enter the United States after their honeymoon, she encountered a major problem—her visa was refused and she was sent back to China. They later discovered that this was because she was *not* a U.S. citizen and married a U.S. citizen outside of the country.

Needless to say, this was not how the couple planned to start their married life. They had been hired as Bible workers for the Charleston church. Realizing there was nothing he could do except watch as Annabel was taken into government custody, Larry made his way to the Mountain View Conference and his new job without his new bride.

Larry found an apartment near Charleston and began his Bible work. Annabel went to China and stayed in an apartment that her brother owned. During their 10-month separation, the couple used Skype to communicate. Prayers began and continued while the couple got all the proper paperwork in order.

Finally in April, nearly a year after their wedding, the two were reunited on U.S. soil. And, just in time. In May the Voice of Prophecy mailed Bible study interest cards to one-third of the homes in the Mountain View Conference

(every household will receive one of these Bible study interest cards in the second and third mailings), and the Charleston church received more than 300 responses. The couple is among the six teams of Charleston members responsible for following up on requests for Bible studies. At last count, they had one in-home Bible study, four drop-off Bible studies and 51 studies via mail.

One of the people the Murphys followed up with was Kim Leonard, a young woman living in Charleston. Leonard is almost completely deaf, but reads lips quite well. Leonard is a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and recently moved to Charleston from Florida. Because of her deafness, she had no way of figuring out how to find the local Adventist church, therefore did not attend. One day in early May, she received a little card in the mail, asking her to sign up for a free Bible study course and decided to sign up.

Since Larry and Annabel had so many response cards, they began mailing her the studies. By the time the couple came to her door, the lessons started explaining the Sabbath. She asked the Murphys if they were Seventh-day Adventists. They said "yes" and she excitedly told them that she was also. The very next Sabbath, she attended the Charleston church and recently became a member there.

Larry was recently ordained as an elder and Annabel is an assistant Sabbath School secretary. "Both of them take their jobs seriously and are assets to this church," says Stewart Pepper, the Charleston pastor. And, only God knows how many people they have worked with and/or influenced as they introduce God to the people of Charleston.—*Kathy Pepper*



Braxton's Junior Chefs Kick Parents Out of Kitchen

Children came away from a one-week program held at the Braxton church in Gassaway, W.Va., excited about BLT. No, not *that* kind of BLT, but the three-part Bible Lifestyle for Today (BLT) program that combined songs and dramatized audio Bible stories, information about anatomy and a hands-on cooking class.

Much like the contestants on *Master Chef Junior*, the Fox television show, Braxton youngsters armed themselves with hats and aprons, then cut onions, mashed avocados, kneaded bread and ground nuts into butter. Some dishes were a hit—others not so much—but each child enjoyed putting together the

meals themselves. The chefs unanimously agreed that Friday was the favorite as they enjoyed their own handmade pizza and ice cream sandwiches!

Unlike the aforementioned television show, Braxton's junior chefs cooking segment was accompanied by a health segment where they learned about things like their digestive system. Holding 20-foot PVC piping gave them an idea of the length of the small intestine, while the videos gave the final overview.

Sunday's graduation was indeed a celebration for the Braxton church family, and members came out to see the prim and proper young chefs receive their certificates, cookbooks and snow-white chef's attire. They also presented a Scripture song from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, which they had learned during the program. Then for fellowship, the certified chefs made trail mix for the waiting guests.

Now these young people are equipped to take charge of their health. A few weeks later, one of the chef graduates shared, "We kicked [our parents] out of the kitchen." He went on to say that with some assistance, he and his siblings now cook regularly.—*Gabrielle Baker*



The junior chef graduates received certificates, cookbooks and proper chef attire.

What Has God's Gift of Jesus Meant to You?

"Through the divine promises of Jesus, I can live a life of confidence in what the future holds and never look back at yesterday's sorrows. ... I am still being used by God to go where He wants me to go."

—*Jim Buchanan, pastor of the Logan/Williamson (W.Va.) district*



"Everything! Jesus has been not only my Savior, but also my comfort, Teacher, Guide, Best Friend and much more. He has been amazingly patient, forgiving, loving me when I felt like no one else did. I can't sing His praises loud or long enough!"
—*Valerie Nagle, a member of the Webster Springs (W.Va.) company*

"Jesus means everything. Without Him, I couldn't survive my epilepsy. He has given me so many miracles."—*Donna McCloud, a member of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church*



SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

DECEMBER 2013

A Walmart Moment

While sitting in the waiting room at the Walmart tire shop, I started thinking about how this company became one of the world's most recognizable brands. I then thought about all the ways we could brag about Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). However, I believe our most recognizable brand is our strong partnerships with parents, churches and communities. These partnerships have created motivated learners, inspiring teachers, engaged parents, dedicated churches and supportive communities.

This year we are starting a partnership called ASSIST with Southern Adventist University in Tennessee and our community. We want to send our students out in the community to help some of our elderly residents. In turn they'll earn some money toward tuition at MVA. We'd love your partnership in funding this project and many others. For more information, contact me at dkittle@mvacademy.org.



Daniel Kittle
Principal

Literature Evangelists Take on Mount Vernon

After the discouragement of the previous day's literature ministry sales, Jason Williams, MVA's Magabook Ministry coordinator, asked each student to share what they would like the Lord to do for them and through them.

Gabriella Hernandez, a junior, said she just wanted to sell one book for the day. Surprised, Williams blurted out, "One book! Come on! Let us challenge God for more than that!"

After she pondered some more, Hernandez mustered renewed boldness and changed her goal to three books. Immediately the other students matched her enthusiasm and added even loftier sales goals of their own.

Williams reports that at the conclusion of that canvassing shift, each student had reached each and every lofty goal they set. "The students were humbled greatly, not just that God had blessed them as a group, but that He had

heard each of them individually and answered according to their belief," he said. "This ministry is here at MVA, not only to aid the students in meeting tuition needs, but [also] to encourage participants, recipients and onlookers that our God is not dead, He is surely alive."

At press time, the team of eight students had knocked on more than 770 doors, prayed for 215 people, distributed 153 pieces of material and done 40 hours of mission work.

Juniors Alyssa Thomas, Lawrencia Robinson, Gabriella Hernandez and freshman Tristan Gammon, four of MVA's Magabook Ministry team members, set out to canvass the neighborhood.



Students Create a Gathering Place

MVA students recently celebrated a first—the opening of their new student center. Located at the back of the administration building, the center includes a café where students can purchase small snacks and drinks.

The senior class, with support from MVA faculty and staff, managed and raised funds for the project. Mike Hastilow, senior class president, said, "With this student center, we hope to create a safe haven for the students to come and spend time with one another and, if needed, the teachers may utilize it for tutoring of individual students."



SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY_{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

DECEMBER 2013

Spring Valley Seniors Top National Scholarship Test

Out of the 1.5 million juniors nationwide that took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, three students at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) placed near the top. Hannah Odenthal, a senior, has been named a 2014 semifinalist, while Robert Bacheller (left) and Martin Clayton (right) have been named commended students in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students score among the top 5 percent of those taking the test, and semifinalists score in the top 1 percent.

Odenthal has the opportunity to continue in the competition that, each spring, offers thousands of college scholarships worth millions of dollars.



Volleyball, Soccer Teams Remain Undefeated



SVA's boys and girls varsity volleyball and soccer teams recently came away undefeated champions at the annual Jarvis Invitational held at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio. The soccer teams beat out four other teams, while the volleyball teams pulled ahead of five other teams.

The Jarvis invitational is both a sports tournament and spiritual youth rally. "Events like these allow participants the opportunity to demonstrate their true Christian character and fundamental cooperation and team spirit," said Danaan Foster, who coaches the boys varsity soccer team.

"This type of sportsmanship was demonstrated by our volleyball varsity girls who, after shaking the hands of the other team of their

final match, went back through the line to shake their opponents' hands again!" said Don Warman, girls varsity volleyball coach. "Congratulations to both teams on a job well done in representing Spring Valley Academy!"

Students Bond During Senior Survival

The 25 seniors who make up SVA's Class of 2014 recently retreated to Camp Mohaven in northeast Ohio to spend time in nature. The annual activity allows exploration of self and God in an environment that offers very little distraction.

The seniors were challenged in ways they never had been before. They built their own primitive shelters in the woods using very basic supplies, like twine and duct tape, and engaged in various team-building exercises. "Senior survival can be explained with one word: unforgettable!" exclaimed senior Mackenzie Richardson. "The whole experience was something I will always cherish. Within those few days, I felt a closeness with my entire class I never [had] before. This trip was one of the best, and you can't fully understand it until you get to experience it for yourself. The staff and adults that went truly represented Christ in every way they could."



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Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

A Season to Remember

Christmas is a season that allows us to remember. Remember the great old story that has changed the course of a fallen world. Remember the journey of a couple who followed God's command with humility and sacrifice. Remember the birth of a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes and warmed by the breath of animals. Remember the message of love and hope that angels brought to the shepherds. Remember the faith and courage of kings searching for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Christmas is a time to remember!

But, as we celebrate the birth of Christ during this Christmas season, we also have to remember and honor the way of life He has taught the world. As His followers, this is a time to testify of His unquestioned truths and amazing love, with the hope that all nations and all people will some day also remember and celebrate our Savior!

We at the New Jersey Conference wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Paulo Macena
*Communication and
Youth Ministries Director*

First Conference-Wide Leadership Summit Draws 300

Some 300 New Jersey Conference members were recently treated to the conference's first Adventist Leadership Summit at the Robbinsville church. The program was designed to reach all types of leaders and attracted elders, deacons, deaconesses, department leaders and other local church leaders.

"It was a day of training, learning [and] motivation, but above all, it was a day of inspiration," said Paulo Macena, the program's organizer as well as conference director of the Communication and Youth Ministries departments. "The purpose was not to train the leaders to do well in their positions only, but to train them as leaders in general."

Speakers included Macena; James Black, the North American Division's Youth Ministries director; Hiskia Missah, a world church vice president; Vandean Griffin, Youth Ministries director for the South Central Conference; Paula Olivier, a senior pastor from the Allegheny East Conference; Joey Pollom, senior pastor of the Robbinsville church; and José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president. Each speaker spoke about the importance of leadership and encouraged those present to take a stand and dare to lead like the Greatest Leader of all. After each presentation, attendees were divided into groups to further discuss certain topics. Jim Greene, executive secretary, also moderated a panel with some of the speakers, which allowed attendees to have a more profound understanding of some topics.

"The Adventist Leadership Summit is a dream come true! New Jersey Conference leaders had the opportunity of learning from men and women who are serving in a leadership position just like them, and who were willing to pass on their experience, the good and the bad!" Macena added.

Robert Chandler, a Robbinsville church member who attended the summit, said, "Through each speaker, I felt myself at the feet of Jesus, learning the truths of leadership and discipleship as they were coming from His mouth. I'm glad I was there and was fed with the fresh broken bread ... I thank God for the insightful and unselfish leaders He used to put this event together."



NEWS

Union City Women Lead Evangelism Meetings

The Women's Ministries team at the Union City Spanish church in Union City recently led a weeklong evangelism series themed "United in a Vision is Our Mission." Together a team of seven women preachers allowed the Holy Spirit to use them to share God's Word. One of the preachers was baptized only six months ago, another just 18 months ago!

Before the week started, the ladies asked their fellow members to write down the names of people they wanted to attend the series so the women could pray for them. The Lord answered their requests, and five of those people showed up. In addition to those on the list, there were visitors who also came, including a woman who walked in on her own and returned the following night with her children.

Each presenter had an inspiring testimony to share, and, during the week, several people accepted the call to get baptized. Several are already receiving Bible studies.



Glenny Morel, who was baptized at the Union City Spanish church just six months ago, preaches during the Women's Ministries week of evangelism.

Parents Get Involved in Adventurer Fun Day

During New Jersey Conference's recent Adventurer Fun Day at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility (TVRC), children and families played together in a series of games that included hula hoops, a sack race, tug-of-war, bouncing on a trampoline and a scooter race. At the end of the day, Jessy King Nabi from the Hightstown church, said, "I'm a mother of two boys, and it has been lots of fun here, racing on bouncing balls and competing against each other. I'm really having a good time with other families and with my boys as well."

Rossie Reyes, the conference's Adventurer coordinator,



said this was exactly what she hoped would happen. "The Adventurer Club is a family club where parents and children are supposed to work together. Through this activity, we continue what the Adventurer Club is all about—the parent is interacting with the child and building the family."

Master Guides Gather for Training

Master Guides from all across the New Jersey Conference recently gathered at TVRC for basic, advanced and honors classes. On Sabbath, all attendees were encouraged to truly consecrate their lives to Jesus and to be an example to those around them. On the final day, the groups participated in a competition designed to test their physical skills and spiritual knowledge.

PHOTO BY ASRRRAEL MUNOZ



A group of Master Guides participate in a fire building event.

Akron Group Achieves Mission Church Status

This fall the Ohio Conference Executive Committee voted to grant the Hispanic group meeting at the Akron First church “mission church” status. “This is an important step for our Hispanic brothers and sisters who are following a dream of bringing the three angels’ messages to the Hispanic community in Akron,” said Jerry Chase, pastor of Akron First.

For years the Akron church’s Hispanic members held a separate Sabbath School class in Spanish then joined the English congregation for worship. For a time, the church experimented with providing Spanish translation of the English service over wireless headphones, which proved quite challenging.

In fall 2007 at a regional Hispanic rally in Youngstown, Akron First Hispanic leaders discovered a self-planted Hispanic group in the North Hills area of Akron that met in the basement of an area home under the leadership of Neri Aguilar. Until that moment, the groups didn’t know about each other. Cheryl Calderon, Akron First Hispanic Ministries leader at the time, began meeting with and assisting them as needed.

Soon area leaders wondered how to best encourage the new group and re-energize and grow Ohio’s Hispanic membership. After much prayer and reflection, the two groups decided to converge for an experimental, combined Hispanic Sabbath School

and worship service. Both parties enjoyed the collaboration and, therefore, decided to explore forming a combined Hispanic group.

In spring 2008, conference leadership unanimously voted to form a single Hispanic group within Akron First. They began conducting regular Sabbath School and worship services in Spanish at the Akron First facility, and began tracking their group’s attendance and tithes and offerings.

At the close of 2011, the Akron Hispanic group expressed their readiness at becoming a mission church. In January 2012, after examining conference guidelines



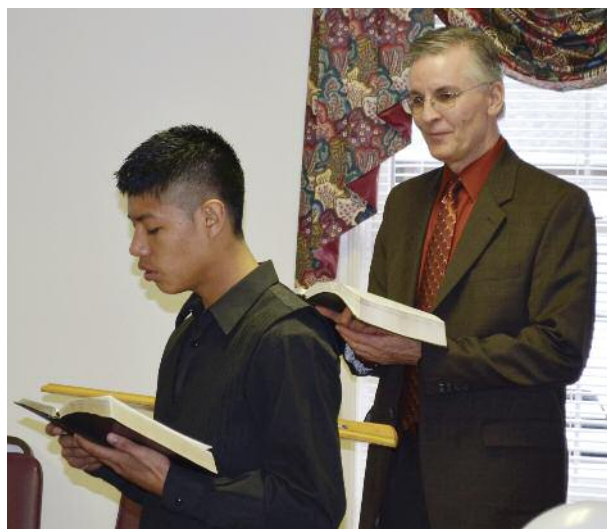
Nelida and Juan Garay (foreground) enjoy Sabbath School class at the Akron Hispanic Mission church.

for mission church status, the group developed a mission statement and soon finished required paperwork.

Recently Oswaldo Magaña, the conference’s director of Hispanic Ministries as well as Clergy Care and Leadership Development, met with the Hispanic group to conduct a final assessment of the group prior to bringing his recommendation to the executive committee. The group is now known as the Akron Hispanic Mission church, and has nearly 40 regular members.



Juan Carlos Garay, a deacon, helps with the divine service.



Delmer Aguilar Jr. and Jerry Chase, pastor of the Akron First church, share from the Word of God.

PHOTOS BY SUE KIRSCHBAUM

Cleveland Ghanaian Members Promote Community Health

Health Ministries is not only about assisting our members with living healthier, happier lives, it is also about reaching out to the surrounding community,” states the Health Ministries department of the Greater Cleveland Ghanaian Mission church (GCGMC) through the church’s website. The team had this motto in mind when they conducted a health fair this fall. The event was another way for the group to serve their community, which they report is extremely underserved. Since purchasing and moving into their current building in 2011, members have made a difference locally by donating food, clothing and books; visiting nursing homes and hosting a community concert.

Although the GCGMC congregation is small in number— 20 and growing—members worked collectively with district pastors, local Health Ministries leader Cynthia Owusu, MD, volunteers from sister churches in Columbus and Cincinnati, and several local Cleveland physicians to make the day a success. They designed the fair as an avenue to educate the community about living a healthy lifestyle by utilizing the eight principles found in the Weimar Institute’s (Calif.) NEWSTART pro-



gram. The volunteers provided attendees with free screenings for glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, BMI and CO2 measurements.

Some 40 community members benefitted from the event. One couple,

Joy Bediakoh Ntim, MD, an area Adventist, offered her talents at the health expo.



Greater Cleveland Ghanaian Mission Church Leaders: Emmanuel Yeboah, associate pastor; Florence Odoom, Personal Ministries director; Osei Tutu Owusu, MD, stewardship director; and Cynthia Owusu, MD, Health Ministries director

who has lived in the community for more than 40 years, has even started attending the GCGMC church. Also in attendance was the pastor from a nearby congregation. He enjoyed the fair so much that he returned with four of his church members. He later expressed an interest in partnering with the GCGMC to help educate his members about healthy living.

“I believe health evangelism will continue to be one of the main tools the church will use to reach the community,” noted Pastor Isaac Boateng, senior pastor for the Ghanaian district. He reports that the congregation is already planning a second expo next year in a different part of the community. And, members will continue to minister to the 40 attendees and invite them to future health programs.—Emmanuel Yeboah



PHOTOS BY OSEI TUTU OWUSU

Pennsylvania Pen

DECEMBER 2013

Who Drives Your Bus?

It is said that a successful organization seeks to “get the right people on the bus, and to get the right people into the right seats on the bus.” When it comes to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we need to have the right motivation on the remnant church bus—and that motivation is the grace of God (see Titus 2:11).

In fact, grace must be the driver of our bus. If we are not careful, we may find that in a church that must cherish Bible truth, sometimes the beauty of God’s grace gets a back seat! At other times it doesn’t even get on the bus at all!

Yet, when grace leads, truth can shine. In today’s world, grace and the true gospel message are often distorted and destroyed. God has called a last-day church into existence to accurately teach, live and portray the fullness of His grace. In fact, the three angels’ messages begin with the everlasting gospel, the good news of grace (see Rev. 14:6-7). Everything we believe and hold as a church hangs from a right understanding of grace.

In our lives and in our church families, may the gift of grace lead all our motivations, thoughts, words and actions. If you help your church to become grace-filled and grace-extending, then our message will be attractive to a sin-sick world.



Ray Hartwell
President

Student Says Attending BMA Transformed His Life

Gianni Zanatta, who arrived at the Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg his sophomore year, says he has seen a positive change in his life, thanks to the school. Now a junior, he describes himself as a different person. “The atmosphere has transformed my life. I was a poor student in elementary school. Grades didn’t matter,” he said. “Here, you learn who you are, what type of person you want to be, and learn to make your own decisions. ... BMA is the place where I decided what I believe, not what my parents believe. [After] searching the Bible and learning it on my own, I know ... what I stand for.”

Zanatta, a member of the Philadelphia Hispanic church, credits these changes to learning time management and structure at BMA. He says developing a routine for studying, cleaning his room and doing laundry have contributed to his academic improvement.

He said working also helped him grow. “I’d never had a job before,” he says. Initially, he wondered how a job in the maintenance department would prepare him for his college prep studies and later success in life.

“I am learning how to work and have progressed in my work ethic,” Zanatta says. Another surprising result came when he connected witnessing with vocational

work. “Jesus was a servant. Now I believe when I go into the community ... and teach them the love of God by serving, vocational skills just might come in handy for spreading the gospel.”

Recently elected class pastor, Zanatta adds, “People accept me for who I am [here]. We are all here for each other.”—*Caron Oswald*



Trust Services Department Changes Name, Emphasis



The Pennsylvania Conference Trust Services Department has been renamed Stewardship and Planned Giving. The name change reflects conference leaders' desires to help members engage in God's blessings through giving and adapt to the changing laws governing the creation of legal wills and trusts.

Ron Christman (pictured), conference treasurer, will serve as the planned giving coordinator and field representative and handle all property care and maintenance. Will Peterson, vice president for mission and administration, will work with churches and schools on property sales and purchases.

Pennsylvania Conference members can still contact

the department for spiritual stewardship mentoring, guidelines on how to work with attorneys (if necessary) and opportunities to engage in dynamic mission plans. Christman will continue to work with existing wills created with the Trust Services department, but going forward will provide names of attorneys for all new wills and trusts.

This new emphasis on "mission giving" includes a catalog featuring areas for giving to ministries that are making a difference in Pennsylvania—evangelism, education, church planting, and youth and young adult ministries. Members will have the opportunity to support specific projects that are changing lives and drawing people to Christ. The conference website, paconference.org, will also feature this mission-giving emphasis with information and opportunities to give online and volunteer.

For more information, contact Christman at (610) 374-8331.

A beach-themed poster for the 2014 Pennsylvania Conference Marriage Retreat. The background is a sandy beach with a colorful striped beach towel, a straw hat, seashells, starfish, and yellow flip-flops. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

2014 Pennsylvania Conference
Marriage Retreat

*Viva el
Amor*

February 21-23, 2014

with speakers Dwight and Janita Herod

Holiday Inn Conference Center
2000 Loucks Rd
York, Pa.

Potomac People

DECEMBER 2013

1,000 Pathfinders “Step Out 4 Jesus” at Camporee

Our conference camporee is one of my favorite annual events. This year more than 1,000 Potomac Pathfinders and staff converged at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., for “Step Out 4 Jesus.”

The weekend kicked off with fun activities, including a canoe race, go-carts, an obstacle course and a climbing wall. Pastor Chris Estay, who is currently being sponsored at seminary by the Northern California Conference and who was the weekend guest speaker, reminded everyone “Age Ain’t Nothin’ but a Number.”

It was a great message for all of our attendees. There’s a wide age spread among our Pathfinders and staff. Sometimes our young people think they’re too young to play a valuable part in the church, at home or just in general. Some of our staff can feel like they’re too old to make much of an impact anymore, but Pastor Estay reminded us that we are meant to do great things for Christ, from beginning to end.

Our Sabbath morning worship started with a parade of clubs followed by a special flag retirement ceremony. Pastor Estay again encouraged us to “step out for Jesus,” which resulted in more than 60 Pathfinders coming forward for future baptisms. The service also featured an investiture for four Master Guides and a very meaningful recognition and prayer for Roger Rinehart, our conference’s administrative coordinator, who has been an inspiration to so many of us. Although he has struggled with his health, he continues working in the ministry and showing others that no matter what life throws your way, we need to always move forward and give to God.



The annual conference camporee provides time to make new friends, learn new skills and deepen understanding about God.

After Sabbath lunch, some Pathfinders hiked, others completed honors, while another group tried their hand at a geocaching treasure hunt. The evening meeting included recognitions for club achievements and Pathfinder of the Year award presentations for juniors, teens and those in Teen Leadership Training.

Concluding the weekend, Pastor Estay asked each club to claim the flag of a country in the 10/40 Window—a region of the world with great poverty, low quality of life and lack of access to Christian resources. He asked that each club plan to do something to spread the gospel there; it could be simply praying for that country at each meeting or raising money to support a missionary there.

Pathfinders can be such a powerful experience for our youth. This worldwide program offers a range of learning experiences. It not only enriches our youth with valuable traits and knowledge learned through honors, but also demonstrates the importance of helping others and working together to impact those in need.

Encourage the children in your church and community to join Pathfinders. If there isn’t a group in your church or one nearby, consider becoming a leader and opening a club. For more information, contact Nancy Crickenberger in Potomac’s youth department at nancy@pcsd.org.



Sherilyn O'Ffill
Associate Children's
Ministries Director



A parade of clubs begins the Sabbath morning worship.

Potomac People

Manassas Spanish Members Teach Kids Healthy Habits

Recently the Manassas Spanish church in Manassas, Va., organized a fair to teach area children the importance of taking care of their health. At the event, they informed youngsters about the importance of getting fresh air, drinking pure water, eating healthy food, brushing their teeth and staying clean.

“When you reach out with a kid-focused event, you often can draw the entire family,” explained Tatiana Ovalle, the program’s coordinator. “It’s a non-threatening way to have fun and make new friends. We invited our neighbors to join us, and we had about 10 new families from our community come. We do believe that it’s just a beginning.”

Stations were set up to keep the children moving and learning. At the sports station, they heard about the lives of famous athletes and participated in funny competitions. At the rest station, they painted and did other crafts. At another station, they sang karaoke. Even Chin Oh Kim, a Seventh-day Adventist physician from the area, was available to address the parents’ questions about family health, and even give personal consultations.

“Teaching kids the importance of taking care of their health in a fun way, was an awesome experience



During one of the educational games, children learn the importance of conserving clean water.

for all of us,” said Pastor Williams Ovalle. “Through this event, we are very excited to welcome the new families as our friends and we have been newly inspired and encouraged to reach out to the community through the health message. We are excited to plan more events!”—Yasira Gonzalez

Hispanic Groups Continue to Share Hope in Richmond

Potomac pastors Carlo Duran and Obed Rosette brought together the members of their Richmond Spanish and West End Spanish congregations to celebrate and witness for a series they titled “Jesus, Hope for Richmond.” They solicited the help of international evangelist Alejandro Bullón to share the great hope in one of Virginia’s largest cities. Between 80 and 110 visitors attended the evangelistic series each night.

“We are thankful to God for the response from the churches and community,” says Pastor Rosette, who leads the Richmond Evangelistic Center, Hopewell Spanish Company and West End Spanish Company.

As the series came to an end, he and Pastor Duran had the great joy of baptizing 27 precious new believers: 17 of whom now attend the Richmond Evangelistic Center; seven who attend West End and three who attend Chesterfield. The congregations continue to flourish and move forward with their mission work.

The local Adventist pastors and church members have worked hard for Christ. As a result, there are more than 120 people interested in taking Bible studies and are being connected to a home church small group.

—Jose D. Esposito



A large crowd gathers at “Jesus, Hope for Richmond,” where more than 120 people signed up for Bible studies.

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Waiting Lists, Talented Students Highlight School Year

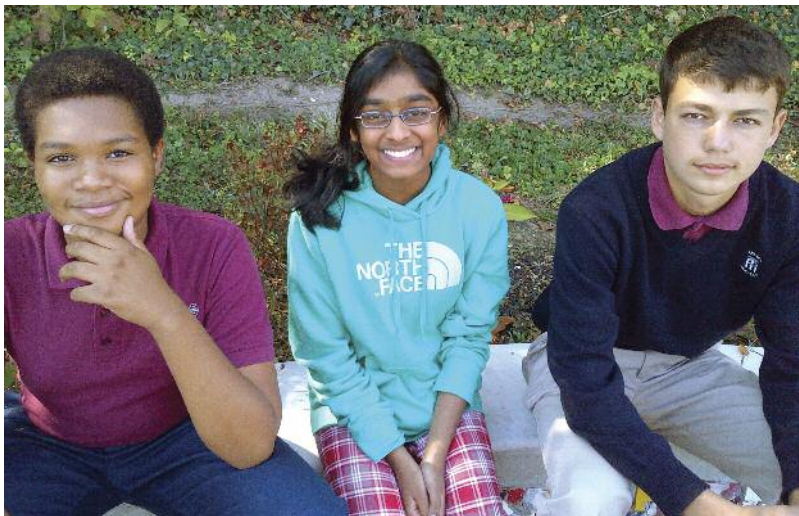
We are excited about what the 2013-14 school year has to offer our students. We are grateful to God for His favor and humbled by the wonderful Christian parents entrusting their precious children to our care,” states Carla Thrower, principal.

Other than the fact that each school year brings a building full of students full of potential, Thrower is excited about the fact that, for the first time in several years, Takoma Academy (TA) has a waiting list. There are no available slots in the freshmen class and the junior class is at capacity.

Below is a highlight of just a few of the freshman students who are part of TA’s growing student body and who are fulfilling the school’s vision of “empowering learners for everlasting excellence”:

Learning is very important to Isaiah Earlington. During his elementary and middle school years at Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington, D.C., he distinguished himself by being on the principal’s list for four years, voted “best attitude” and served as an honor guard. He states that he likes Takoma Academy because of the Christian environment and kindhearted teachers. He aspires to be an attorney and hopes to eventually study law at Harvard, Yale or Stanford universities.

Slavik Tomenko, a former student at nearby Sligo Adventist School, says TA has many benefits. For instance, it affords him the opportunity to play soccer.



Isaiah Earlington, Samantha Phasge and Slavik Tomenko are just a few of the freshmen who are eager to learn and succeed.

He also says the school will also help him further cultivate his skills so he can pursue a career in business.

“Good grades get good money” is Piang Piang’s philosophy of learning. His favorite class at TA is Computer Applications, a class he says has the wonderful distinction of allowing students to get certified in Microsoft. Some of his past achievements at Beltsville Adventist School in Beltsville, Md., include being on the honor roll, voted “most artistic” and having perfect attendance.

Samantha Phasge says her approach to scholastic studies is always to do her best. She is proud of following the family tradition set by her father of attending Takoma Academy.

Joshua Dulcich, who graduated the valedictorian of his eighth-grade class at Olney Adventist Preparatory School, states that his parents chose TA because of its good academic program. His favorite class is band, and since he won Olney’s “Musician of the Year” award, TA’s music program has no doubt gained a valuable asset.

Tiffany Thorn was valedictorian of her eighth-grade class at the nearby Johns Nevins Andrews School. She is also a former president of the National Junior Honor Society. Thorn says she likes the opportunities that TA is providing her. Her ultimate goal is to become a physical therapist and to own a chain of physical fitness centers.



Joshua Dulcich, Tiffany Thorn and Piang Piang are freshman class members who say they look forward to the opportunities afforded to them at Takoma Academy.

Students Aid 100 Residents After Apartment Fire

Takoma Academy's "commitment to service" was exemplified in a significant way when the student body rallied to help more than 100 local residents displaced from their apartment building after it caught on fire. The smoke was visible from TA's campus, and many students and staff witnessed first responders rushing to the scene.

Throughout the following week, TA families put their faith in action by bringing donations of clothing, toys, food and household items to assist those affected. As a matter of fact, donations overflowed TA's chapel stage and spilled onto the floor. "We pray the supplies will be a blessing to those who receive them," says Tim Soper, religion teacher and faculty coordinator for the project.

Freshmen Jahmel Kears and Malakai Parker, two of the students who helped the 100-plus families displaced by an apartment fire, stand in front of the damaged building.



Boys Soccer Team Wins First Championship Title

The Takoma Academy boys soccer team made history this fall when they became the school's first team to win the Maryland Independent Schools Athletic League (MISAL) title. TA, who was ranked a number-three seed, defeated Avalon, the season's number-one seed, with a score of 2-0.

The sizable group of TA attendees—alumni, parents and current students—report there was excitement

and drama throughout the game, and that the TA boys put on an impressive display of athletic prowess. Successful goals by sophomore Renee Rodriguez and freshman David Miongo, coupled with junior Mecca Parker effectively blocking all attempted goals by Avalon, sealed the victory.

"In my opinion, they were the very definition of a team," says Keith Beckett, TA's athletic director. "They showed their commitment early [this summer], and informed me that they felt they were good enough to win a championship and would put in the necessary hard work to achieve that goal. Thus, they practiced over the summer perfecting their game. During the season, they exemplified model Christian athletes by quoting Scriptures to keep the team motivated, never giving up. And, during games where one member lacked, the other would compensate, further building a team atmosphere that has ultimately led them to this historic victory."

Onyema Uzuegbu, the boys soccer coach, adds, "The players feel that this is the first time they have played on a good team that's more like a family. They have learned a lot this season that goes beyond athletics—becoming better men. I am also grateful to have as my assistant coach, Marco Vigil. Vigil is an alumnus and has the unique distinction of being a former co-captain of the boys soccer team. This victory has been a very humbling experience."



Our Spiritual Master Plan

I truly believe that any student who avails himself or herself of a Christian education at Washington Adventist University (WAU) is guaranteed to leave our campus a success. Our graduates will be successful not only because they got a solid foundation in biology, business, history, math or social work, but because as a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education, we have purposefully encouraged their faith development. We consider it a privilege to help in the development of thoughtful, moral and committed people of faith and believe this is central to any later success.

Through our university's spiritual master plan, we are committed to:

1. Facilitating a life- and church-changing dialogue centered on Adventism, spiritual formation and love in action
2. Nurturing an atmosphere where persons of various faiths feel valued and respected
3. Creating a campus atmosphere in which service permeates life and learning
4. Enabling students to develop as moral and ethical beings
5. Providing diverse opportunities for students to promote social change through their interactions in the broader community
6. Creating a culture of Christ-centered wellness

By following these steps, we hope that our graduates go out into the workforce and community strong in a faith that is deliberate, personal and critically aware.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

WAU Wins Community Enhancement Grant

Disadvantaged children in Montgomery County, Maryland, will soon have access to free camps for the performing arts and soccer on the campus of Washington Adventist University. The camps will be made possible because of a recent \$45,000 grant that the Montgomery County Council provided to the school. The performing arts camp is designed to keep elementary and middle school students, who are unable to afford summer camp, intellectually stimulated during the

summer and increase their understanding of the performing arts. Students will receive musical ear training, private and group vocal lessons, introduction to a variety of instruments, theatrical rhetoric and music theory and history. Those participating in the soccer camp will learn the sport's principal rules and techniques.

This same grant will also allow WAU to participate in a free, stay well program, which provides peer advocates for senior citizens. The purpose of this program is to encourage elderly residents to stay medically informed and to provide and model respectful peer advocacy, one-on-one support, education, compassionate listening, feedback and healthcare navigation.

Weymouth Spence, president, says the university sought the grant because "WAU is committed to engaging residents and organizations in our community. The ultimate goal is to enhance the lives of our community members by focusing on communities perceived as culturally, economically or geographically disadvantaged. This grant provides an opportunity to do just that."

The programs begin June 2014. For questions about the grant, contact Angie Crews at (301) 891-4052 or acrews@wau.edu.



Initiative Seeks to Share God's Design for Education



An educator for more than 40 years and fundraiser for 14, L. Roo McKenzie, PhD—WAWU's new vice president for advancement—served as an education evangelist for the Southeastern California Conference. He remains passionate about the importance of Adventist education.

There are only two biblically supported options for educating children—home school and church school, McKenzie notes. Starting in January, the university will launch a five-year plan called Divine Design 101, where church members in the Columbia Union will learn more about the divine plan for raising and educating godly children.

"The principles of Christian education as outlined in Scripture are not being systematically taught to the new generation of believers. Because of this lack of knowledge about God's plan for the education of His heritage, many families choose schools whose values do not align with the principles of Scripture," McKenzie believes. "For the God-approved education of our children to happen, the tri-village of home, church and school must have values that are congruent with each other and also with the values of the kingdom of God."

As McKenzie, along with student ambassadors, begins to visit parents and their children at all educational levels, he plans to share with them an 11-step training plan to prepare a child for service in this world and in the world to come.

Religion Professor Publishes Book on Ordination

Olive Hemmings, PhD, who has taught New Testament studies at WAWU for 11 years, recently published *Sacred Texts and Social Conflict*, which discusses women's ordination—a rather timely topic as the Seventh-day Adventist Church is currently grappling with the issue. Hemmings said the book came out of her doctoral studies on theology, ethics and culture at Claremont Graduate University in California. In it, she looks at the ongoing debate over women's ordination, which now spans three centuries.

Q: Why is ordination important to you personally?

A: As a young teenager raised in a strong, Baptist family, I grew up hearing my mother preach at the pulpit like St. Peter. When I arrived on the campus of West Indies College (an Adventist institution in Jamaica), I was shocked to realize that my choice of vocation was an anomaly. The religion chair was happy to have any willing female prepare for the ministry, but many of my fellow students were so offended. They had meetings with me, trying to discourage me [and] asked me, "What are you trying to prove?" and "Who is going to employ you?" It was then that I knew God had indeed called me to this church, not only to save me, but [also] to be an agent of change, and that just remaining firm to my call is going to be my greatest testimony. After the 1995 [General Conference Session] discussion and vote about this topic, I knew I had to do some significant academic work on the subject. Read more at columbiaunion.org/hemmings.



Profiles in Caring



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

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Ebb and Flow

The phrase “Go with the flow” was likely coined by someone familiar with the amazing tides in the Bay of Fundy that forms part of the border of the state of Maine with the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. There is no place on earth quite like it.

Because of the unique shape of the bay, the difference in water level between high tide and low tide can be as much as 52 feet. So much water rushes into the bay through the narrow channel that the water has nowhere to go but up—and the wharfs and docks must be designed to easily float up with the water to be able to withstand the influx. As the water rushes back out, the change is just as dramatic, leaving boats sitting on the sea floor—at least for a few hours.

In a single tidal cycle of just over 12 hours, about 110 billion tons of water flows in and out of the Bay of Fundy. That is equivalent to the combined total 24-hour flow of all the freshwater rivers of the world! Can you imagine? What would it be like to live near such a dynamic body of water?

Living with the biggest tides on the planet requires an extraordinary adaptability: The residents of the communities that dot the shorelines of the Bay of Fundy (including St. John, New Brunswick) have built into their entire culture the capacity for dramatic change, every eight hours or so, every single day. Everyone has a sharpened awareness of the tides, and not just an awareness, but an appreciation of how to put the dramatic changes to work.

Boats that look like they’ve been beached by the tides are actually in very good position to be serviced, since the entire portion of the boat that is normally below the water level is so easily accessed. The tides have carved out great overhanging sea caves and cliffs, and low tide offers unparalleled opportunities for fossil hunting and walking the seabed. The ebb and flow of the water creates a particularly nutrient-rich environment, and there is an amazing array of wildlife that thrives in the Bay.

By embracing an ever-changing environment, and by utilizing the changes for their own benefits, the folk who live around the Bay of Fundy are able to thrive—and they can teach us something important about life. Change will come, sometimes subtly and sometimes dramatically, but it will always come. Change is the only constant.

Change will come, sometimes subtly and sometimes dramatically, but it will always come. Change is the only constant.

And when change does come, the opportunity that we have is to not just put up with it, or try to survive it, but to embrace it as inevitable and desirable; to discover ways in which change creates new opportunities for improving our lives, and to use it to our advantage.



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

Washington Adventist Hospital Relocation Will Strengthen Region's Health Care Network

*State Application Reflects Changes in Health Care and Continued Ability
to Meet Communities' Needs*

Washington Adventist Hospital has filed a Certificate of Need application with the state of Maryland that ensures the continued delivery of vital medical and health services by relocating the facility to the White Oak section of Montgomery County, Maryland, while also improving access to care with an array of clinics and programs on its current campus.

The project, submitted for approval on Oct. 4 to the Maryland Health Care Commission, involves the construction of a 201-bed hospital on 48 acres located off Plum Orchard Drive near Route 29. The new facility will still be located in the hospital's current service area and near the U.S. Food and Drug Administration headquarters. The future hospital will have all private rooms located on a medical campus complete with physician offices and outpatient medical services buildings. There will be 11 fewer inpatient beds in response to the national growth of outpatient services and emphasis on keeping the area's growing and aging population healthy.

The current Takoma Park campus will remain home to a 40-bed Behavioral Health unit, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland/Takoma Park and the Maternity Partnership Program clinic for low-income women. Other services on the current campus will include:

- Outpatient services, including a primary care clinic
- A Federally Qualified Health Center operated by Community Clinic, Inc., which opens later this year
- Physician offices
- Future space for Washington Adventist University



"This plan addresses the need for new facilities in an accessible location, continued health care services for the community around the existing campus, and reflects the changing dynamics of how health care is provided," says Joyce Newmyer, president of Washington Adventist Hospital. "We want the relocation to White Oak and the health-care services developed on our Takoma Park campus to be a great source of pride for the communities we have served for more than one hundred years."

The relocated hospital is supported by state and local politicians, community groups and civic organizations. To see a sample of support letters, visit the web site www.expandedhealthaccess.com.

The hospital, which opened in 1907 in what was then a rural part of the region, is now located in a residential area. It is accessible only by narrow, two-lane residential streets, making it difficult for emergency personnel, patients, physicians, employees and others to reach the hospital. Also, Metrobus service is unavailable to the Takoma Park campus, creating a hardship for Prince George's County residents who rely on this mode of

public transportation. "The new site addresses serious accessibility issues that exist at the current campus," Newmyer says.

The new facility will be located off major connecting roads with enhanced public transportation options, dramatically improving access for the communities it serves.

"Like everyone in our region, the population CASA represents deserves access to the highest quality health care available," says Gustavo Torres, executive director of CASA de Maryland. "A new Washington Adventist Hospital with private rooms and up-to-date facilities is needed for the population that we serve to receive the best possible care."

Along with expanding access to care, the proposal allows Washington Adventist Hospital to continue providing a significant amount of charity care and community benefit programs to the region. Earlier this year, the Baltimore Business Journal listed Washington Adventist as the only Maryland hospital in the Top 5 Most Charitable Hospitals for both the percentage of operating expenses and the amount of money (\$30 million) spent on these programs.

Hospital officials estimate the relocated hospital could open in 2018 following state approval.

To write a letter of support, visit www.expandedhealthaccess.com

CHIP Health Initiative Comes to Washington Adventist Hospital

Washington Adventist Hospital recently offered the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) as part of its ongoing efforts to improve the health of the communities the hospital serves. CHIP is an affordable, lifestyle enrichment program designed to reduce disease risk factors through the adoption of better health habits and appropriate lifestyle modifications.

“CHIP was an opportunity for me to learn how to take charge of my health for myself,” says participant Michele Briley.

The program was facilitated by Adventist HealthCare health educators Kathleen Coleman, BSN, RN, MPH, Michele McBride, RN, BSN, CDE, and Felicia Addo, MPH, CHES. CHIP is a research-based program endorsed by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the International Nutrition Research Foundation. The Washington Adventist Hospital program is an extension of the health principles long advocated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Studies show that some diseases can be connected to a variety of factors, such as a diet of processed foods, a lack of exercise and the use of cigarettes, alcohol and caffeine,” Coleman says. “Our health can also be negatively affected by increased levels of stress and the quality of our support systems.”

According to the U.S. Surgeon General Office, 75 percent or more of Western diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, are “lifestyle-related.”

The goal is to lower blood lipids, blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and reduce excess weight, which are all risk factors for more serious conditions. The pilot program ran from Aug. 1 to Sept. 12, with a combination of 13 community members and employees, culminating in a graduation celebration on Sept. 16.

“CHIP really opened my eyes to little-known connections between the food we consume and our health,” says LaTonya Jackson, another participant.

CHIP helps to provide motivation and the necessary tools needed to enact change, all while fitting around a participant’s day-to-day life. CHIP does not require a carefully controlled setting where diet and exercise are rigorously enforced to produce results; it produces results in the community, teaching participants how to navigate toward optimal health in their everyday lives.

“A few simple, painless, and deliberate lifestyle choices can make all the difference in the world and efforts can be rewarded in a matter of weeks,” Coleman says.



Standing (l-r), Michele McBride and Kathleen Coleman (CHIP Co-Facilitators), Michael Butler, Mary Pelz, Valentina Rakhmanova, Annette Ryan, Mary Saville, Vivian Copeland and Robin Sparer. Sitting (l-r) Michele Briley, Judith Kurtis and LaTonya Jackson. (Absent- Felicia Addo (Facilitator), Barbra Beazer, Helen Lettlow and Donna Scott.)

At the start of CHIP, participants completed health screenings including lab measures for cholesterol and glucose, blood pressure, waist to hip ratio, BMI and body composition. Success was measured by the progress participants made in lowering their health screening measures after completion of the program.

The CHIP instructional format also incorporated personal learning with a textbook, cookbook and workbook/journal, cooking demonstrations, nightly CHIP friendly dinners and group accountability to support and encourage each other. Between sessions the participants were asked to “live” the program incorporating the concepts learned.

“What I learned and achieved was nothing short of amazing,” says participant Mary Saville. “The program was not difficult at all, especially since I have been used to measuring, weighing and logging my food from previous weight-loss programs. Under the CHIP program, I did not need to do any of these, yet I still lost sixteen pounds during the six-week program and never felt hungry.”

Following the pilot program graduation, CHIP has now transitioned from the bi-weekly sessions to a monthly session, called “Club CHIP.” This phase sustains adherence to the program guidelines through an active member support organization. Washington Adventist Hospital is currently exploring how the program can be implemented in the future here and across the health organization to improve the health of our constituents and employees alike.

“I think this is a revolutionary program that every American could benefit from,” participant Mary Pelz says.

La reubicación del Washington Adventist Hospital fortalecerá la red de atención a la salud en la región

El Washington Adventist Hospital ha presentado una solicitud de Certificado de necesidad ante el estado de Maryland que garantiza la prestación continua de servicios médicos y de salud vitales mediante la reubicación de las instalaciones a la sección de White Oak del condado de Montgomery, Maryland, además de mejorar el acceso a la atención a través de un conjunto de clínicas y programas en su campus actual.

El proyecto, presentado para su aprobación el 4 de octubre a la Comisión de Atención a la Salud de Maryland, implica la construcción de un hospital de 201 camas en 20 hectáreas ubicadas saliendo de Plum Orchard Drive cerca de la Ruta 29. Las nuevas instalaciones quedarán localizadas dentro de la zona de servicio actual del hospital y cerca de las oficinas centrales de la Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos de los EE. UU. (U.S. Food and Drug Administration). El futuro hospital tendrá todas sus habitaciones privadas situadas en un campus médico completo con consultorios médicos y edificios de servicios médicos ambulatorios. Se reducirá en 11 el número de camas de hospitalización en respuesta al crecimiento de los servicios de consulta externa a nivel nacional y al énfasis en mantener sana a la población que crece y envejece.

El campus actual de Takoma Park se mantendrá como sede de una unidad de salud conductual con 40 camas, el Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital de Maryland/Takoma Park y la clínica del Programa de Colaboración en Maternidad para mujeres de bajos recursos. Entre otros servicios en el campus actual estarán los siguientes:

- Servicios para pacientes ambulatorios, que incluyen una clínica de atención primaria

- Un centro de salud calificado a nivel federal operado por Community Clinic, Inc., que abrirá sus puertas más adelante este año
- Consultorios médicos
- Espacio futuro para la Universidad Adventista de Washington

“Este plan responde a la necesidad de contar con nuevas instalaciones en un lugar accesible, así como servicios de salud continuos para la comunidad alrededor del campus existente, y refleja los cambios en la dinámica de la manera en que se presta la atención médica,” dice Joyce Newmyer, presidenta del Washington Adventist Hospital. “Deseamos que la reubicación a White Oak y los servicios de salud implementados en nuestro campus de Takoma Park sean importante motivo de orgullo para las comunidades a las que hemos servido durante más de cien años.”

El hospital en su nueva ubicación cuenta con el apoyo de políticos, grupos comunitarios y organizaciones cívicas estatales y locales. Para ver una muestra de las cartas de apoyo, visite www.expandedhealthaccess.com.

El hospital, que abrió sus puertas en 1907 en lo que entonces era una zona rural de la región, hoy se ubica en una zona residencial. Se llega a él sólo por calles residenciales estrechas, de dos carriles, lo cual dificulta el acceso al hospital por parte de personal de emergencia, pacientes, médicos, empleados y otras personas. Además, el servicio de metrobús no está disponible para el campus de Takoma Park, lo cual representa una dificultad para los residentes del condado de Prince George que dependen de este medio de transporte público.

“La nueva sede responde a los graves problemas de accesibilidad que existen en el campus actual,” señala Newmyer.



Las nuevas instalaciones se ubicarán saliendo de las principales carreteras de conexión y ofrecerán mejores opciones de transporte público, mejorando notablemente el acceso de las comunidades a las que brindarán sus servicios.

“Al igual que todos en nuestra región, la población que CASA representa merece acceso a atención médica de la más alta calidad,” dice Gustavo Torres, director ejecutivo de CASA de Maryland. “Se necesita un nuevo Washington Adventist Hospital con habitaciones privadas e instalaciones actualizadas para que la población a la que servimos reciba la mejor atención posible.”

Además de ampliar el acceso a la atención, la propuesta plantea que el Washington Adventist Hospital siga prestando un importante nivel de atención de beneficencia y programas de beneficio comunitario a la región. A principios de este año, el diario Baltimore Business Journal citó al Washington Adventist como el único hospital de Maryland entre los 5 hospitales con mayor actividad de beneficencia tanto por el porcentaje de gastos operativos como por el monto monetario (\$30 millones) que se invierte en estos programas.

Funcionarios del hospital estiman que el hospital reubicado podría iniciar operaciones en 2018 después de recibir la aprobación del estado.

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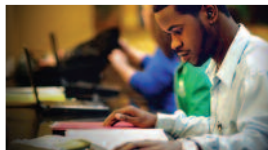
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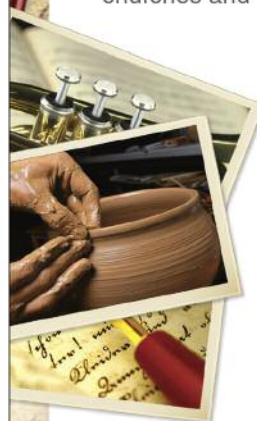


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OBITUARIES

BECKER, Daniel A., born July 30, 1931, in York, Pa.; died September 4, 2013, surrounded by his wife and family, in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he was undergoing medical treatment. His home, however, was in Laurel, Del., where he and his wife resided for the last 21 years. Daniel was an automotive master mechanic and avid gardener. He had a great love for God, his family and nature. He was known for his willingness to help others, his great sense of humor, his inner strength and his belief in, and support of, Christian education, as shown by his love, devotion and involvement with countless students at multiple schools during his wife's 28-year teaching career. He was a faithful member of the Seaford (Del.) church, where he served as head elder and community services leader, among other duties. Daniel is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Charlotte Hade Becker; his six children, Cheryl Arner, Dennis (Debbie) Becker, Karen (John Jelen) Ryder, Cindy (Chester) Schurch, Kevin (Janet) Becker, and Janet Accardo; eight grandchildren, Justin Arner, Jennifer Stuckey, Tim (Brittany) Ryder, Byron (Aton)

Sunset Calendar

	Dec 6	Dec 13	Dec 20	Dec 27	Jan 3
Baltimore	4:43	4:44	4:46	4:50	4:55
Cincinnati	5:15	5:16	5:18	5:22	5:27
Cleveland	4:57	4:57	4:59	5:03	5:09
Columbus	5:07	5:07	5:09	5:13	5:18
Jersey City	4:29	4:29	4:31	4:35	4:41
Norfolk	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:55	5:00
Parkersburg	5:03	5:03	5:06	5:10	5:15
Philadelphia	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:42	4:47
Pittsburgh	4:53	4:54	4:56	5:00	5:05
Reading	4:37	4:38	4:40	4:44	4:49
Richmond	4:51	4:52	4:54	4:58	5:03
Roanoke	5:02	5:03	5:05	5:09	5:14
Toledo	5:04	5:04	5:06	5:10	5:16
Trenton	4:33	4:33	4:36	4:39	4:45
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:46	4:49	4:53	4:58

Schurch, Angela and Christopher Schurch, Jessica Accardo (James) Cathey and Kaitlyn Accardo; two great-grandchildren, Lucas and Andrew Cathey; two brothers, Richard and Robert Becker; four sisters, Virginia Roberts, Mary Reppert, Edna Halstead and Connie Donnelly; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, William G. and Martha L. Becker; brothers William, John, Allison and Ronald Becker; and grandson, Jonathan Arner.

BOBIER, Robert J., born August 2, 1932, in Toledo, Ohio; died July 11, 2013, in Walker, W.Va. He was a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. Survivors: Sable Bobier of Walker; his sons, Joseph (Angela) Bobier and Jeffrey (Dianna) Bobier; grandchildren: Belinda Bobier Richards, Andrew, Daniel and Timothy Bobier, and Katie Bobier Schwendeman; great-grandchildren, James and Chace; a sister, Nancy Bobier; a niece and three nephews.

BRAHM, Ursina M., born March 15, 1924, in Manchester, Ala.; died May 4, 2013, in Alliance, Ohio. She was a member of the Ripley (W.Va.) church. She is survived by her sons, Danny, Brian, Donald and David Braham; her daughters, Janice Horner, Kathy Edrington, Linda Heretta and

Marylyn Gibson; 36 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

BURTON, Mary K., born October 8, 1914, in Wadsworth, Ohio; died March 8, 2013, in Marietta, Ohio. She was a member of the Athens (Ohio) church. Mary had a 35-year career as a licensed practical nurse. She was baptized into the church in 1934 and was an active participant of both the Athens and Parkersburg (W.Va.) churches. She is survived by her five nieces and nephews, who considered her as a second mother. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Burton, whom she married in 1952; and by three brothers, Warren, Carl and Roy Dohner, Sr.

JUHL, Eleanor, born January 11, 1941, in Columbia, S.C., to the late Ervin C. Brazell and Emily Phillips Brazell; died August 28, 2013, in Calhoun, Ga. She was a member of the Georgia-Cumberland Academy church in Calhoun. She was married to Elder Eugene Juhl for 53 years and was a partner with him for 40 years in the literature ministry, sharing the good news of God's love. Her love for young people was apparent through her years of dedication to church youth, especially the Pathfinder clubs and summer camps. Together with Gene, Eleanor worked in the Carolina, Florida,

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Gulf-States, Kansas, Potomac and Georgia-Cumberland conferences, as well as the Columbia Union. In 1990 she started her own business, collecting for the Review and Herald Publishing Assn. (Hagerstown, Md.), the Pacific Press Publishing Assn. (Idaho) and the Southern Union Home Health Education Service (Ga.). During these 20-plus years, she collected over \$1.5 million and helped countless people keep the books they purchased. Eleanor is survived by her husband, their four children and nine grandchildren.

KEFFER, J. Howard, born April 13, 1940; died September 9, 2013, in Parkersburg, W.Va. He was a member of the Parkersburg church. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Keffer, of Parkersburg; his daughters, Catherine Waggoner of Parkersburg and Tammy (Dan) McAtee of Parkersburg; his son, Jason (Joyce) Keffer of Parkersburg; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters; and several nieces and nephews.

McHENRY, Iris P., born August 17, 1926, in Wirt County, W.Va.; died November 10, 2013, in Lebanon, Tenn. She was a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. She is survived by her grandson, Nathan McHenry of Lebanon; her granddaughter, Amy McHenry, of Lebanon; her sister, Dorothy Wolfe,

of Parkersburg; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Iris was preceded in death by her husband, Donald H. McHenry, in 1985; her son, John H. McHenry; her brother, Othor Flesher, Jr.; and three sisters, Ina Keffer, Eileen Whited and Alverta Blackburn.

NICHOLS, Eloise, born November 22, 1931, in Calhoun County, W.Va.; died July 23, 2013, in Spencer, W.Va. She was a member of the Spencer church. She is survived by her daughter, Rose Mary Starcher, of Spencer; her sons, Toney H. Nichols of Elizabeth, W.Va., and Danny Lee Nichols of Spencer; her sisters, Linda Kincaid of Spencer, Barbara Nichols and Bessie Merrill of Ohio; her brother Chuck Carpenter of Calhoun County, W.Va.; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Nichols; her daughter, Margaret Suttle; her sister, Daisy Yoak; and her brother, Kenneth Carpenter.

WILLIAMS, Janice Lee, born August 16, 1926, in West Union, W.Va.; died June 24, 2013, in Pennsboro, W.Va., one month after her husband, Wilton. They were married 68 years. She was a member of the Toll Gate church in

Pennsboro, W.Va. Janice was known for her musical talent, specifically singing, songwriting and playing the piano. She was an active and beloved member and could often be found there at the piano bench. She was very involved with camp meeting for many years, playing the piano and many times composing the theme song. She is survived by her daughter, Diana Weiss of New Hope, Pa.; her sons, Phillip (Pamela) Williams of Nashville, Tenn., and Timothy (Michelle) Williams of Cold Springs, Ky.; her grandchildren, Jessica, Tyler, Steven, Hannah and Rebecca; and a sister, Hoberta Sommerville, of Colonial Heights, Va.

WILLIAMS, Wilton E., born January 12, 1926, in Philippi, W.Va.; died May 23, 2013, in Parkersburg, W.Va. He was a member of the Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va. Wilton was an engineer by trade, who worked locally and abroad. While he was very involved in his local community, he and his wife, Janice, were passionate about the church. They envisioned a church, and donated the land. Along with a core team, they spent many hours developing a school and church that became known as Toll Gate. Wilton went on to serve as head elder for many years. He also served on the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee and as camp manager of the Valley

Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., where he presided over several building projects, two of which are named in his honor. Survivors: his daughter, Diana Weiss, of New Hope, Pa.; his sons, Phillip (Pamela) Williams of Nashville, Tenn., and Timothy (Michelle) Williams of Cold Springs, Ky.; his grandchildren, Jessica, Tyler, Steven, Hannah and Rebecca. He was preceded in death by his brother, Ronald Williams; and two sisters, Mary Guffrey and Patricia Boyce. His wife, Janice, died one month after him.

WONYCOTT, Pauline, born July 25, 1923, in Barbour County, W.Va.; died February 12, 2013, in Parkersburg, W.Va. She was a member of the Parkersburg church for over 60 years. Pauline enjoyed gardening, canning and cooking. She was known for her bread-making skills, sewing, reading her Bible and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed watching 3ABN television. She is survived by her daughters, Carole (Richard) Tracey of Hudson, Fla. and Angela Wonycott; her son, Terry (Jessie) Wonycott, of Ohio; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and her brother, Lou Simmons, of Akron, Ohio. Pauline was preceded in death by seven brothers and seven sisters.

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