

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

FEBRUARY 2014 • VOLUME 119 • ISSUE 2

Unlocking
BIBLE
PROPHECY

LIVE TO MEMPHIS
FRIDAY 23RD 7:00 PM

END-TIME
GENERATION

APOCALYPSE
of
HOPE

BLESSED IS HE WHO READS AND THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY,
AND PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS WRITTEN IN IT, FOR THE TIME IS NEAR.
REVELATION 1:3

Are We Breaking Through The Noise?

A Pastor Explores
Whether Evangelistic
Seminars Are
Still Effective

Plus: Are We
Commitment-
Phobes?

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Are We Breaking Through the Noise?

Loren Seibold

Today the competition for people's attention is fiercer than ever. A pastor explores whether evangelistic seminars are still effective at drawing people to the church.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

RETWEET US, GET A DISCOUNT

We hope you're enjoying the 2014 *Visitor Calendar's* "words of wisdom." Follow us on Twitter (@visitornews) and retweet this month's wise words from the Pattersons to get a 20 percent discount from TEACH Services, Inc.

A YEAR WITHOUT GOD?

Since announcing plans to spend a year without God, Ryan Bell, a former Seventh-day Adventist pastor, has been getting lots of media attention. What do you think about his experiment? Read pastor reactions on page 4, and share yours on facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor.



THE SUMMER OF '66

This month's cover feature mentions C.D. Brooks, a well-known evangelist who has baptized thousands. While we didn't have space to expound on his accomplishments, you can read his story in the new book

CD: The Man Behind The Message.

Though most know him as the legendary speaker/director for Breath of Life Ministries, a church television ministry, many may not know that he served as a field secretary for the Columbia Union Conference. To read an excerpt from the book about his series in Newark, N.J., during the summer of 1966, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com.

WANTED: WOMEN PASTORS

Out of 4,000 pastors in North America, only 107 are women. About 20 serve in the Columbia Union. To augment this, the North American Division (NAD) set a goal to double the number of women pastors in the next five years and called upon Brenda Billingsy to help. Billingsy, senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., now also serves as NAD ministerial associate director. Connect with her at brenda.billingsy@nad.adventist.org.



EVERY WEDNESDAY

Taashi Rowe, *Visitor* news editor, emails the latest Columbia Union news to your inbox. Sign up at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden

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

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Volume 119 ■ Issue 2

The Blessing of WGTS

The intense focus of Olympians reminds me how important it is to stay focused on our relationship with God. The power and blessing of WGTS 91.9 FM, Washington Adventist University's radio ministry—our "Gateway to Service"—is that it provides a 24-hour spiritual presence, pointing people in the nation's capital and beyond to Jesus.

The letters we get, like this one from Kyle, are inspiring:



"God bless you all for the wonderful work you do. After my wife of 15 years left me and moved out with our son, God lifted me up through your ministry and precious music. I am still struggling to get my life back together, but I always know that I can find peace, love and encouragement when I tune into 91.9. It is truly a beacon of hope for me during these terribly dark times. WGTS is the only radio station that really matters ... certainly to me."

The need for focus also rings true when we consider our programming. Our mission is to reach out, to bless listeners and to share the Jesus we know and love—the One who changed our lives.

Through God's Word and Ellen White's writings, we are told to speak in a language that can be understood. It takes focus, effort and prayer. It also means that some within our church may not find it to be their preference. That's OK. Perhaps it's even good. When you're inviting a guest over for dinner, you prepare the meal *they* would appreciate.

Whether you're a listener or not, we solicit your help in three ways:

Pray that God will use what listeners hear to draw them into a closer relationship with Him.

Share WGTS because, when you do, you're sharing Jesus.

Celebrate the incredible things God is doing every day through this ministry and the opportunity we have to share Jesus with 500,000-plus listeners each week.

On a recent staff spiritual retreat, we focused on these words from Paul. They have become our charge and call to action:

"So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. ... Live a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God" (Phil. 1:9,11, MSG).

Focus. There are many in need. The task is great. The rewards are eternal.

Kevin Krueger is vice president and general manager of WGTS 91.9 FM. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com to see photos of the WGTS staff, listener testimonies and information about their PrayerWorks ministry.



Newsline

TAASHI ROWE

IS RYAN BELL RIGHT OR WRONG? PASTORS WEIGH IN

Former Southeastern California Conference pastor Ryan Bell recently gained national media attention after announcing plans to explore atheism in 2014. Read these and other reactions at columbiaunionvisitor.com.



To the potential horror and consternation of my church members and colleagues, I find this decision by [Ryan] refreshing and sobering. Many people spend years living without God and go to church every week. Reflecting on your spiritual journey is something many of us just don't do. We live in a fast-paced world, so now, more than ever, we need to step back and look at what we are doing and why. ... I would suggest that a person honestly face their doubts, explore them and take them to a trusted person who can walk with them and guide them.
—Steve Murphy, pastor of Potomac Conference's Wheaton (Md.) church



First, you cannot live “as if” there is no God unless you first *believe* that there is no God. ... I've certainly questioned several aspects of [my faith] at different times. My suggestion would be to remember that honest questions are not something you should feel guilty about. Questioning and understanding how our world and our God works is not something to be ashamed of. That is how intelligent people deal with competing world views and grow into the one they believe.—Stewart Pepper, pastor of Mountain View Conference's Charleston (W.Va.) church



One positive thing Ryan is doing is to take this journey publicly, which means he is opening himself to listen to various perspectives. Others involved in this journey with him, regardless of where they stand spiritually, can help him keep a balance. The danger comes when we keep our journey to ourselves—not open to share and listen to other voices. When we are the only voice, we can convince ourselves of anything.—Ann Roda is a pastor at Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md.

KAHC LOSES KEY FOUNDER, MISSIONARY

Vernon Luthas, MD, was one of the first physicians at Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio, and founder of Kettering Anesthesia Associates. He is credited for sharing his “wisdom and resources” in laying the foundation for Kettering Hospital, Spring Valley Academy in Centerville and churches in the Dayton area and overseas. He passed away last year at the age of 85.



“He was a missionary wherever he went,” said Fred Manchur, Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) CEO. “His love for God and others showed on his face and flowed from his heart to everyone he met. His medical practice, full of unselfish ministry, blessed patient after patient.”

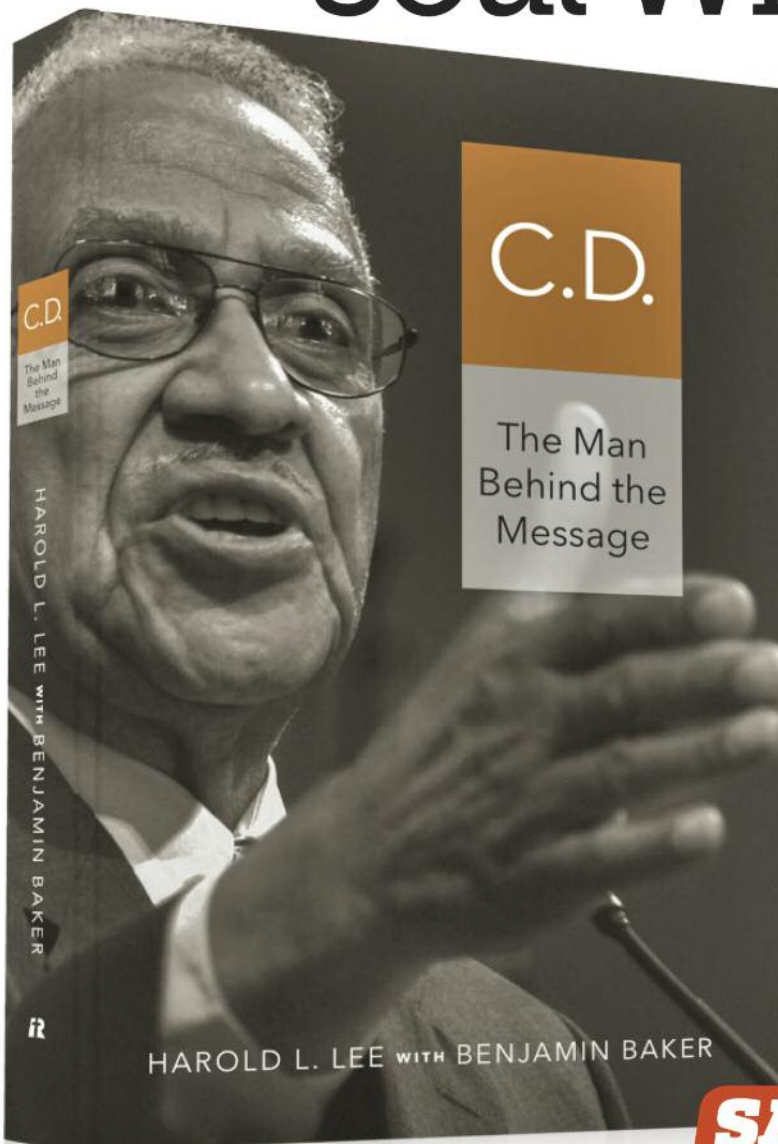
Luthas is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter, Diane, her husband, David Doucette, and their three daughters; son, Richard, and his son.

NEW OHIO CONFERENCE PRESIDENT NAMED



Ohio Conference constituents received an unusual Christmas gift this year—a new conference president, Ron Halvorsen Jr., MDiv. He was a favorite among presidential search committee members, and visited Ohio in December. He and his wife, Buffy, join the conference team this month. Read more on p. 29.

Adventures in Soul Winning



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—Ted N. C. Wilson,
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Noticias

TAASHI ROWE

LOS MIEMBROS DE POTOMAC COMPARTEN EL IMPACTO DE LA EDUCACIÓN ADVENTISTA

Incluso antes de que naciera, Dios tenía un plan para la vida de Cindy Maldonado-Contreras. Su madre atravesaba un difícil embarazo de alto riesgo, por lo que oró para que Dios le enviara un mensaje para saber que Él estaba con ella. Diez minutos más tarde, su vecino, a quien casi no conocía, tocó a la puerta y la invitó a una reunión evangelística en la iglesia hispana de Alexandria, Va., en Potomac Conference.

Al asistir a las reuniones, sintió la cercanía de Dios y prometió dedicar la vida de su hija a Su servicio. Dios contestó su oración y el 31 de octubre de 1992, nació Cindy Maldonado-Contreras.

Un sábado, mientras cantaba desde el frente en un programa para niños en la iglesia, Maldonado-Contreras observó a la congregación y deseó ver a su padre entre las personas. Regresó a su casa esa tarde, se acercó a su padre y le dijo: “Papá, debes ir a la iglesia con nosotros, no tienes que quedarte en casa solo”.

Varias semanas más tarde, mientras dejaba a su esposa e hija en la iglesia, su padre sintió el deseo de ingresar. Ese día, su vida cambió y en el año 2001, Abel Maldonado fue bautizado.

“Desde entonces, mi padre se



Cindy Maldonado-Contreras junto a sus orgullosos padres durante la graduación de educación secundaria.

ha dedicado a compartir la palabra de Dios con todas las personas que conoce”, afirmó Maldonado-Contreras. “Comenzó a trabajar con otras familias para establecer una iglesia hispana en el área de New Market, Va. Cada sábado, manejábamos dos horas para compartir el mensaje...fue entonces cuando comencé a aceptar y comprender el concepto de ser un discípulo de Jesús”.

PÚBLICA VS. PRIVADA

Cuando estaba en sexto grado, les preguntó a sus padres si podía asistir a Vienna Adventist Academy (VAA) en Vienna, Va. Sus padres no tenían el dinero para pagar la educación, pero tenían fe en que Dios iba a proveer. “Mis padres tuvieron muchos trabajos adicionales y muchas personas organizaron diferentes eventos para obtener los fondos para pagar la cuota, lo que me permitió asistir a VAA durante tres años”, contó Maldonado-Contreras.

En el noveno grado, Maldonado-Contreras decidió asistir a Shenandoah Valley Academy

Cindy Maldonado-Contreras y su madre sonríen orgullosas luego de ser aceptada en una sociedad de honor en Washington Adventist University.

(SVA) en New Market. Allí, tuvo tres trabajos y recibió varias becas académicas. “Para mí, estudiar en SVA fue una experiencia increíble”, afirmó Maldonado-Contreras. “Me educaron para convertirme en una líder, incluso cuando no quería afrontar el desafío. Pude cumplir muchos de mis sueños [y] pude participar en viajes misioneros y ayudar a la comunidad.”

Luego de luchar durante mucho tiempo para tomar una decisión y luego de orar para recibir orientación, Maldonado-Contreras sintió que debía hacer el esfuerzo de asistir a Washington Adventist University en Takoma Park, Md. Cuando llegó al campus, le ofrecieron trabajo en la Oficina de Investigación y Efectividad Institucional [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness].

Este puesto le ha permitido hablar en eventos regionales y adquirir una nueva perspectiva sobre la educación. “La educación adventista me dio las herramientas para mejorar mis habilidades y para darme cuenta del potencial que Dios me dio. Ahora estoy cumpliendo con el propósito de mi vida. Si seguimos el ejemplo de Cristo, lo veremos en nuestras vidas de maneras en las que nunca lo veríamos con nuestras propias fuerzas”.—Dan Jensen



UNA MIEMBRO DE ATLANTIC CITY ESCUCHA UNA “VOZ” DIFERENTE

Alesandra Fernandez, 17, recuerda el día cuando recibió la notificación para participar en la audición del programa de televisión *The Voice* (La Voz). Para esta miembro de la iglesia de Atlantic City en New Jersey Conference, esto significaba que podría cantar en vivo en televisión y conseguir un contrato de grabación.

Sin embargo, mientras estaba coordinando el horario de la audición en la ciudad de Nueva York, se dio cuenta que sería en sábado. Lo primero que recordó fue el mandamiento de Dios de santificar el día



sábado (Éxodo 20:8-11, Isaías 58:13-14). Fernandez incluso razonó: “puedo participar en la audición con la canción ‘Amazing Grace’ de Chris Tomlin y estaría alabando a Dios y participando en la audición”.

La noche antes de la audición oró a Dios nuevamente y, luego de orar, le dijo a su madre que no podía hacerlo. Explicó, “no cambiaría una vida eterna con Dios por algunos días de fama. Si no puedo complacer a Dios con lo que hago, entonces no lo quiero hacer”.

LOS MIEMBROS DE MOUNTAIN VIEW RECIBEN A UN PASTOR BILINGÜE

La iglesia de Lewisburg (W.Va.) en Mountain View Conference es, técnicamente, una iglesia de habla inglesa. Sin embargo, recientemente han recibido al pastor Art Jerónimo (foto), que habla inglés y español, para que dirija la iglesia. El pastor llegaba desde Nevada-Utah Conference con el sueño de continuar con el crecimiento de la iglesia de habla inglesa y de establecer una congregación hispana en Lewisburg.

Durante las vacaciones de navidad, la iglesia organizó una fiesta a



la que asistieron 50 vecinos hispanos. “Aunque no tuvimos la cantidad de personas que deseábamos, descubrí cuán comprometidos están los miembros de Lewisburg”, comentó el pastor. “Los miembros ayudaron con la limpieza, la decoración, la comida y también a preparar y ordenar todo. Algunos incluso trajeron regalos adicionales”.

Jerónimo obtuvo el título de pastor en Perú y una Maestría en Divinidad en Andrews University (Mich.). Tiene un hijo con su esposa Esther y trabaja mano a mano con José Argueta, un obrero bíblico sostenido por la iglesia. “Soy optimista con que Dios abrirá las puertas para que hagamos una gran obra en Virginia Occidental”, afirma Jerónimo.

ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR:

Siete consejos para una campaña evangelística eficaz

Aunque muchas estadísticas indican que los estadounidenses están perdiendo el interés en la religión, una cosa es cierta: Jesús no nos autoriza a permanecer callados, sentados en nuestros asientos y esperando que alguien venga. Debemos encontrar la manera de hacernos escuchar. Entonces, ¿cómo hacen hoy las iglesias consecuentes para llegar con el mensaje de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día a otras personas?

En el artículo principal de este mes de la revista *Visitor*, compartiremos siete consejos para llevar a cabo una campaña evangelística eficaz: centrarse en las profecías, ser coherente en el tema, utilizar nuevos recursos audiovisuales, hacer que Jesús sea el centro, incluir a los miembros laicos, hacerse amigo de las visitas y ofrecer clases de discipulado. Lee más en inglés en la pág. 10 o en español en columbiunion.org/evangelism2014.

—Loren Seibold



Underscore

BETH MICHAELS

Are We Commitment-Phobes?

A Protestant pastor and a congregational researcher recently tackled what many have referred to as “the 20/80 problem,” which they define as “20 percent of the members doing 80 percent of the work, while most of the rest do nothing.” In their 2011 book *The Other 80 Percent: Turning Your Church’s Spectators Into Active Participants*, the authors use national research, field studies and hundreds of interviews with members of various denominations—some of the most extensive data available to date—to determine a diversity of approaches to the issue.

The authors determine that some of the main reasons members lack commitment is that they are affected by individualism and consumerism popular in American culture, they have experienced disappointment with their church and lack a willingness to give back, they lack an understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus or their church simply lacks organization and good leadership.

Is this also true in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? According to some Adventist leaders and members in the Columbia Union, the information is accurate. Eugene Anthony, who pastors Allegheny West Conference’s Berean church in Ashtabula, Ohio, and Mount Zion church in Erie, Pa., says his members have “struggled with time issues, getting to church on time, attending prayer meeting and Sabbath School, fulfilling a two-year office and faithfully returning their tithes.” He also concurs that only 20 percent of his members regularly commit to church positions, and those that do commit usually end up leading more than one department.

Diego Boquer, who pastors Chesapeake Conference’s Glen Burnie and Brooklyn churches in Maryland, says he faces the same challenges but tries to be sensitive to the fact that members face busy lifestyles. “In my experience, the most difficult element to commitment is time, regardless of how

well thought out, exciting and well explained the plan is. Everybody is busy,” he says.

Bonnie Heath, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Walnut Street Community church in Pottstown, Pa., agrees but says that members need to be honest about how much time they spend in front of a screen (TV, computer, tablet) and on other nonessential activities. Although she, too, is spread thin, she says she will make time and has participated in activities that focus on helping people in need. “I really weigh my willingness to sacrifice my time by the impact it will have and the relevance it has,” she says. “I’m not interested in activities that only involve the church,” or, she adds, hold positions that require a lot of meetings, especially if they aren’t well organized.

Linda Elliott, who has held numerous positions during the past 40 years at Chesapeake Conference’s Atholton church in Columbia, Md., simply made church work a priority, which she



notes was a common practice when she started. Now she wishes more people would step forward and realize the blessings they could receive. "It's fulfilling for me. I grow in every position," she says.

Is lack of commitment a consistent problem across cultures? Cesar Gonzalez, who pastors three Chesapeake Conference churches in Maryland, says that while he also faces lack of commitment issues, there is a distinct variance between his English and Spanish-language congregations. "There is a definite difference between the two cultures that diminishes as Hispanics assimilate to American culture," he explains. "I think the reason is that the Hispanic culture is more family- and group-centered. But, as immigrants start to become more successful, they also become more independent from each other. Those ties don't disappear entirely, however, and I must admit that, as a pastor, I have more leverage with Hispanic members."

FINDING SOLUTIONS

To get those inactive 80 percent participating, each pastor has chosen a different approach. Last year Pastor Anthony says he grew so concerned about the problem in his church, that he presented a pointed sermon one Sabbath to address it. He provided numerous Bible texts about the seriousness of taking and keeping a vow, like Ecclesiastes 5:4, and reminded members that committing to follow Christ means choosing to live like Him. "The sermon caused some of them to reflect on their commitment to Christ ... and how far they have fallen from that," he shares. Since getting them thinking, he says many members are experiencing an improved relationship with Christ and are more involved.

Pastor Boquer tries to improve member involvement through four steps: discovering what each one enjoys doing, being clear about how much time a position or ministry will require, providing specific training and following up with support and recognition. However, he warns,

"You cannot expect people to commit time, resources, talents and their lives to a blurry and cloudy vision or goal. It is not fair to a sincere church member to be persuaded by shame or fear to commit time and energy to a plan or mission that is not well thought out and may well end up in failure and frustration."

Pastor Gonzalez says he doesn't aim to change people—"Only the Holy Spirit can do that"—but to provide an environment where the human and divine can meet. "The irony is that people today are looking for the same thing ... happiness, inner peace, fulfillment. Even if you take God completely out of the picture, it takes time, energy—in short, commitment—to even begin to achieve these things," he says.

Gonzalez tries to get people to understand that when they commit to the church, they are committing to Christ, but he also realizes this is only successful if church is done correctly. "When people are able to feel the presence of God in a place, there is a value in that experience that completely changes the equation. But people need to commit to get there," he says. "I think the only thing that will change all of this is when we finally make Jesus the center of our religious experience—not culture (including Adventist culture), not history (personal or otherwise), not politics (especially church politics) and, most of all, our own selfishness."

Heath believes people need to feel there is purpose in their commitment. She adds, "If lives are going to be changed, if people are going to be reached and have an opportunity to engage with us, then that is going to be impactful."

Elliott points out that one of the best ways her church has found to get commitment-wary members

FACEBOOKED:

Does your church struggle to find committed volunteers—and keep them motivated?

Our love for Christ and others isn't measured by how busy we keep ourselves. Sometimes limiting the focus to one area and giving it "our all" instead of being spread thin is the best plan of action.

—Jessica Czeizinger

I don't think we so much [as over-minister] as under-train and -mentor.

—DeeDee Bindernagel

I do not believe it is a matter of not being willing. ... I believe members do the best they can with the time allotted them in a 24-hour period.

—Linda Brown

involved is to start young. "There isn't a lot of mentorship going on with the youth and young adults, which I think is really important," she says. After all, it was a mentoring program that set her on a long path of volunteering.

Your Turn

Think you might be a commitment-phobe?

Take our quiz at columbiaunionvisitor.com/commitmentquiz, then visit facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor and tell us how you did.

NOISE

Are We Breaking Through the

A pastor explores whether evangelistic seminars are still effective

Loren Seibold

When I was still a young pastor, I invited a conference evangelist to one of my small churches. I remember working together before the meetings on a mail-out brochure with the headline “Blood on the Moon.” It had hot, florescent colors; pictures of beasts and the requisite whore of Babylon. At the time, I thought it rather garish, but it brought some people to the meetings and a few into the church. (To the evangelist’s credit, his presentations were far more spiritual and sensitive than his brochure depicted.)

Today the competition for people’s attention is even fiercer than just those few decades ago. Never before have so many had so much to sell, and they know how to do it effectively. When we join the advertising fray saying, “Hey! Over here! Look to us for the answers!” we’re part of a massive chorus. Why should

they respond to *our* voice when a new SUV or new Oprah Book Club selection will salve the soul for a few moments? Why attend *our* event with a myriad of fabulous activities taking place?

One thing is for sure: Jesus doesn’t give us permission to fall silent, to sit in our pews and wait for someone to show up. We have to find a way to break through the noise. So, how are conscientious congregations drawing people to the Seventh-day Adventist message today?

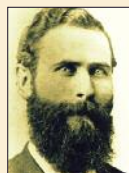
Finding What Works

With many reports indicating that Americans are losing interest in religion, some churches have tried innovative outreach methods. A few years ago, when the price of fuel was climbing, a congregation I know paid down the price of gas for a day at a local station. I even read about another denomination’s congregation that passed

A Look at the History of Adventist Evangelism



1831: William Miller begins preaching on the second coming of Christ. The Millerite Movement is born.



1880: George Albert King is the first literature evangelist.



1845-1855: Early Adventist evangelists, like James and Ellen White and Joseph Bates, lay the foundation for a thriving church.



1897: Helen May Stanton Williams proves an able evangelist in the U.S. and abroad, just one in a long line of effective women ministers.



the offering plates full of money for people to *take!* More commonly, churches try to attract people with interesting worship services. The biggest and best-attended churches have a massive pipe organ and choir for one service, and a couple more featuring a well-choreographed band of professional musicians. Though Jesus could get away with having nothing about his appearance that attracted people (see Isa. 53:2), the pastors of these churches are extraordinary entertainers.

However, not all churches have such financial or human resources. In Adventist congregations, evangelistic events are still the most popular way to bring people into the church. According to a 2009 survey for the North American Division¹, 23 percent of church members have helped with a Revelation seminar, 27 percent with other kinds of Bible seminars and 29 percent with public evangelistic meetings.

Larry Witzel, once a pastor and now president of the evangelistic resource company SermonView, based in Washington, says his understanding of what draws people has evolved. “Ten years ago, I was talking about innovation,” he says. “Now my mission statement has to do with finding and propagating *effective* ways to spread the gospel.”

Based on the fact that SermonView mails a million pieces a year, Witzel believes “the most effective methods for Adventist churches are still based on prophecy and last-day events, but with a modern twist.” He adds, “For event-based outreach, direct mail is still the best tool, and prophecy the most

effective message, but it needs to be relevant to the struggles and curiosities of today, communicating with contemporary language and design.”

Congregational-Based Evangelism

For over a century, public programs dominated early Adventist outreach methods. Early church pioneer William Miller wasn’t a professional speaker, but he taught with urgency and reasoned arguments. When that winning message merged with early American revivalism, the result was tent and camp meetings that won thousands to Christ.

Adventist evangelism reached its apogee in the work of African-American evangelists. Generations of pastors modeled their method and message after pulpit giants like E.E. Cleveland and C.D. Brooks. Pastors of my baby boomer generation participated in professionally choreographed programs that targeted entire met-



BROCHURE ART COURTESY OF SERMONVIEW



1899: Marcial Serna becomes the first Hispanic Adventist pastor and evangelist in North America.



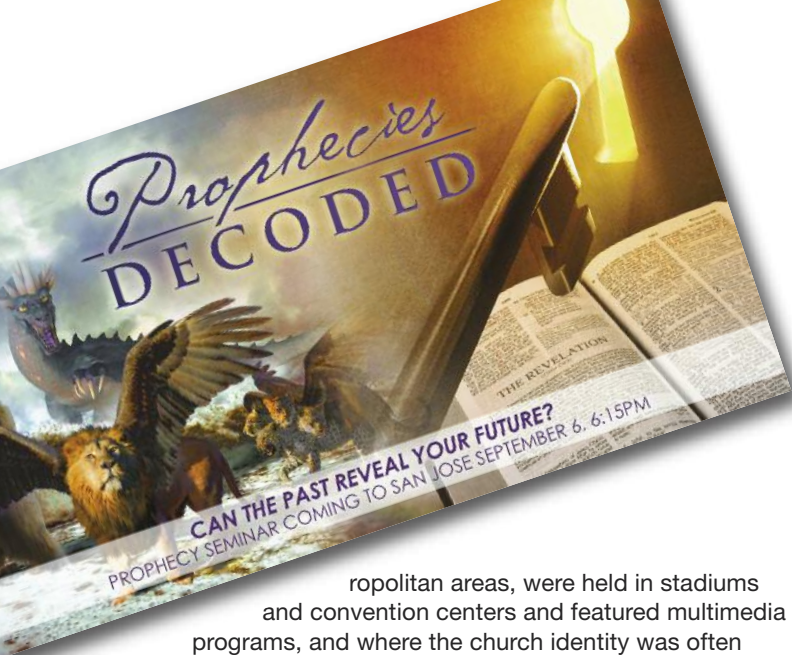
1937: “Voice of Prophecy,” a radio program that would reach millions with the Adventist message, debuts with H.M.S. Richards as speaker.



1905: W.W. Simpson is Adventism’s first big city evangelist.



1942: E.E. Cleveland begins a ministry of evangelism that would bring 15,000 souls to the faith.



ropolitan areas, were held in stadiums and convention centers and featured multimedia programs, and where the church identity was often concealed.

During that time, some pastors returned to simple teaching, using tools like Daniel and Revelation seminars. These were not only less expensive to pull off, but they also brought evangelism back into the local congregation and signaled an end to the era of keeping congregation-building events at arm's length from the members.

I recently made the acquaintance of some congregational leaders who are shaping Adventist evangelism for a new century. Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, a member of Pennsylvania Conference's Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, is a renaissance woman: counselor, speaker, writer, musician and composer—a set of spiritual gifts perfect for crafting a unique evangelistic event. A few years ago, Schwirzer felt inspired to set the book of Revelation to music, an effort that evolved into a Christmas cantata released this past December titled *The Lamb Wins*. With the help of her pastor, Tara VinCross, Schwirzer used the same theme for an evangelistic event. Her Revelation teachings, she says, were “classic Adventist.” Her approach wasn't. “I made a concerted effort to present every teaching in the light of the Lamb,” she explains. “Jesus the Lamb was the central figure, the focal point of the doctrine.”

Music has always been part of evangelism, but *The Lamb Wins* didn't rely on a structured song service and sermon. Woven in with Schwirzer's presentations were

folk, contemporary, traditional and urban sounds, even rhythmic spoken word. “What kept people coming was our multilayered approach, with rich content, creative presentation and relationships,” she surmises.

Diego Boquer, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Glen Burnie and Brooklyn churches in Maryland, has only been in ministry three years, but already he's learned what congregational-based evangelism can accomplish. In his churches, he makes sure some kind of soul-winning activity is happening every month. He invites literature evangelists to generate interests. Church members do health-based events to serve the community. Boquer's Bible worker, Tyler Trahan, not only gives Bible studies but also teaches members at both churches how to give them. In the meetings, each message ends with a table conversation, where members and visitors get acquainted.

Pastor Boquer has tried both prophetic and gospel-centered styles of evangelism. He feels that prophecy appeals more to mature people and the baby boomer generation. Witzel agrees. “Though we see people of all ages responding to our advertising, the evangelistic event advertised with big, bold colors and mysterious, provocative imagery tends to draw an older audience.” (Interestingly, Witzel says response rates indicate that advertising cards inviting people to study the Bible and to get to know Jesus work better if they're *not* prophecy themed.)

Both Boquer and Schwirzer raised enthusiasm for their events through social media. But, warns Witzel, social media isn't church. “People get passionate about online Bible studies, but, at the end of the day, the most important thing is connecting with a local congregation. Just learning the message is an incomplete experience,” he says.

Taking a Different Approach

Some congregations feel they can provide a full experience without event-based evangelism. “The Stillwater church decided years ago to reach out with the gospel to the community and grow the church through the everyday life and ministry of the church family,” says Dave Hutman, who pastors the Ohio Conference church based in Vandalia. Stillwater designs worship and other church events for unchurched families and heavily invests in



1950: William Fagal launches “Faith for Today,” the first authentically national religious telecast in North America.



1951: Roy Allan Anderson draws capacity crowds in New York City's Carnegie Hall. Anderson and other evangelists like J.L. Shuler, Fordyce Detamore and the Venden brothers were responsible for thousands of baptisms.



1956: “It is Written” with speaker George Vandeman airs, the first religious television program in color.



1950s-Present: World church-sponsored evangelistic campaigns, like “1000 Days of Reaping,” bring in millions of converts.

community service programs, including six to eight home fix-up projects for needy families each year, the Oasis ministry for those in the sex industry, the Good Neighbor House Adventist Community Services center in downtown Dayton, health events, concerts for community projects and more.

Community service works “if you’re creative and know how to partner with the community,” says Gary Gibbs, director of the Chesapeake Conference’s Ministerial department. But, Gibbs says it’s hard to separate community service and event evangelism. “Community service is the entering wedge, but in my experience, usually the baptisms are coming in through proclamation,” he adds.

Keeping the Focus on Christ

Whether drawing people through service or meetings, the key appears to be how much investment people in the pews have in doing Christ’s work. Probably because the Stillwater congregation is so intensely involved with so many people in their local community, its membership growth equals or exceeds that of congregations that do solely evangelistic seminars. “We have never held a public meeting,” says Pastor Hutman. “All of the new members have come through the life of the church, interacting with others.”

Schwirzer’s church in Chestnut Hill is welcoming seven new members, with others continuing to study. Between meetings last year and this year, Pastor Boquer has added more than 20. Both are optimistic about new members remaining in the church, because they designed their events from the church’s foundation—focusing on congregational involvement and friending visitors rather than just imparting knowledge.

“Church members sometimes object to the prophetic approach,” Witzel acknowledges. “They want to win new members by introducing them to Jesus.” As presented by these new evangelists, however, prophecy is more Christocentric than it used to be. Even through the difficult teachings and occasionally alarming prophecies of Revelation, Schwirzer insisted that “the character of Jesus came through every part.” Pastor Boquer designed his own series specifically so that he could make Jesus the center of every prophetic teaching.

What Drew You to the Evangelism Meetings?

“I was attracted by the whole premise of learning about Bible prophecy after having been exposed to it by Bible worker Tyler Trahan. What kept me coming back was the undeniable truth that was presented. It left me wanting to know more.”—*Josh Morgan recently joined the Glen Burnie (Md.) church*

“I wanted to hear more and more. I looked forward to the meetings. I had always hoped to come back [to the church]. I wanted the Lord to put me back on the right track.”—*Fay Yates and her husband, Keith, recently joined the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia*

Read more testimonies at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

Your Turn

Do you think prophecy seminars are still an effective way to reach people? Tweet @VisitorNews or weigh in at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor).

Never before have we had so many excellent tools to help congregations break through the culture’s noise and reach people for Christ. Good marketing and clever programming aren’t enough. Prophecy may draw people to an event, but all agree that the goal is to create a relationship with Jesus and His church.

Ellen White seems to agree. “Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Savior is it possible to make our influence felt in a skeptical world,” she wrote. “The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved” (*Ministry of*

¹Roger Dudley and Jessica Pagan (2010). *2009 Congregations Study for the North American Division*. Berrien Springs, Mich.: Institute of Church Ministry.



1966: Joe Crews founds Amazing Facts, a media ministry that dispersed millions of pieces of Adventist literature and trained ministers to effectively share the gospel.



1995: Mark Finley speaks for “NET ‘95,” a satellite uplink series that was the Adventist Church’s largest single evangelistic endeavor to date. The series led thousands to Christ.

introducing
Breath of Life with Charles D. Brooks as speaker and Walter Jones as emcee for the North American Division. This special event will feature a unique program of music, drama, and prophecy. It will also feature a special message from the Holy Spirit. Don't miss this exciting new television series.

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1974: C.D. Brooks becomes speaker of the first black religious television show geared toward blacks.

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Conference President Gives Eight-Hour Bible Study

When Nelson Mandela, former president of the Republic of South Africa, died December 5, Henry J. Fordham, III, president of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), felt compelled to attend his funeral. He also felt the Seventh-day Adventist Church needed representation at such an historic event.

After Fordham's flight landed in Johannesburg, South Africa, he made several transfers by plane and bus trying to get to Qunu, the location of the burial ceremony. While at the bus station in Eshowe, he learned that the bus scheduled to take him to Qunu would not be departing the station that day.

Determined to find his way into the town, Fordham shared his plight with several station workers. One bystander overheard his pleadings and called his sister to see if her husband would take Fordham on the eight-hour journey from Eshowe to Qunu. The man's immediate reply was, "No way." However, within 15 minutes, Anand Pillay called back with a change of heart. When Anand and his wife, Beulah, arrived to pick him up, Fordham inquired why he decided to help him. Anand shared that his mother-in-law had been listening to his conversation and insisted that he help "this man of God." This impression came to her without Fordham yet revealing that he was an Adventist minister.

However, once he made that revelation, Anand and Beulah asked Fordham if he knew preachers Walter Pearson, Henry Wright, C.D. Brooks and Dwight Nelson. Their excitement grew as Fordham revealed that he knew all of them. The couple revealed that they frequented YouTube to watch their sermons. Beulah, however, could not understand why Adventists emphasized the Sabbath so much. That inquiry sparked an eight-hour Bible study. Fordham's newfound friends were deeply moved by his biblical explanations and were eager to learn more.

As they arrived closer to Qunu, Fordham was informed that only those "accredited" would receive access to Mandela's burial. This accreditation would only be granted if Fordham received a pass from Walter Sisulu University. Fordham arrived at the university at 4 a.m. and was greeted by a flood of other individuals seeking the same permission. He inquired with several individuals who appeared to be in charge, but was rejected at each turn. He thought he might be able to

observe the services from afar, but soon learned that nearly 12,000 soldiers were securing the 5-mile perimeter of Qunu. Deflated, he left the university.

A gentleman outside the bus station invited Fordham to lounge there for the night until the bus arrived the next day. Noticing that his cell phone battery was low, Fordham called the Pillays to thank them again for their help. They insisted he stay with them. While at their home, the couple asked Fordham to share the same Bible study about the Sabbath with their parents (and later, their pastor), which Fordham gladly did. Over the next couple of days, the family housed, fed and entertained Fordham. They took him to see the burial of Mandela at a wide-screen viewing in town and also to see the premiere of the eponymous film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*.

When Fordham was due to return to the United States, Anand commented that they felt like the widow of Zarephath, housing a prophet, and, therefore, believed that their home would be blessed.

While Fordham never made it to the funeral, he was elated that God chose him to share Adventist beliefs with fellow Christians halfway around the world.—Robert Booker and LaTasha Hewitt



Henry Fordham, III (far left), poses with Beulah and Anand Pillay and Beulah's parents while in South Africa.

Pine Forge Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Residence Hall

Residents of Kimbrough Hall, the young ladies' residence at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., recently showcased their talents, gifts and virtuous qualities as they celebrated the hall's 50th anniversary. Under the leadership of the head dean, A. Pearlita Jones, the Ladies of Virtue and their deans facilitated the weekend programs.

The Friday night vespers service featured songs, poems and liturgical dances from various individuals, groups and classifications. During the Sabbath service, Gina Brown, PhD, a vice president at Loma Linda University in California, gave the challenge of "Not Going Back" on the commitment to our Christian walk and duties. Cynthia Poole, first resident of Kimbrough Hall, a member of the Class of 1963 and former principal of the academy, was the special honoree for the weekend.

That same weekend, 41 young ladies visited the Pottstown Recovery and Education Center in Pottstown, Pa. Each of these young ladies voluntarily gave their Saturday night "supper sack," along with a gift bag, containing winter scarfs and hats, to the participants of the center while sharing the message of Christ through songs.

A festive celebratory dinner, music and gymnastic artistry capped off the weekend. The celebration also included the Ladies of Virtue sharing a special gift with each resident of Handy Hall, the young men's residence hall.



Sophomores Marquia McKnight and Brian Quinnonez enjoy dinner, which capped the weekend celebration.

Dupont Member's Ministry Aimed at Breaking Chains



After he held his first conference "Breaking the Chains: God's Design for Sexuality," James Dotson, who holds a PhD in health education, and is a member of the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., recently talked about his Training for Transformation ministry (trainingfortransformation.com):

Q: What is the goal of your ministry and why?

A: The ministry is about transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit, particularly in the area

of sexuality. I realized there was a need for something like this because I spent decades living a sexually immoral lifestyle. I was in my mid-40s before God ... delivered me from that pattern. This ministry is not just

about telling people not to have sex. I got that from my parents and church. We are focused on reminding people of God's vision for us. ... We also talk about how we can experience the gift of sexuality as God intended it and avoid the counterfeit that Satan readily lays out there before us.

Q: Any thoughts or tips on breaking the chains of sexual sin?

A: One of the most important lessons I've learned is that I have no power to be a man of sexual integrity and purity. ... Satan custom designs his attacks based on what he knows about us, and if we don't learn how to connect with the Holy Spirit, allow Him to come into our lives and take over, and allow Him to do our fighting—do our contending with Satan—we are going to be failures, victims bound by all manner of sins.

Read the rest of this interview at columbiaunionvisitor.com/drdotson

Hilltop Buys Gas for 100 Local Residents

The Hilltop Community church in Columbus, Ohio, wanted to heighten the awareness of Seventh-day Adventists in the community. They determined that partnering with a local gas station to sponsor a gas giveaway might be a great way to do this.

Members advertised the giveaway in the community and requested the assistance of the neighborhood police for traffic control and safety cones. The church then committed \$2,000 to the project.

As a customer pulled up to the pump, church members explained where they were from and thanked them for the opportunity to serve. Then, while one member pumped \$20 worth of gas into the tank, the other solicited the customer's help on a community survey, asking how the church could be of more assistance.



The gas station owner (left) shows Pastor Jason Ridley his appreciation.



Hilltop members pause from their ministry efforts.

It wasn't long before the Hilltop church saw the fruits of their labor. Within weeks, individuals from the community visited the church, and several have since asked for baptism. This fueled the church's desire to do more.

During the holiday season, they decided to impact another 100 families. Members realized many homes would be far from hosting a feast, so they rallied together and collected enough food to fill 100 baskets for local families.

"What a fulfillment it was for members to see the joy on the faces of people as they received a basket full of food," recounts Pastor Jason Ridley. And, he notes that his members are looking for their next "100 project."

Dale Wright Memorial Church Honors Head Elder

The Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, under the leadership of Pastor C. Shaun Arthur, declared January 11 Isaac Palmer Day in recognition of the namesake's 70th birthday and to show appreciation for the many years Palmer (pictured) has served as head elder. The occasion was a surprise to Elder Palmer, who had just returned from an extended holiday visit with his six grandchildren in Florida.

The day held many other surprises, including the participation of Bryant Taylor as master of ceremonies. Taylor, who now pastors the Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, is the Dale Wright church's former pastor. Pastor Taylor and his wife, Tara, shared memories of Palmer's care and concern for them and hospitality during their tenure at the church. Rep. Joyce Beatty, from Ohio's 3rd District, sent a proclamation outlining Palmer's public service through work in human services at the county and state levels. Isaac R. Palmer, Jr., Elder Palmer's son, flew in secretly from Orlando to highlight the elder's service to his family. William T. Cox, Sr., conference president, and Marvin C. Brown, III, executive secretary, also sent warm greetings.—*Marci Wright*



PHOTO BY BROOKE SIMONS

Ramah Student Fundraises for Good Causes



During Ramah Junior Academy’s “Making Strides 4 Education” Walkathon fundraising drive last year, Makayla Mattocks, now a sixth-grader at the Cleveland-based school, was the top fundraiser—for a consecutive year! Mattocks solicited her family, friends

and church members and, this year, collected more than \$700. What follows is an inspirational account of one child’s faith and obedience.

For each prize level of the fundraiser, each student was eligible for a specific prize. Mattocks earned an \$80 Visa gift card for her efforts. Soon afterward, during Ramah’s Week of Prayer, she learned that God gives his children talents that He hopes they’ll use for His glory. She knew she was good at fundraising, and after some thought, decided she could use her skill to help others.

Mattock’s first idea didn’t pan out, so she researched other options. She came upon a website that helps kids in need, locally and worldwide, by providing food, clothing, medical aids and educational materials. Mattocks ended up using her walkathon prize money to purchase four boxes—for refuge, food, health items and education supplies—which were shipped to the needy children through the organization.

“At first, when the thought came to me to do this, I wasn’t sure I wanted to do it, but I’m so glad that I did,” says Mattocks. For others considering doing similar outreach, she says, “If God tells you to do it, and you know it in your heart ... then you should do it. But, if you don’t feel that way, then that’s not what God wants you to do, and maybe you can help somebody in some other way.”

Aside from her family and a close friend, Mattocks kept secret the fact that she donated her prize money. “When you do something good, don’t brag about it, because God doesn’t want us to brag about the good that we do,” Mattocks adds.

God does work in mysterious ways. The following month, Mattocks’ birthday rolled around and she got enough birthday money to nearly make up for the amount she donated.

Beacon of Hope Youth Feed the Homeless

Misha Asamoa, Adventist Youth Society (AYS) leader at the Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio, is taking AY to the streets. She has planned multiple community service projects this year for her team, including volunteering at an animal shelter, visiting a youth home, and distributing lunches and hygiene kits to homeless people downtown.

For the team’s first outing, they served lunch at Friends of the Homeless, a shelter in Columbus. The young people prepared and served soup-and-sandwich lunches, talking and laughing with the recipients as they went through the line. Several of the youth even became waiters and went table to table asking if the patrons would like more, serving them seconds or thirds.

“This was a rewarding experience for me as I saw the smiles on their faces,” says Shawanda Don (pictured).

The church’s AY theme this year is JOY (Jesus, Others and Yourself). “When you follow this principle, you truly receive joy by helping others, and I wanted our youth to experience this type of joy,” says Asamoa. She adds, “It’s so easy to reflect on what is

wrong in your life, but that moment when you give back, you truly realize the blessings you have.”



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

FEBRUARY 2014

Commit to Be Fit

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:19-20, NKJV).

As I write, it is yet another frigid day in winter. However, I live by faith and have confidence that spring will bring warmer weather. Hopefully, we’ll all catch a good dose of spring fever and head outdoors for some exercise. Here are a few of the many benefits that come from activity:

Improved Attitude—Exercise reduces depression and anxiety and helps to manage stress. It causes our bodies to release endorphins that help us to be more cheerful, positive and optimistic.

Fights Disease—Activity helps to reduce the risk of diabetes, heart disease, some cancers, osteoporosis, hypertension and high cholesterol. It’s a natural, medication-free way to stay healthier and live longer.

Weight Control—Americans are fighting an epidemic of obesity, and exercise is a free and easy way to help lose weight and maintain good health.

Better Sleep—If you’re having a difficult time getting quality rest, it may be that your mind is too wound up and your body is underutilized. Exercise will help with both problems.

Fun—Exercise brings its own rewards and can add a wonderful dimension of fun and enjoyment to our lives.

Consider how you can better care for the body God has given you. Try walking a minimum of two miles a day, with your physician’s permission, of course. As you develop your fitness level, there are many recreational activities that can add to your enjoyment.



Rick Remmers
President

Spanish Churches Celebrate Small Group Ministry

Some 400 Hispanic attendees representing more than 40 small groups recently gathered for the third annual Festival of Small Groups. The conference-wide event, coordinated by 14 local congregations, took place at the centrally located Atholton church in Columbia, Md.

Nilton Garcia, Gulf States Conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator, preached a sermon to inspire the group, and Kleyton Feitosa, Chesapeake Conference’s executive secretary, challenged congregations to “re-double efforts to rescue souls.”

Orlando Rosales, the conference’s interim Multilingual Ministries coordinator, says the Lord has blessed small group ministry throughout the conference. Following are some of the highlights of the ministry:

- Groups are impacting their local communities.
- More than 100 Bible studies are offered each month throughout the conference.



Kleyton Feitosa (fourth from right), conference secretary, stands with local pastors to offer words of encouragement to attendees.

- Members are becoming more engaged and are more actively participating in church life.
- As a direct result of the small group lay ministry, more than 100 persons have been baptized in the past year.

Area Churches Focus on Health

Wilna's Health Seminars Draw Neighbors

Citing God's call in Romans 12:1 to "present your bodies a living sacrifice" and Ellen White's counsel that the health ministry should be the "right arm" of the gospel message, members of the Wilna church began offering twice monthly Abundant Living classes in their Joppa, Md., community. More than 30 have been gathering regularly since October for health-focused presentations, cooking demonstrations, samples and

Q-and-A sessions presented by Wilna's own health professionals and guest presenters. Topics center on the eight laws of health, and are supported by the latest scientific evidence from medical doctors Joel Fuhrman, Scott Stoll, Caldwell Esselstyn and other experts in plant-based nutrition.

Anabel Facemire, a board-certified cardiologist and Wilna member, leads the classes. "These classes will empower you to take charge of your health by incorporating nutritional excellence into your diet," says Facemire.

Several attendees said switching to a plant-based diet has helped overcome diabetes, eliminate asthma and colitis attacks, reduce heart disease risk and increase weight loss.

Wilna member Valerie Strang, a physician's assistant, demonstrates how to make vegetarian burgers using wheat germ during a recent class.

The Abundant Living classes are the culmination of a prayerful search by Wilna members for God's leading in ministry. With 10 active members working as health professionals, health ministry seemed a logical focus for outreach. Members are encouraged to experience the benefits of "abundant living" in their own lives and to share these life-changing principles with their friends and families.

Connect with the Wilna church on Facebook at [facebook.com/wilnasda.church](https://www.facebook.com/wilnasda.church).—Fred Facemire

South Carroll's Health Seminar Gains Local Attention

With the topic "Healthy Holiday Meals—the Power of a Plant-Based Diet," the South Carroll church managed to grab the front page of their local *Carroll County Times* recently. The seminar drew some 50 members

and guests to the Taylorsville (Md.) church. Attendees listened keenly as Jane Kurtz, RD, MPH, shared how whole, plant-based cuisine decreases inflammation and even helps prevent depression and chronic disease. The evening included recipe demonstrations, door prizes and a holiday meal.

"We are currently planning a weight-loss/weight management program to present this month," says Kim Goldstein, Health Ministries team leader. Our church wants to reach out to our community and help people learn how to live healthier, happier lives. We're excited to see how God will work as we share the [Seventh-day] Adventist health message.—Jane Kurtz

PHOTOS BY ANDRE HASTICK



The Health Ministries team is passionate about sharing strategies for better living in their community: Pam Terwilliger, Deborah Jamieson, Florence Silver, Phillip Spikov (man in front), Kim Goldstein, Delmarvia Tennessee and Jane Kurtz.



A recent vegetarian cooking class drew a crowd to the South Carroll church.

I've Discovered That Canvassing is Compassion

When I first started canvassing in the new Magabook program at Highland View Academy (HVA), I thought it was just one more thing I needed to do to help my dad pay for my first year at a Christian boarding school. What I didn't know was that my experiences at HVA would allow me to grow closer to Christ and understand what His love really means.

Though people may slam the door in my face, I've learned that God still has a blessing in mind, which



Freshman Kharis Crawford and junior Valerie Wyatt pray together before knocking on doors.



Valerie Wyatt enjoys time with some canvassing friends.

might belong to someone else instead of me. He has taught me that I need to ask myself, "What if my prayer is the prayer he or she needs? What if the people who close their minds and hearts to me have yet to meet a follower of Christ who doesn't want to correct them or judge them?" Another thing I've learned through canvassing is how important it is to have friendships that are built on Christ. The students I work with are my favorite people to be around at HVA. We are all inspired by each other's experiences.—Valerie Wyatt ('15)

Senior Perspective: Alyssa Royster

When people think about what makes Seventh-day Adventist schools different from all others, I think their first thought is usually that they teach Bible. But, I've learned that Adventist education is so much more than that. At HVA, class doesn't simply begin with, "Okay, class, turn in your homework." Instead, it starts with, "Let's pray."

Before I came to HVA, I attended public school and wasn't around people of my same faith. Class in public school truly did begin with passing our homework to the front and diving straight into the day's lesson. Teenagers often become blind to what is really important, and we let our faith take the back burner. The only time I felt I was spending with God throughout my school day was merely to say a quick prayer at lunch, or a "save me" prayer when I hadn't studied for an important test. I felt as though my spiritual life was slowly fading.

HVA is a place where we can fall in love with Jesus. When the bell rings at 10:35 a.m., we aren't in the hall or in the classrooms. Instead, we're in the library for Prayer and Praise. It's a time for us to take 15 minutes to forget about our cares and worries. Through many other programs, HVA students find many ways to show love for God. Not only are we preparing for our futures, but, more importantly, we are getting ready for God's soon return.



Student Body Remembers Veterans

For Highland View Academy, this past Veterans Day was a special two-day event. Students wanted to recognize and thank alumni who have served or who are currently serving in the armed forces. They started collecting items for their care packages much earlier in the year.

On Sabbath the students gathered to create cards of thanks and care packages to send to HVA alumni who are currently serving. The care packages, 30 in all, included Bibles, socks, candy, personal hygiene items and cards made by the students. They shipped the packages all over the world.

The following Monday, Veterans Day, the school's time of remembrance began. The special day started with a worship service led by Doug Ivany, a local veteran and a substitute teacher at HVA. Ivany spoke of his time in the Army and the relationships he built while he was in the service. He spoke of respect and honor for his fellow servicemen. Dan Lindow, HVA's plant manager, then spoke about the Pledge of Allegiance.

The entire school body then boarded buses and headed for Gettysburg, Pa., where they toured the famous battlefield and the Eternal Light Peace Memorial, which was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be "an enduring light to guide us in

unity and fellowship." Staff commented that it was a good reminder to be forever grateful for the many soldiers who have given their lives for our freedoms.

—Renee Williams



Children from the nearby Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School help HVA students pack care packages for academy alumni currently serving in the armed forces.

English Teacher Publishes Article

Lori Halvorsen Zerne, PhD (pictured), HVA's English teacher, recently published an article in *Persuasions On-Line*, the peer-reviewed online journal for the Jane Austen Society of North America. Titled "Ideology in *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*," Zerne's article discusses a



recent series of videos on YouTube that adapts Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The article examines how the adaptation demonstrates the conflict between romantic and financial concerns of the original novel, and argues that the novel continues to be popular because, 200 years after its initial publication, people today still face this conflict.



Clif Gadsden, HVA's history teacher, gives the students a history lesson at the Gettysburg Battlefield.

CALENDAR

February

- 15 Second Annual Spelling Bee, Grades 4-12
- 16 Middle School Basketball Tournament

March

- 3 Senior Play
- 13-15 Music Festival

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2014

Miracle Meadows Principal: My Journey to Forgiveness

On more than one occasion, I came close to being killed by rebel fighters during Liberia's civil war (1989 to 2003). However, no other incident throughout Liberia's nightmare shook me as much as the day a rebel combatant of about 14 years old held me at gunpoint. In full view of my terrified family, he threatened to shoot me if I as much as took a single step or moved any part of my body. With his submachine gun cocked and finger ready to pull the trigger, he bellowed at me, "Open your mouth!" When I complied, he shoved the nozzle down my throat and threatened to blow off my head! As he became increasingly erratic, I heard a commanding voice shout, "Soldier, as you were!"

My life was saved that day, but during the war, my dear mother was killed in cold blood and I lost five siblings. And, it was not just my family that suffered at the hands of the combatants. During the war, warlords and commanders drugged then brainwashed combatants into raping women and children and torturing and killing thousands of all ages. My unpleasant experiences filled me with anger and hate toward all combatants of the war. The Lord, however, was about to teach me that His ways were not my ways.

When the war ended, I responded to an ad for the position of education coordinator at the National Ex-Combatants Commission and Secretariat. The Liberian government created the agency to provide assistance and opportunities for the rehabilitation, reintegration and resettlement of more than 30,000 former combatants, most of whom were young people, including children younger than 10 years old.

When I set out to apply for the position of coordinator, I did so only because it fit in with what I had already been doing as a schoolteacher. I thought I would be dealing with just a tiny fraction of former combatants. Imagine my surprise when I was offered the executive deputy director position, which made me responsible for helping 30,000 unruly and very unpredictable people who had caused so much harm and suffering. Indeed, I recoiled at the thought. Was God serious? Moreover, I would have to love them to take care of them. How did He then expect me to love them when I was literally hate and anger personified? These were the same people who had hurt me, my family and the entire country.

I worked with the National Ex-Combatants Commission and Secretariat from 2000 to 2004. During this time, I experienced the transforming power of

forgiveness that comes only through God's Holy Spirit. The ex-combatants returned my labor of love. Some supplied my family with their cultivated produce, and they frequently invited me to visit in their homes. They were very protective and showed concern for me and my family's personal safety. Once, when factional fighting broke out again, they commandeered a truck and drove to my home to take us and our belongings to safety. We had already left before they arrived, but they kept guard at the house to deter criminals until we returned after the crisis. Not a pin was missing!

It is never easy to forgive those who hurt you, but it is possible. In allowing the Lord to help me love these "unlovable" ex-combatants, and letting Him use me to bless them, I ended up becoming the one most blessed.—Patrick Johnson



Patrick Johnson formerly served in the West African Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. Today he serves as principal of the Miracle Meadows School in Salem, W.Va., which is a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

District Pastor Retires After 16 Years

After 16 and a half years of service in the Mountain View Conference, Pastor Robert L. “Doc” Michael recently retired from full-time ministry. He served in three different church districts and helped plant a church in his hometown of Marlinton, W.Va., where he has retired. In all, he was the pastor of nine West Virginia congregations—Lewisburg, Rainelle, Richwood, Summersville, Webster Springs, Braxton, Marlinton, Weirton and Wheeling.

Before becoming a minister, he worked as an engineer. He was raised Methodist and was extremely active in that denomination until he studied under Pastor Ronald Boyce and was baptized into the Lewisburg church May 19, 1990. He became the head deacon and then the head elder of that church. As he was called upon to preach in various nearby churches, such as the Beckley, Rainelle and Richwood churches, he felt the Lord calling him to full-time ministry. After prayerful consideration, Michael accepted the call from the Mountain View Conference to full-time ministry in August 1997. He was ordained in June 2003 at Mountain View’s camp meeting.

After reflecting on Michael’s retirement, Larry Boggess, conference president, said, “The conference will continue to be blessed by [Elder Michael and his wife, Yonnie’s] giftedness as they take an active role,



Victor Zill (left), conference secretary/treasurer, and Larry Boggess (right), conference president, present Robert Michael and his wife, Yonnie, with an award for service.

not only in their local church, but in conference meetings.” He is now serving as the head elder and deacon of the Marlinton company and preaches twice a month to help their pastor, Arturo Jeronimo, cover his three-church district.

Mtn. View
Young Adult Prayer
Conference

Valley Vista Camp
March 28-30
\$35 / person

Register at mvyouth.org
or 304-422-4581

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Phone: (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org ■ President, Larry Boggess ■ Editor, Valerie Morikone

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2014

“Together We’ve Made it This Far”

I had the pleasure of attending the graduation exercises at Mount Vernon Academy May 26, 2013, where the class president was my granddaughter, Jordan Price. I was just enjoying the advantages of front row seating when I was struck by the thought that this was truly an historic event. I suddenly realized, during my granddaughter’s speech, that this was the same school to which I was denied admission some 50 years prior on the basis of race. Before I could process the thought, tears began to stream down my face.



The author, Ifeoma Kwesi, embraces her granddaughter, Jordan Price, on her graduation day.

I still have scar tissues from the emotional wounds inflicted when, at the age of 13, I applied to Mount Vernon Academy and was sent preprinted directions to Pine Forge Academy, an historically black, Seventh-day Adventist, boarding institution in Pine Forge, Pa. I was then denied admission to six other Adventist academies due to my ethnicity. And, when I was finally “accepted” at Indiana Academy, following the 1962 General Conference Session, I discovered that the newly voted policies and practices regarding race had changed but people had not. After a year of institutional and individualized racist attacks, I left the

school, vowing to never have anything to do with the Adventist Church again. Wisely, my parents didn’t force me to, and eventually I learned the difference between religion and relationship with Jesus.

Fifty years later, I sat on the edge of my seat and listened as Jordan, in her president’s address, articulated a fundamental truth, “Despite our different backgrounds, cultures or groups we hang out with ... together we’ve made it this far.”

I scanned the faces of her classmates and noted that many of them reflected a youthful optimism. And, I had to acknowledge that the work of God (“that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you”—John 17:21) has progressed since I was her age. However, we have huge distances to span before it can be said that we *live* the truth. I look forward to the second advent when, with faces aglow; old and young; male and female; rich and poor from every kindred, tongue and people, can shout for joy, “Together we’ve made it this far!”—*Ifeoma Kwesi*

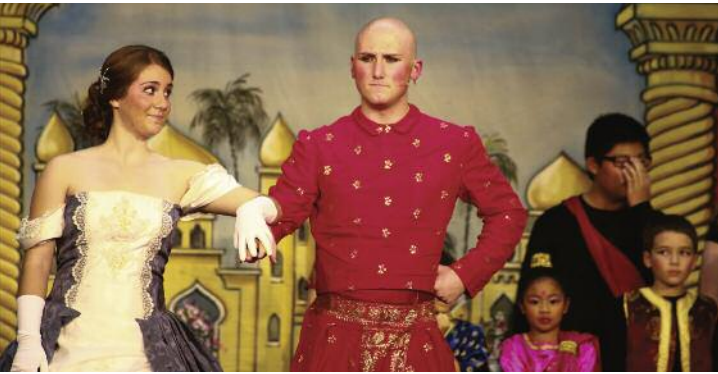
I’m Thankful Times Have Changed

When I found out that my grandmother wasn’t allowed to be admitted into Mount Vernon Academy, I was astonished. Could the school where I served as senior class president be the same one that denied my grandmother years ago? No. Times have changed significantly for the better. We are in such a new day and age that I’m sure if our ancestors were alive, they’d barely recognize what we’ve become. Mount Vernon Academy has become something like a salad bowl mixture. We now have faculty, students and staff from so many different races, cultures and backgrounds. It’s amazing how much we’ve blended and come together. It’s also amazing how prejudice segregated this world only a few years ago. I’m thankful times have changed and that God has made a way for students to finally learn together.—*Jordan Price ('13)*

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

FEBRUARY 2014



Choral Students Present Musical *The King & I*

Under the direction of Kimberly Bulgin, students in Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) choral department thrilled the audience with their presentation of the musical *The King & I*. The story revolves around Anna, a British schoolteacher hired as part of the King of Siam's drive to modernize his country. The relationship between the King and Anna is marked by conflict through much of the piece, as well as by a love that neither can admit.

Seniors Nancy Kardos-Moldovan and Martin Clayton (pictured) were cast in the title roles. One observer commented, "All the students did such a wonderful job in their character roles ... the detail

in their costumes and set design was outstanding! I fully enjoyed their delightful performances!" Bulgin also wishes to thank everyone who helped make this production possible, with special thanks to the supportive parents and cast.

History Teacher Participates in Colloquium

Recently Erin Galloway, SVA's high school history teacher, was invited to attend a two-day colloquium titled "Slavery and the Constitutional Republic" co-sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute and the Liberty Fund organization in Arlington, Va. She was one of 15 teachers who met to discuss James Madison's constitutional convention notes, which revealed how the founders dealt with the concept and reality of slavery in early America.

Galloway said attending the colloquium "helped me to understand some of the thinking and rationale for why they (the founders) did what they did regarding slavery, and it gave me some things I could take back to the classroom and use with my students. It also reinforced what I already believed that—although the founders weren't perfect—they were so incredibly gifted and brilliant in putting together the document of the Constitution the way they did."



Students Welcome Pastor Rojas

They say imitation is the highest form of flattery and that seemed to be the case when students recently donned "mustaches" to greet Pastor José Rojas. The former director of the North American Division's (NAD) Office of Volunteer Ministries, well-known for his thick mustache, recently served as the school's guest speaker during chapel.

In his more than 30 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Rojas has visited more than 600 Adventist schools across the NAD. "Our children were captivated by his charisma and the powerful testimonials he shared from his own life experiences!" said Brook Wong, SVA chaplain.

February is About Sharing Love

On Valentine's Day, many of us pause to send flowers, candy, cards and email messages expressing our love for our family and friends. It is especially wonderful that we take time to let our spouses and children know that we love them. I wonder, however, how many of us stop to reflect on God's love for us and what He has done for us.

The following text expresses so well what God has done for us through His love: "My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God *is* love—so you can't know Him if you don't love. This is how God showed His love for us: God sent His only Son into the world so we might live through Him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God" (1 John 4:7-10, *The Message*).

May you share God's love with all your friends and family during this special month, when we express our love to others. Do not forget to also express love and thanks to God for His love extended to you and His forgiveness of your sins.



Jim Greene
Executive Secretary

Luzo-Brazilian Member Celebrates Life Thru Cancer Survivor Group

In 1987, at the age of 32, Zelia De Souza was diagnosed with cancer in her left breast. At the time, she was a scared, single mother. She had a mastectomy and six months of chemotherapy. Two years later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer again, and had her right breast removed by another mastectomy. After defeating the disease twice, De Souza went on to get married and have a second child.

De Souza, who belongs to the Luzo-Brazilian church in Newark, noticed that many of her Portuguese and Brazilian neighbors were being diagnosed with cancer. She noticed that, because of language barriers, these women were not able to take advantage of the English-language cancer support groups. She had been wondering how she could give back and decided it was her time to share the blessings she had received in her life.

In 2010, with the support of fellow church members, she started the Viva Vida (Celebrate Life) Cancer Support Group in Newark. Through De Souza's ministry, women get free spiritual and emotional support, cancer awareness workshops, nutrition seminars, meditation and relaxation seminars, occupational therapy, and access to therapists and English and computer classes.

"It was a dream come true for me because I was helping women who were facing the same problem

I once faced" says De Souza. "In the first meeting, I had 13 people attending. Most of them were cancer survivors, some were family members and others just supporters. Today, after four years of existence, I assist a total of 50 active members! Thirty-three are cancer survivors and 17 are family or friends."



Zelia De Souza (center) is a 26-year breast cancer survivor and founder of the Viva Vida Cancer Support Group.

NEWS

Atlantic City Member Listens to a Different “Voice”

Alesandra Fernandez remembers the day she received her pass to audition for the TV show *The Voice*. For this 17-year-old member of the Atlantic City church, this meant she was one step closer to having her dream come true. She had always loved music and singing. Growing up, she sang with the little kids in church, and when she turned 12, started singing with the group Arize.

Having an opportunity to audition for *The Voice* was an opportunity to sing live before millions on television and possibly land a recording contract. However, as she was scheduling her audition in New York City, she realized it would take place on the Sabbath. Her heart plummeted. The first thing that crossed her mind was God’s commandment to keep the Sabbath holy (see Ex. 20:8-11, Isa. 58:13-14). She thought of many reasons to continue with the audition. She thought that she could just head over to



church in the morning, and then leave around 11:30 a.m. for the audition. Fernandez even told herself, “I could just audition [by singing] ‘Amazing Grace’ by Chris Tomlin, and I could be praising God while auditioning.”

She practiced the whole night. Her friends begged her to go; they told her that she shouldn’t miss that opportunity because it wouldn’t come around again. Some said she would be really popular in school if she made it.

Before going to bed that night, she prayed to God once again. Afterward, she told her mother that she couldn’t do it. The next morning, while thousands of people auditioned for the show, Fernandez went to church and remained there for the entire service.

Citing Mark 8:36, she explained, “I wouldn’t change an eternal life with God, for a couple of days of fame. If I can’t please God with the things I do, then I don’t want to do them at all.”

Meadow View Junior Academy Presents Christmas Program

At Christmastime, students, teachers and staff of Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield, celebrated the birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.



El Faro Spanish Church Buys New Building

At the end of last year, the El Faro Spanish church met for the first time in the building that became their new church home. The new building is located at 220 Walker Street in Cliffside Park. It cost \$2 million, and came fully equipped with all furniture, computers, sound systems, and organ and piano. It seats 250 people. After selling their Hoboken church building for \$2 million, members had the funds to purchase this newer, 5-year-old building. The only additional funds needed were for \$50,000 for closing costs, which they obtained through a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund. El Faro, formerly the Hoboken Spanish church, was founded in 1952 as the first Hispanic church in New Jersey.—*Jim Greene*

More than 70 children from grades 1 through 9 sang, played their instruments, and dramatized the Christmas story for parents and friends. Audience members laughed and cried with the students as they shared a fun and spiritual “Bible bee.”



Search Committee Selects New President

Ron Halvorsen Jr., MDiv, officially accepted the call to be the next Ohio Conference president. He was a favorite among presidential search committee members, and visited Ohio early in December, along with his wife, Buffy. Halvorsen officially takes the helm this month, replacing Raj Attiken, who announced his retirement last September.

"It has been a long and serious prayer journey, which has brought us to the point of accepting the call to the Ohio Conference," says Halvorsen. "And, that is how we will continue to travel: prayerfully. Only God can lead us as we need to be led. And, only God's power can see His will done. We look forward to being a part of the Ohio church family."

Halvorsen brings diverse experiences, having served as senior pastor of several congregations at Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities, including most recently the College View church in Lincoln, Neb. He has also taught as an adjunct professor in the Union College Theology Department, had several successful local radio and television ministries and has been published in *Guide* and *Ministry* magazines.

Buffy, who is also a pastor, has served as pastor for Family Ministries at the College View and Keene (Texas) churches, as well as Potomac Conference's Sligo congregation in Takoma Park, Md. She specializes in marriage and family therapy, and is a regular speaker for camp meetings and church and women's retreats. The Halvorsens have been married for 32 years and have two adult children and one grandchild.



Youth "GO" and Serve Communities

Steve Carlson, Ohio Conference youth director, recently encouraged Ohio teens to "find any creative way you can be a blessing to your community." He reminded them, "The greatest commandment is to love

God, followed closely by loving people! All of Christianity revolves around serving those around us! The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

What a blessing the youth were, Carlson reports. Groups (youth, young adults, Pathfinders and Adventurers) from every corner of Ohio participated in the Project GO initiative—"to love God by serving Others." Activities from the weekend included volunteering at a Ronald McDonald House, playing board games with shut-ins, delivering winter hats to the homeless, delivering homemade Christmas trees to nursing home residents, making care packages for the community, singing Christmas carols, distributing 9-volt batteries as a way to encourage people to check smoke detectors and much more.

"As we serve our communities, we're not only serving "the least of these," as we're called to do, but we're quite literally making Christianity something that changes the lives of those around us," shares Carlson.

To watch a slideshow from the youth activities, visit ohiosdayouth.org/event/project-go. The next Project GO is scheduled for December 5-7.



A group from the Cleveland Spanish church prepares to enter a local Ronald McDonald House, where they distributed presents and played games with young residents.

Camp Meeting Will Focus on “Jesus: The End”

Rather than fearing end-times, at Ohio Conference Camp Meeting this summer, members will focus on “how love and faith in Jesus motivates us to live well for Him—while we wait, even in the valley of the shadow of death—because He is with us always, even to the end of the Earth,” explains Mike Fortune, pastor of the Toledo church and chair of the camp meeting planning team. How? Through this year’s theme “Jesus: The End.”

Ohio constituents and friends will be able to enjoy featured weekend speaker Daniel Jiao (pictured), Adventist communication and ministerial director from the Chinese Union Mission. “Jiao has literally lived this theme in the 21st century,” says Fortune. In China, his parents were arrested and forced into hard labor camps for their belief in the Sabbath and Jesus. Jiao has faced his own trials regarding the Sabbath. Their faith inspired and shaped his, and continues to inspire and shape others.

Evening message-centered meetings will offer fresh takes on “Jesus: The End,” topics which will include the remnant, second coming, the Sabbath and signs of the times. Regular camp meeting features include the Soul Café and healthy cooking classes, and a variety of seminar options will return this year. Meet the new conference president on Sabbath! Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) will once again sponsor

a free Sabbath lunch for the first 500 who register. KAHC and Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) will co-sponsor a free Sabbath evening meal on a first-come, first-served basis.

Register for lodging directly through MVA, based in Mount Vernon, by emailing campmeeting@mvacademy.org. Register for free Sabbath lunch tickets at ohioadventist.org, or call (740) 397-4665, ext. 111. Tickets can be picked up onsite during camp meeting.



Coshocton Youth Support Mission to Congo

The Coshocton church is a modest-sized congregation in east-central Ohio. Regardless, last year their small youth Sabbath School class decided to use their mission funds to help support the Adventist-based Young Disciple Mission Shoebox Project to the Congo.



Seven teens (some pictured) challenged themselves to fill at least eight shoeboxes; however, with aid from their church family, they were able to fill 15.

The boxes contained personal hygiene items, flip-flops, books, markers, and small games and toys. “We hope it brings a smile to a child’s face to see their shoebox full of surprises. We had so much joy filling them,” said one student.—Karen Sparks

Ohio Ministry University is Suspended

Ohio Ministry University is being suspended for 2014 so that the Ohio Conference can offer constituents a series of webinars facilitated by Monte Sahlin, director of research and special projects. “We anticipate being able to reach more lay members and offer a greater variety of topics by utilizing this form of technology,” says Heidi Shoemaker, communication director. Sahlin’s schedule of webinars and topics are located at ohioadventist.org.

Pennsylvania *Pen*

FEBRUARY 2014

Equipping University Focuses on Hospitality

As members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we must recognize that, by working in cooperation with God, we can help restore lost humanity to eternal salvation,” shared Tim Madding (pictured, right), Pennsylvania Conference’s director of leadership and spiritual growth, shared in a recent seminar. “Hospitality—showing love toward a stranger as a guest or friend—is one key aspect of working with God. Knowing how God works, church members must expect Him to bring people to the church, and though this interaction with ‘strangers’ may be challenging, we must anticipate and welcome them. According to the Bible, hospitality is a manifestation of the character of God in His people, and if they do not live lives of hospitality, they do not have the heart of God in them. It is also clear that missing out on opportunities to show this kindness to others can not only result in the eternal loss of those who God is drawing, but also those He uses to draw them.”

Since Pennsylvania Conference leaders see hospitality as one of the keys to accomplishing the church’s mission, they made it the focus of the recent Equipping University One Day event (EU1Day). EU1Day is a one-day training event for church leaders offered in four separate regions of the state—Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Shenango Valley and Wilkes-Barre.

Some 366 members from across Pennsylvania delved into the subject of biblical hospitality. They learned how, as a church, they can best prepare for and minister to their family, friends and neighbors God brings to church. After each presentation, pastors and



leaders (pictured, left) worked together to plan how they would implement the principles they were learning. After EU1Day, many teams immediately began putting these principles into practice at their churches.

One such principle was the “Rule of Three, Circle of 10,” where every member connects with someone they do not know in the first three minutes after the service, and then greets everyone within 10 feet of them. Nick Snell, who pastors the REACH Philadelphia church, shared what happened after his church implemented this principle. “One visitor could remember a good amount of names at the end of the day, which says to me that she was having meaningful interactions,” he wrote. “She also indicated that she was interested in beginning a relationship with Jesus on her connection card.”

Other church teams have also begun implementing principles from EU1Day. Some churches are putting a greater emphasis on their guest connection ministries. Others are making changes to their facilities, such as adding helpful signs inside and outside to make their buildings more friendly to guests. Many pastors are preaching a series on hospitality so the rest of the congregation understands its value.

To find other resources and ideas for implementing biblical hospitality in your local church, visit the “Hospitality in the Local Church” link under the Ministries menu on the paconference.org website. Visit the website to also read the full reports of mystery guests who visit Pennsylvania churches, or sign up to receive the conference’s email newsletter.





BMA Sophomore Finds Refuge in Music

Rachel Jackson, a sophomore from Atlantic City, N.J., says she chose to attend the Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg because of its strong music program. As a violinist, she felt she didn't fit in schools where sports programs were the dominant focus. She discovered BMA's extracurricular opportunities provided the balance she desired.

BMA's music options include choir; band, which includes string instruments; an orchestra; Bel Canto, a touring choir; and La Sonnette, a bell choir. "Music is very powerful and moves people in a number of ways," she says. "It gives me a really good feeling—I don't know how to explain it. Here, I feel strongly called to pursue music as part of my life." She is learning guitar and piano through private lessons.

"The really cool thing about being here [is that] we can just start jamming out," Jackson says about spontaneously breaking into songs with fellow music lovers.

She participated in the annual Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth, which featured the academy's musical groups. At BMA, Jackson is grateful to find a place where she fits in and gives God all the glory.—*Caron Oswald*

Pennsylvania Conference Women's Ministries presents:

Hope *Springs*

March 28-30, 2014

Begins Friday at 7:00 pm
and ends Sunday by noon

**Laurel Lake Camp
76 Lodge Road
Rossiter, Pa.**

The first flowers of spring, pushing through the winter and the long months of lonely, grey cold, bring hope that something better is coming. God longs to do that in our hearts. Grow hope, joy, peace, confidence and courage into our hearts.

Join us for a weekend away—allowing God's Word, music and friendship to cause hope to spring in our hearts.

For more info, email thorst@paconference.org or call 610.374.8331.
Register online at www.paconference.org.

Potomac People

FEBRUARY 2014

Tree of Life School Shares Holiday Radio Spotlight

For a third consecutive year, the Tree of Life Christian (TLC) Preparatory School in Fredericksburg, Va., participated in "Hometown Holiday Spotlight," a special program that radio station 95.9 WGRQ has done for years.

"Anyone—school, church group, individuals—can submit a CD with their recording for this special," says Janet Armstrong, TLC head teacher. She explains that the station accepts these submissions from mid-October through early November. The Friday after Thanksgiving, when the radio station begins playing Christmas music around the clock, these songs are put into a daily rotation. "They even put out a schedule so groups can see when they will be played," Armstrong adds.

Three years ago, TLC's former school board chair called the station to see how to get involved. She gathered the details and set up a date to do the recording. "Our biggest goal was to have another avenue for the community to hear the name TLC Prep," says Armstrong. "It is also a great opportunity for the children. And, seeing their faces when they hear themselves on the radio is priceless!"



TLC students perform for a local congregation prior to recording "Silent Night Medley" for a local radio station's holiday program.

This year all of the school kids, from grades 1 through 7, sang "Silent Night Medley." This experience has become a tradition for the school, one that students and teachers look forward to continuing.—Tiffany Doss

Williamsburg Church Doubles Building Size

The members of the Williamsburg (Va.) church are finally seeing their long-awaited dreams become reality. In December they broke ground for a 5,458-square-foot addition to their building. The \$906,000 addition, made possible through a Columbia Union Revolving Fund loan, will contain two classrooms, a warming kitchen, storage room, restrooms and a generous multipurpose room.

While the church envisioned their future, members focused on spiritual direction and a fundraising feasibility study. To date an ongoing, in-house fundraising cam-

paign has netted more than \$388,000. Visitors, who comprise 50 percent of Sabbath attendees, have also been instrumental in the fundraising efforts. They have contributed more than \$10,500 to the building expansion.

The addition will allow needed space for community outreach events, such as youth, music and drama events; Pathfinders; VBS; outreach seminars and holiday programs. Williamsburg also continually participates in various interdenominational community outreach programs, including FISH, a food and clothing pantry; United Way; Williamsburg Faith in Action; and the Women's Ministries child feeding program.

Funding is in place for completion of the building; however, an additional \$50,000 is needed to outfit the classrooms and warming kitchen and to fill the multipurpose area with audio-visual equipment. Read more at williamsburgsda.org.—Jay Berryman



Steve Norman and Dave Norman, general contractors from Norman Company, Inc.; Joe Moore, a member of the church fundraising committee; Joe Benedetti, from the building committee; William Henry Harris, the architect; and Jay Berryman, the building and fundraising committee chairman, break ground for the church addition.

Potomac People

Pearisburg Church's Quiet Witness Leads Seven to Christ

After watching Rex Hugus, a quiet co-worker who always read his Bible on lunch breaks, Larry Sutherland's curiosity finally got the best of him. "I was intrigued with his background and found his habits to be different from most of those I worked with," recalls Sutherland. "I finally had to ask Rex some questions."

Sutherland says he was searching for the truth and a church family. As he started to spend time with Hugus, who is a Pearisburg (Va.) church member, he felt closer to God's calling. "Of all the things I learned to appreciate about Rex, there is one thing that stands out," says Sutherland. "Every time I would ask him a theological question, he would say, 'Let's see what the Bible says about that.' It's easy to argue with another person's opinion. It's another thing to argue with the Word of God."



Larry Sutherland and his wife, Tina, rejoice after their baptism.



The Sutherlands, a family of seven, choose to be baptized together.

The light shining through Hugus had a slow effect on Sutherland, but soon Sutherland's family took notice. "At first, he was really quiet, and he said very little about what he was learning," says his oldest daughter, Matricia. "But, we could see the impact those discussions were having on him. One night he just opened up and started sharing the truth he was learning. We all sat in stunned silence."

The Sutherland family says they often came home from work stressed and would greet each other but then quickly retreat to their respective corners of the house. "We would rather be alone in our rooms watching television than have to deal with each other's stress from a long day at work," admits Matricia.

However, as the months went on, a shift occurred. The Sutherlands started to have family Bible studies and

began attending the Pearisburg church together. Sutherland shared his desire to be baptized, and soon each family member followed suit.

One can imagine the look of surprise on Pastor Don Elswick's face the following Sabbath when the church's head elder leaned over and said, "Pastor, would it be possible to baptize the Sutherland family today?"

After speaking more in-depth with the family, it was evident they were all ready for baptism. "I'm so proud of the Pearisburg congregation," says Pastor Elswick. "Rex was used by God to bring the Sutherland family to Christ; the congregation has assumed their role in disciple-making and, thus, the cycle continues. We are all called to share 'the testimony of Jesus.' Edification, exhortation and comfort, that's what it's all about."



Rex Hugus (left) delights in assisting Pastor Don Elswick (right) with Larry Sutherland's baptism.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



FEBRUARY 2014

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Programs Prepare Students for Academic Success

At Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), “Education for Life” is not just a motto; it’s a way of thinking that directs the school’s educational decisions, says Travis Johnson, principal. Here are a few ways the academy is making a lifelong impact on its students:

College Prep: All seniors receive training to ensure that they are better prepared with test-taking skills and academic success. SVA also offers many college dual-credit or Advanced Placement courses at a fraction of the cost offered by local colleges. This means that a graduating senior could potentially enter college already ahead of their classmates with up to 24 semester hours.

Top Faculty: Four of SVA’s faculty members are certified to teach courses for The Princeton Review, which offers test-preparation services.

Community Service and Outreach: Students have many opportunities to serve their fellow man, from monthly trips to feed the homeless in Washington, D.C., to international mission trips. Even groups like the



The biology class studies the ecology of the north fork of the Shenandoah River as part of the STEM lecture program.

National Honor Society don’t just focus on academics, but regularly participate in community service activities.

Vocational Training: Last year an SVA student received a Virginia state certification in welding because of the school’s welding course. In addition to providing a work-study program, SVA will continue to seek more opportunities for students to gain vocational skills.

STEM Lecture Program: SVA’s science department regularly invites experts from fields of science, technology, engineering and math to explain how students can turn their current education into potential careers.

Special Clubs: There are many clubs students can participate in (drama, outdoor education) and many athletic and music groups for them to explore positive activities that will help them develop skills for a lifetime. Robotics is the newest club.

“We hope all these opportunities will help students have an uplifting educational experience in a spiritually fulfilling environment,” says Johnson.



Junior Ilesha Soto and other students serve food to the homeless during a monthly trip to Washington, D.C.

Early Registration in February Offers Big Savings

To give bigger savings this year, SVA is offering a large, early registration discount. And this year, early registration is taking place even earlier. All students who complete the application process by February 28 will receive \$100 off tuition. Pay the registration fee by the same date and save an additional \$300. Those interested in scheduling a tour or educational consultation may contact the school, or register online at shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.

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Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Travis Johnson ■ Editor, Kim Twomley

Students Benefit From Pharmacy Technician Training

Simple Professional Enterprises, Inc., under the direction of Anton Dormer, MD, MS, is conducting training at Takoma Academy (TA) to teach students how to become professional pharmacy technicians. The Pharmacy Technician Program is specifically intended to teach the fundamentals of being a pharmacy technician and prepare the students for passing the national pharmacy technician certification exam.

The certification program is designed for a variety of high school students. It gives the students an early introduction to the sciences and to a health setting, such as those found within hospital and retail-based community pharmacies. Those TA students who complete the program will hold a certificate in pharmacy that, upon graduation, creates a platform to any other health profession, including physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, public health professionals, biologists, chemists and others. With additional experience, training or schooling, the students will be able to move into these other roles within the healthcare industry. The pharmacy technician certification is also an excellent way to transition into the pharmaceutical field to become a pharmacist.

Students in the program will be introduced to various topics, such as drug classes of prescribed and over-the-counter medications, basic physiology, drug interactions and daily pharmacy operations. They will learn how to assist in pharmaceutical preparations, compute pharmaceutical calculations and complete daily tasks required in any pharmacy environment. Some of the duties the students will be trained in include:

- Verifying prescription information
- Retrieving, counting, pouring, weighing, measuring and mixing medications
- Selecting containers and preparing labels for prescribed medication
- Preparing insurance claim forms
- Establishing and maintaining patient records



Anton Dormer and his wife, Yonnette, are leading the new Pharmacy Technician Program at Takoma Academy.

According to Dormer, a member of the nearby Sligo church, the certificate allows students to join the ranks of similar professionals across the country, providing a much-needed service in an industry that is expected to see tremendous growth during the upcoming decade. This gives the students who complete the program more professional opportunities and career stability.

“The employment outlook for pharmacy technicians is excellent. The increased use of prescription drugs has spurred an increased demand for pharmacy technicians,” says Dormer. “The national growth rate for such jobs is 18 percent through the year 2018, and the average starting pay is \$15 per hour according to Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. Therefore, the graduating high school student could use these skills to defray some of the cost of their undergraduate education.”

According to TA leaders, the Pharmacy Technician Program is just one of the exciting offerings at the school. To learn more about other programs, visit ta.edu.

Creating a Distinctive, Distinguished Learning Culture

Our Washington Adventist University (WAU) leadership team is building on the university's heritage and location so that it can become a highly prized home for our students and faculty. Our goal is to attract a university family unusually eager to engage with the broader world and desires to reach their full potential within their chosen academic disciplines. Programs will be distinctive because of their Christ-centered spirituality and their high level of academic rigor. Specifically, we aim to fully meet the expectations of these students and faculty through our commitment to the following imperatives:

1. Develop academic programs of distinction and excellence
2. Fully integrate the resources of the nation's capital into general student learning
3. Strengthen student development
4. Enhance faculty development
5. Re-engineer and vitalize our academic programs
6. Create a student life program that focuses on the balanced integration of curricular and cocurricular programs

We invite you to join us in supporting your university on this journey. This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

First Music Accreditation Comes From “a Labor of Love”

Last December WAU's Department of Music received accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). “Accreditation is important on many levels,” says James Bingham, DMA, music chair. “It doesn't change the program a lot now that we have it. But, it does mean that now that we belong to the sisterhood of all of these other schools of music, when our graduates go for their master's degrees at other graduate schools, they can say that they have a degree that comes from a musically accredited institution. It gives them a sense of prestige.”

Founded in 1924, NASM is an organization of colleges, conservatories, schools and universities with 644 accredited institutional members. According to the official website, NASM “establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials” and is “the national accrediting agency for music and music-related disciplines.” Institutions gain membership only after being approved through the peer review process of accreditation. Prior to receiving NASM accreditation, WAU's music department had Middle States Accreditation, and its students performed in many prestigious music halls and venues stateside and abroad.

Daniel Lau, DMA, assistant professor of music for WAU, says two evaluators visited the campus in November 2012 and spent a few days observing classes, interviewing members of the faculty and administration, speaking with students, and attending rehearsals hosted by the Department of Music. Finally, December 20, WAU received accreditation for the curricular programs in music.

“This was a ton of work,” Lau says of the accreditation process. “It's always been a dream of James Bingham when he became chair of our department years ago. Once we knew that [our new facility] was going to be built, that's when we started the process of applying for [NASM] accreditation. This was really a labor of love.”—Alexis A. Goring



Employees Recognized for Their Dedication

Three types of awards were given to select honorees during a special employee appreciation banquet held last year in Bethesda, Md. Service award recipients were recognized for attaining the service milestones of first and then five-year-interval service anniversaries. The recipients of this award and their years of service include: Timothy Nelson (20 years), Alvin Tucker (25 years), Deborah Brown (30 years), Grant Leitma (30 years) and Louise Lewis (35 years).

Next, the Professional Accomplishment Award, which is designed to recognize people who have worked on specific projects and special work during the year, were presented to the members of the

inaugural gala committee: Roo McKenzie, Ellie Barker, Angie Crews and Lahna Farver. The following people also received a Professional Accomplishment Award: Olive Hemmings, PhD, professor of religion; Janette Neufville, associate vice president of Institutional Research and Effectiveness; and Kimberly Pichot, assistant professor and interim chair of business.

The Beyond the Call Award celebrates the champions who work for WAU. Recipients included Patrick Williams, PhD, associate provost and dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, for his dedication to teamwork; Tim Nelson, dean of men for Morrison Hall, for modeling spirituality and leadership; and Lloyd Yutuc, bookstore manager, for his passion for WAU.

Nelson says the award “means people see God in me, and that is a very humbling thing to be recognized for. It also means that there are things in my life that the Lord is using to be a blessing to others.”

The following individuals officially retired from WAU in the past year and received a certificate and special gift: Deria Gadsden, who served 16 years as the assistant registrar; Emil John, who served 12 years as associate dean of admissions and records; Joanie Wilson, who served as nursing admissions and progressions coordinator for two years; and Bruce Wilson, who worked as associate professor of music and director of the band for 15 years.

“We value our employees,” Weymouth Spence, president, said of the annual event sponsored by the board of trustees. “This type of event just highlights excellent performance and provides a chance for us to celebrate their achievements.”—*Alexis A. Goring*



Dave Weigley, WAU board chair, and Weymouth Spence, president, flank Grant Leitma, Psychology Department chair. Leitma was recognized for his 30 years of service to the university.

President Hosts Christmas Reception

President Weymouth Spence, EdD (right), greets Ike Leggett, executive for Montgomery County, Maryland, at a Christmas reception held at Spence’s home. Spence said he saw the event as an opportunity for board members, civic leaders, community members, friends of the university and major donors to network over refreshments and catered food.

“It was also an opportunity to meet other members of the community, whether it’s alumni reacquainting themselves with each other or administrators connecting with government leaders,” Spence said.—*Alexis A. Goring*



Profiles in Caring



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 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
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A Special Note of Appreciation



Adventist HealthCare lost a great friend this past November. Jim Barger was a longtime member of the Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees and also served on the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospital Governance Boards. More importantly, Jim, who passed away November 5, was a very good friend. I'm going to miss him so much.

I'm not sure how anyone could ever really calculate the contribution that Jim made to our organization.

Jim was one of the earliest advocates and supporters for a hospital in northern Montgomery County, Maryland, back when Shady Grove Road was just another exit off a new freeway (now Interstate 270). As a visionary member of the community, Jim, along with others, imagined a thriving health-care institution serving a bustling and growing community back when the Gaithersburg and Rockville areas off Route 28 and Shady Grove Road were still mostly farms.

When it became clear that significant resources would be required to fulfill their forward-thinking dreams, Jim was a catalyst for bringing the right people and the right organizations together to secure the funding that was required. It is safe to say that without his personal passion and commitment, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital would never have been built.

Jim joined the Board of Washington Adventist Hospital in 1977 and also the Board of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in 1979. He was a very valued member of our Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees. I was privileged to work alongside him on our Adventist HealthCare Finance Committee, and I can personally attest to his clarity of purpose and vision, his insightful perceptions, his capacity to ask tough questions in a winsome way, and his love for our organization.

Jim suffered a serious foxhunting accident in 1996, but he didn't let any limitations in mobility limit his participation in the community organizations and causes that he championed throughout his life. We are so fortunate that Adventist HealthCare was one of them. Jim faced daunting physical challenges with great courage—and he brought that same courage to his role with Adventist HealthCare.

The reactions I received from our board members to the news of Jim's passing paralleled my own: gone from our number will be a man whose passion, thoughtfulness, and engagement changed the course of our organization and our community. He will be greatly missed.

We have extended our condolences to Jim's wife, Jane, and their family, and are committed to safeguarding the values that Jim brought to our organization in the future planning for all of our entities across Adventist HealthCare. But I wanted to share with you my appreciation for what one person, willing to embrace the world with passion, vision, and courage, can do. Jim modeled a life that matters for me and for all of us in the Adventist HealthCare family. His legacy will continue to inspire us to make a difference through the way we live and work.

William G. "Bill" Robertson
President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare



Hospitals Save Two Police Officers Who Have Heart Attacks on the Same Day

On Sept. 10, 2012, dozens of Montgomery County police officers lined the halls of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. In Takoma Park, Md., dozens more officers visited Washington Adventist Hospital. In an amazing twist, heart attacks sent two of their uniformed brothers to the hospital on the same day. They followed different paths, but both say they reached the same conclusion: Learn about your heart health. This is especially true in February, which is American Heart Month.

A Racing Heart

“The triathlon masked the heart attack symptoms,” says Officer Edward Paden Jr. “Based on the amount of exertion, I should have been sweating. As for the discomfort in my chest, I knew I was getting over a cold.” The 44-year-old Silver Spring resident pushed on and completed the 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride and 13.1-mile run on Sept. 9.

Still in pain the next morning, Paden visited his doctor, who immediately sent him to a cardiologist. An echocardiogram showed two heart attacks and a possible third about to occur.

A medical helicopter flew Paden to Washington Adventist Hospital, where an emergency catheterization found a 95 percent blockage in his lower anterior descending artery. “If that artery had closed,” says interventional cardiologist Gregory Fisher, MD, “Mr. Paden would have had a major infarct,” which is inadequate blood flow to his heart.

Dr. Fisher placed a stent to open Paden’s coronary arteries, which supply blood to the heart.

“Given the fact he is young and otherwise healthy, placing a stent is less invasive and just as successful as bypass surgery,” Dr. Fisher says. “He’ll never notice any decreased heart function.”

Dr. Fisher says Paden responded well and recovered quickly, due in part to the fact that he is in good shape.

Paden didn’t have a family history of heart disease. He exercised, didn’t smoke, and controlled his blood pressure and cholesterol. Doctors told him a plaque rupture brought on by stress caused his heart attacks.

“I never realized stress could be a killer,” Paden says.

It was not until Paden awoke in Washington Adventist Hospital’s Cardiac and Vascular Intensive Care Unit that he learned a fellow officer had also suffered a heart attack.

Skiping a Beat

During a gym workout, Officer James Lanham felt some pain in his shoulder. Also suddenly tired, he decided to go home to rest. However, his watchful partner insisted Lanham go to the freestanding Shady Grove Adventist Emergency Center in Germantown.

Doctors there confirmed a heart attack. An ambulance rushed him to the catheterization lab at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville.

Lanham’s heart stopped for the first time in the ambulance. “The next thing I remember is waking up at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital six days later,” the Gaithersburg resident recalls.

During that week, Dennis Friedman, MD, medical director of cardiac and vascular services at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, managed Lanham’s care. “He came in with a massive heart attack, cardiac arrest and a 10 percent chance of survival,” Dr. Friedman says. “We placed a stent in his right artery



Officer Edward Paden Jr. (left) and Officer James Lanham are back on the beat thanks to the cardiac care teams at Washington Adventist Hospital and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

and inserted a balloon pump to stabilize his vital signs, all during repeated cardiac arrest episodes. Within 24 hours, he made marked improvement.”

After the procedure, Dr. Friedman met with Lanham’s wife, Laura, also a Montgomery County police officer. Thirty more officers stood in the room to support the couple and their two daughters.

“It was like a big family,” Dr. Friedman says. “Both officers had the complete support of their colleagues.”

Lanham and his wife say they felt the same

continued on following page

Adventist Home Care Services Celebrates 40 Years of Bringing Health Care to the Community

Adventist Home Care Services opened in 1973 as a single office with a few staff members. Today, as home care plays a key role in the changing delivery of health care, the organization has grown to become one of the largest home care service providers in Maryland.

Over the past 40 years, Adventist Home Care Services, part of the Adventist HealthCare system, has delivered care to more than 200,000 patients within seven Maryland counties and Washington, D.C., and has continued to be guided by its founding mission of providing a continuum of care to patients once they leave the hospital.

“Our goal is to provide compassionate, quality care that helps patients remain independent in their homes while facing a variety of health conditions and circumstances,” says Keith Ballenger, vice president. “Our caregivers share a unique passion and commitment to caring for the community, many of which have been a part of our home health team for more than a decade.”

Adventist Home Care Services is made up of a dedicated team of skilled nurses, therapists, nursing aides and social workers that offers comprehensive home care services for patients of all ages. Services include assistance with daily living activities, treatment while recovering from an injury, illness or surgical procedure, and specialized programs such as maternal/child services, cardiac care and a falls prevention education program.



Jean Ann Mathews benefited from the expert care of Adventist Home Care Services, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in November.

It is accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program, achieving nationally recognized standards of excellence in home care. It was also one of only two agencies in Maryland to be named one of the top 500 of the 2012 HomeCare Elite, a compilation of the top performing home health agencies in the U.S.

Studies show that home care services help to reduce hospital readmissions and improve care coordination, which has become increasingly vital to health-care agencies under the Affordable

Care Act. According to research conducted by Avalere Health, a Washington consulting group, chronically ill patients who received home care services experienced 20,426 fewer hospital readmissions than patients who received other post-acute services. Furthermore, the fewer readmissions resulted in an estimated \$670 million in Medicare cost savings over a three-year period.

“Adventist Home Care Services is an integral part of Adventist HealthCare, serving as a true extension of the continuum of care to ensure that the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients are met throughout all stages of their recovery,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare in Gaithersburg. “By coordinating care beyond a patient’s hospital stay, we are able to reduce avoidable readmissions and keep patients healthy in the comforts of home.”

For more on Adventist Home Care Services, go to www.AdventistHomeCare.com or call 1-800-610-2447.

Police officers *continued*

type of support from the hospital. “We were surrounded by not only medical talent, but spiritual support. It was incredible,” Laura says.

“Even when it appeared my life had ended,” Lanham adds, “they continued to fight for me.”

Back to Health

Both officers are back on the beat today, thanks to expert care from the heart teams at Washington Adventist and Shady Grove Adventist Hospitals and the cardiac rehabilitation team at the Center for Fitness and Health at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

The program benefits those recovering from a heart attack, heart failure

or angina (chest pain) through monitored exercise, nutrition counseling, stress management and education, as well as emotional support.

According to Lanham, the team at the Center for Fitness and Health helped him improve his endurance through supervised exercise.

“I can’t say enough about the cardiac rehab team,” Lanham says. “They’re always checking on you and supporting you.”

Paden says the monitored exercise program is helping to get him back to racing form. As a first-aid trainer for Montgomery County Police, Paden is also sharing heart-health tips with new recruits. “I tell them it’s not just about being physically fit; it’s about being mentally fit,” he says. “If you don’t have a hobby or outlet, find one.”

Hospitales salvan a dos agentes de policía que sufren un ataque de corazón el mismo día

El 10 de septiembre de 2012, docenas de agentes de la policía del condado de Montgomery llenaron las salas del Shady Grove Adventist Hospital en Rockville, Md. En Takoma Park, Md., docenas de agentes visitaron el Washington Adventist Hospital. En un giro sorprendente, un ataque al corazón envió a dos de sus compañeros uniformados al hospital el mismo día.

Llegaron por caminos diferentes, pero ambos dicen que llegaron a la misma conclusión: Infórmese sobre la salud de su corazón. Esto es especialmente cierto en febrero, que es el Mes del Corazón en Estados Unidos.

Un corazón acelerado

“El triatlón ocultó los síntomas de ataque al corazón”, dice el agente Edward Paden Jr. “Por la cantidad de esfuerzo, yo debería haber estado sudando. En cuanto a las molestias en el pecho, sabía que estaba superando un resfriado”.

El 9 de septiembre, el residente de Silver Spring de 44 años siguió adelante y nadó 1.2 millas, recorrió en bicicleta 56 millas y corrió 13.1 millas.

Aún con dolor a la mañana siguiente, Paden fue al médico, quien de inmediato lo envió a un cardiólogo. Un ecocardiograma indicó dos ataques al corazón y un posible tercer ataque a punto de ocurrir.

Un helicóptero médico trasladó a Paden al Washington Adventist Hospital, donde un cateterismo de emergencia encontró un bloqueo del 95 por ciento en la parte inferior de la arteria descendente anterior. “Si esa arteria se hubiera cerrado”, dice el cardiólogo intervencionista Gregory Fisher, MD, “el Sr. Paden habría sufrido un infarto mayor”, que es el flujo inadecuado de sangre hacia el corazón.

El Dr. Fisher colocó un stent para abrir

las arterias coronarias de Paden, lo que le suministró sangre al corazón.

“Teniendo en cuenta que él es joven y por lo demás se encuentra en buena salud, colocarle un stent es menos invasivo e igualmente exitoso que la cirugía de bypass”, dice el Dr. Fisher. “Nunca notará ninguna disminución de la función cardiaca”.

El Dr. Fisher dice que Paden respondió bien y se recuperó rápidamente, debido en parte al hecho de que tiene buen estado físico.

Paden no tenía antecedentes familiares de enfermedad del corazón. Hacía ejercicios, no fumaba, y controlaba su presión arterial y colesterol. Los médicos le dijeron que una ruptura de placa provocada por el estrés causó los ataques al corazón.

“No me había dado cuenta de que el estrés podría ser mortal”, dice Paden.

No fue sino hasta que Paden despertó en la Unidad de cuidados intensivos cardiacos y vasculares del Washington Adventist Hospital, que se enteró de que un compañero también había sufrido un ataque al corazón.

Perder el ritmo

Durante una sesión de gimnasio, el agente James Lanham sintió un dolor en el hombro. También se cansó de repente, así que decidió irse a casa a descansar. Sin embargo, su atento compañero insistió en que Lanham fuera al Centro de emergencia independiente del Shady Grove Adventist en Germantown.

Aquí, los médicos confirmaron el ataque al corazón. Una ambulancia lo trasladó de urgencia al laboratorio de cateterismo del Shady Grove Adventist en Rockville.

El corazón de Lanham se detuvo por primera

vez en la ambulancia. “Lo siguiente que recuerdo es despertar en el Shady Grove Adventist Hospital seis días después”, recuerda el residente de Gaithersburg.

Durante esa semana, Dennis Friedman, MD, director médico de los servicios cardiacos y vasculares de Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, estuvo a cargo de la atención de Lanham. “Llegó con un ataque masivo al corazón, paro cardíaco y una probabilidad del 10 por ciento de supervivencia”, dijo el Dr. Friedman. “Le colocamos un stent en la arteria derecha y le insertamos una bomba de balón para estabilizar sus signos vitales, todo durante episodios repetidos de paro cardíaco. Dentro de las siguientes 24 horas, había logrado una notable mejoría”.

Nuevamente con salud

Ambos agentes están de regreso en el trabajo hoy, gracias a la atención de expertos de los equipos cardiacos del Washington Adventist Hospital y Shady Grove Adventist Hospital y el equipo de la rehabilitación cardiaca del Center for Fitness and Health del Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

Paden dice que el programa de ejercicio supervisado le está ayudando a ponerlo nuevamente en forma para competir. Como instructor de primeros auxilios para la Policía del Condado de Montgomery, Paden también comparte consejos sobre la salud del corazón con los nuevos reclutas. “Yo les digo que no es solo estar físicamente en forma, se trata también de estar en forma mentalmente”, señala. “Si no tienes un pasatiempo o una actividad, encuentra una”.

Para más información sobre la atención del corazón de calidad reconocida a nivel nacional del Adventist HealthCare, visite www.trustedheartcare.com

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

DENTIST, David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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LEGAL NOTICE

QUADRENNIAL MEETING OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The 41st regular constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday May 18, 2014, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for revisions of the articles and regulations, and to transact such other business as comes before the conference.

*Ron Halvorsen Jr., President
Doug Falle, Secretary/Treasurer*

MEETING OF THE MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation will be held in connection with the 41st regular constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio, at 11:50 a.m., Sunday, May 18, 2014.

This meeting is called to elect trustees, consider recommendations for revisions of the bylaws, and transact any other business that may come before the constituency at that time. The delegates to the 41st regular constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

*Ron Halvorsen Jr., President
Daniel Kittle, Secretary*

Sunset Calendar

	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28	Mar 7
Baltimore	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:57	6:04
Cincinnati	6:05	6:13	6:21	6:29	6:36
Cleveland	5:49	5:58	6:07	6:15	6:23
Columbus	5:57	6:06	6:14	6:22	6:29
Jersey City	5:20	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:53
Norfolk	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:57	6:04
Parkersburg	5:53	6:01	6:09	6:17	6:24
Philadelphia	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:50	5:58
Pittsburgh	5:44	5:53	6:01	6:09	6:17
Reading	5:28	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:01
Richmond	5:40	5:47	5:55	6:02	6:09
Roanoke	5:50	5:57	6:05	6:12	6:19
Toledo	5:56	6:05	6:14	6:22	6:31
Trenton	5:24	5:32	5:41	5:49	5:56
Wash., D.C.	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:06

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNION COLLEGE

HOMECOMING, April 3-6. Honor classes are 1944, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994 and 2004. Special tribute to veterans and MCC. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486.2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68516; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

URBANDALE CHURCH,

in Battle Creek, Mich., is celebrating its 40th anniversary, May 2-3, at its present location. We invite former members and friends to help us commemorate. Salad, sandwich fellowship luncheon is planned. For details, visit urbandalesda.org

OBITUARIES

BARNES, Charles Marlin,

age 81, of Clarksville, Md., died peacefully November 16, 2013, at the Howard County General Hospital in Columbia, Md. He was born August 1, 1932, in Reed, Okla. He was the son of the late Marlin T. and Margie Eulah Long Barnes. He was the husband of Mary Ann Gloth Barnes, his wife of 36 years. Charles was a member of the Annapolis (Md.) church. He earned his Bachelor

of Arts in Religion in 1955 from Walla Walla College (Wash.). Charles was a publishing director working for the Adventist denomination in several regions in the United States for 25 years. For the last 36 years, he administered his own publishing and distribution business, which included special edition and memorial Bibles. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, bicycling, camping, attending Sabbath School and church services, and traveling. Surviving are sons, Charles Randall "Randy" (Heidi) Barnes of Cashtown, Pa., and Stephen Michael (Debbie Lynn) Barnes of Martinsburg, W.Va.; stepdaughter Deborah Ann (Barry) Messenger of Brinklow, Md.; sisters, Ann Stokenbury of Elkins, Ark., and Linda (Jim) Sellick of Dothan, Ala.; brother J.D. (Rita) Barnes of Elm Springs, Ark.; grandchildren, Krista (Donald) Rogers of Lititz, Pa., Heather (Christian) Price of Fairfield, Pa., Randall Dean Barnes of Hagerstown, Md., Justin Michael and Joshua Barnes, both of Martinsburg, W.Va.; great-grandchildren, Annaliese Marie (Donald Beattie) Rogers IV; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by stepdaughter Donna Marie Atwell.

Bulletin Board

BERNED, Delight Hope, age 87, died October 5, 2013, after a courageous battle with alzheimer's disease. She was born August 13, 1926, in Philadelphia. She was the oldest daughter of the late Richard and Bernice Geist. Delight married James Berned in 1946, and they were happily married until his death, March 1996. She was a founding member of the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., where she served as a deaconess and greeter for many years. Outside of her church duties, she was also involved in a ministry to feed the homeless. They always looked forward to her home-baked bread. She was a devoted and loving mother to Jimmy (Debi), Gary (Linda), Bill (Michelle), Joe (Barbara), Robbie (Anita) and Beverly Berned. Delight is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Dennis Berned Sr.

BOWEN, Hazel Ruth (Knapp), age 85, of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., died January 11, 2014, in the home of her daughter and primary caregiver, and under Hospice of the Chesapeake. She was born January 6, 1929, in Port Allegany, Pa., a daughter of the late Elery Lewis Knapp and Lotus Loretta Palmer Knapp. She married Donald Hancock Bowen on July 30, 1950.

Hazel was a 1946 graduate of Plainfield Academy in New Jersey, and a four-year college student at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Upon finishing college, she taught elementary school in Hillside, Md. She also worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., as a grants assistant, and as a book-keeper for a nursing home chain. Later, Hazel was employed at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, where she was on the staff of *Ministry* magazine. She then moved on to become an administrative secretary for the Ministerial Association, and then a promotion placed her in the Presidential Department as administrative secretary, where she worked until retirement. Hazel was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was very active in her Rockville, Md., location as head deaconess; Sabbath School superintendent; Sabbath School secretary; JMV youth leader; a leader in the junior, primary and kindergarten departments; Sabbath School teacher and craft leader; and also taught Vacation Bible School. She was a counselor in the Pathfinder Club and a Master Guide. In addition, Hazel was church secretary and treasurer of the school board. In 1976 Hazel and her husband purchased land and built a retirement

home in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. They immediately became members of the local historical and genealogical societies, the Republican Club, AARP and completed all requirements to become members of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. In addition to her parents, Hazel was preceded in death by her husband; two sisters, Naomi Sergent from Oregon and Marianne Mars of Ft. Myers, Fla. Surviving are three sons and one daughter: Jerry Bowen of Hagerstown, Md., Randall Bowen of Brookeville, Md., Donna Mekeel of Gambrills, Md., and John Bowen of Glen Rock, Pa. Also surviving is one brother, Albert Knapp of Roulette, Pa., and two sisters, Janet Paulson of Lancaster, Wis., and Dorothy Knapp of Athens, Tenn., plus 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

FORD, Dolores I., "Dee," born July 23, 1938, in Springfield, Ohio, daughter of the late Perry and Emma (Wanda) James; died December 28, 2013, at Hospice of Dayton with family by her side. She resided in Centerville, Ohio. Dolores was a graduate of Mount Vernon Academy Class of '56. She enjoyed attending her high school class reunions and catching up with old friends. She attended

Andrews University (Mich.) and worked as in-house bookkeeper/accountant for a number of businesses in the Springfield, Ohio, area. Dolores married Elden Ford in 1958. They were married 40 years, until his death in 1998. Dolores semi-retired to Centerville, where she began the Affordable Bed Bug business in 2010. Dolores was a lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She served in various church offices and Home and School programs while at the Springfield church, and had a children's puppet ministry at the Kettering (Ohio) church. She loved to sing, travel, read and knit beautiful baby booties and blankets for her grandchildren and great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and her grandson, Conner Bentley. She is survived by her children, Jeff (Tricia) Ford of Spring Grove, Pa., Doug (Kim) Ford of South Vienna, Ohio, and Julie (Tom) Bentley of Roseburg, Ore.; her grandchildren, Adam (Beth) Ford of Sherman Oaks, Calif., Austin (Nancy) Ford of Santa Cruz, Calif., Elden (Andy) Ford of Collegedale, Tenn., Kylie (Dan) Roncolato of South Vienna, Ohio, Ethan Ford, Tyler Ford and Eliakim Bentley; great-grandson, Brody Roncolato; sister, Alice Modlin of Lancaster, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

The 2014 *Visitor* Calendar

Featuring words of wisdom and favorite Bible texts from some of our senior members.

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Arlene and Marie Treat, 86 and 89



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