

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY AD

VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 1

Unlikely Hero: Elizabeth Theis

Plus: How Should
We Respond
to Tragedy?



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Unlikely Hero

Debra McKinney Banks

Every so often, a human being defies great odds to impact the world. We found such a woman—a modern day Dorcas—but you'll no doubt be surprised at what odds she's overcome to be such a great worker for God.

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About the Cover: Elizabeth Theis is photographed at her home in Hillsboro, Ohio, by Chris Cone/AP Images. Above she plays with her service dog, Joey.

ON THE WEB

DID YOU GET YOUR CALENDAR?

The 2015 *Visitor Calendar* features beautiful textiles from around the world. Along with the theme “Common Threads,” the photos and articles express that we are a diverse church body united by a belief in Jesus Christ. Get extra copies, because this one's meant to share. Write to bweigley@columbiaunion.net.

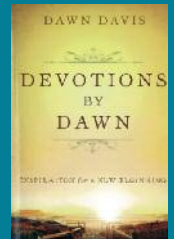


SOUNDING THE TRUMPET

Margaret Roberts Davis, who attends Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md., shares her excitement about Jesus' soon return through her daily devotional *King Jesus is Coming*. Visit columbiaunion.net/kingjesus and learn more about what she hopes you'll gain from its pages.

INSPIRATION IN 2015

Collette “Dawn” Davis, who attended AEC's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., fought through cancer treatment to record a series of devotionals, finishing just before she was laid to rest. Read why Davis' family published *Devotions By Dawn: Inspiration for a New Beginning* at columbiaunion-visitor.com/dawnsdevotions.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We will be blessed with 365 days this year; how will you make the most of them? And, if you want to make 2015 the best year possible, what should be on your list of resolutions? Watch a video message from Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/resolution.



EXCITED TO SERVE

Christina Ivankina is the newest member of the Columbia Union Executive Committee. Ivankina, an eighth-grade English teacher, is also active in Pennsylvania Conference's Shamokin Mission in Shamokin. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/newestmember and discover why she's excited to serve her church.

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The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 1

Our Perfect Protector

It is normal to run away from danger—natural or man-made. Explosions, fires or floods send most of us fleeing. However, have you noticed that when most of us are escaping disaster, there are others who do not mind facing them? Firefighters race toward fires, storm chasers closely track tornadoes and policemen storm toward the scene of a shooting with the hope of stopping the gunman and possibly saving lives.



A NEW TYPE OF DISASTER

More recently the world has focused on the Ebola epidemic, another type of disaster. The fear of dying from it has not been limited to the countries considered to be the epicenter of Ebola in West Africa, the area of the continent I once called home. Governments around the world have reacted for fear that this dreadful disease could invade their shores. In the United States, some state governments have enacted laws that far exceed what the Center for Disease Control have recommended—not



based on scientific facts, but on fear, and possibly even politics.

My mind turns to a few Americans—and Seventh-day Adventists at that—and others who decided in the wake of this outbreak to travel toward the danger to save lives. Two such individuals are Gillian Seton and James Appel, Loma Linda University (Calif.) medical school graduates. These two were willing to serve at Cooper Adventist Hospital in Monrovia, the only Adventist infirmary in Liberia, and one that the Columbia Union Conference financially supports. Even though this facility was designated a “non-Ebola” hospital, many with symptoms have landed at their doorsteps.

This little hospital with very limited resources remained opened when other providers in the country shut down due to fear. Many in the nation died from non-Ebola related illnesses simply because of a lack of treatment facilities. Fear did not stop Seton and Appel and their committed staff from helping thousands in need. These two doctors averaged 18-hour days treating the sick when Cooper Hospital was the only option for most patients. Although Cooper did have to temporarily close, they have reopened and continue to heal the sick.

FACING THE SIN EPIDEMIC

Of course, no one is a braver and greater Protector from disaster than our Creator. He made a perfect world and His last act was creating man and placing him in the midst of a perfect environment. However, man disobeyed God and got infected with a dreadful disease called sin. Our Creator did not want this disease to create a permanent gulf between Him and His creation, so He implemented a plan. That plan required His Son not to run away from the sin problem, but to face it head on.

Jesus took a risk by leaving His throne to come hang out with sinful beings and face our “filthy rags” so that we could be saved from this epidemic. If He had not spilled His blood, our disease would certainly destroy us.

Seth Bardu is treasurer for the Columbia Union Conference.

UNION ISSUES STATEMENT ON GC SESSION QUESTION

The Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee recently issued a statement supporting a favorable vote to authorize Seventh-day Adventist Church regional governing bodies, called divisions, to decide when and how to handle the question of women's ordination. The vote comes in anticipation of the 60th General Conference Session to take place this July in San Antonio, where nearly 2,700 delegates will be asked: "Is it acceptable for division committees, as they may deem appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No."

Dave Weigley, union president, believes an affirmative vote would strengthen the unity of the church and further the mission in some areas of the world where appropriate, especially in the North American Division. "As I understand it, this is one of the options proposed and supported in a straw poll by 62 out of the 95 attendees at the final meeting of the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study



Committee," he says. "They spent 18 months trying to find consensus around our practice of ordination, and I believe that poll, though unofficial, provides a practical indicator of the best way forward for our church at this pivotal moment."

Read the statement, also available in Spanish and French, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/official-statement.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NAMES PASTORAL LEADER

Ismael Gama, who has served as associate vice president of mission integration and spiritual care for



Adventist HealthCare (AHC) since 2008, transitions to a new role this month. He will now serve as administrative

director of AHC's Behavioral Health & Wellness Services based in Rockville, Md. Gama recently completed an MBA and will utilize his 15 years of teambuilding and ministry experience to the new position.

"We are committed to supporting the professional development of all our employees," says John Sackett, executive vice president and chief operating officer of AHC and president of AHC Shady Grove Medical Center. "Ismael will have the opportunity to gain experience in a number of areas across our behavioral health division, including clinical programming, finance, staff management, auxiliary services and business development."—*AHC Staff*

NEW JERSEY APPOINTS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mike Gill takes the helm as New Jersey Conference's executive secretary, replacing Jim Greene, who retired

December 31. Since 1988 Gill has served as the pastor of several districts across the conference, and, most recently, the Laurelwood church in Deptford. In addition to pastoral work, he has served as the conference family life director, worship director and Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response director.



"Mike has faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Jersey for over two decades," says José Cortés, conference president. "Mike is a family man. He and his wonderful wife, Eileen, bring a very special contribution to the conference."

Gill says the best part of this call "is the opportunity to work with a dedicated team." He adds, "I look forward to being a servant leader, which is what the office really entails."

Read more on page 25.

—*Paulo Macena*

CHURCH CALLS FOR DAILY PRAYERS IN 2015

The Adventist Church has two initiatives this year to increase member prayer in 2015.

The world church adopted the Ten Days of Prayer initiative (formerly called Operation Global Rain) in 2010. World church leaders ask groups of all sizes in homes, schools, churches and through



online forums and teleconferences to dedicate January 7-17 to "plead for His promised blessing." Through the official website tendaysofprayer.org, they explain, "All around the world, Adventist churches are experiencing the renewal of the Holy Spirit by following the disciples' example and participating in Ten Days of Prayer."

What would happen if every Adventist in North America spent just a few minutes each day praying for one specific person? That's the question the North American Division is asking each member to consider as they launch their Pray One Million initiative. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/2015prayer to read more about this program launched at the world church's year-end meetings.

PENNSYLVANIA CHOOSES NEW DIRECTOR

The Pennsylvania Conference welcomes Tim Bailey as their new director of leadership and spiritual growth. Bailey has experience in pastoral ministry, elders training, prison ministries, conflict management, overseas mission trips, evangelism and church planting. He most recently served as a pastor at Union Springs Academy and at the Geneva and Auburn churches in New York. He also worked with two



church plants in New York, one in Bath and a bilingual church plant in Seneca Lake.

“What a privilege it is to serve God and

His church here in Pennsylvania,” shares Bailey. “It is my goal to get to know our pastoral staff ... and work with them in revealing Jesus and making disciples throughout our conference.”

Read more on page 29.

—Tamyra Horst

UNION PLANS HISPANIC EVANGELISM FESTIVAL

February 20-22 the Columbia Union will host the Lay Evangelism Festival (Livevangelism 2015). Church pastors and leaders of more than 200 Hispanic churches from across the mid-Atlantic area will gather at the Ocean City Convention Center in Ocean City, Md., for the training weekend.

The event will focus on the basic means of fulfilling Christ’s mission. The four parts of that mission are: every disciple praying and reaching out in love to five friends; small groups nurturing revival and evangelism throughout 500 houses; reaching out to new territories by planting 15 new churches; and church ministries and departments intentionally focusing on congregation and community needs.

“We hope every participant will return committed, motivated and equipped to joyfully carry



out Jesus’ mission,” says Rubén Ramos (pictured), vice president for Multilingual Ministries and organizer of the event.

For more details, visit livevangelism.com, write to surrutia@columbiaunion.net or call (410) 997-3414, ext. 586.

—*Sylvia Urrutia*

UNION RECOGNIZES EIGHT NOTABLE PERSONS

During the Columbia Union Conference year-end meetings, union leadership presented eight men and women with Notable Persons of Honor awards. Rob Vandeman, executive secretary, said of awardees, “These men and women faithfully served our Lord, our church and the community well, and whom we trust will continue to do so in the days, weeks and years to come.”

The 2014 honorees are (pictured below, left to right):

- Vince Waln, owner and financial planner of LifePlan, LTD, in Ohio
- Carl Rogers, pastor of the Delaware and Zanesville churches in Ohio and a special assistant to the Allegheny West Conference president
- Peggy Lee, secretary/treasurer of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund
- Mary Ellen Kirk accepts the award on behalf of Sandra L. Martin, director of the ACTS9 Adventist Community Services Center in Hagerstown, Md.
- Jim Greene, newly retired New Jersey Conference executive secretary
- Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) based in Kettering, Ohio
- Terri Day, KAHC president (pictured below with Vandeman, Dave Weigley, union president, and Seth Bardu, treasurer)

Not pictured is John Wagner, former interim principal at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.—*V. Michelle Bernard*



LA UNIÓN PÚBLICA DECLARACIÓN SOBRE LA CUESTIÓN DE LA SESIÓN DE LA AG

El Comité Ejecutivo de Columbia Union Conference publicó el mes pasado una declaración apoyando el voto favorable de autorizar a los órganos directivos regionales, llamados divisiones, a decidir cuándo y cómo tratar la cuestión de la ordenación de la mujer. El voto proviene en anticipación a la 60a Sesión de la Asociación General que se llevará a cabo este julio en San Antonio, Texas, donde a casi 2,700 delegados se les preguntará: “¿Es aceptable para los comités de la división, según se estima apropiado en sus territorios, permitir la ordenación de la mujer al ministerio del evangelio? Sí o No”.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión, cree que un voto afirmativo fortalecerá la unidad de la iglesia y el avance de la misión en algunas áreas del mundo donde esto sea apropiado, especialmente en la División Norteamericana. “A mi entender, esta es una de las opciones propuestas y respaldadas por una encuesta extraoficial de 62 de los 95 asistentes a la reunión final del comité de estudio de la teología de la ordenación realizado por la Asociación General”, dice él. “Dedicaron 18 meses tratando de encontrar un consenso acerca de nuestra práctica de la ordenación, y creo que esta encuesta, aunque extraoficial, provee un indicador práctico de la mejor manera de nuestra iglesia continuar en este momento crucial”.

Lea la declaración, disponible también en español y en francés, en columbiaunionvisitor.com/officials-tatement.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

LA UNIÓN PLANIFICA LIVEANGELISM 2015

Columbia Union ofrecerá Liveangelism 2015 del 20 al 22 de febrero. Los pastores y líderes de más de 200 iglesias del área del atlántico medio se reunirán en el Ocean City Convention Center en



Ocean City, Md., para un fin de semana de capacitación.

Este evento se enfocará en los medios básicos de cumplir con la misión de Cristo. Las cuatro partes de la misión son: cada discípulo orando y alcanzando con amor a cinco amigos; grupos pequeños fomentando el reavivamiento y el evangelismo en 500 hogares; alcanzando nuevos territorios al plantar 15 nuevas iglesias; y ministerios y departamentos de iglesia enfocándose intencionalmente en las necesidades de la congregación y la comunidad.

Los oradores serán Dave Weigley, presidente de Columbia Union Conference, y Roger Hernández (foto de arriba), director de evangelismo y ministerial en Southern Union.

“Esperamos que cada participante regrese comprometido, motivado, y equipado para realizar gozosamente la misión de Jesús”, dice Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente para ministerios multilingües y organizador del evento.

Para más detalles, visite liveangelism.com, escriba a surrutia@columbiaunion.net o llame (410) 997-3414, ext. 586.—*Sylvia Urrutia*

AHC NOMBRA A UN LÍDER PASTORAL

Ismael Gama, quien ha servido como vicepresidente asociado para el cuidado espiritual e integración en la misión en Adventist HealthCare (AHC) desde el 2008, pasará a su nueva función este

mes. Ahora servirá como director administrativo de AHC's Behavioral Health & Wellness Services [servicio de bienestar y salud conductual de Adventist HealthCare], en Rockville, Md. Gama completó recientemente su maestría en administración de empresas, y utilizará sus 15 años de experiencia en el ministerio y gestión de equipo en su nuevo cargo.



“En Adventist HealthCare, estamos comprometidos en apoyar el desarrollo profesional de todos nuestros empleados y en crear un camino que provea oportunidades para enriquecimiento y crecimiento”, dice John Sackett, vicepresidente ejecutivo y director de operaciones de AHC y presidente de AHC Shady Grove Medical Center. “Ismael tendrá la oportunidad de obtener la experiencia en un número de áreas de nuestra división en salud conductual, incluyendo programas clínicos, finanzas, administración del personal, servicios auxiliares, y desarrollo empresarial”.—*Personal de AHC*

NEW JERSEY NOMBRA SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO

A partir del 1° de enero, Mike Gill (en la foto) tomará el timón como el secretario ejecutivo, reemplazando a Jim Greene, quien se jubiló el 31 de diciembre. Desde 1988 Gill ha servido como pastor en varios distritos de la Asociación, y últimamente en la iglesia Laurelwood en Deptford. Además de la obra pastoral, ha servido como director del ministerio de la familia de la Asociación, director de adoración, y director de los Servicios Adventistas a la Comunidad y Respuesta en Casos de Desastres.



“Mike ha servido fielmente a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en New Jersey Conference por más de dos décadas”, dice José Cortés, presidente. “Mike es un hombre de familia. Con su maravillosa esposa, Eileen, hacen una contribución especial a la Asociación”.

Gill dice que la mejor parte de este llamado “es la oportunidad de trabajar con un grupo de personas dedicadas”. Él añade, “Espero ser un líder siervo, lo que el cargo en realidad implica”.

Lea más en la página 25.

—Paulo Macena

POTOMAC RECONOCE A UN PASTOR DE RICHMOND

Potomac Conference dedicó tiempo durante la reunión otoñal de pastores para dar reconocimiento a tres pastores por su trabajo destacado, incluyendo Obed Rosette (en la foto), pastor de Richmond Evangelistic Center en Richmond, Va. Los líderes destacaron a cada receptor por medio de

un video y lo premiaron con un certificado de excelencia.

“Estos individuos están dedicados al ministerio y dispuestos a ir la segunda milla”, dijo Bill Miller, presidente de la Asociación.

Los miembros de Richmond Evangelistic Center dicen que conocen mejor al pastor Rosette por tener un interés genuino por las personas y



por su amor y apoyo. “He visto cómo nos ha ayudado a mover la iglesia hacia delante”, dice Dina Álvarez, un miembro.

“Él nos motiva a proseguir”.

Vea los videos sobre los reconocidos pastores en pcsd.org/recognitionvideos.—Tiffany Doss

LA IGLESIA LLAMA A LA ORACIÓN DIARIA EN EL 2015

La iglesia Adventista tiene dos iniciativas este año para aumentar la

oración de la feligresía en el 2015.

La iglesia mundial adoptó la iniciativa Ten Days of Prayer (diez días de oración, antes conocida como Operation Global Rain en 2010). Los líderes mundiales han pedido a todos los hogares, escuelas, iglesias, foros y teleconferencias en línea que dediquen enero 7 al 17 para “suplicar por sus bendiciones prometidas”. Por medio del sitio de internet oficial tendaysofprayer.org, explican, “En el mundo, las iglesias adventistas están experimentando la renovación del Espíritu Santo al seguir el ejemplo de los discípulos y participar de los diez días de oración”.

¿Qué sucedería si cada adventista en Norte América dedicara solamente pocos minutos cada día orando por una persona en específico? Esa es la pregunta que la División Norteamericana le hace a cada miembro al lanzar su iniciativa Pray One Million. Visite columbiavisionvisitor.com/2015prayer para leer más acerca de esta iniciativa que lanzó la iglesia mundial en su reunión de fin de año.

Artículo principal de *Visitor*: Improbable Heroína

Al ver a Elizabeth Theis, con su cabello rubio oscuro y su sonrisa cautivante, algunos tal vez no pueden ver de inmediato los elementos de una heroína. Diagnosticada al nacer con espina bífida de grado cuatro (el grado más severo de esta enfermedad), la espina dorsal y elementos neurales de Theis están expuestos por una apertura en la columna vertebral resultando en una parálisis parcial o total de las áreas inferiores a la apertura.



CHRIS CONE/AP IMAGES

Su cuerpo lleva cicatrices de “luchas” por 45 cirugías, inconmensurable dolor y malestar, incontables infecciones y estadías hospitalarias sufridas.

Aún así, si le preguntáramos a los 58 niños que ella ha acogido y a numerosos individuos y familias sin hogar que han encontrado consuelo en la sencilla casa de Elizabeth, que comparte con Mark, su cariñoso esposo por 42 años, ellos le dirían que ella es más que una heroína—ella es las manos y el corazón de Dios.

Su vida obtuvo gran significado el día que un médico residente en uno de los hospitales donde ella frecuenta, tuvo especial interés por ella. “Al hablarme, él me preguntó, ‘Así que, ¿qué deseas ser cuando crezcas?’ Creo que fue en ese momento que supe que quería ayudar a otros niños—otros niños lastimados”, comparte ella.

—Debra McKinney Banks

When Tragedy Strikes a Town Near Us, How Should We Respond?

Our world is hurting. The nightly news serves as a visual catalog of existential maladies. Tragedy has become its own kind of normal. But, what precisely is our Christian duty to witness to those suffering around us and, thus, extend a much-needed measure of agape love?

Sheila Schlisner Hendricks, former executive director and a current board member of the Adventist Community Services Center of Greater Washington (ACSGW), asserts that there are more than 350 Bible verses that instruct Christians how to treat those in need. Matthew 25:35-40 ranks among the most poignant, as Jesus extols the virtues of kindness bestowed upon the hurting. “What better way to share and witness than to follow Jesus’ example and do what Jesus has asked us to do?” she asks.

While we most certainly need to help those who daily struggle to get food, stay warm in the cold and get simple healthcare, sometimes there are tragedies that have a ripple effect on an entire community. Healing that hurt is a big job, but there is genuine evidence that good deeds undertaken in God’s name can incite powerful and widespread change.

ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For Alex Karras, a member of Potomac Conference’s Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md., it all began with an email revealing that his colleague John Graham’s daughter was missing. By then the disappearance of University of Virginia student Hannah Graham on September 13, 2014, began to



PHOTO BY GINOSPHOTOS/ISTOCKPHOTO

Community members gather at a makeshift memorial for Michael Brown, who was shot to death by police in Ferguson, Mo.

make national news.

Karras emailed other Christians at his workplace to gauge interest in starting a prayer group specifically to ask God to intervene and comfort Graham and his wife, Sue. Many agreed to meet daily. “Here we are in a secular workplace and we are having all types of people joining the group because we are concerned about John’s daughter,” marvels Karras. Graham, who was aware of his colleagues’ prayers but did not personally join the meetings, expressed his appreciation.

Even after the search for Graham’s daughter ended tragically, Karras realized the prayer group needed to continue. Not only did the Graham family need to remain in prayer, but also the daily meetings had brought together people in need of spiritual uplifting. “We are still praying ... and we have no intention of stopping,” says Karras. “People who don’t go to church

every week and who weren’t connected to God prior, are finding it refreshing because finally they are being connected to God.”

Karras, a former theology major at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., has also since begun weekly Bible studies with some of the co-workers. “God calls us all to be missionaries,” he says, even if we don’t travel the world to do so.

WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED ...

In August 2014, much of America watched in horror as the national news relayed the first details of the tragedy in Ferguson, Mo., when police officer Darren Wilson killed teenager Michael Brown. Despite the hundreds of miles that separated her from the mayhem, Yolanda Banfield, who attends Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., felt

restlessness in her spirit. She reached out to two childhood friends: Rocky Twyman, a fellow prayer warrior and member of Potomac Conference's Rockville (Md.) church, and Darryl Alexander, a member of the Northside church located near Ferguson.

The trio decided to introduce the love of God into the chaotic situation. "We realized that we had to extend the love that we had to a hurting community," says Banfield. "We wanted to galvanize the people of God and just be an extension of His love to the community."

The friends witnessed to hundreds of attendees at churches in Ferguson and in the community with a call for prayer and peaceful demonstration as their theme. The trio even gathered at a street memorial in Ferguson to sing and pray with those gathered, and to witness and distribute tracts.

"We believe Adventists have to get involved in these kinds of issues. ... And, people seemed to follow our example of praying before protesting even after we left," says Twyman, who continues to pray for the Ferguson community.

A CONGREGATION UNITES A COMMUNITY

Pastor Keith Goodman, of AEC's North Philadelphia church in Philadelphia, witnessed firsthand how tragedy can unite a community. The lesson followed the July 2014 deaths of three local children killed by two young men who lost control of a stolen vehicle. Members of Goodman's church knew the children's families and decided they

should host the funeral.

The service drew hundreds from the community, including the mayor and local policemen. And, with NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley covering the costs, the sad event also drew the press.

During the service, Goodman's congregation teamed with church members of other local denominations to provide food, ushers, support staff and nurses. Pastor Goodman says the team effort fostered newfound relationships and generated gateways of communication that allowed the Adventists to share their faith.

"Our church, which has been in Philadelphia for decades, wasn't on the city's radar until we touched the community through this tragedy and opened people's eyes up to the fact that this is a place of worship that cares enough to minister to people who are hurting," notes Pastor Goodman. "Ministering to people with the compassion of Christ, in whatever form it takes, is what people are looking for. If you want to get people's attention, you have to let them see the side of what they think Christ would be like. That's why we should be doing more helping."

ACTIONS ARE WITHIN YOUR REACH

Not every tragedy makes the nightly news, and there are many ways for Adventists to witness during difficult times. "If there's a tragedy in the community—say a fire, shooting or death—while others are shaking their heads, we should be coordinating helpful efforts," says Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for strategic communication and public relations for the Columbia Union Conference. "Being relevant today means we'll participate in community meetings and events, march in community parades, show up at the local pancake breakfasts

5 Ways to Turn Tragedy Around

Witness where you are. Seek to be a blessing in ways that you feel realistically fit your talents, time and resources.

"If God has placed you in a corporate workplace, be a missionary there. People are hungry for God," says Karras. And, never underestimate the power of prayer.

Regularly donate money, personal supplies or food to local agencies, such as ACS. Being able to give people basic supplies is one of the best ways we can respond quickly in times of tragedy, says Hendricks.

Volunteer. If you are unsure about what to do, call local agencies that aid people during tragedies and ask how to best help. "[We might need help] sorting through and organizing the donations," says Hendricks.

Be a mentor and friend to those in need. Blyden advises us to remember Ellen White's counsel: "By visiting the people, talking, praying, sympathizing with them, you will win hearts" (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 41).

Weigh in on issues that impact our local and global communities. Something as simple as starting a social media campaign to raise awareness can make a difference and keeps Adventists relevant.

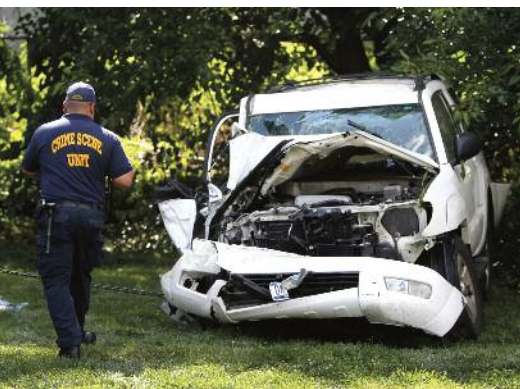
with smiles and food, and go where disaster strikes or violence occurs to hug, pray and serve."

Twyman agrees and summarizes: start developing relationships with the community *before* a tragedy happens. Banfield adds, "To project Christ, we have to be the church. We are the church. We have to walk like it. Go out into the world and just love on people."

In the end, says Pastor Goodman, it comes back to emulating Christ. "Adventists are a people who are called to go into the world. That is our mission," he says.

An investigator examines a damaged vehicle that was involved in a fatal accident in Philadelphia.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH KACZMAREK/AP PHOTO







Unlikely Hero

EVERY SO OFTEN, A HUMAN BEING DEFIES GREAT ODDS TO IMPACT THE WORLD. WE FOUND SUCH A WOMAN—A MODERN DAY DORCAS—AND THE COMRADES WHO COMPLETE HER BAND OF PRAYER WARRIORS

by debra mckinney banks

Looking at Elizabeth Theis, with her dark blond hair and engaging smile, some may not readily see the makings of a hero. Diagnosed at birth with stage-four spina bifida (the most severe form of the disease), Theis' spinal cord and neural elements are exposed through the opening in the spine resulting in partial or complete paralysis of the areas below the opening. Her body bears the "battle" scars from 45 surgeries, untold pain and discomfort, and countless infections and hospital stays.

Yet, if you were to ask the numerous foster children and homeless individuals and families who have found solace in the simple house Elizabeth shares with Mark, her loving husband of 42 years, they would tell you that she is more than a hero—she is God's hands and heart.

PAINFUL BEGINNINGS

Born in 1953 into a large family with six brothers and sisters, to a mother who struggled with her own issues, Elizabeth's childhood was less than pristine. "When mom was well, things went well. When mom was sick, things went very unwell," remembers Elizabeth, a member of Ohio Conference's Wilmington church. "We were often abandoned. My mom and stepdad would leave me and the smaller children alone for weeks on end. There were many times of hunger and loneliness," she recalls.

With so many other pressing matters plaguing her mother, caring for a child with disabilities was not often very high on the list. "One wintery day, I sat for a long period on a floor [heating] register while my older sister read stories to me and my younger siblings. Due to the lack of feeling in her lower extremities, I didn't even know until the next day, when my mother was bathing me, that the skin on my bottom had blistered and was hanging off," Elizabeth explains. Suffering third-degree burns, she ended up in the hospital for 14 months with constant infections, fevers and ulcerations.

photographs by chris cone

A SEED IS PLANTED

Most of Elizabeth's childhood was spent in one of two Rhode Island hospitals: the naval hospital or the Shriner's Hospital for Children, both in Newport. She visited them with numerous illnesses, corrective surgeries and infections of the bladder and kidney. When she was 10, she developed osteomyelitis, an infection in the bone, which troubled her for the next 35 years. Elizabeth was often isolated and alone. "I would meet children younger than myself who, like me, week after week didn't have any visitors," she reminisces.

During this time, a young resident doctor took interest in this young girl and often stopped by after his rounds to visit, play board games, read or work on puzzles. "While talking to me, he asked, 'So, what do you want to do when you grow up?' I think it was then I knew I wanted to help other children—other hurt children," she shares. "But how, especially in my condition?"

Elizabeth fondly remembers one of two paintings of Jesus in the hospital's playroom. One was of Jesus blessing the children. The other was Jesus giving a

When you have held a child whose body is racked with sobs, who has been beaten, his bones broken, told he is 'illegitimate trash' ... it is very hard to even think of turning your back.

drink of water to a little boy with this Scripture printed below: "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water ... verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matt. 10:42). "I remember thinking as a child, 'Well, anyone can give a cup of water! Even me!'"

BUILDING A HOME

By the time Elizabeth turned 18, the osteomyelitis had spread to both of her feet. Very sick and frustrated with conditions at home, and after a severe beating, she ran away. It wasn't long before she was back at the naval hospital. This time she met a young Navy sailor on disability working there while he awaited discharge.

"He knew there was a possibility of no children, but he saw something in me to love," Elizabeth shares. "I had no bladder or bowel control. He knew the lifespan of a spina bifida patient was not a long one, yet he chose to marry me."

The Theises eventually married July 28, 1972, then moved to Dayton, Ohio, to attend the Dayton Bible College. While there they were blessed with a son, David Israel. Seventeen months later, despite Elizabeth requiring a leg amputation, they welcomed their second child, Heather Merrie.

"Both pregnancies were pretty hard on me and my husband, who had the extra burden of carrying me around, plus cleaning up after me," Elizabeth recalls. "Being a disabled vet, Mark had a hard time gaining permanent employment with any medical benefits. It took years to pay off the hospital bills. He worked two minimum wage jobs for years. However, no matter what, our Anchor, Jesus Christ, held."

RUNNING A FULL HOUSE

Despite limited resources, the Theises considered themselves extremely blessed to have two children. They soon felt the Holy Spirit prompting them to consider adopting a child. After completing classes through the local social services agency, they soon learned that God had an immediate need. Daniel*, a local neighborhood boy, came to stay with them after his mother and the man she was living with abandoned him.

"We called Children's Services and found out that he had been in foster care previously but had been returned to his mother who was addicted to heroin," Elizabeth explains. They realized the boy had nowhere else to go, so the Theises filled out emergency placement papers for a foster care license so Daniel could stay with them over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We couldn't say no," Elizabeth adds. "When you have held a child whose body is racked with sobs, who has been beaten, his bones broken, told he is 'illegitimate trash' by his stepfather over and over again—if Christ is truly the Lord of your life, it is very hard to even think of turning your back."

For the next 15 years, the Theises opened their hearts and home to a total of 58 foster children and they adopted four. Kristen Taylor, their first adopted child,



rescued from an abusive stepfather, moved into the Theis home when she was 8.

“It was my first and only foster home; thank you, Jesus!” exclaims Taylor. “Mom and Dad loved everyone. Dad was so patient and easy to get along with. They were simply good people who loved God.” She fondly adds, “We had kids around all the time. The cool thing about my parents was that they were invested in kids’ lives even if they didn’t belong to them. That’s just how they were.”

Eager to help their children learn the importance of helping others, the family became involved with a homeless ministry in Dayton. “Over the years, we opened our home to many different homeless families,” Elizabeth recalls. “We had some ups and downs. Did we get hurt sometimes? Yes! Did we stop? No! Because living for Christ, loving like Christ means we have to be vulnerable to be hurt. Will you get taken advantage of? Definitely, yes! But, just when we think we need to stop, God sends more people. We get to see His miracles every single day, changing lives.”

PRAYING IN UNITY

Elizabeth knows she and Mark could not possibly do any of this alone. “We could not do what we do without our church family. We are not ‘Lone Rangers,’” she laughs. They especially depend on the help of Roy Lewinsky, their hardworking, dedicated pastor, and several of Wilmington church’s loyal prayer warriors. “God has united us with a likeminded pastor and brothers and sisters who don’t mind getting out of their comfort zones,” she says.

“I have been to many churches in my lifetime,” Elizabeth continues, who converted with Mark into the Seventh-day Adventist Church about 12 years ago. “I thank God for my pastor who does so much to care for people.”

Pastor Lewinsky says Elizabeth is the impetus behind their efforts. “Elizabeth is just such a go-getter! She has a way of finding people and gathering them in,” he says.

Pastor Lewinsky, Elizabeth and their church warriors are currently reaching out to a family Lewinsky quietly worked with for several months. The congregants are sharing resources, time and talents, intermingled with intense prayer sessions—even around the clock—to help the parents through addiction recovery and get the entire family back on their feet.

For a time, the family’s two teenage daughters stayed with the Theises while their mother went away for treatment. “They needed personal things and my budget is a tight one. God sent others to give food cards for the girls and money to purchase things they needed. There is something for everyone to do,” says Elizabeth.

Heidi Miller, another Wilmington prayer warrior, believes the motivation to continue doing more comes from the church’s active prayer life. “Prayer has helped soften all our hearts,” she says. “In fact, many of us have added fasting. I’ve personally seen where fasting has made me more sensitive to other’s needs.

It is also teaching me to listen more and speak less.”

Nelli Osborne, another warrior, adds, “Helping people and praying together for them has brought a different spirit into our church. We have more unity because we are focusing more on helping others, not ourselves. We are seeing that each person counts in God’s eyes. Most of all, no situation is too hopeless with God.”

DEFINING A HERO

A hero can take on many forms. Heroes don’t have to be big and physically strong. They don’t even have to leap tall buildings in a single bound. In fact, a hero can be someone who prays fervently for a mother battling drug addiction. It can be a pastor sitting through a recovery meeting and offering moral support. It can be a woman with one leg, scooting around in a wheelchair serving the Lord despite pain and limitations. It can be a man or woman who may not be able to see through walls, but can break down walls built up by hardships, abuse and poverty with the most powerful weapon of all—unconditional love.

Debra McKinney Banks writes from western Maryland.

**Daniel is a pseudonym*

Elizabeth’s Tips for “Heroes”

Heroes need armor to protect them during battle. Here are the tools that Elizabeth and her church prayer warriors use to ward off the enemy’s attack while they minister to those in need:

- * You will deal with people who have layers of hurt, pain and sometimes mental illness. Rely every moment on the Holy Spirit’s direction.
- * Stand strong on God’s Word. Do not compromise, but stand in love. Be honest about what needs you are able to meet, but speak in love.
 - * Fast and pray. As you make a difference in people’s lives, Satan will attack you and your family. Encourage each other and pray to protect each other.
- * Stay on course. Back off when God says it’s time.
 - * Maintain your personal quiet time with God.
 - * Have a good body of people to fellowship with.
 - * Complain less; praise God more.

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

**Helping Finance
the Gospel Mission
of the Seventh-day
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IN THE LATE 1960s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church inside the Columbia Union territory was growing, but there was little space to house new believers and school their children. Without funding, building and renovating worship and educational facilities would essentially come to a standstill.

Union leaders created a program whereby members could invest in a “revolving fund.” The funds raised from these investments were then loaned to conferences, churches, schools and other Adventist institutions. Members responded, and within a year invested more than \$200,000 in what became known as the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). CURF, in turn, provided a valuable source of funds to help keep the work of the church growing within the union.

Over the past 45 years, CURF has provided some 1,900 loans to union entities and continues to be their first choice in lending. CURF makes ministry possible.

Capitol Hill Church Celebrates Breast Cancer Awareness

This fall about 100 women met at the Capitol Hill church (CHC) in Washington, D.C., for “Tea, TaTas and Testimonies,” an event organized by the Capitol Hill church’s Women’s Ministries team. The women gathered for fellowship and testimonies from five breast cancer survivors: Rosamond Leacock-Martin, a Capitol

Hill member; Linda Carter, from the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.; Toni Walker, from the New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md.; Regina Barnes, from the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va.; and Grace Taylor, from the Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md. They shared their journeys from diagnosis to treatment and how it impacted their walks with God. They also discussed the facts, their fears and, most importantly, their faith.

The evening was the brainchild of Leacock-Martin and Tanya Taylor, Women’s Ministries co-leader. Hazel Lofton-Gregg prepared a dinner served by the CHC teen hostesses. Barbara Donaldson, wife of the senior pastor, gave the opening prayer, and Lynda Hodges, another breast cancer survivor, and CeCe Henry, provided special music.

Many of the ladies brought co-workers, friends, sisters, mothers and daughters. Everyone had a chance to meet and greet and talk to the survivors. The evening ended with a circle of prayer and special anointing by the church’s female elders. Each woman also left with a goodie bag filled with information on breast cancer awareness and inspirational reading.

“All the women that attended say they were richly blessed,” shares Leacock-Martin.



Volunteers: Capitol Hill church Women’s Ministries team and the teen hostesses

PHOTO BY GIGI MATTOX

DuPont Park Lays “Gentle Giant” Pastor to Rest

The DuPont Park church in Washington, D.C., recently celebrated the life of their senior pastor, Samuel R. Hutchins, who passed away after a short illness.

Hutchins’ friends and colleagues called him “Hutch.” Many of those he pastored referred to him as the “gentle giant” because of his imposing stature; his gentle, Christ-like demeanor; and his innate love for children. At the time of his death, he was involved in a school expansion project for the DuPont Park Seventh-day Adventist School, to which his family requested donations be sent in lieu of flowers.

Hutchins began his 30-year pastoral ministry in the Enid and Langston District in Oklahoma. He also pastored in the Southeastern California and the South Central conferences before joining the Allegheny East Conference pastoral team. He served as senior pastor of the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia before transferring to DuPont Park.

Hutchins was married to the former Sharon White, whom he met at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) in 1985.



No Students Injured in Pine Forge Academy Fire

Students were already in class when a fire recently broke out in Kimbrough Hall, the women's dormitory at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa. The fire department arrived at the building shortly after 9 a.m.



and contained the fire. Staff members in the building exited unharmed and students continued with their regular school schedule for the rest of the day.

The Allegheny East Conference housed the female students at their Econo Lodges on campus that evening. The local Red Cross provided students with emergency toiletries, pillows and blankets.

Due to the displacement, Pine Forge Academy's Thanksgiving break began Wednesday, November 19, at 1 p.m., instead of the originally scheduled November 25. Academy faculty and staff worked with parents to ensure each student returned home safely.

The fire department reports that the fire started in one dorm room when clothing items ignited due to their close proximity to a wall heater. The extent of the damage is still being assessed.

For those interested in helping, visit pineforgeacademy.org.

ACS Teams Donate Clothing to Philly Fire Victims

Within minutes fire spread through a neighborhood in southwest Philadelphia, killing four, displacing more than 40 and destroying eight homes. When Janice Jenkins, Adventist Community Services (ACS) leader at the Southwest Philadelphia church, heard the news, she solicited the assistance of fellow church members. Together they collected 1,000 pieces of gently worn clothes and shoes for the displaced families.

After Vernessa Wilson, president of the Delaware Valley ACS Federation, a group of local ACS members from various churches in the Philadelphia area, heard



At the Christ International Baptist Church in Philadelphia, women from the Southwest Philadelphia Adventist Community Services are honored for their contributions to displaced fire victims.



Community members survey the damage after the fire.

about Jenkins' efforts, she asked the disaster relief teams in the area for help. Several local Seventh-day Adventist churches sent representatives to help organize and distribute clothing and food at the nearby Christ International Baptist Church. Thanks to the teamwork of the Adventist churches, the Delaware Valley ACS Federation also donated 52 new winter coats to fire victims.

To show his appreciation for the efforts of the ACS teams and other volunteers, the pastor of the Baptist church hosted a reception in their honor.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIST INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH

ROTC Cadets Visit Columbus Adventist Academy

In commemoration of Veterans Day, Ohio State University Air Force ROTC cadets recently visited Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus. They raised the flag, demonstrated marching and shared with the students their reasons for serving our country.

During the visit, fifth-graders learned more about what it means to be a veteran by reading skits to younger students. The sixth- through eighth-graders also learned about leadership skills by talking with the Downtown High School Air Force Jr. ROTC cadets, who also visited.

One of the middle school student leaders says he gained a lot from the experience, and added, "Being mature doesn't mean doing what you are told to do; it is doing above and beyond what you are told to do."



PHOTO BY DARWIN ALLEN

High school ROTC cadets share how being part of the ROTC develops skills for their future careers.

Beacon of Hope Church Shines Light on Healthy Diets

The Beacon of Hope church's Sabbath School, Health Ministries, Women's Ministries and Adventist Youth departments recently worked together to host a community guest day focused on health. During the event, the church, located in Columbus, Ohio, recognized Lois Maier, from the Berwick Community Alliance, and Surlina Asamoah, a church member, for their work in the community.

David Dozek, assistant professor of surgery at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and Elethia Dean (below), CEO at ASC Compliance, presented messages during the church service. Dozek shared that the first diet research ever performed was in the Bible, although the research population was small and the time span short. When taken into captivity, Daniel and his three friends requested a plant-based diet, which helped them grow stronger than their fellow captives. He also shared how improper diet has attributed to death and disease, and how plant-based diets have improved health. Dean presented more about Daniel's healthy lifestyle choices and how God blessed him and his



three friends with health and wealth, and also gave them governmental responsibilities.

During the afternoon, attendees sampled healthy, vegan and vegetarian dishes and visited informational booths filled with healthy alternatives and lifestyle information. Kwami Asamoah, a Beacon of Hope member, also demonstrated various uses of charcoal and several hydrotherapy applications.

Participants say they appreciated the practical demonstrations and information. Attendee Brenda Simons added, "The information I received today will enhance the quality of my life."



Marayah Jalloh assists Kwami Asamoah as he demonstrates how to make a charcoal paste.

Mayor Gives Temple Emmanuel Pastor “Key to the City”

John A. McNally, the mayor of Youngstown, Ohio, recently visited the Temple Emmanuel church to present Pastor Bryant L. Smith with the “key to the city.” The mayor conveyed that he was impressed with all improvements to and progressiveness of the church. “As I drove down from Mill Creek Park and ... saw a church down the road with boarded up windows, rubbish and brush out front that needs to be cleaned up, and when I look at Temple Emmanuel, I see the complete opposite,” he said. “I look at this, a new and beautiful church, full of possibilities, very much like your pastor—full of energy, full of wisdom, encouraging everyone to get involved in the community.”

McNally referred to the recent work Pastor Smith and the Temple Emmanuel church did in the community, including expanding ministry online, cleaning up



Elders lay hands on the mayor as Pastor Smith prays for him.

PHOTOS BY HERB TINSELY



John A. McNally, mayor of Youngstown, Ohio, presents the “key to the city” to Pastor Bryant Smith and his wife, Amanda.

abandoned buildings, beautifying their neighborhood and getting people excited about service.

Pastor Smith in turn presented McNally with an engraved Bible and encouraged him to let God’s Word be his guide and wisdom. Before McNally left, the pastor and elders gathered around the mayor and asked God to bless him with wisdom, guidance and protection. McNally left a parting promise that Temple Emmanuel has his support in anything they want to do in the community.

One recent example of the church’s work in the community happened when Pastor Smith and church members rolled up their sleeves and decided to take

back their neighborhood. The community has a few abandoned, boarded up buildings. The church partnered with the city’s RUBY (Revitalization and Urban Beautification of Youngstown) program. The city then dropped off a trailer loaded with equipment to clean and beautify the property. After hours of cleaning, police officers and others stopped by to take notice and commended the church for their work in the community.



Temple Emmanuel members Ruth Parker, Precious Cochrane, Cha’Niya Dill and Gloria Kelly relax after cleaning up an abandoned building.



Blue Mountain Academy

COMMUNIQUE

JANUARY 2015

Students Encounter God

Jon stopped by my office to tell me he wanted to make a difference during his senior year. I assured him I'd support him anyway I could. He can now be found leading worship on campus, praying with students or arranging for students to join him at the flagpole to pray. Jon represents so many students who



The 2013-14 student body represents 10 states and eight countries.

encounter God in our safe, nurturing environment, and who receive an outstanding Seventh-day Adventist education that values a mission-focused purpose. Sure, there are challenges for families and students and, for faculty and their families, I would add. But, at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), we have chosen a Bible promise as a foundation for our mission that makes the challenges worthwhile: "But now, this is what the Lord says. He who created you, Jacob, He who I formed, Israel, do not fear for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isa. 43:1, NIV).

The annual report (July 2013-June 2014) is a snapshot of the numerous ways God is blessing BMA. Thank you for your passion, sacrifice and dedication to mission, which makes possible so many growth opportunities. And, thank you for answering Jesus' call to help guarantee an Adventist education for His teens.



Dave Morgan
Principal

We Appreciate Your Support

Sitting at the head of the table at a Blue Mountain Academy Board meeting, I was impressed as one of the students led the board in worship and prayer. The spiritual insights were mature and right on target. They came from her heart. This is the best gift BMA can give the students who come to us for their secondary education: the gift of growing in their walk with Jesus, becoming spiritual leaders and being led to take on the mission of Jesus through the rest of their lives.

I speak on behalf of the board of directors (listed below) when I say that we appreciate you joining us at BMA in this ministry. Through your prayers, encouragement and financial support, you are making it possible for this generation to be called and equipped as young people of spiritual influence, wherever the Lord might lead them. You enable BMA to send vibrant, Adventist young people into the world to serve Christ.—Ray Hartwell, Board Chairman



Dave Morgan, principal, and Ray Hartwell, board chairman and Pennsylvania Conference president, say they appreciate parents and alumni for their continued support of the school.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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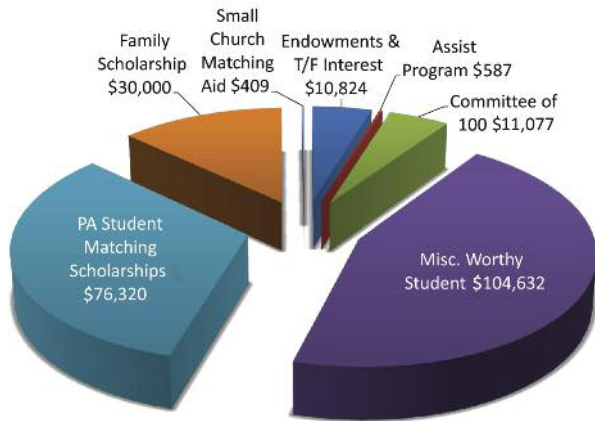
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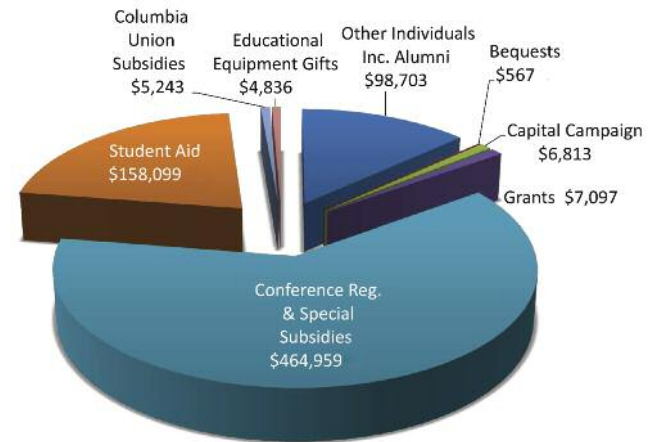
Improvements Demonstrate Donations at Work

It takes a team of faithful, generous supporters to sustain Blue Mountain Academy. According to school administrators, it would take a book to list all of the improvements, renovations, upgrades and repairs to help ensure excellent academics, programs and facilities. What follows are graphs that break down how donations are being used:

Student Aid



Donations



Here are just a few of the projects contributions have made possible during the past 10 years:

Academics

- Expanded Advanced Placement/dual enrollment classes with up to 29 college credits possible
- Science lab renovation
- Library renovation
- Thirty-five new computers for the computer lab
- Expanded curriculum, including psychology, robotics, graphic design, Spanish and vocational education; an expanded aviation program; and SMART boards

Industry

- A sign and print shop
- An agriculture program that includes two greenhouses and seven acres of farmland
- A recycling program that includes selling plastics and cardboard to a local recycling firm

Administration Building

- New bathrooms
- New gymnasium roof and doors
- Refurbished/upgraded classrooms and offices

Dormitories

- New windows
- New bathrooms
- New roofs for lobbies

Staff Housing

- New principal's house
- Purchase of staff house
- Various upgrades and repairs



Facilities

- Sewer plant upgrade
- Electrical and plumbing upgrades
- Generators for power outages

Miscellaneous Projects

- Coach and yellow school buses
- Eagle statue*
- Gazebo*
- Increased worthy student dollars

*Gifted by one or more individuals



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JANUARY 2015

Reach Chesapeake in 2015

Jesus began His ministry with an invitation to Peter and Andrew to follow Him and become fishers of men. They accepted the invitation and spent three-and-a-half years as His disciples. The brothers heard Jesus teaching and learned how to be teachers. They observed His compassion for the multitudes and discovered how to be a caring shepherd.

As the gospel account concludes in Matthew, Jesus called His disciples together and commissioned them to go and make disciples (see Matt. 28:19, NKJV). Their positive response now becomes a command to go into all the world. Jesus explained that all authority has been given to Him so He was qualified to give this directive. He also provided the reassurance that He will be with His disciples, down through the ages, to the very end.

In the *Desire of Ages* (p. 195), Ellen White tells us, “Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary.” As I visit the churches across our conference, I find this impulse to be true. We want to share the good news. We want people to have the same hope in Jesus and His soon return that brings us such joy.

“Reach Chesapeake 2015” is an initiative where every congregation is encouraged to reach out to their community and invite people to become disciples of Jesus. Partnering with our sister conferences in the Baltimore/D.C. metro region, we will use April 11 as a coordinated launch date.

I urge you to *pray* for the effectiveness of every meeting and event. *Plan* with your pastor and other members for the most meaningful outreach in your community. Then, go and *invite* people to receive the best news they will ever hear.



Rick Remmers
President

Chesapeake, Potomac Co-Host Young Adult Retreat

Chesapeake and Potomac conferences recently co-hosted the “iThirst” Spiritual Retreat for young adults at the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Throughout the weekend, Sonia Perez, youth pastor of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) church, facilitated activities focusing on the story of blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52. She urged attendees to meditate on the passage and observe 10-12 hour periods of silence each day and participate in nearly four hours of faith-building exercises blindfolded.

Perez says that the activities encouraged attendees to experience the story differently and find a personal connection to Bartimaeus and the lessons he learned.

Many of the attendees, who came from as far away as New Jersey, say the experience enriched their personal spiritual lives and that they would recommend the next retreat to others.

“...I left the retreat feeling like I truly had an encounter with God,” says Cecelia Ramos, coordinator of the Young Adult program at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. “I was also humbled to see so many young adults who are interested in spiritual things; it was inspiring to be able to fellowship with them.”—*V. Michelle Bernard*

Young Adults from Chesapeake, Potomac, Allegheny East and as far away as New Jersey, enjoy fellowship at the retreat.



Jackie Ramos and Austin Owens, members of the Frederick (Md.) church, assist each other during one of the faith-building activities at the retreat.

PHOTO BY ROSS PATTERSON



Education Leaders Commission Teachers

During a recent service at Atholton church in Columbia, Md., conference leaders presented seven educators from Adventist Atholton Academy with Commissioned Ministry of Teaching credentials. Students provided music and performed a skit. Rick Remmers, conference president, and his son, Andrew, a freshman, each preached a mini sermon based on the academy's theme for the year, "The Rest of Your Life—Average or Memorable?" They shared how God works in memorable ways in our lives.

This was one in a series of five of commissioning services planned by the conference Office of Education for the 2014-15 school year. The credential is granted to teachers who have shown a lifelong commitment to the ministry of Christian education; have at least six years of successful Adventist teaching experience; exhibit Christian responsibility for nurturing and leading students to Christ; consistently uphold Christ as the focal point of all curriculum and instruction; and demonstrate positive interpersonal relationships,



Andrew Remmers challenges the congregation, "Don't be just an average person in this world."



Jacqueline Messenger, superintendent (at the podium), and Mark Walker, associate superintendent (behind her), lead a responsive reading with Atholton Adventist Academy teachers Miya Kim, Kayla Thom, Julia DiBiase, Lisa Dewitt, Beth and Jeremy Villanueva, and Candace Iseminger.

explains Marilyn Peeke, Atholton's principal.

Last fall six other teachers received the credential: Angela Misselhorn and Jacqueline Gonzalez from Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School in Westminster, Md.; Joyce Barber from Dover First Christian School in Dover, Del.; Sean Henline, from Frederick Adventist School in Frederick, Md.; and Rose Gamblin and Heather Hastick, from the Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School in Baltimore. Another commissioning service is planned for Sabbath, January 24, at the Williamsport (Md.) church.

Spencerville Welcomes New Senior Pastor

The Spencerville church recently welcomed Chad Stuart as senior pastor of their 1,800-member congregation in Silver Spring, Md. He filled the vacancy created when Jerry Lutz was elected conference secretary last year.

"We look forward to the great things that God has in store for our church, and clearly see His divine providence in this call to Spencerville," says Stuart.

A seasoned pastor and church planter, Stuart led the Visalia (Calif.) church for the past six years. There he facilitated strong church growth, an emphasis on prayer ministry, the inclusion of more young adults in leadership and increased financial support.

He is married to Christina (Holm) Stuart, a nurse anesthetist, and they have three boys: Dayton (6), Landon (4) and Levi (2) (pictured).



MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

JANUARY 2015

Returning Soldier Joins Fairmont Church

This fall the Fairmont (W.Va.) church welcomed Matthew Spiker as a member. But, his journey to membership started years ago. Spiker became familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist Church when he became friends with Jarrett and Trevor Shafferman and their parents, John and Kim, during middle and high school. During this time, he also met John Shafferman's sister, Marty Murphy, and her husband, Randy, a former conference president. He visited the Grafton (W.Va.) church while also attending other local churches. Spiker says he was blessed by the positive influence the family had in his life.

In 2009 Spiker joined the United States Army and served nine months in Afghanistan. After being discharged in 2013, he had a tough time coping with civilian life and sought guidance from the Shafferman and Murphy families. He then began regularly attending the Grafton church. Spiker experienced a sense of peace and became convicted of biblical truths. This led to Bible studies with Randy in May 2014. Several months later, he chose to be baptized.

"It was an honor to study with Matt. He proved to be a fine and faithful Bible student," says Randy (shown baptizing Spiker). "As a veteran back from the war zone in Afghanistan, he was ready to receive the peace of Christ into his heart."—*Jessica Manantan*



Pastor Inspires Healthy Eating in Community



During a recent cooking class, Pastor Jim Buchanan (left) shared, "I love eggs, and there was a time when it wasn't unusual at all for me to eat six eggs and a pound of bacon at one breakfast sitting. I thought if it tasted good, you ate it, and didn't think much more about it." After becoming an

Adventist and learning more about healthy eating, he says he changed his eating habits.

Buchanan, pastor of the Logan and Williamson, (W.Va.) district, and his wife, Elaine (below), now share that knowledge with the community through health programs. The Buchanans recently competed in a Diabetes Coalition cook-off using healthy and tasty recipes. Participants were excited to sample their vegan barbecued ribs and garbanzo bean cake. A reporter from the *Mingo Messenger* newspaper also published an article about their ministry titled "Along With the Spiritual, Local Pastor Also Seeing to



Elaine Buchanan distributes vegan food samples at a mall health event.

the Physical Needs of Area Residents."

Soon after the cooking class, the Buchanans participated in a health seminar held inside a mall in a neighboring county. The couple distributed half a case of the 2015 sharing book *Health & Wellness* and registered people for Neil Nedley's depression recovery program. They also offered vegan samples in another cook-off.

Jim says he was pleased with the number of people they got acquainted with. "I'm glad that [the Adventist] church can be a part of this lively little town," he adds.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Weirton Church Hosts Homecoming and Revival Weekend

The Weirton (W.Va.) church recently hosted a homecoming and revival weekend with guest speaker Lonnie Melashenko. The event took place at the Millsop Community Center in downtown Weirton and featured music from the Chrisagis Brothers, a popular local singing duo. The weekend began with a Friday evening service and continued on Sabbath with two meetings. Forty-five people attended, viewed *The Adventists* and enjoyed a catered meal. Nearly everyone stayed for the day's events.

After seeing the bright sign in front, one visitor came to the meeting and stayed all day. Members who had not been to church in years committed to returning, and at least two Discover Bible School students decided to be baptized. Church members also formed new friendships by mingling with visitors from the community.

Several people, who did not know much about Seventh-day Adventists, now have a fond view of the

church and the members they met. "As I stood in the back of the room one lady took my hand and said how glad she was that she came and what an inspirational day it had been," shares Mary Jo Long, a member of the Weirton church. "Another lady, who had seen the advertisement at the community center, told me how blessed she felt and was happy she had come."

Pastor Larry Murphy says, "Decisions for Christ were made during the weekend and more seeds were planted. The Weirton church is looking forward to conducting a full evangelistic series in the spring."

The Chrisagis Brothers flank Pastor Larry Murphy and speaker Lonnie Melashenko.

A promotional graphic for a ski weekend. The background is a snowy mountain range under a blue sky. In the foreground, a family of three is shown: a man in a red jacket and green helmet carrying a woman in a pink jacket and white helmet on his shoulders. The woman is holding a child in a pink jacket and white helmet. The child is holding a colorful ski. The text "Mountain View Conference" is at the top in yellow. Below it, "Family Ski Weekend" is written in large white letters with a black outline. At the bottom, "February 6 - 8, 2015" is in yellow. Below that, "Valley Vista Adventist Center ~ Timberline" and "Register at MVCYOUTH.ORG OR 304-422-4581" are in white. Logos for "Valley Vista Camp" and "Timberline" are at the bottom corners.

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NEWS NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 2015

Share the Love of God Every Day

Let's welcome the new year with a spirit of gratitude and words of praise because God is so good. His mercy and grace were new 365 times in 2014. And, He is ready to do it again for us throughout 2015. Last year we had to face many challenges. Some of them were very difficult, perhaps painful. But, He did not abandon us, and He never will. Our good God never forsakes us, because we are so precious to Him. Our Lord promised to be with us, and to walk with us every day until the end. If we accept His companionship, He will be very close to us.

God has excellent plans for you and for me. As we plan for the new year, I encourage you to invite Jesus to be the center of your life, to be in the center of your family and the core of the church. Please share the mercy, grace and the love of God every day during 2015. Have a blessed and happy new year!



José H. Cortés
President

Conference Employee Becomes Executive Secretary



The New Jersey Conference recently welcomed a new executive officer. "I am very happy to announce to our constituency that we have a new executive secretary for the New Jersey Conference, effective January 1," says José Cortés, president. "Our own Mike Gill has faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the New Jersey Conference for over two decades. Mike is a family

man. He and his wonderful wife, Eileen, bring a very special contribution to the conference."

Gill was born in Woodbury, N.J., in 1955, and was introduced to Jesus and the Adventist faith at age 18. He married Eileen in 1974. They raised three children—Theresa, Michael and Sharon—who, in turn,

blessed them with grandchildren. Gill attended Glassboro State College in N.J., where he earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. After several years of teaching in public school and later in a daycare his wife started, Gill earned a Master of Divinity at Andrews University in Michigan. He also studied for his Doctor of Ministry at Andrews, and in 2007 finished his studies at the Columbia Evangelical Seminary in Washington.

In 1988 he became pastor of the Collingwood Park and Hightstown district. He later pastored in the Salem, Bridgeton, Vineland and Swedesboro; and Cherry Hill, Laurelwood and Woodbury districts. He most recently pastored the Laurelwood church in Deptford. In addition to pastoral work, Gill has served as the conference family life director, worship director and Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response director.

Gill is looking forward to his new position and says the best part of this call is "the opportunity to work with a dedicated team," he shares. "I look forward to being a servant leader, which is what the office really entails."

Paterson Church Dedicates 14 Children



The Paterson South Spanish church in Paterson dedicated 14 babies on a recent Sabbath. "We had 14 kids dedicated, 12 of them were from the same family," exclaims Pastor Ricardo Cala. "The three babies I held at the same time were born with one day difference, one after another. The Rosario family is the most productive family of the district," he adds.

Union City Church Member Wins Science Competition

Last November Pablo del Puerto, a 17-year-old member of the Union City Spanish church in Union City, was part of a team that won first place for their research at the Super Science High School Convention in Hiroshima, Japan.

Del Puerto, a senior at the Academy for Engineering and Design Technology (AEDT) of the Bergen County Academies (BCA) in Paramus, N.J., served as one of his school's global ambassadors at the event. While there, del Puerto and his team presented their last research project, "How to Capture an Asteroid," with Charlie Camarda, an astronaut, engineer and former director of the space shuttle Discovery Missions and the NASA Johnson Space Center.

Russell Davis, BCA principal, says, "The technical aspects of their presentation and demonstration were flawless and they articulated their research in a clear manner to over 1,000 guests ... What a wonderful team effort!"

Del Puerto also spent one week at the Kokutaiji Senior High School in Hiroshima. He wants to become a mechanical engineer and enjoys sports and music. But, above all these things, del Puerto is a faithful Seventh-day Adventist, say church leaders. He serves



Yuma, a Japanese student from the Kokutaiji Senior High School, and Pablo del Puerto visit Miyajima Island, Japan.

as the director of the audiovisual and sound department and as a deacon at his church. He also volunteers in the church's Pathfinder club.—*Claudia Garcia del Puerto*

Conference Hosts First Men's Prayer Convention

More than 200 men attended the conference's first men's prayer convention this fall at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. The conference's



Personal Ministries Department hosted the event, which focused on providing resources to help the attendees grow in their homes and churches.

Alanzo Smith, Men's Ministries director of the Greater New York Conference; Frank Bondurant, vice president of Ministries Development for the Columbia Union; Eli Rojas, Family Ministries director for the Chesapeake Conference; Modesto Vazquez, conference treasurer; and Jorge Agüero, conference Men's Ministries director, spoke at the special event.

"It was very inspiring to see so many men assemble together, not for a football game or fellowship dinner, but rather to feed their souls and make themselves available to God for personal spiritual transformation," says Bondurant.

Men from across New Jersey enjoy the first men's prayer convention.

PHOTO BY JORGE AGÜERO

Churches Get “Wild” About Fall Activities

Halloween is the time of year when the air becomes crisper, days get shorter and the lure of spooky costumes or free candy can tempt the most sincere Christian youth. How can churches compete for their attention in this fast-paced, technologically advanced 21st century? Depending on the size of the congregation, they can host a fall festival or Wild About Fall party!

The modest-sized Barberton church laity rallied this year to host a fall festival for their neighborhood community, complete with face painting and food booths. Pastor Chester Hitchcock made balloon animals for children. Community members came by the dozen to show their support of this local alternative to Halloween.



Ashton Hahn enjoys petting the animals at the Kettering church's Wild About Fall party.

Larger congregations like the Kettering church have offered such programs since 2001. Their long running No Fright Night event received an upgrade this year to incorporate new elements, such as a “selfie booth” in the church lobby, where people took Instagram photos and used #ketsdafallparty to share their pictures. Nate Chung, Kettering church technology intern, even set up an app to display all the photos using that hash tag during the event, now called the Wild About Fall Party.

Kettering kids of all ages dressed in animal costumes for Trunk or Treat, and went car to car in the parking lot to collect healthful treats and candy from creatively decorated trunks. Known for their expertise in face painting, Dan Stevens, retired children's pastor, and his wife, Richa, set up a booth to create colorful faces to complete the animal costumes for many children. Adults were not exempt from the lure of



Youth dress as animals at the Kettering church's Trick or Trunk activity.

bounce houses, dunk tanks and a fully stocked petting zoo. Bethany Tuten, one of the event coordinators and Children's Ministries interns at Kettering, reports, “We had two police officers stop by because they saw the (petting) zoo and thought it was fun.”

Cold weather did not dampen spirits, as games and food stations were moved indoors. Children of all ages enjoyed the wholesome activities. Judy Cambigue, Spring Valley Academy (SVA) third-grade teacher, said, “The fall party was just right,” while SVA fourth-grader Kate Knudsen added, “This is the best party ever!”



Bob Rocco, a Barberton church member, paints the face of a community member.

PHOTO BY BREANA HAUGHTON AND CHESTER HITCHCOCK

Bikers Ride 90 Miles for ACS Center

Raising money for those in need is never easy. Demand on local food pantries increases during the holiday season and innovative ideas are required to ensure funding is available for those encountering hard times. Tom Hughes, pastor of the Newark church and head of Bible Biker Ministries, is working to meet those needs. Hughes and his team organized their third annual Ride for the Hungry event last fall, with proceeds benefiting the church's Adventist Community Center. More than a dozen bikers participated in the 90-mile ride and raised \$6,000 for the center, which feeds and clothes 400 people monthly. Local merchants contributed to the cause by donating leather jackets and other apparel, and a local nonprofit contributed a \$2,500 grant.



Singles Ministry Stays Active

Pam Bethel, Singles Ministries coordinator, and her team make sure that single adults in Ohio have many opportunities for activities and fellowship. Bethel, a member of the Chillicothe church, plans gatherings in a different region every month. Past excursions include a trip to The Wilds in Cumberland, a visit to a nursing home in Mount Vernon followed by a holiday meal, a day at the Franklin Conservatory in Columbus, and a trip to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Ky.

For more information about joining the group, email Bethel at pam.bethel@gmail.com or call (749) 775-8708. Upcoming events are usually announced in local bulletin inserts or on their Facebook page "Ohio Adventist Singles Ministry."

PHOTO BY PAM BETHEL



Members of the Ohio Adventist Singles Ministry enjoy a day at The Wilds park in Cumberland.

Women's Ministries to Host "Inspired Intimacy" Seminar



Do you struggle with sexual health issues? You aren't alone, say conference leaders. Attend the Ohio Conference Women's Ministries one-day seminar led by Celeste Holbrook, a church leader in sexual health featured in the September 2014 issue of the *Visitor*. Come with girlfriends (over 18 please) and enjoy a safe place to discuss, learn and pray about the most intimate part of your relationship. Leave with a clearer understanding of God's intentions for this aspect of life.

Holbrook's new seminar titled "Inspired Intimacy" will address issues and questions some might be afraid to discuss. Join the event Sunday, February 1, at the Worthington church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with plenty of time for a question and answer session afterward.

To register or learn more about the event, visit ohioadventist.org. The registration fee is \$10 and includes materials and lunch.

Pennsylvania Pen

JANUARY 2015

There's Nothing Random About Acts of Kindness

I had just ordered my food when the cashier turned to her co-worker and said, "I can't wait for my birthday." I asked her when her birthday was and she said October 13. It was only a week away, so I replied, "Well, I won't be able to make it to your party, but here is your present in advance." I reached into my wallet and handed her a gift card. In shock, she turned to all of her co-workers and excitedly told them what I had done. I was somewhat embarrassed, but glad it made her happy.

Some people call it a random act of kindness, but there is nothing random about it. I keep \$5 gift cards in my wallet, and my family and I pray for opportunities to give them to people. Often we are more excited about giving them away than the people who receive them. That's what I love about Jesus. He has made it fun to do things for others. Now my two boys ask if we can give a gift card to our waitress. They even say, "We need to pray that God gives them lots of tips today." Every Thursday morning, we now also take \$5 Wal-Mart flowers to shut-ins.

There is nothing random about what Jesus does for us. In fact, He is very intentional. So here's a challenge: once a month, do something for someone else. It could be anything. Let's get creative and have some fun being Jesus' hands and feet. "For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Gal. 5:14, NASB).



Morgan Kochenhower
Pastor of the York District

Conference Welcomes New Officer

The Pennsylvania Conference is excited to welcome Tim Bailey as the new director of leadership and spiritual growth. Bailey, a graduate of Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Hartland College (Va.) and Andrews University (Mich.), brings experience in pastoral ministry, elders training, prison ministries, conflict management, overseas mission trips, evangelism and church planting. He served as a pastor most recently at Union Springs Academy and the Geneva and Auburn churches in New York. He also worked with two church plants—one in Bath, N.Y., and a bilingual church plant in Seneca Lake, N.Y.

"What a privilege it is to serve God and His church here in Pennsylvania," shares Bailey, who joined the team January 1. "It is my goal to get to know our pastoral staff as quickly as possible and work with them in revealing Jesus and making disciples throughout our conference."

Bailey has two children, Joshua, a senior at Union Springs Academy, and Sarah, a senior at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). His wife, Elizabeth, who has a bachelor's in elementary education, is pursuing a second degree in nursing.



Shamokin, Hanover Ladies Celebrate Little Princesses

Giggling little girls dressed as princesses for an afternoon at two Pennsylvania churches and discovered they are real princesses in Jesus' eyes.

More than 36 little girls, teens and adults enjoyed an afternoon filled with stories of Bible princesses, crafts, games and an afternoon "tea" at the Shamokin church plant in Shamokin. This small group of six members hosts an annual Cool Camp each summer, with more than 70 children attending this past July. Then throughout the year, kids attend monthly events as members continue to teach them more about God and the Bible.

Members laughed that this is one of the few churches where every single member was involved in the outreach and every single person attending was from the community.



Shamokin member Christina Ivankina gathered princess dresses from friends, family and thrift shops so that every little girl could dress up like a princess.

Many in this small community live below the poverty line and often struggle to put food on the table.

There are no extras for princess dresses and

parties. Several teens even begged to be able to attend this event designed for little girls. The Pennsylvania Conference Women's Ministries team helped them lead the program and provided a few supplies. It was a fun afternoon planned to make sure these girls know they are loved princesses of the most high King.

The Hanover church also hosted a princess tea, where more than 40 attended. Diane Mann, a church member, planned the event with a team of other members. They gave every child a copy of *His Little Princess* by Sheri Rose Shepard, a book filled with "love letters" (based on scripture) from God.

"I believe God will use this book in these little hearts," shares Mann, who wanted the girls to not only learn that they were princesses, but to remember so long after the event is over. The tea also included the movie *Gigi: God's Little Princess*, crafts and food.



Christina Ivankina (center, back) helps little girls feel like princesses for the day.



Volunteers help the girls make their own crowns.



Girls from the church and community enjoy an afternoon tea at the Hanover church's event.

Potomac People

JANUARY 2015

Olney School Students Fight for Pennies, Raise \$2,000

Kindergarteners recently took Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md., by storm, winning a three-weeklong “penny war.” Each classroom collected as many pennies as possible and set other classrooms back by putting silver coins in their jars, all in an effort to raise money for the school’s building loan.

“Each week had a different theme,” explains Jami Walker, principal. “The first week, winners got an ice cream treat. During the second week, students could vote for me to do something, including dying my hair green. They chose to cover me in ketchup and mustard. On week three, we threw the winning class a party with a bouncy house,” she adds.

This is the first year all classes have been under one roof. Since opening nearly 17 years ago, Olney had been operating from the church and temporary buildings, but God had a plan. The Commonwealth Foundation granted \$1.55 million and the Potomac Conference donated \$250,000 to help with the new building. The school also received a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund.



Kyra Walker, a first-grader, gleefully squirts mustard on her mother, principal Jami Walker.

Olney Prep is now working to pay off a \$600,000 loan. “We raised almost \$2,000 through the penny war,” shares Walker. “Our new building is such a blessing.”

Conference Recognizes Pastors for Outstanding Work



The conference recognized three pastors with videos and a certificate of excellence at the pastors’ meetings this fall. “These individuals are dedicated to the ministry and are willing to go the extra mile,” says Bill Miller, conference president.

“He doesn’t just tell you things,” says Stephanie Calder of her pastor, Daniel Royo (above), who leads the Piney Forest, Stuart and Martinsville churches in Virginia. “He takes his time and shows you. The biggest impact he’s had on me are the things he’s taught me, not only through the Word, but [also] the way he lives his life.”

“When I first met him, I knew he had a special gift,” says Damien Johnson, senior pastor at the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., of Jeremiah Green (right), youth pastor. “I am blessed to hear him tell stories and interact with the kids.” Green is known as the “kid

whisperer.” Visitors have even joined the church because of his children’s program, says church member Rebecca Munoz.

Members of the Richmond Evangelistic Center in Richmond, Va., know Pastor Obed Rosette (right) for taking genuine interest in people and for



his love and encouragement. “I’ve seen how he has helped us move the church forward,” says member Dina Alvarez. “He motivates us to go ahead.”

Watch the videos about the recognized pastors at pcsa.org/recognition-videos.

Potomac People

Sligo Church Shares “Hope for Today”

It became obvious [that] the term ‘Sligo’ did not necessarily have a positive or spiritual connotation within the community,” says Paolo Esposito about how Sligo church leaders formulated the name of their Hope for Today outreach initiative. “[Since] ‘hope’ is such a popular term—and is a term held dearly by our church—we rebranded our evangelism efforts, using it as our theme,” he says. Esposito adds that they chose a neutral name so it could also one day be shared as an initiative with other churches.

This fall Potomac pastors and associates joined Esposito in leading sessions and seminars at the conference’s first “Hope for Today—Prepare and Engage” training program, held at Sligo in Takoma Park, Md. More than 70 representatives from nine Potomac churches learned the basic principles, which include how to make friends in the community, share one’s faith cross-culturally and recognize the role of the Holy Spirit in all forms of outreach.

“We’ll never look at our own neighborhood quite the same,” comments Elisabeth Wear, Sligo’s Home of Hope coordinator. “We learned to engage in witness through everything from backyard barbecues to active Bible study groups, and examined the easy-to-use Home of Hope discussion guides.”

Wear and her husband, Doug, have been deeply involved since the initial stages and opened their house as one of the first pilot homes. In the program, church members invite neighbors, family, friends and



Paolo Esposito, coordinator of “Hope for Today,” presented effective ways to turn a house into a “Home of Hope.”

co-workers to their home for a Bible study or discussions on health, prayer or other topics. Attendees then choose the series they would like to follow, allowing each home group to develop its own personality but retain the mission. There are 15 active centers around the Washington D.C., area.

“These are effective small groups in which participants are supported and encouraged,” says Don McFarlane, Sligo’s administrative pastor. “They explore faith through Scripture and address practical life situations with biblical principles.” He reports that over 10 people have been baptized so far at Sligo as a result, and many more have become acquainted with Adventism and, more importantly, God’s claim on their lives.

Marjorie Sleeman, a Sligo church member, hosted an eight-week health discussion and shares that two from her group requested Bible studies. She’s now leading a Gospel of John discussion.

“I am thrilled to see how this initiative is changing people’s lives and outlook on evangelism,” says Esposito. “I’m most happy to have the opportunity to meet people from other churches, who share the same passion and are ready to prepare and engage in leading people to Jesus.”

Sligo church will hold another training seminar January 24, 3:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, visit hopefortodayacademy.com.



More than 70 representatives from nine Potomac churches attended “Hope for Today—Prepare and Engage.”

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS



JANUARY 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Alumnus Celebrates Season of Giving All Year

It's January. Christmas has passed, and the season of giving only offers reminders of its recent reign over people's lives. New coats keep owners warm as they brave the outdoors. Children, if they haven't lost interest already, play with their new toys. Large-screen TVs are mounted in the living room, waiting to show the big game and the newest movies (or maybe even a classic or two). And, don't forget all of the new ties bought for dads around the world!

Thankfully, people like Richard Thompson, a Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) alumnus, understand the season of giving is not constrained to the holiday season. Giving joy to others through the token of even a small gift doesn't need a calendar for directions. It only needs a willing spirit.

"I learned this as a student at SVA years ago," says Thompson, a 1977 graduate. "My parents sacrificed for me to receive an Adventist Christian education. My senior year, my father passed away. I should not have been able to stay. It had already been difficult financially. After he passed, it should have been impossible. But, the members of my church back home got together and donated what they could. I worked, too, to help pay as much as I could off my bill. By the time I graduated, I was able to leave without owing a penny.

"Two men in my church really helped me get through the last year," Thompson recalls. "I would occasionally receive mail with \$5, \$10 or \$15 to be used as pocket money. I was able to buy toiletries—a boarding academy necessity—maybe even an ice cream sandwich for me and a friend. These small gifts really made a difference in my life," he shares.

Years after finishing school and starting his own business, he says he felt convicted to give back.



Richard Thompson shows the thank-you cards he received from students.

Since then, he sends the tips he receives from customers in his flower shop to students at SVA. "Sometimes it's \$20. Sometimes it's \$200. Whatever the amount that week, I know it will put a smile on a student's face," he shares.

Like Thompson, others can prove that the season of giving should never really end. To help, contact Christopher Simons, director of advancement, at chris.simons@sva-va.org or (540) 740-2202.

Faculty, Staff Thank Supporters for "Incredible Year"

"On behalf of the faculty, staff, students and their families at Shenandoah Valley Academy, I want to thank each of our donors and supporters," says Chris Simons, director of advancement. He says he speaks for the entire school body that the 2013-14 school year was an incredible one filled with countless miracles from God, passed down by the hands of His children! Without such supporters, SVA leaders realize they would not be able to claim a rich history, their exciting present and a potential-filled future.

To read the 2013-14 annual report, which lists the school's supporters, visit shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.

Takoma, Spencerville Students Unite to Worship

While a significant part of the world celebrated Halloween last October, there was unity in the body of Christ as students from Takoma Academy (TA) and Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) participated in a joint Friday night vespers. Takoma Academy hosted the event, which drew a crowd of more than 150 students and adults.

Tim Soper, chaplain of SAA, located in Spencerville, Md., and Luis Camps, TA chaplain, organized the event. Soper says, "The event was the result of Spencerville student leaders wanting to spend more time interacting with our sister school in a deliberately spiritual way. The interactions at the SALT (Student Association Leadership Training) retreat at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., left them wanting to get to know each other more." He continues, "With this in mind, they reached out to Chaplain Camps who suggested a joint Friday evening event."

The night of many firsts included music made on an Pearl Soundcheck drum set donated earlier that day by Jerry Rhodes ('75). Roderick Rubin, a junior, accompanied the TA praise team on the drums. SAA students also performed a moving special music selection.

Mario Broussard, who previously served as a chaplain at TA, spoke at the event. Broussard says he was



Fransheska and Estephanie Sequeira, Spencerville students, lead worship.



Students from Takoma and Spencerville Adventist academies enjoy fellowship over a campfire.

excited to see the SAA and TA students come together and viewed it as a "new move of God ... The entire world is looking for Jesus, and the message helped to emphasize that the students need not feel intimidated because the Holy Spirit will serve as their mentor if no human being is around to serve in that capacity."

He also shared that many Christians daily hide behind a mask, similar to how many people put on masks for Halloween. He continued, "The Spirit of God is ready to move you, but we are preoccupied with wearing a mask."

He also stated that God chooses some students to be ministers and missionaries, but because they are not willing to allow God to fulfill His destiny for them, they want to stay masked. "Many individuals will die without hope because we never used the opportunity that God gave us to rescue them," he added.

Chaplain Camps summarized the event by stating that it is "a joint effort to accomplish the mission that we have been given by God to reach out and bring young people into His kingdom. We look forward to further joint worships with our sister school."

Spotlight on Spencerville

JANUARY 2015

Students Share God's Love Through Service

Service to others is a central component of Spencerville Adventist Academy's mission. Matthew 5:16 (NIV) admonishes Christians to "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Service provides students an opportunity to act upon the love that Christ demonstrated to them by sharing it with others.

The school provides consistent opportunities to work in the community and help in hands-on ways. Several students and faculty recently spent an afternoon participating in the school's bimonthly "Feeding the Hungry" project, where they serve warm food to the homeless in central Washington, D.C. This time volunteers served nearly 100 people, but that afternoon, two events also blessed the givers. The first happened when one of the women in line returned to thank the students, gather them around her and offer a prayer that God will continue to use them to help others.

Students also witnessed an act of selflessness. As the students were packing up, a homeless individual asked for a bottle of water. Unfortunately, every bottle had been distributed. Looking dejected, they started to walk away when a nearby woman, who had just been served, gave away her own bottle of water. The act was a powerful example to the students.

"It was a lot of fun feeding the homeless," says



PHOTO BY TIM SOPER

Hannah Klingbeil, a junior, distributes cups of warm soup to homeless men.

Hannah Klingbeil, a junior. "What really impressed me was their thankfulness to have the food. I'm glad I went."—Tim Soper

Staff, Students Participate in Safety Drill



PHOTO BY DARLENE RACKLEY

Police officers debrief after the active shooter drill.

Spencerville Adventist Academy recently partnered with the Montgomery County Police Department to conduct an active shooter drill. "Over the last 50 years, schools have gotten very good at certain types of disaster drills. However, in this new era of school safety, we are practicing drills involving active shooters on or near campus," states Brian Kittleson, principal.

The police were on sight during the drill to practice their approach and entry into a building and the interactions between schools and their department. They also trained teachers and informed students and parents before the event. They performed the drill with as much sensitivity as possible to be age appropriate for the students.

The officers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to train in the school. "My philosophy is that we plan for the worst and pray for the best," says Kittleson.

Spotlight

Three Seniors Earn Scholar Awards

Spencerville Adventist Academy seniors Haley Butler, Mariah McKenzie and Ryan Carrera recently received awards from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They were honored during a special presentation at chapel.

Butler and McKenzie are among some 4,700 outstanding participants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program who scored in the top three percent of more than 160,000 black Americans who requested entry to the 2015 program.

Recognized for exceptional academic promise, Carrera is one of about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation. Commended Students place among the top 50,000 of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSATs.



PHOTO BY BRIANNA KITTLESON

Principal Brian Kittleson (second from the left) celebrates the accomplishments of Mariah McKenzie, Haley Butler and Ryan Carrera.

Middle School Students Share Outdoor School Experience

Spencerville Adventist Academy middle school students recently attended outdoor school at Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. On Monday, they took their first class: leaf identification. After a short slide show, they walked outside to rub leaves. Next, armed with nets and boots, they explored a little pond and caught tiny water insects and studied them under microscopes.

The next day, the students played games and then conquered a rope course. Afterwards they made their way to the towering rock wall and zip line. “My heart



“Zip lining was one of the most fun and memorable things in my life, and I can’t wait to do it again,” says Ryan Salinas, a seventh-grader.

PHOTOS BY HEIDI WEBER



Spencerville’s sixth- and seventh-grade students and their teachers and chaperones gather at the end of their outdoor school experience at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center.

pounded as the instructor asked, “Climber ready?”” says Erica Howell, a seventh-grader. “Trembling, I slowly made my way up the wall. I was more than halfway, but the rocks became smaller and more spread out. Finally I scaled the top ledge and breathed a sigh of relief. After I was hooked to the zip line, I ran off the edge, flying through the air at full speed. I did it!”

The students finished their final two classes on Wednesday. “We will never forget this amazing experience,” says Thea Wangsness, a seventh-grader.

Our Students Make a Difference

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist, Christian vision of excellence and service. This cosmopolitan institution challenges students to seize the many opportunities and experiences offered in the nation's capital that will help them become moral leaders in communities throughout the world.

The mission of this university is fully aligned with that of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. Every day our dedicated and caring faculty members engage students in learning, while demonstrating ways to model the life and teachings of Jesus. Every day this university intentionally engages minds and transforms lives.

All applicants who meet our admission standards are invited to experience this distinctive blend of faith and learning at WAU, where we nurture mind, body and soul. Our students acquire wisdom, gain healthy habits and develop stronger relationships with God and community—all while growing into competent graduates who will make significant differences in the world.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

Honors Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

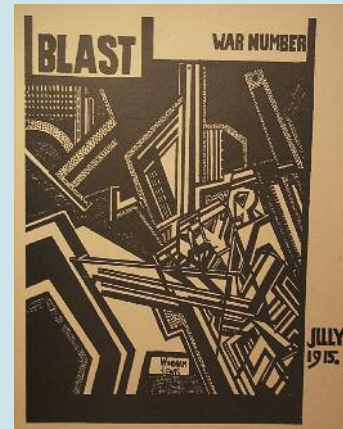
The Washington Adventist University Honors Program is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. In honor of the occasion, students, faculty and staff organized a series of anniversary themed events.

The Honors Program celebrated the “The Star-Spangled Banner,” written by Francis Scott Key, with a brunch and a trip to the American History Museum to see the original flag that flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore. In addition, Marc Leepson, a journalist, historian and author, held a seminar about Key on campus.

The WAU Religion Department and Honors Program co-hosted the 35th Keough Lectureship on the topic of the Great Disappointment. The event featured lectures

by David Morgan, chair of the Duke University Department of Religious Studies in N.C., on the relationship between visual culture and spirituality.

Weis Library and the Honors Program also organized “1844: Millerism and the Legacy of the Great Disappointment,” an exhibition that will remain on display in the library reading room through March 15.



BLAST magazine is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The Honors Program also celebrated the 100th anniversary of *BLAST* magazine, one of the most recognizable publications to emerge from London during the modernist period, with an exhibition and lecture. The exhibition, “*BLAST* and the Rise of Literary Modernism 1914-1922,” opened in October and will remain on view through February 4 in the university’s Department of English and Modern Languages. To add to the festivities, Sean Latham, chair of the Department of English at the University of Tulsa, delivered a lecture titled “New Media Modernism: *BLAST* and Video Games.” He also delivered an original reading of *BLAST* using video game theory.



Adam Buttrick, Honors Program president, joins speaker David Morgan and Bradford Haas, Honors Program director, during the 35th Keough Lectureship.

NEWS

Enactus Team Gains Corporate Grant Support

Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Coca Cola recently awarded the Washington Adventist University Enactus team \$4,500 in grants to help support community service projects.

The grants include \$1,500 from the Wal-Mart Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative, which will support the Enactus team's collaborative work with Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington in the JobQuest effort to help unemployed and under-employed individuals find and land jobs. A second \$1,500 came from the Sam's Club Steps Up for Small Business project to support the Flower Facelift effort, which helps struggling businesses along Flower Avenue in Takoma Park, Md., become more successful. Another \$1,500 grant from Coca Cola's Uncap Opportunities for Women Project Partnership supports the team's efforts with the Long Branch Business League to help women-owned businesses in the Long Branch area of Takoma Park.



Enactus: Kimberly Pichot (far left), sponsor, and team members

"These grants are much appreciated, as they will go a long way toward helping our students make a difference in the community," says Kim Pichot, chair of the WAU Business Department and Enactus sponsor. "With this funding, the students will be able to transform lives as they prepare individuals for successful job searches and interviews, and help local businesses compete and find greater success."

The university's Enactus team is part of Enactus Worldwide, an international nonprofit organization that brings together student, academic and business leaders for the purpose of empowering communities and resolving problems through the use of effective business concepts.

WAU Makes Progress Toward "Vision 2020"

A record number of graduate students enrolled in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies this year, a 67.6 percent increase over five years ago. During the last five years, student graduation rates have also risen 67 percent. This significant improvement in the gradua-



tion rate has only been matched by less than a dozen other institutions of higher education in the nation that offer bachelors and masters degree programs.

The North American Division Office of Education recently awarded a six-year endorsement to the Department of Education. That award, along with a keynote address on student success, progression and retention strategies shows the continuing progress of the school's "Vision 2020 Growing With Excellence" plan. Sandford C. Shugart (above), president of the highly successful Valencia College in Orlando, Fla., delivered the keynote address last fall at the second annual Great Teacher's Symposium.

Professor Invites Adventist Social Workers to Join New Forum

During the recent sixth annual North American Association of Christians in Social Work Convention, John Gavin (back row, fourth from the right, flanked by members of the new forum), chair of WAU's social work program at Washington Adventist University, launched a new forum for Adventist social workers. Social workers in the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., areas are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Gavin at wausocialwork@gmail.com.





The Love of an Institution

Most college graduates send out their resumes to a number of businesses, but I had my eye on one: Kettering Medical Center, a hospital that had only been open for 12 years. I wanted to learn from nationally known pulmonologist Dr. Richard Krumholtz, I applied and began my career as the clinical coordinator for the Respiratory Therapy Technician program. Three years later, I became the Chairman of the Respiratory Therapy Department at Kettering College, and eventually the Director of Allied Health Programs.

I became captivated by the mission and vision of Kettering Medical Center and the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist church. The healing of whole person - mind, body, and spirit - gave me a sense of purpose.

After a short break to earn a PhD at Stanford University, I came back to the medical center as the Vice President for Human Resources. Later I became an administrator at Sycamore Medical Center and then returned to Kettering Medical Center as the Vice President for Professional Services and Post-Acute care.

After the merger of Kettering and Grandview medical centers in 1999, Frank Perez asked me to lead as the new President of Grandview and Southview medical centers. Grandview's financial situation was bleak at the time, and major changes were necessary to turn things around. It was a challenging assignment, but I did not hesitate when offered the position. Within a year, the medical center was operating in the black, and trust was restored among employees and the physicians alike.

In 2009, I returned to the Kettering medical campus as President of Kettering Medical Center. From my first days at Kettering, I was blessed to have been mentored by each of its truly great Christian leaders under whom I served: Winton Beaven, Robert Willett, Frank Perez, and Fred Manchur. It was with their guidance that I was able to understand and enhance the legacy of Charles F. Kettering's innovation, along with the legacy of our church's medical ministry and compassionate care.



Roy Chew, PhD
Kettering Medical Center
President 2009 – Present
Executive Vice President
Kettering Health Network
2009 – Present

"The healing of whole person - mind, body, and spirit - gave me a sense of purpose."



your healing MINISTRY

Continuing the Legacy

By Judi Neff

2009-Present

Kettering Adventist HealthCare, named for one of the nation's prolific inventors, Charles F. Kettering, is well known for innovation. Kettering Adventist HealthCare's hospitals have led the way in the communities they serve by providing new technologies and medical practices, thereby earning widespread recognition for clinical excellence. Charles Kettering had several laboratories in the Dayton area, and in his later years he was particularly interested in medical research concerning heart disease and cancer diagnosis and care. The Kettering Innovation Center, located on the Kettering Medical Center campus, was established for the primary purpose of collaborating with researchers

and other healthcare professionals around the nation. Working together, the scientific team is advancing healthcare technology and medical practices to even greater heights. Undoubtedly, Charles Kettering and his son, Eugene, would be pleased to know that innovation and research continue to thrive at Kettering Medical Center.

As the flagship hospital of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Kettering Medical Center continues to set the pace for the ever-expanding organization. A level II Trauma program was initiated in 2011, along with High Risk Delivery/Neonatal ICU services. At Kettering Medical Center's Joint Center, first-rate orthopedic

2009

Roy G. Chew, PhD, becomes the sixth President of Kettering Medical Center, returning to the campus where he began his career as a respiratory therapist instructor in 1976.



2010

The newly expanded Orthopedic Joint Center opens at Kettering Medical Center. Recognized as one of the very best joint health centers in the state of Ohio and nationally.

2011

Level II Trauma program is initiated at Kettering Medical Center, resulting in dramatic increases in the number of patients treated in the Emergency Department and admitted to the hospital for high levels of care.





surgeons perform more joint replacement surgeries than any other hospital in the Dayton region, and the center placed third in the entire state for number of procedures. The world-class medical center has received multiple awards for exceptional patient care and outcomes.

As Kettering Medical Center continues the legacy of its founders, a new comprehensive cancer center is under development. With a focus on mission, Roy and team continue to lead the medical center in its quest for excellence. Closer collaboration with physicians has provided a platform to address rapidly changing issues. Kettering Physician Network continues to expand, as the physicians affiliated with Kettering Adventist HealthCare grew from 50 in 2008 to 180 in 2014.

Kettering Medical Center is the epitome of Eugene and Virginia Kettering's dream of creating a world-class healthcare institution for the community they loved. While the buildings and surrounding campus may have changed over the years, the culture established in the early years remains the same. Excellence in health care, innovative and state of the art diagnostic technology, and a faith-based approach to caring for the whole person are still driving force behind Kettering Medical Center's mission "to improve the quality of life" in our community.

"I know my grandparents would be proud of Kettering Medical Center, were they to see it today," says Susan Kettering, granddaughter of the founders.

2012

Introduction of freestanding electronic medical records, dramatically changing the way patient information is recorded and analyzed.



A High Risk Delivery/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit opens, allowing premature and high risk newborns to remain near their mothers after delivery at Kettering Medical Center. For the first time in 30 years, quadruplets are delivered.



Construction is completed and the Indu and Raj Soini Medical Center in Beavercreek is dedicated.

NEWS



JANUARY 2015

Celebration of Sacred Work

The 2014 Annual Mission Conference was a celebration of 50 years of compassionate, faith-based health care. Every year employees are invited to worship at a concert and Sabbath service at Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year's event focused on how worship is a place where healing happens.

Employees and the community who attended Sabbath service received a message from Bill Knott, editor and executive publisher of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines. Bill Knott preached about the young and the weak not needing to worry about how to worship decently, but to just focus on worship. "Worship is a place where healing happens," he said. "Jesus preached healing before hearing, restoration before remonstrance, pity before preaching, and love before lessons."



Jarrod McNaughton, vice president of Missions and Development at Kettering Adventist HealthCare, shared with the attendees about the Malawi, Africa mission trip that several Kettering Adventist HealthCare employees went on with an Adventist Health International sister facility. They saw nearly 1,000 patients during their 10-day trip.

Joslin Diabetes Center Goes Network Wide

Kettering Adventist HealthCare is expanding its partnership with Joslin Diabetes Center, the world's largest diabetes research and clinical care organization, by opening additional Joslin-certified centers within the network.

The network is also launching a new Primary Care Provider Certification Program for diabetes-specific training. This certification program is for board certified internal medicine or family medicine physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners interested in improving the care of their adult patients with diabetes.

In addition to enhancing the diabetes-specific training of practitioners and their staff, the certification is designed to align with healthcare quality standards published in the Affordable Care Act legislation and support organizations working toward a clinically integrated network, Patient Centered Medical Homes, and Meaningful Use.

Grandview Women's Comprehensive Breast Cancer Opens for Service

Grandview Medical Center celebrated the opening of their new Women's Comprehensive Breast Center featuring digital mammography as well as DEXA scan for bone density screening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The women's suite, created with the support of the Grandview Foundation, provides a serene, comfortable setting.

Along with the ribbon cutting, a health fair included osteoporosis screening, breast health education,



chair massages, diabetes education, and cooking demonstrations. Firehouse Subs in Dayton donated healthy sandwiches for the event. Attendees from the community and employees enjoyed everything pink including pink lemonade, pink veggie dip, and the Huber Heights pink fire truck.



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By Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra

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Mike and Gail Tucker,
Faith for Today
Topic: Firm Foundation



Dr. Sung Kwon,
Adventist Community Services
Topic: Sharing & Service

Additional Presenters:

Dr. Christine & Pastor Kevin Bryne
Dr. Rose Gamblin
Dr. Katia Reinert
Dr. Cesar & Carolann DeLeon
Dr. John & Janice Mathews
Edwina Neely & Carolann DeLeon



Scan to watch a video featuring Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra or go to <https://vimeo.com/86716931>

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HEALTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR SOUGHT: Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN), a ministry endeavor of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is now accepting applications for the position of executive director. The successful candidate will work toward expanding opportunities for collaboration between AWHN and the communities it serves, as well as create and foster a collaborative working relationship between AWHN's free clinic, parish nursing program, corporate health program and other programs offered by AWHN to the community. AWHN is open to new and innovative ideas for developing the vision for medical missionary work. The incumbent will possess a clear understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist message and medical methodology. Qualifications: master's prepared (MSN, MSW, CRNP, MHA, etc.) candidates with healthcare managerial experience, multidisciplinary team-approach background, a strong financial background and experience in recruiting and managing volunteers will be considered. Contact the AWHN Search Committee: apply@awhn.org.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC), is seeking a law

student for an 8-10 week summer clerkship in 2015. This position is not a full-time hire track position and would best be suited for 1Ls. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties will include legal research and other projects with an emphasis on religious liberty and First Amendment work. It is the policy of the GC to hire only Adventist church members. Please send résumé, writing sample and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian at karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time, qualified psychology professor, beginning July 1. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant, sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Biology Dept., is seeking a qualified applicant (PhD preferred). Primary emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. The successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to schwarz.arthur@swau.edu. Position open until filled.

LEAD PROGRAMMER/ANALYST: Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks Seventh-day Adventist for the full-time position of lead programmer/analyst to support all information technology software support functions, including problem analysis, design, programming, testing, implementation and training. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in computer science or related field knowledge and experience in industry standard programming

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PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time manager for the Albion Biology Field Station to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree (business administration preferred) and strong organizational and communication skills. Expertise in budget management and knowledge of boat operations is also desired. For more information or to apply, call (707) 965-6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a special collections librarian to begin July 1. Ideal candidate will possess a Master of Library Science from an ALA-accredited institution and have experience in academic librarianship, archives and information literacy programs for students. For more information or to apply, call (707) 965-6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRY: Full-time salaried position, including benefits; located at Ellen White Estate office, Silver Spring, Md. For more information, job description or to submit a résumé, contact James Nix, Ellen White Estate, nixj@gc.adventist.org. Application deadline: March 31.

HOPE CHANNEL in Silver Spring, Md., seeks a director of fundraising to develop and execute direct-response and event fundraising

strategies to gain from viewers and other supporters the voluntary financial support necessary to fund current operations and desired expansion of broadcast services. More information and required qualifications at hopetv.org/about/employment. Email cover letter and résumé to stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

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	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30
Baltimore	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:15	5:23
Cincinnati	5:26	5:32	5:39	5:47	5:55
Cleveland	5:08	5:14	5:22	5:30	5:39
Columbus	5:17	5:24	5:31	5:39	5:47
Jersey City	4:40	4:46	4:53	5:02	5:10
Norfolk	4:59	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:27
Parkersburg	5:14	5:20	5:27	5:35	5:43
Philadelphia	4:46	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:16
Pittsburgh	5:04	5:10	5:18	5:26	5:34
Reading	4:48	4:55	5:02	5:10	5:18
Richmond	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:30
Roanoke	5:13	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:41
Toledo	5:15	5:21	5:29	5:37	5:46
Trenton	4:44	4:50	4:58	5:06	5:14
Wash., D.C.	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:26

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"LOVING THROUGH DIFFERENCES" MARRIAGE RETREAT, February 6-8, held at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Rich and Annette Friesen will be the presenters for the sessions, which will run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net, or contact Mark and Peggy Lee, (301) 317-5428, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz, (443) 864-6328.

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