

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-D/

APRIL 2015 • VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 4

Love Me Tender

Prodigal
Members
Share What
Brought
Them Back

Plus: How
Should We
Address
Gossip in
the Church?

Elvis Impersonator
Kevin Booth



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PHOTO BY JASON MILLER/AP IMAGES



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Learn what—or who—nurtured several prodigal members back into the church family. And, what methods do leaders say work best to keep members connected?

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About the Cover: Kevin Booth, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Hagerstown (Md.) church, is photographed at Hager Hall in Hagerstown, Md., by Kevin Wolf/AP Images.

ON THE WEB

RALLY FOR HOPE

Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac Conference churches are gearing up for the Columbia Union's "Prophecies of Hope" evangelism initiative starting April 11. At columbiaunionvisitor.com/hope, watch a *Visitor* video report with snippets from the March 21 rally and interviews with participants eager to share hope with their communities.

SPREAD THE #WORD

Help spread the word about "Prophecies of Hope" by tweeting favorite quotes and photos from your local meetings using #PropheciesofHope.



MAKE AMIGOS FOR CHRIST

Rubén Ramos, union vice president for Multilingual Ministries, is shipping the booklet *Compartiendo Esperanza: Como Hacer Amigos*

Para Cristo (Sharing Hope: How to Make Friends for Christ) to Hispanic churches in the union to help disciples introduce their friends to Jesus. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/sharehope to learn more (in English and Spanish).



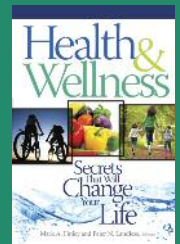
ALL IN THE TUNE

Homero Salazar, pastor of Potomac Conference's Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., has a habit of writing theme

songs for training events. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/newsong to learn more about his newest tune "Es todo *en* todo (It's All *in* All)," used at the union's recent lay evangelism festival "Liveangelism 2015."

CHANGE YOUR HEALTH

Health & Wellness: Secrets That Will Change Your Life, the North American Division's 2015 missionary health book, shares tips on how to improve every aspect of your health. For motivation—just in time for Health Impact Day, April 18—read our interview with co-editor and evangelist Mark Finley at columbiaunionvisitor.com/changeyourlife.



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The *Visitor* is a monthly publication reaching approximately 60,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area. 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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The *Visitor* is printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 4

Parable of the Lost Band

After a morning of meetings, I realized my wedding band was missing from my finger! When I didn't find it in my car or office, I thought I must have just left it at home. When I arrived home after work and could not find it, panic set in. How was I to tell my husband that I had so carelessly lost something he so carefully selected for me? I spent the next few hours calling and recalling several people to look in all the places I had visited during the day: the General Conference (GC) building, a restaurant, the office, my car. I checked the house again. Nothing turned up.



As I drove back to the GC—a last desperate attempt for my husband's sake—I thought of the woman in Luke 15 who lost her marriage coins.



I thought, if I, like that woman, could be so disheartened because I lost a material possession, how must God feel when He loses one of His beloved?

I searched every square inch of the GC parking spot where my car had been and the rooms I had visited 10 hours earlier, all to no avail. I felt despondent and guilty as I headed to my car. Wait a minute! It had been raining all day; maybe it got washed away. I followed the curb around the building, ending at a drain with water rushing down into the sewers. I finally accepted reality; the band was gone.

SACRIFICE FOR THE PRODIGALS

As I faced the finality of leaving, one of the security officers, whom I had called several times, drove up holding my band! I cannot explain the joy that gripped me. He found it in the same parking spot I had searched just 20 minutes earlier. However, when he walked by the same parking spot, then occupied, he noticed something odd in a faint splash of water next to one of the tires—no shimmering reflection, no bulge, just something odd. He put his hand on the surface and found the band!

I called my husband then went back into the GC to share with those who had helped me search. I posted the story on Facebook, and now I'm sharing it with you. Like the woman of Luke 15, I had to share the fact that what I lost had been found!

If God could, and did, orchestrate such a big story for a little band, just imagine what He does for each of us every day. This month, as we reflect on Christ's great sacrifice, let's remember the great lengths to which He went—and continues to go—in order to save His prodigal children from hopelessness.

Pranitha Fielder is the associate pastor of discipleship and congregation care at Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

Newsline

GRACE VIRTUE

Peggy Lee Departs Her Favorite Port of Call—CURF

Peggy Louise Stevens Lee, secretary/treasurer of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF), is departing her position after 35 years of yeoman service, including helping grow the fund from \$3 million to \$168 million (as of December 31, 2014). Lee also guided the fund through a complex registration process in 1993, and helped plan the first division-wide meeting of revolving fund personnel in 2006.

Lee started her career with the union in 1949 as a secretary in the education department. She left in 1952 but returned in 1980 as secretary to Don Russell, then union treasurer. Russell also put her in charge of CURF. Lee became treasurer and assistant secretary in 1992, and secretary/treasurer in January 1997. In 1993 she led the effort to have the fund registered as a security. Administrators say she accomplished spectacular growth through her management ability.

“People believe their funds are safe. That’s a huge contribution,” says Russell, who has remained Lee’s friend. He adds, “She followed the [General Conference] guidelines and got the best returns where possible. She is the best employee anyone could imagine. She is just plain brilliant; it will be hard to replace her.”

AN ICON OF SERVICE

Helping churches, schools and other institutions grow their



Peggy Lee and her late husband, Don, enjoy one of their many cruises together during the 1980’s.



Union officers Rob Vandeman, executive secretary; Dave Weigley, president; and Seth Bardu, treasurer, present Peggy Lee with a 2014 Notable Person of Honor award.

ministries through renovating or purchasing buildings or vehicles have been cited as Lee’s favorite parts of her job.

“Because of her dedication, hundreds of churches and schools have been enabled to acquire or build a suitable place of ministry,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president and CURF board chair. “She leaves an awesome legacy of dedication and service.”

Seth Bardu, a CURF vice president and audit review committee chair, agrees. “Peggy has been a stable force in the operation of our revolving fund. We are thankful for her commitment and pray that God continues to bless her.”

Alongside her work at the union, Lee served for 21 years as treasurer at Potomac Conference’s Hyattsville (Md.) church, where she also worked with the kindergarten department for 35 years. She’s now a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md.

A CHANGE OF PACE

Lee now hopes to spend her days sailing the blue ocean, or enjoying the beautifully landscaped yard she spent years perfecting. Daughter Peggy-Jean Lee says taking cruises and gardening are Lee’s favorite past time, earning her the

moniker “Queen of Cruises.” She expects retirement to allow her more time to enjoy both.

“Until her back surgery in 2010, she would often spend eight to 10 hours on Fridays and Sundays in her yard, plus half an hour each day, deadheading plants and weeding. She hopes to be able to sit outside and enjoy her garden instead of getting home about dark every day,” says Peggy-Jean, who cruises with her.

FUN FACTS ABOUT PEGGY LEE

She was born in Texarkana, Ark.

Is the youngest of nine siblings

Was treasurer at Potomac’s John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., in the 1970s. She also drove the school bus.

Started her first job with the union on Valentine’s Day 1949

Loves her smart phone

Takes up to six cruises per year

Is 21 years past retirement age!

Union Highlights Evangelism at First Hispanic Festival

It was an event many months, even years, in the making, but finally a dream came true when nearly 2,300 attended the Columbia Union Conference's first Hispanic Lay Evangelism Festival, February 20-22, at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Md. "Livangelism 2015" provided an avenue for union, conference and local church leaders to offer evangelistic training to members from more than 200 Hispanic churches. Attendees also got an opportunity to network and re-experience a sense of God's call to action in this generation.

37,000

The number of Bible studies given to prisoners around the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., areas during the past five years that resulted in 375 baptisms

Source: Hector Cruz Lopez, Potomac's senior coordinator for Prison Ministries

"We longed and prayed for our planned festival to be more than just an event, but a new Pentecost," says Rubén Ramos, union vice president for Multilingual Ministries and organizer for the event.

LIVING A MOVEMENT

The festival centered on four evangelistic initiatives that reminded

the delegates that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is more than just a body of believers—it is a movement, with a call to lead others to Christ. The four initiatives were: 1) for every disciple to pray and work to bring five friends to Christ; 2) for members to proclaim Jesus Christ and start 500 new small groups; 3) for all delegates and leaders to commit themselves to planting 15 new churches by the end of 2015; and 4) for church leaders to focus all ministries and activities on meeting the needs of the community.

José Cortés Sr., president of the New Jersey Conference, started the event by inviting all attendees to cultivate an environment in their churches that opens the door to all who seek Christ, free from any prejudice and baggage. Dave Weigely, Columbia Union president, invited the delegates to "become passionate about being fishers of men." Speakers also challenged members to turn their homes into places of worship. As a result, more than 800 delegates pledged to start small groups.

LIGHTING UP LIVES

Many attendees reported surpassing their goals of baptisms and plans to expand to new frontiers. This inspired 51 churches to commit to plant a new church in an area with little or no Adventist presence, passing the original festival goal of 15. As the powerful weekend came

to a close, Ramos reminded attendees that all of their commitments and plans will not be possible without the Holy Spirit's work in them. "I'm thankful to God for what He has done and pray that this experience will be multiplied and will overflow into every home in our union territory!" he states.

SEEN AND HEARD



I liked the organization and positive response from the members. ... There was strong attendance and acceptance [of] the challenges that were presented. I know the Holy Spirit was with us.—*Orlando Rosales, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore Spanish church in Baltimore*



The points presented were exactly what we needed to hear. The pastors were on point. [It was] a beautiful experience.—*Jaqueline Colón, from Allegheny East Conference's Ebenezer Spanish Company in Union City, N.J.*

PHOTOS BY DAVID LEIVA



During the final altar call, festival attendees hold up small lights to symbolize their commitment to letting their lives shine in their communities.

Noticias

VANESSA LEIVA

Los líderes se enfocan en el evangelismo durante el primer festival de la Unión

El primer Festival de evangelismo laico hispano de Columbia Union Conference fue un evento de muchos meses, y aún años de preparación, un sueño hecho realidad, cuando miles asistieron al centro de convenciones



Roland E. Powell en Ocean City, Md., del 20 al 22 de febrero. “Vivangelismo 2015” proporcionó una avenida para que los líderes de la iglesia local, la Asociación, y la Unión, ofrecieran capacitación evangelística y orientación al cuerpo de Cristo. El evento reunió a casi 2,300 feligreses y pastores provenientes de más de 200 iglesias hispanas, y allí tuvieron la oportunidad de conectarse, inspirarse por la obra que Dios está realizando en la

Unión, y volver a experimentar la convicción del llamado de Dios a la acción en esta generación.

“Orábamos y anhelábamos que nuestro festival fuera más que solo un evento, sino un nuevo Pentecostés”, dice Rubén Ramos (en la foto a la izquierda), vicepresidente de la Unión para los ministerios multilingües y organizador del evento.

VIVIENDO UN MOVIMIENTO

El festival se enfocó en cuatro iniciativas evangelísticas que les recordó a los delegados de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día es más que solo un cuerpo de creyentes—es un movimiento, con un llamamiento a conducir a otros a Cristo. Las cuatro iniciativas son: 1) que cada discípulo ore y trabaje para traer cinco amigos a Cristo; 2) que la feligresía proclame a Jesucristo y establezca 500 nuevos grupos pequeños; 3) que todos los delegados y líderes se comprometan en plantar 15 nuevas iglesias para finales del 2015; y 4) que los líderes enfoquen todos los ministerios y actividades en suplir las necesidades de la comunidad.

José Cortés, padre, presidente de New Jersey Conference, dio inicio al evento, fundamentándose en estos objetivos con un mensaje titulado: “La iglesia de la puerta abierta”. Extendió una invitación a todos los asistentes a cultivar un ambiente en sus iglesias que abra las puertas a todo el que busca a Cristo, libre de prejuicio y cargas. Explicó que la iglesia de la “puerta abierta” es una que comparte a Jesús, comparte la esperanza de la segunda venida y tiene una misión clara.

Los oradores se enfocaron en usar a los grupos pequeños para llevar a cabo la obra de “vivir” el evangelismo y a la vez desafiaron a los miembros a convertir sus hogares en lugares de adoración y comenzar semanas de oración de grupos pequeños. Más de 800 delegados se comprometieron a iniciar grupos



Melecio Benjamín Villalpando García y su esposa Gloria (en el fondo), se bautizan como nuevos miembros del grupo Landmark Spanish Mission en Alexandria, Va.



pequeños, excediendo mucho las expectativas de sus líderes.

Quizás lo más inspirador que motivó a los asistentes a este llamamiento fue el ejemplo de Ariadna Reyes (en la foto de arriba), de 9 años de edad. Después de asistir a un retiro para familias con la iglesia Wheaton Spanish de Potomac Conference en Wheaton, Md., fue convencida a entregar su vida a Cristo. Inmediatamente después de su bautismo, Reyes rogó a sus padres que iniciaran un grupo pequeño en su hogar, y ahora, ella es la más grande testigo a su familia no convertida. Cada semana, el pequeño grupo de la familia Reyes atrae a casi 30 asistentes a los estudios bíblicos.

El orador Roger Hernández, director de evangelismo en Southern Union, ofreció principios constructivos para un crecimiento de iglesia

ESTACIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN



Más de 200 niños disfrutaron su programa titulado “La estación de investigación: explorando la Palabra de Dios”, lleno de actividades interactivas como las exposiciones de fósiles.

permanente y transformador. Le recordó a los delegados y pastores a transformar cada ministerio de la iglesia para alcanzar a la comunidad. Para crecer, dijo él, estas nuevas amistades necesitan un ambiente de amor y aceptación. “Nuestra iglesia existe para construir puentes hacia los que están lejos de Cristo”, dijo él.



Siguiendo el tema de vivir el evangelismo, Dave Weigley (en la foto de arriba), presidente de Columbia Union, invitó a los participantes a visualizar con él, cómo se vería el centro de convenciones si cada persona “ardiera por ser pescadores de hombre” y trajera por lo menos un amigo a Cristo este año. Toda la congregación respondió positivamente al desafío.

ILUMINANDO VIDAS

Muchos de los participantes expresaron emoción al escuchar el trabajo decidido y constante que las iglesias están realizando en Columbia Union. Muchos han sobrepasado sus blancos bautismales y están planificando expandirse hacia nuevas fronteras. Varias iglesias compartieron de sus desafíos de erigir nuevas iglesias y también los triunfos que el Señor ha cumplido por medio de ellos. Estas presentaciones inspiraron a 51 iglesias a comprometerse a plantar una nueva iglesia en una área donde hay poca o ninguna presencia adventista, así pasando el blanco original de 15 del festival.

Al concluir el poderoso fin de semana, Ramos resumió las lecciones del evento y le recordó a los participantes que todos los compromisos hechos, los planes presentados, y las ideas aportadas, no serán ni son posibles sin la obra del Espíritu Santo en ellos. En respuesta, el auditorio se iluminó mientras todos, con entusiasmo, encendieron sus pequeñas luces para simbolizar su compromiso de permitir al Espíritu Santo obrar en sus vidas.

“Los corazones de los oradores, los cantantes y delegados se llenaron con el derramamiento del

SONIDOS DE ALABANZA



Homero Salazar, pastor de la iglesia Washington Spanish de Potomac en Silver Spring, Md., y Alabanza Pura, un grupo de adoración de Potomac, dirigieron el servicio de cantos. Salazar compuso el canto tema del festival: “Es todo en todo”.

ron con el derramamiento del Espíritu Santo. ¡Fue la reunión más inspiradora y refrescante en la que haya participado!” dice Ramos. “Estoy agradecido a Dios por lo que Él ha hecho y oro para que esta experiencia se multiplique y derrame en cada hogar en el territorio de nuestra unión!”

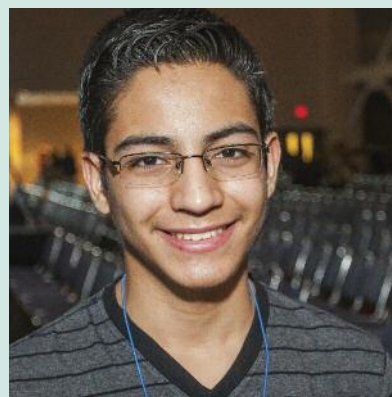
VISTO Y ESCUCHADO



Necesitamos más eventos como estos para inspirar a los miembros a alcanzar a sus comunidades. —Pastor Jorge Agüero, director de los ministerios personales de New Jersey Conference



El evento fue fascinante e impactante. Fue una ocasión para despertarnos de la inactividad. —Nelsy y Saul Alas, de la iglesia Washington Spanish de Potomac en Silver Spring, Md.



Este evento fue oportunidad para que la iglesia se uniera en misión y propósito bajo el poder del Espíritu Santo para alcanzar a un mundo que necesita de Jesús.—Kevin Patiño, de la iglesia Greencastle de Allegheny East Conference en Chambersburg, Pa.

Gossip is a Concern in the Church. How are We Addressing the Issue?

During the 16th century, the word gossip was oftentimes attributed to a woman who enjoyed idle talk, a tattler. By the 19th century, the term “to be a gossip” first appeared in Shakespeare. Today no one gender is thought to have a monopoly on the activity.

There are various opinions on gossip and its’ affects on society. Some view it as trivial, hurtful and unproductive, while others see it as a lighthearted way of spreading information.

Marissa Leslie, MD, medical director for Outpatient Services at Adventist Behavioral Health in Rockville, Md., defines gossip as essentially casual discussions among people about other people, usually involving information that has not been verified but is often speculated. Interestingly, she says gossip can serve as a means to develop social bonds and increase closeness. It can also be a way for people to take the focus off of themselves by focusing on the fortune or misfortune of others. Gossip also fills in gaps when facts or details are unknown. When events are shrouded in mystery or lack transparency, Leslie says gossip abounds because most people want to know or understand.

Leslie, a member of Potomac Conference’s Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md., cites a recent study by researchers from Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley¹ of 216 participants who divided into groups to make financial choices that would benefit their group. They discovered that gossip and ostracism can produce very positive effects. They are tools by which groups reform bullies,



thwart exploitation of “nice people” and encourage cooperation.

“Unfortunately, it is often difficult to refute gossip that aims to deny false claims or place true claims in context for others,” says Dr. Leslie. She also notes that some people thrive on the negative experiences of others. She suggests avoiding gossip altogether or “changing the conversation when negative discussion starts.”

GOSSIP IN THE PEWS

Most Christians don’t believe there is a good use for gossip in church life. Roger Hernandez, ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union, has devoted several entries to his blog (leadsu.org) on the topic. Under a February entry titled “The Pain of Internet Trolling,” he writes about how hurtful and destructive gossip is, pointing out that it usually involves someone posting inflammatory comments and videos to invoke anger.

“Maybe I am naive. Maybe I

have not been living in the real world, but it seems to me that the level of vitriol, accusations and slander inside the church has risen in recent years,” Hernandez wrote. “It is common. It is painful. It must stop.” He states he has conversations with at least one pastor a week about how they have been injured by another Christian’s accusations.

Hernandez believes Internet access and the rising popularity of social media has created in people the illusion that everyone with an opinion can say whatever to whomever. In reality, since it is disconnected from the person, he believes it is easier for people to offend and say things they would never say face to face.

Elliot Smith, associate pastor of Ohio Conference’s Kettering church, believes the subject of gossip is “a vital issue” and says, “It goes directly against Jesus’ prayer and plan for the church, as found in John 17:21.”

He adds that all forms of gossip are harmful, but that the most insidious form is when we feel we are simply telling the truth to others. “We feel we can do this because it is not a lie, and perhaps we are hoping to ‘protect’ others,” he says. Furthermore, he says when we gossip, we not only hurt each other, but we also give a reason for the world to doubt our faith.

Pam Consuegra, Family Ministries associate director for the North American Division, adds that while most people agree that bullying on school playgrounds is destructive, members oftentimes fail to realize that our own churches are breeding grounds for bullying through gossip. “The truth is that the church pews have probably heard more gossip than the seats on the school bus,” she notes.

Consuegra and Leslie also note that we engage in gossip just by listening to it. Consuegra wonders, “How many church pews are now vacant due to the consequences of gossip? How many opportunities have we missed to speak words of love? How many chances have we passed by to bring someone to Jesus?”

Ellen White had this to say about it: “The spirit of gossip and talebear-

ing is one of Satan’s special agencies to sow discord and strife, to separate friends, and to undermine the faith of many in the truthfulness of our positions” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 441).

BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Christopher Thompson, pastor of Allegheny West Conference’s Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh, recently conducted a series themed “Love Lifted Me.” The entire event centered on building healthy relationships. He says that although they didn’t directly speak on the topic of gossip, they definitely addressed it by discussing how God relates to His children.

Pastor Thompson says God’s method of communicating with us can be seen as a model and impetus for how we relate to those around us. “And so, if God accepts me, loves me unconditionally, etc., then we ought to strive to do the same for those around us,” he says.

Thompson also addressed the importance of communicating, forgiving, and recognizing how and when a situation has gone too far. He says he sometimes has to directly address gossip issues when they arise in the church.

When doing so, he first confronts the person(s) making the accusations, publically states the facts then speaks with the affected person when necessary to clear up any misunderstandings.

Thompson usually instructs members to use the “4W approach” to know if they should use or share information obtained from others:

What? What is this about? Is it pertinent, positive and productive information to share?

Who? Is this the appropriate person to share this information with?

Why? Would it be appropriate to share this information now?

When? Would there be a better time to speak about it?

As a rule, he says, if the persons involved haven’t discussed it, then it probably isn’t appropriate to share it with anyone else who isn’t a mentor, counselor or spiritual leader.

Pastor Hernandez leaves us with this challenge: “Let’s be the church, where unbelievers are critical of what we believe but amazed about how we love one another.”

1 Clifton B. Parker, “Stanford Research: Hidden Benefits of Gossip, Ostracism,” Jan. 27, 2014, Stanford News, stanford.edu

6 Practical Ways to Stop Gossip

Pam Consuegra shares the following advice when facing the rumor mill:

1 Choose—yes, it is a choice!—prayer over gossip. Pray for others every time you are tempted to tell their story.

2 When someone tells you something you don’t want to know, don’t allow curiosity to be your guide. If you don’t listen, you break the cycle of gossip. Remember, if they will spread gossip about others, they will spread it about you!

3 Don’t repeat information unless it’s helpful to do so and you have a vested interest in the situation, the people involved and their permission to share. Even a prayer request is not a good excuse.

4 Don’t confess other people’s sins, even if the wrong included you and you feel the need to confess. Share your story, but no one else’s.

5 Don’t repeat something you don’t know firsthand is true; secondhand knowledge is not enough to justify repeating. You will get something wrong and it will hurt others.

6 Keep the circle of confession limited to the people involved or to no more than necessary for accountability purposes. The wider the circle and the more the story is repeated, the more likely things will turn into gossip.

Source: Adapted from Ron Edmondson, “7 Ways to Stop Gossip,” Aug. 27, 2010, ronedmondson.com



LOVE ME TENDER

***Prodigal
Members
Share how
They Were
Nurtured
Back Into
the Church
Family***

By Mark Tyler

Kevin Booth left the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the early '90s to go on the road as an Elvis Presley impersonator and became a country singer in a honkey-tonk band. He returned a decade later because his soul just couldn't rest, even though he was following his dream.

"You think you can manage a relationship with Christ and still be in the business, and one thing leads to another," Booth explains. "You're sitting around the club and they say, 'You never have a drink with us. Have one drink with us. It won't kill you.'" Then there's another, and another. That leads to other vices.

"Everybody thought I was the happiest guy in the world," Booth says. "But, when the lights went down and the crowds were gone, I would lay in bed at night with my eyes open."

Booth never renounced Adventism, so occasionally he would find a church while on the road. "Once you learn those great truths, you can't go anywhere else," he says. "But, I was in a band playing 23 to 24 nights a month."

Booth, like so many, just lost touch. "It wasn't anything that the church did," he says. "You tell yourself, 'I'm going to get started this week,' and it would never happen."

What made the difference for Booth was an Adventist girlfriend, now his wife, who supported his career but encouraged him to return to the church.

When they got married, Booth quit the band. He started attending Chesapeake Conference's Hagerstown (Md.) church and now does a stage show celebrating Elvis' gospel music.

"People aren't just going to walk through our church doors," Booth says. "We've got to go out and find the hurting and find the lost."

SEEKING THE FAMILIAR LOST

This, in part, is why Chesapeake developed Connect 2 Reconnect (C2R), a one-year, conference-wide initiative aimed at reaching the familiar lost, which ran 2013 to 2014. Gary Gibbs, Chesapeake's ministries development director, says they started the program after realizing that at least 50,000, and perhaps up to 100,000, inactive members and former Adventists live in their conference territory.

"These people have a connection with our church," says Gibbs. "They are our mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, former classmates and friends. But, do these people still feel some connection to the church?"

Gibbs says 19 of Chesapeake's 74 churches participated in C2R, with some reporting rebaptisms, while nearly half of the conference's congregations hosted a Welcome Home Day for inactive members. "In order to 'reconnect' inactive and former members to God's church, we must first 'connect' with them," Gibbs says. "It takes two persons to do this reconnecting—we must take the initiative and they need to respond."

5 Tips

FOR APPROACHING MISSING MEMBERS

1. Don't criticize the falling away. Go in love and empathy to let them know that the church, the members and God miss them at church.—*Ed Williams*

2. Seek to understand where they are coming from. If someone doesn't feel understood, they may not feel inclined to understand you.—*Reed Richardi*

3. Seek a relationship that is not contingent upon whether they come back. If the relationship is not authentic, it's going to have the opposite effect.—*Richardi*

4. You can't approach your own family because they will feel you're nagging them. Find a friend and let them "nag" your family, then you go "nag" theirs.—*Williams*

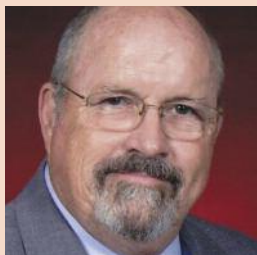
5. Unless invited, never visit a former Adventist on Sabbath, because if you catch them doing something they shouldn't, you've driven another wedge.—*Williams*



PHOTO BY KEVIN WOLF/AP IMAGES

CREATING a Path HOME

Ed Williams, from Chesapeake's Williamsport church near Hagerstown, Md., believes there are many missing members and former Adventists who love the church enough to come back. He knows because he recently returned after seemingly a lifetime. ■ "I was away from



church for about 42 years, and it took the death of my youngest sister to shake me out of my stupidity and a wife who said, 'We need to go to church,'" Williams says. "I said, 'If we're going to go,

we're going to the Adventist Church because I believe in the Bible, not a bunch of traditions.'"

■ Williams soon got to work looking for a ministry geared toward others who had fallen away. There wasn't one, so in 2008, he formed the Former Adventist Recovery Ministry (FARM). "We're trying to make sure people don't feel like they're forgotten," he says of the nonprofit. ■ FARM volunteers get lists of missing members from various churches, then send out packages and do follow-up visits. These churches can then re-establish relationships, Williams says. So far, FARM has mailed more than 500 packages and done presentations in more than 20 churches encouraging active members to seek the lost. ■ "Your pastor can't do it. You have to get involved," he says. "I was tempted as a teenager to find out what was out there and, before I knew it, 42 years had gone by," Williams says. But, during that time, "only one person came to find out why and, when I returned, my name was still on the books!" ■ Get more information at <http://adventistfarm.com>.

FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS

According to David Trim, director for the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, in his 50-page report *Nurture, Retention & Discipleship: An Integral Part of Evangelism and Witness*, the worldwide Adventist Church has baptized nearly 32 million people during the past 40 years, ending in 2013. But, more than 11 million (about 35.73 percent) of them have left the church.

Surveys conducted in 2011 by the Office of Archives and the Center for Creative Ministry, an Adventist research group, revealed that members' views of the church varied when they left. But, a common thread was present amongst those who came back: 27 percent thought highly of the church when they left but felt they had lost touch; 21 percent thought highly of the church but felt they could not live up to the standards; and 17 percent were angry over the way the church treated them when they decided to leave.

Also clear from the studies is that those contacted by other Adventists, or who maintained social relationships with church friends, reported being more open to the possibility of return. However, 40 percent of those who left said they were never contacted.

LEAVING WHEN LIFE HAPPENS

Donna Kelso Nelson, a member at Allegheny West Conference's Glenville church in Cleveland, discovered Adventism through her ex-husband, a man born and raised in the Glenville church. But, after their marriage failed, she drifted in and out of the church for more than 20 years.

"Life happened," Nelson explains. "It was not a very amicable or very pretty situation. I felt betrayed by the church. I felt like the church had sided with him. That was my perception. That was my reality."

Nelson got divorced and moved. In 1988 she took her daughters to Columbus, Ohio, and attended an Adventist church there. Her actions are consistent with other data from the *Nurture, Retention & Discipleship* studies: 10 percent of people were either married or divorced in the year before they left the church, and 11 percent relocated to another city.

When Nelson, also a Cleveland native, did visit Glenville, she didn't feel welcome. "I felt like I was an outcast," she says.

When she returned to Cleveland for a new job in 1990, she stopped going to church altogether because she couldn't bear to go back to Glenville. Instead, she visited churches of various faiths. However, Nelson reports, "There was something about the truth that I learned in the Adventist Church that would not let me fit in no matter how nice the people were in other denominations. But, I didn't make up my mind to come back on my own."

About three years ago, when MyRon Edmonds became Glenville's pastor, his wife, Shanee', also a Cleveland native, reached out to Nelson and her daughters. "She said, 'It's my mission and my prayer to bring my family back,'" Nelson recalls. "I kept telling her, 'I'm not coming back. They're a bunch of phonies.'"

Nelson's daughters did return, and they invited her to a New Year's Eve service, where her life began to change. "The Holy Spirit convicted me that I needed to get over myself, get over my past hurts and all of those ill feelings that I had toward various members, because the only one hurting in all of this was me," Nelson says. "People that hurt you have a tendency to hurt you and move on with their life. Meanwhile, you have all of this stuff bottled up."

Today Nelson works as Pastor Edmonds' administrative assistant. "What I had to do was let it go, for me," she says.

SHIFTING THE MINISTRY PARADIGM

Pastor Edmonds suggests the church in general be more inclusive. "You can't chase down every prodigal, but we can change the environments in our churches so that, when they come back, there are loving environments," Edmonds says, noting that many prodigals do try to come back. "They are giving the church chance after chance and the church just keeps blowing it."

Pastor Edmonds says part of his mission at Glenville is to increase participation in ministry through outreach, rather than placing such a heavy emphasis on the divine worship hour. "Certain people leave because they were invisible when they were there," he says. "When you refocus, it creates room for anybody who wants to get involved."

Kris Eckenroth, pastor of Pennsylvania Conference's Grace Outlet church in Reading, also focuses on getting missing members involved. When Eckenroth, a Reading native, returned to his hometown, he and a friend made a list of more than 100 people they knew had fallen away. He knew then that he wanted to reconnect them.

"We aggressively went after them, and we've created a casual, friendly, nonthreatening atmosphere," he says. "The goal wasn't just to get them to come to church. The goal was to involve them in the mission of Christ to reach the community."

Pastor Eckenroth reports that, at one time, about 65 percent of the 100 people attending were people who had stopped going to church. Now it's about 30 percent. He says that when people become active in ministry, church takes on a new relevancy to their everyday lives. "Our goal shouldn't be to get people back to church," he says. "As we minister to people and meet their needs, they will come back."

When it comes to reaching younger members who have left, Reed Richardi, associate pastor for outreach and evangelism at Potomac Conference's New Market church in Harrisonburg, Va., says they gravitate to house churches and small group ministries. "Community is something that many are looking for, a place where people can share their struggles, where people care and they're not looking to judge but encourage them," he says.

Richardi works with four house churches that allow time for testimonies, prayer, music, Bible studies and fellowship. Many who go are in their '30s. "Those who

are engaged in a house church don't find the community of traditional church to be very authentic," he shares. "It's hard to be vulnerable and open if you've got 100 people sitting in pews."

Offering members intimacy can be key to them staying. "If you look at the way Jesus made disciples, it was life-on-life that made an impact," Richardi says. "That's how people were changed."

Mark Tyler writes from Elkton, Md.



Columbia Union Revolving Fund

**Helping Finance
the Gospel Mission
of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church**

(866)721-CURF

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.

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NEWS

Maryland Central Korean Youth Build Biblical Sanctuary

GyuNam Bak, youth pastor at the Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md., started sanctuary school as a way to engage the church’s young people. Bak guided the youth to research, design and build models of the biblical sanctuary using cardboard boxes collected from local markets. While building each piece to scale, they learned the significance of each detail.

“When they touch and prepare [the pieces], they are getting a deeper learning experience. I believe in learning by making,” says Bak.

At the completion of the project, they displayed the items at the church for all to appreciate. Although the activity was designed for the young people, the entire church became involved, says Bak.



The lampstand, featuring seven candles, is one of the many items the youth made.



Members of the Maryland Central Korean's Adventist Youth Society showcase their handiwork.

Cedars of Lebanon Family Featured in YMCA Ads

The YMCA in Hampton Road, Va., recently selected David Arrington, pastor of the Cedars of Lebanon church in Chesapeake, Va., and his family to be their



The Arrington family is featured in a local YMCA ad campaign.

poster family. Pictures of the family were used on billboards, wrapped around trucks, in newspapers and in direct mailings. The Arringtons are actively involved at the Y and participate in various programs. They also volunteer their time during the annual giving fund. The Y also featured them in the local newspaper.

Emmanuel-Brinklow Welcomes New Assistant Pastor

Richard D. Martin is the newest pastoral staff member in the Allegheny East Conference. Martin serves as assistant pastor of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., and is a graduate of Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., Oakwood University (Ala.) and Andrews University (Mich.).

Martin has also served as an associate evangelist and Bible worker in Ohio. He is married to the former Kylah Allers. Watch an interview with Martin in the conference’s video newsletter, *AEC Today*, at visteac.org.



Members Bike for Christian Education



The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) school system is on their way to long-term sustainability because of a new fundraising bike-a-thon, say leaders. iRideAEC, a conference-wide initiative, stemmed from the vision of Jackson Doggette, AEC general counsel and director of Philanthropy and Trust Services. “I raised money to help fight leukemia by joining a bike-a-thon. As director of philanthropy, I thought this is something I can do to help give our Allegheny East Conference children a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. I hope every member, young and old, contributes something in this effort,” says Doggette.

September 27-October 11 Doggette and his riding team will cover nearly 900 miles, spanning five states and the District of Columbia. He will stop at each of the 11 schools in the AEC territory to raise money for Adventist education. He hopes to raise \$1 million to assist AEC members collectively and individually. Funds will go toward scholarships and grants for the maintenance of the schools’ facilities and grounds.

Although the bike-a-thon begins in September, the fundraising began March 1. Members are encouraged to volunteer at and attend one of the six community days across the conference territory.

For more information, visit irideaec.org.

Jackson Doggette will be the lead rider in AEC’s bike-a-thon initiative to raise \$1 million for Christian education.

PFA Basketball Teams Have Strong Seasons

Pine Forge Academy’s (PFA) boys and girls basketball teams enjoyed a winning season. The PFA boys varsity team won the 2015 Penn-Jersey Athletic Association Championship in Morrisville, Pa., as well as the Erin Boyer Tournament Championship in Spencerville, Md.

“At the beginning of the year, we said we’re going to win the championship, and we did exactly that,”

says Eric Cantrell, coach.

The PFA girls varsity team also made it to the City School Playoffs, held in Pine



Sean Gurdon, Coach Eric Cantrell and Justin Thornton, captain and MVP, celebrate the Penn-Jersey Athletic Championship win.



The Pine Forge Academy boys basketball team wins the 2015 Penn-Jersey Athletic Association Championship.

Forge. Miata Smith, team captain and most valuable player (MVP), says, “There were many obstacles to overcome in the season, but at the end of the day, we learned how to work as a team.”

To watch the championship game, or learn more about PFA’s athletic program, visit pineforgeacademy.com.

We're Taking Children's Ministry "Outside the Walls"

As Children's Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference, I fully embrace our 2015 theme "Ministry Outside the Walls." Children's Ministries has proven an effective tool in establishing a spiritual foundation that will help develop children into spiritual champions for Christ. Our Children's Ministries leadership team acknowledges that ministry to children in the 21st century is not a luxury—it's a necessity and a gateway to family evangelism. My vision is for our churches to implement ministry to children as an evangelistic component.

One of my top priorities is to provide leadership training and expose pastors, volunteers and emerging leaders to innovative resources, engaging methods and best practices in reaching children for Christ. Ultimately, through our teaching, we'll equip children to reach other children for Christ!

There are several Children's Ministries events scheduled or that took place this spring:

March 21: Sabbath School/Children's Ministries leadership seminar at the Cincinnati Shiloh church in Cincinnati

April 17-19: Children's Ministries evangelism conference at Andrews University (Mich.)

May 16,17: Children's Ministries leadership training at the Central church in Columbus, Ohio

In addition to our scheduled training, I am delighted to highlight below two of our churches—Columbus Central and Columbus Ephesus—that are providing excellent ministry to children in their communities as well as in the children in their congregations.



Allen Baldwin
*Children's Ministries
Director*

Ephesus Kids "Stand Up, Stand Out" for Jesus

The Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, recently hosted its annual Children's Ministries day. The theme was "Stand Up! Stand Out!" From the invocation to the benediction, the children delivered a message on how to stand up and speak out for God.

The children's praise team got the entire audience moving by leading everyone through the motions of "Father Abraham." The adults actively participated when asked to come down for the adult story, then walked around to collect money for Christian education.

The Ephesus Children's Mass Choir (below) moved



the audience as they performed motions along with the songs "I'll Stand for You, Lord" and "Stand Up!" The Columbus Adventist Academy Colorful Bell Choir gave a special presentation. The 3- to 5-year-olds helped present the Scripture through sign language as it was read by another child. Ephesus children's dance group, The Anointed Grace, ministered through the song "Father Can You Hear Me." The message of the day was delivered

through seven sermonettes. Each sermonette highlighted how a child in the Bible "stood up" for Jesus.

"It was clear through the messages delivered that each Christian can and should stand up and stand out for God, no matter what the circumstances. We thank the Lord for the ministry He has given our children," says Belvia Matthews, event organizer.



Alyssa Jackson sings during morning worship.

Central Church Draws Children, Baptizes Four

Every Sabbath morning, the Central church in Columbus, Ohio, buzzes with activity. Members Darryl Neil and Michael King prep the church vehicle, while Beverly King and Danielle Simmons and a host of volunteers prepare a hot breakfast. The church's traditional lower division Sabbath School classes are now a thriving evangelistic outreach effort for children from the greater Columbus community.

This initiative, called Kid Central, began last summer after more than 100 children attended the church's Vacation Bible School (VBS). Pastor John T. Boston II, Beverly King, and the other church leaders wanted an ongoing effort to disciple the VBS attendees.



Volunteers visited the home of each attendee, called every parent and prepared to launch this innovative approach to children/family evangelism. The Sabbath School teachers now share the love of Christ with dozens of children that arrive for a hot meal, church program and study time each week.

The church hopes Kid Central will be a place for children to experience the love of Christ and learn how to prepare for His soon return, says Boston. The Kid Central volunteers include seniors, young adults, couples and even visitors. Pastor Boston says, "It is a holistic evangelistic tool that meets a need, impacts lives, inspires service and ignites a passion to be ready for the soon coming of Jesus Christ."

Central has partnered with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank to continue to provide hot, fresh meals to these children. The food bank commended Kid Central for being the only weekend program where children may receive a free meal.

Many of the attending children have decided to be baptized and become a part of the Central family. The youth of the church even hosted and led an evangelistic



After Central church youth preach an evangelistic series, visiting children respond to an appeal.

campaign for the Kid Central participants, and, after one week of sermons, the church baptized four children over the age of 8.

Children's Ministries is an invaluable part of the Central church. With the support of Pastor Allen Baldwin, director of the Allegheny West Children's Ministries Department, the church family believes they will reach hundreds more children in the fall of 2015 as they prepare for a city-wide evangelistic meeting targeting children.

"It's a lot of work we have going on but, when you see the children's faces as they pour in on Sabbath mornings, it's all worth it!" says Pastor Boston.



Pastor John Boston and Central church volunteers take Kid Central attendees to a VeggieTales show sponsored by the church.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

APRIL 2015

Let's Reach Chesapeake Together

Reach Chesapeake is a coordinated effort starting April 11 running till the end of the year, where every church in the conference is encouraged to reach out evangelistically in their communities. Working with our sister conferences in the region, Allegheny East and Potomac, and as part of the Columbia Union Conference's "Prophecies of Hope" initiative, we want to make a major impact for the kingdom of God.

Why are we investing the time, resources and energy in such an endeavor? First, God calls us to proclaim the good news. It fulfills the command of Jesus to His followers to "go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19, NKJV). We are a people called to preach the gospel of Jesus in the final hours of Earth's history.

Second, God still uses preaching to bring people to a knowledge of salvation. We live in an age where technology surrounds us—and we will utilize technology in many ways for this outreach. But, preaching empowered by the Holy Spirit and rightly dividing the Word can bring transformation. Paul wrote, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?" (Rom. 10:14-15).

Finally, outreach is a key ingredient for spiritual health and vitality. This applies to members individually and churches as a whole. An inwardly focused congregation tends to become complacent and critical. But, when we engage in ministry, focus on mission and work for the lost, it keeps us growing spiritually.

So, what can you do? Pray for the harvest as Jesus told us, attend your local Reach Chesapeake meetings and invite others to join you.



Rick Remmers
President

Rocky Knoll, Mount Aetna Teachers Commissioned

Dedicated and devoted are the words education administrators used to describe Alisha Boggess and Michelle White, two western Maryland teachers who were recently conferred the Commissioned Ministry of Teaching credential.



Michelle White and Alisha Boggess participate in the commissioning response.

Friends and family gathered to support the teachers commissioned during the Sabbath morning worship service at the Williamsport (Md.) church. Conference representatives Rick Remmers, president; Jerry Lutz, secretary; Jacqueline Messenger, superintendent of schools; and Mark Walker, associate superintendent of schools, participated in the affirming occasion.

Alisha Boggess, kindergarten teacher at the Rocky Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School in Martinsburg, W.Va., has been a Christian educator for 22 years, 16 of them at Rocky Knoll.

Michelle White has taught for eight years, the last five at Mount Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Md. She teaches Bible and hands-on science for the middle school grades.

"These two teachers care beyond the 9-5," says Messenger. "Both want their students to have a close personal relationship with Jesus and work to facilitate that relationship."

Walker agrees. "I appreciate their devotion and attention to the well-being of their students," he says.

The event was the fifth and final in a series of commissioning services planned for the 2014-15 school year.

PHOTO BY KANDACE ZOLLMAN

Churches Prioritize Prayer, Evangelism

In anticipation of the Reach Chesapeake evangelism initiative that begins this month, pastors and conference leaders began the year with a concerted focus on prayer. Recognizing the need to invite the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of people, many area churches participated in the world church's Ten Days of Prayer program in January, and several embarked on the North American Division's 40 Days of Prayer.

Participants in the Ten Days of Prayer program at the Williamsport (Md.) church, on the opening night, prayed by name for every person on the church membership list, says Franke Zollman, senior pastor. Subsequent meetings had themes, such as praying for the United States and its leaders, praying for the worldwide church and its leadership, and praying for missing members.



Participants in Mark Finley's seminar garner best practices for evangelism.

Josh Voigt, pastor in the Catoclin View/Middletown Valley district in western Maryland, says his congregations used Dennis Smith's *40 Days of Prayer* book to focus on revival and reformation in the local church. He says that participation has led to an increase in church attendance and requests for Bible studies and baptism.

Pastors and lay evangelists took preparation a step further by attending an evangelism workshop conducted by veteran evangelist Mark Finley, held at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md. The training, coordinated by the Columbia Union Conference, helped prepare Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac conference pastors to flood the Baltimore/Washington metro area with evangelistic and outreach activities.



Four-year-old Nathan Voigt, son of Pastor Josh Voigt and his wife, Celeste, listens to early morning prayers by phone on the Middletown Valley/Catoclin View church prayer conference call.

Pathfinders Test New Testament Knowledge

Thirteen Pathfinder clubs participated in the conference-level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) held recently at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md. Pathfinders studied the book of Matthew to prepare for the competition, and three teams—Atholton Faithblazers, Hagerstown Believers and Triadelphia Sparks (pictured)—advanced to compete at the union level.

"The kids look forward each year to participating in the PBE," says Ann Reynolds, assistant Youth Ministries director. "The scripture they learn will stay with them forever." To learn more about the PBE, visit pathfindersonline.org/pbe.



Correction

In the February issue, we inadvertently stated that Peggy Lee had served at the Columbia Union Revolving Fund for 50 years. Lee has worked at CURF for 35 years, and CURF has been operating for nearly 47 years.

Students Achieve Academic Success

During a recent assembly, Highland View Academy (HVA) administration recognized students who achieved high grades and standardized test scores. Freshman Benjamin Lee earned 99 percentile on all of the Iowa Tests of Educational Development. Sophomore Jessie Coleman and juniors Nathanael Byrkit, Andelena Jackson, Jefferson McCain, Kayla Miller and Alissa Tanguay scored in the top 10 percentile on the PSAT. And, senior Beryl Tang achieved a score above 90 percentile on the SAT.

More than one-third of HVA's student body made Principal's List last semester by earning a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Principal Malcolm "Mick" Hutchinson celebrated with them by treating them to a local Chinese food buffet.

PHOTOS BY JOHN ZERNE



Principal Mick Hutchinson joins students who achieved top test scores: (front row) Alissa Tanguay ('16), Benjamin Lee ('18), Andelena Jackson ('16), (back row) Nathanael Byrkit ('16), Jefferson McCain ('16), Beryl Tang ('15), Kayla Miller ('16) and Jessie Coleman ('17).



More than one-third of the student body made Principal's List last semester.

HVA Ranked Among Top Private Maryland High Schools

According to rankings recently published by Niche, an independent statistics and ranking company, Highland View Academy ranked in the top 60 private high schools in Maryland. The rankings are based on a combination of hard data, such as test scores, and soft data, such as parent and student surveys.

Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president and HVA school board chair, also notes that "according to this ranking, HVA is the top-ranked Protestant school in Washington County."

The Niche ranking recognizes HVA's high-level academic success, as well as the diverse and active culture of the school. The complete list of top 100 private schools in Maryland can be viewed on Niche's website.

Amaris Habimana ('16) is one of the many HVA students who contributes to the success of the school.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW LEEWONG



Solar Field to Shave \$30,000 Annually From Electric Bill

Highland View Academy has signed a 20-year contract with SolarCity, the largest provider of solar energy in the United States. SolarCity will install a 1.06 kilowatt solar field covering three acres on HVA's campus. The solar panels will provide 100 percent of the electricity used by HVA and the Highland View church,

as well as 66 percent of the electricity used by the nearby Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center.

HVA's campus uses 1.2 million kilowatts of electricity annually. With the reduced per kilowatt hour rate guaranteed for 20 years by SolarCity, the academy will save approximately \$30,000 each year. Because SolarCity will cover the equipment and installation, there are no upfront costs for HVA.

In addition, SolarCity will donate \$100,000 to HVA's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program. The company will also provide the STEM program with a solar energy curriculum, allowing students to use the solar field and its data to engage in hands-on learning about photovoltaics.

Principal Mick Hutchinson notes that upgrading to solar energy helps the school embrace 21st century technology. He says, "SolarCity allows us to embrace the best of cutting-edge technology as a STEM high school, developing our environmental conscience while reducing costs and harvesting the natural power of the sun."

ARTWORK BY JOHN ZERNE



An artist's rendition shows how the solar field on the HVA campus will appear from above.

Alumni Serve the World, Converge for Alumni Weekend

The alumni office has been buzzing with exciting updates from alumni serving around the world. Nathanael Ramsey ('12) is in the middle of his second year as a student missionary on the island of Palau; Amanda Barizo ('01) is working with the organizations Exceed and Project Propel in the Philippines, focusing on the equal treatment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in developing countries; and Nathaniel



Erb ('10) finished a cross-country bike trip over the summer. He rode approximately 4,500 miles from Seattle, Wash., to Key West, Fla., raising awareness about the crisis of human trafficking. The school asks for prayers for these individuals and others as they continue to serve.

This year Highland View Academy and

Mount Aetna Academy are celebrating 65 years of education. Alumni Weekend 2015, May 1-3, features author and speaker Jerry D. Thomas (pictured), former pastor and Bible teacher at HVA who currently serves as the vice president of product development at the Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho). Organizers have planned worship, music, sports and tributes to special individuals who have served the school over the years. Those who have an alumni update or would like more information, email alumni@highlandviewacademy.com.—Mandy Corea

Calendar

- May 1-3 Alumni Weekend
- May 3 Tartan Spirit 5K Run
- May 15 Spring Choral Concert
- May 16 Spring Instrumental Concert
- May 24 Graduation

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

APRIL 2015

Charleston Members Share Life-Altering Knowledge

In 2006 Basil Bennett, a Charleston (W.Va.) church member, underwent coronary bypass surgery. To help his health, he gave up eggs and ate only lean meat. But, in spite of his new “healthy” diet, he continued gaining weight, had high cholesterol and blood pressure, an irregular heartbeat and medication-induced neuropathy. He believed he wouldn’t be around for long, he shares.

When his wife, Becky, suggested enrolling at the Wildwood Lifestyle Center (Ga.), which promotes a plant-based diet and exercise, Basil was not enthusiastic. However, several months later, they started a 25-day, life-changing experience.



Basil and Becky Bennett are enthusiastic about their new healthy lifestyle.

learned and has already taught four classes at the Charleston church, she shares. She enjoys artistically taking something everyone thinks will not be good and making it tasty. And, the attendees love the delicious recipes, say church leaders.

Member Tammy Bibbee echoed the sentiments of many when she said, “I really appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge, their time and their money to give people healthier options.”—*Kathy Pepper*



Becky Bennett shares creative cooking displays at a vegan cooking class.

Along with his known health issues, lab results showed Basil as borderline diabetic. Wildwood doctors and staff developed plans to improve the couple’s health. The Bennetts also attended health classes, exercised and learned how to cook healthy, vegan meals.

Twenty-five days later, Becky was off four medications and the problem that caused the need for medication was gone. Basil’s diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure were under control. His neuropathy improved and he stopped taking two of his medications. They both also lost 20 pounds.

After returning home, they emptied their cupboards and changed their lifestyle. They now maintain a satisfying vegan diet, and Basil still exercises regularly, shares Becky. They are continuing to lose weight.

Their experience inspired Becky to offer vegan cooking classes at her church. She wants to share what she

Wellness Camp Kicks Off Seventh Season

Plan to attend Mountain View Conference’s Wellness Camp, August 9-21, at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Receive

physical, mental and spiritual renewal, and individualized help given by caring staff. Register by June 22 to save \$100. For more information, visit mtviewconf.org or call (304) 422-4581.



SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

APRIL 2015

We're Gaining Blessings Through the Pain

In Jeremiah 29:11, Jeremiah shared an important message to a nation of captive refugees in Babylon who wanted to go home. Their hopes, prayers and planning were dashed as God told them to wait. He reminded them that God's plans give hope and a future. This promise is profoundly relevant to the students, staff and alumni of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA).

MVA received its notice of captivity February 15. Our institution—its buildings, the place that is home for our learning community—will lie desolate after this school year. Our hopes, prayers and planning lay dashed. And now, we wait.

But, we—the students and staff—are MVA, and we are not closed! We live as representatives of the values, heritage and honor of this place.

Jeremiah asked those in captivity to stop blaming, whining and wishing and, instead, pray for blessings on their captors. In recognition of God's presence in our midst, I challenge us all to live lives that bless each other. As we live out a life of blessings to others, we are blessed.

My heart is filled with a sense of loneliness, washed in a bath of rejection and buried beneath a boat load of failure. It is here that I turn to God's promise in, "I know what I am doing" (Jer. 29:11, *Message*). And, as I pause to give Him praise, I find the strength to live, to breathe and to bless.



Dan Kittle
Principal

AcroNics go Prime Time at Cleveland Cavaliers Game

The AcroNics, Mount Vernon Academy's gymnastics team, recently performed during PrimeTime, the pre-game event for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Because the AcroNics have had a strong relationship with the Cavaliers for several years, even before LeBron James returned and increased interest in the team, they were chosen from among 150 groups who requested to entertain their PrimeTime crowd.

Why does the school participate in this event? Ryan Irwin, athletic director and AcroNics coach, says Adventist churches and schools should be known for being good at what we do, having quality kids and programs, and for being loyal and dedicated. "Furthermore, gymnastics is more than just performances and doing skills," he says. "Going to the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland was a highlight to our school year, but far beyond the performance was a chance to represent our school, our alumni, our families and our God in a positive and fun way."

He continues, "This event was exciting, with the bright lights and the chance to go out on the NBA

court, but it is only a shadow of the main event to come. I pray that we will use these opportunities to reflect Christ and help draw others to know of His second coming, an event we all look forward to."



The AcroNics perform before a Cleveland Cavaliers game.

PHOTO BY GABBY HERNANDEZ

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

APRIL 2015

Home and School Event Raises More Than \$4,500

The Home and School Association (H&S) recently sponsored a family bowling fundraiser at lanes in Dayton, Ohio, where 130 parents and students enjoyed a fun-filled evening. A silent auction raised nearly \$1,000 thanks to teachers and homeroom moms that provided a class basket. But, the total net profit for the evening was \$4,600!

Annie Collins, H&S co-president, shares, "With this money, we will be able to finance upcoming parent and teacher educational meetings, sponsor a science lab bus from the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, sponsor a science assembly run by the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton, conduct teacher and student appreciation weeks in May, host a "Welcome Back to School" corn roast and run a health program next academic year."

Joyce Hahn, H&S co-president, adds, "Your support allows H&S to support Spring Valley Academy with different types of educational and social opportunities for our children and their families."



Fourth-Grade "Farmers" Harvest Aeroponic Crop

When Sam Joseph's fourth-grade students began studying vertical-growing aeroponic gardening, little did they know they would also plant, harvest and feast on the bounty of their efforts—all without soil.

"The students eagerly responded to a hands-on project where they [could] utilize their senses and feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of the experiment," says Joseph.

Former, Current Students Unite During Alumni Weekend

School leaders urge all Spring Valley Academy (SVA) alumni to attend alumni weekend April 17-18. "If your graduating year ends in 0 or 5, then 2015 is the year for your 'honor' class reunion, so make plans now to join us," says Angie Peach ('95), alumni/development director. The Alumni Golf Tournament will be held April 17 at 1 p.m.

All alumni musicians and singers are invited to perform with the SVA band and choir for Alumni Sabbath, April 18. The Meet and Greet begins at 9:30, with a worship service starting at 10:30 a.m. Chad Stuart ('97), senior pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., is the featured alumni speaker.

Alumni honor class photos will be taken immediately following the service, and the school will provide a free luncheon in the cafeteria at noon. The annual SVA Alumni Versus Varsity Basketball Game begins at 9 p.m. All band and stage band alumni are welcome to play with the stage band for the game that night. For more information, visit springvalleyacademy.org and click on the "Alumni" toolbar tab, and again on "Alumni Weekend".

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

NEWS NEW JERSEY

APRIL 2015

Let's Contribute to One Million Prayers

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Guam and Micronesia are currently participating in Pray One Million. This spiritual initiative is a wake-up call for leaders at all the levels of the church and for every single member of the family of God. I encourage you to join and experience a real spirit of revival, and receive the Holy Spirit and the power of heaven. I believe that through this, He will equip the church to fulfill the mission assigned to us by our Master, Jesus Christ.

The program asks us to pray for one person for at least one minute every day. Together we will accumulate one million hours of intense intercession every four months all across the North America Division territory. In past special times of need, prayer worked. And, it will work again.

Today I am inviting all of you to be praying people, a working element and instrument of God in this great movement that will bring our church to the next level. Our success begins when we humbly connect with Him before going to work or to the classroom. It begins when we put our plans at His feet, asking Him to bless according to what He wants, not what we want.

Prayer is the passport to success. It is, in essence, the most important part of our work.

Will you be part of it?



José H. Cortés
President

Atlantic City Youth Include Friends in Worship

Every Wednesday night, 10-12 young adults gather for the Atlantic City Spanish church's youth meeting in Atlantic City. They worship, sing, pray and study the Bible. Afterward they have a snack and hang out, much like a typical youth group. But, Pastor Oscar Rodriguez says it is becoming much more than that. He recently received a text from their leader, Federico Silie, saying that the young people want to learn more about God and prophecy, the Second Coming and the end times.

"I couldn't believe what I was reading," shares Rodriguez. "Are these really the topics they want— young people are asking to learn more about God? They are hungry! Usually, the struggle is to get them interested in coming out to youth group. But, this is not the case. They do not want to miss a topic."

Some of the attendees are from the church, but most are friends of members that attend a local public high school. "These young people share their faith with the people they hang out with. They are evangelists!" says Rodriguez. "Our hope and prayer is that through

these meetings, God will work in the hearts of the young people, and one day soon, they accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior."



The Atlantic City Spanish church youth group, composed of church members and their friends, meet at a member's home for fellowship.

Youth Put “Faith in Action” at Leadership Convention

More than 600 youth and young adults from New Jersey gathered to worship God and grow as a family at New Jersey Conference’s recent leadership convention and youth retreat. “The 2015 theme for the Youth Department is ‘Faith in Action,’ and our leaders left inspired and encouraged to put their faith in action in the church and in the communities,” says Paolo Macena, Youth Ministries director.

Andres Peralta, youth director for the Greater New York Conference; Abraham Henry, Bible teacher at South Bend Junior Academy (Ind.); and Josant Barrientos, Youth Ministries director for the Potomac Conference, spoke with power and conviction, says Macena. During the worship services, many young people felt the call of the Holy Spirit and responded to altar calls for a deeper connection with God.

“The youth were inspired to allow the Lord to speak to them and impact their lives and then use the experience as a catalyst to reach others for Christ,” shares Jorge Coxaj, pastor of the Hackettstown, Phillipsburg and Rockaway churches, and Youth Ministries assistant



director. “Many young people were excited to participate in the three-day event and willingly braved the cold and snow to experience fellowship with God and their fellow Christians.” He adds, “God is doing something special with the leaders in the New Jersey Conference. He is motivating them to be doers and not just hearers of His Word,” adds Coxaj.



				
Alejandro Bullon Ministerio Bullon	Ricardo Norton Institute of Hispanic Min. Andrews University	Jose H. Cortes President NJ Conference	Paulo Macena Youth & Com. Director NJ Conference	Jorge Agüero Personal Min. Director NJ Conference

APRIL 26, 2015 @ ROBBINSVILLE SDA—9AM TO 5PM

Registration: \$15
@ Robbinsville SDA
2314 Highway 33
Robbinsville NJ 08691

www.lideradventista.com

NEWS

Dayton Korean Welcomes New Pastor

The Dayton Korean church in Centerville recently held an inaugural worship service for Kim Hyunggul, who became senior pastor in October.

Oswaldo Magaña, secretary and director for Clergy Care and Leadership Development for the conference, officiated the special program. During the worship service, Magaña charged Kim and the congregation “to come to the feet of our Lord, Jesus, with all our burdens, find refuge and receive encouragement and power.” Pastor Kim responded by declaring, he “will



Inaugural Sabbath: (front row) Jae Sil Lee, Pastor Kim Hyunggul, Oswaldo Magaña, Herlinda Magaña, (back row) Kunil Chris Chung, Hanyoung Chang and Kwang Woo Lee



Oswaldo Magaña prays for Kim Hyunggul and Jae Sil Lee during a special service.

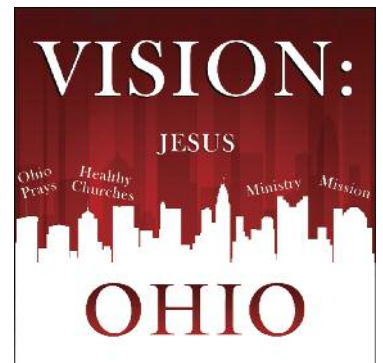
be the servant of our Lord, imparting the truth to the world.” Many guests joined the worship, including friends from other area churches.

Kim graduated from Sahmyook University (South Korea) with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theology, and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University (Mich.). Pastor Kim is married to Jae Sil Lee, and they have one son, Dong Hyun. Kim replaces Young Hwa Yoon, who now works in the Chesapeake Conference.—*Chris Chung*

“Vision: Ohio” Succeeds, Conference Closes in the Black

Conference leaders thank the constituents and friends of the Ohio Conference for their continued generosity in supporting President Ron Halvorsen Jr.’s special offering for “Vision: Ohio.” As of December 31, treasury collected \$264,106.75 toward the offering, and is still receiving more funds. The “Vision: Ohio” donations, combined with a 2.25 percent yearly tithe increase, and a special subsidy from the Columbia Union Conference, allowed the conference to close last year, unlike 2013, with a gain rather than a loss.

“This is good news for our conference. Thank you for your continued support,” says Halvorsen.



Ohio Elementary Students “Press On” at Worship Festival

Elementary students from across the conference will converge at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon this month for the annual Ohio Conference Elementary Worship Festival. Students in fifth- through eighth-grade will enjoy workshops, drama and music based on this year’s theme “Press On.” Kimberly Bulgin, choir director at Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, will direct the choir and David Niño, MVA music director, will direct the handbell choir.

Constituents from across the conference and union are invited to attend the final program of the festival Sabbath, April 11, at 3:30 p.m. in the MVA auditorium. For more information, contact the Office of Education at (740) 397-4665, ext. 130, or email education@ohioadventist.org.

Cincinnati Ghanaian Church Holds Health Expo

The Cincinnati Ghanaian church's Health Ministries Department recently hosted a health expo at their Cincinnati church. Pastor Emmanuel Kusi Yeboah oversaw three months of preparation for the event that drew 65 participants.

At the expo, guests visited multiple stations that offered BMI measurements, blood pressure checks, glucose and cholesterol testing, nutrition information and lifestyle modification counseling sessions. Volunteers gave several short presentations on hypertension, diabetes, weight management and the importance of taking medication as prescribed. The program lasted for more than three hours.

"We believe that the Cincinnati Ghanaian church can use health education as one of the effective tools to spread the gospel to the community," says Kingsford Asare, Health Ministries leader. "We hope to reach out to the hospitals in this area for more resources and expand our education to the community this year and [in] subsequent years."



Cincinnati Ghanaian Health Ministries leaders prepare the glucose and cholesterol testing station for their health expo.

Summer Camps at Mohaven

Register Online at www.ohiosdayouth.org/camp-mohaven

June 14-21, 2015	
Ski Camp	Ages 12-17
Horse Camp 1	Ages 12-14
Lifeguard Camp	Ages 15-17
Music Camp	Ages 12-17
June 17-21, 2015	
Family Camp	All Ages!!
June 21-28, 2015	
Cub Camp	Ages 6-9
Horse Camp 2	Ages 15-17
Soccer Camp	Ages 10-13
June 28-July 5, 2015	
Junior Camp	Ages 9-13
July 5-12, 2015	
Teen Camp	Ages 13-17

Call 740.397.4695 x122 or
email youth@ohioadventist.org
for details.

Pennsylvania Pen

APRIL 2015

We Are the Face of Christ

In my estimation, one of the most profound passages in Scripture is John 1:14: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (NIV). It tells us that Jesus came to Earth to show us what God was like. He revealed a God who was full of grace and truth; a God who loved to heal and forgive; a God who saw the best in people and not the worst. Speaking of Jesus, Colossians 1:15 says, “He is the image of the invisible God” (NIV). If you want to know what God looks like, how He thinks or how He acts, look at Jesus because no one on Earth has represented God better than He did.

But, what may be the most astounding seven words in Scripture are found in Philippians 1:21, “For to me to live is Christ (NIV).” Those words astound me. Have you ever seriously pondered them?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus came to this Earth to put a face on God. As His followers, you and I are here to put a face on Christ! We are the way Jesus gets into the world. The beauty of discipleship is that we get to serve as the eyes, ears, heart and hands of Jesus Christ to the men, women and children all around us.

What a glorious calling we have! May He live through you today!



John Kent
Carnegie Simple
Church Pastor

BMA Student Reaches Impossible Dream

When a recruiting team from Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) visited Kiana Gurley’s elementary school in Connecticut, she thought, “This may be something God wants for me.” After attending BMA’s Academy Days, she knew the academy was part of God’s plan for her life, and she began to pray about it.



Kiana Gurley and her parents, Gideon and Kerene, are thankful to God for providing a way for Kiana to be a four-year senior.

Until Academy Days, her family hadn’t considered boarding school as an option. Before her freshman year, her mom, Kerene, had lost her job and her dad, Gideon, was self-employed. They said they didn’t have the money for her to attend and BMA seemed like the impossible dream. But, choosing faith over reality, Kerene pulled funds from her 401K to complete the registration fees, and Kiana registered for her freshman year. “If I am going to be here, I will be here to the end,” she declared in her heart. “God will make a way.”

Kiana was not shy about asking for help, and now has 16 sponsors, including parents of her friends, her church and relatives. This past summer, she was part of the conference’s Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC) program and worked eight weeks as a student literature evangelist. The money she earned goes toward tuition, and she also receives a one-third matching grant from the Pennsylvania Conference and BMA.

This four-year senior shares, “Money is just a tool God uses. This is not about my strength, but His. You don’t choose to see with your own eyes, but through God’s. He puts me on the right path. If you don’t take a step in the positive, you don’t take a step in the right direction.” She adds, “If I wasn’t here, my mind would think of other things. The environment here puts me in a different frame of mind.”—Caron Oswald

West Chester Reconstructs Homes in Philippines

When Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines, it impacted more than 13 million people and approximately 250,000 homes. The devastation also impacted the family of Leila Dumagsa-McGowan, an elder at the West Chester church who was born and raised in Merida on the island of Leyte, Philippines. Not one of her family members' homes survived the storm, but in spite of that grief, they quickly organized free lunches for school children in need.

Leaders of the West Chester church wanted to help. They established the "Help for Merida Philippines Fund" as a yearlong initiative to raise money to replace roofs, rebuild one or two homes and cover additional needs that arose during the process. Leaders thought they could raise \$5,000 in one year. Despite being a small congregation, the members decided that the goal should be \$10,000.

By the end of the year, they actually raised \$13,186 in donations. These monies were used to complete four home reconstruction projects. Enough money remained



Members of the West Chester church are excited about raising more than \$13,000 to help families impacted by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

to invest in local businesses and to provide support to the local Merida church to rebuild their children's classroom.—*John McGowan*

PHOTO BY LEILA DUMAGSA-MCGOWAN

Students Connect Thru Geography Challenge

Students from seven Seventh-day Adventist schools recently answered questions about geography at Pennsylvania Conference's first Geography Challenge. Held at the Harrisburg Adventist School in Harrisburg, the event was live-streamed so family members, fellow students and home schooling families could watch across the country. The Dover Seventh-day Adventist School in Delaware even competed via the Internet.

Students in grades 1-4 answered questions in the morning. After lunch grades 5-7 then 8-10 competed. The top three individuals in each round won prizes.

Jeff Bovee, conference vice president for education;



Students in grades 1-4, representing schools from across the Pennsylvania Conference, compete in the first Geography Challenge.



Jeff Bovee presents Ziryah Rodriguez, a Reading Junior Academy fifth-grader, with a prize for winning second place in the fifth- to seventh-grade round.

Tissiana Kelley, Harrisburg school principal; Rick Bianco, principal of the Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy in Huntingdon Valley; Lee Stahl, principal at Reading Junior Academy in Reading; and Jennifer McCary, principal of the York Adventist School in York, organized the event. Bovee; Ham Canosa, Columbia Conference vice president for education; and Larry Blackmer, North American Division vice president of education, acted as judges. Six members of the Harrisburg First church also took a day off work to volunteer at the event.

PHOTO BY TIM CHOBBAN

Potomac People

APRIL 2015

We're Moving Christ's Mission Forward

As an administrative team, we are privileged to be part of the body of Christ that prioritizes moving His mission forward and leading people to Him. We are overwhelmed by the commitment of the members, pastors and teachers who spend countless hours helping carry out the mission and vision of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. And, we are thankful for the evidence of God's continued blessings on our churches, schools and ministries.

To date we have more than 30,000 members, 182 congregations, 19 schools and numerous other kingdom-building ministries. Our membership represents more than 120 countries and a myriad of languages, nations and cultures. As diverse as we are, however, we come together to fulfill the mission "to grow healthy, disciple-making churches and schools."

Blessings, Challenges, Priorities

During the past five years, we've organized more than 14 churches and companies and seen increases in tithe, membership and school enrollment. In 2014 adjusted tithe increased by .52 percent; 1,226 joined our fellowship through baptism and profession of faith; overall school enrollment increased by 26 students; and we were able to update several facilities.

While we rejoice over these positive strides, we face some challenges as well. Several schools have experienced increased operational costs; several churches have not been able to meet financial obligations; and healthcare and retirement costs continue to rise. We are aggressively addressing these issues, but the stresses impact us all, and we all need to continue to pray and work through them together. As Ellen White says, "The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 667).

Buoyed by God's transforming grace and compelled by His power, we will continue to move Christ's mission forward through several evangelism initiatives: We continue to identify and plant churches in



Each year people are brought to Christ through friendships and evangelism efforts, like Hispanic camp meeting.

unentered communities. Our Pastoral Ministries team is working to train congregations and strengthen our focus on Fishing for Jesus, an initiative that will culminate in 2017 with a special "year of evangelism." This month approximately 40 Potomac congregations will participate in the Columbia Union Conference's tri-conference evangelism initiative "Prophecies of Hope," in which we pray many souls will become new disciples of Christ.

Thank you for your prayers, partnership and participation in moving Christ's mission forward in Potomac. We pray that you, too, will consider how to become personally involved in the effort by leading one friend to Jesus. It only costs time and talent to bring someone to Jesus, but the blessings are eternal.

A fellow disciple
on the journey,



William "Bill" Miller
President

Potomac People

Camp Blue Ridge Develops Leaders

Camps do so many things well in terms of faith formation and the making of disciples, so there is a strong future for most,” wrote Paul Hill in *Future of Camping: Innovation for Renewal*. He added, “It will not be easy, but within the DNA of our camps resides innovation and catalytic energy. God will use both to serve God’s kingdom.”

Jennifer Gabel, associate director for Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., believes that the camp model naturally and effectively mentors and disciples those who attend, and that it’s one of the church’s greatest assets in growing and developing leaders. “For most of our staff, camp is their first job,” she says. “While it will potentially be the best summer job they will ever have, they quickly



Ashleigh Sciulli and Chad Chaffee, girls and boys directors, await the arrival of campers for registration.



Top: Jerrod Gabel, Camp Blue Ridge director, leads by example as he maintains the camp. Above: Aaron Snelgrove, Angelica Miller and Kiley Thompson train to ensure the campers have a safe time rock climbing.

find it can be one of the most exhausting too.”

They soon learn that there’s more to camp than just playing with kids, Gabel says. Campgrounds need to be maintained, and many little things need to be done in order to make the summer successful. “This is often hard work, but it’s where camp excels at developing young people,” she adds. “Holding staff accountable and maintaining a safe place to make mistakes goes a long way in preparing them for leadership and excellence in their future. It’s incredibly rewarding to watch them as they start developing their own leadership styles. One summer can make a tremendous difference.”

Robert Faber, a staff member from last summer, says, “I’m at the place where I’m beginning to make decisions that will determine what I want [to] get out of life. Camp Blue Ridge broke me out of my mold. It’s cool to know that there is more to life than the stereotypical view that we grow up to believe. The journey now is finding what that means for me.”

Summer staff members often indicate that a major reason they want to work at camp is to make a difference in the lives of campers. Most say a staff member made a difference in their own life when they were a kid, and they want to do that for someone else.

“There is something intoxicating about being a part of something greater than yourself,” Gabel says. “It is a privilege to invite these young adults into leadership. It’s wonderful to see them work, grow and teach campers about life and, more importantly, about Jesus.”

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



APRIL 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Virginia Tax Program Awards Student Scholarships

Gail Melkersen, one of the promoters of the Virginia Scholarships Tax Credits program, recently met with Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) and Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) students to present checks totaling \$22,064. Seven SVA students received scholarships totaling \$15,164: six SVAE students received \$6,900.

"It is because of the generous support of donors that have a desire for tax deductions, Virginia tax credits and a heart for Adventist education that these scholarships can be awarded," Melkersen says.

Richmond Academy administration discovered the special tax credit program offered by the Virginia Department of Education in early 2014. The program benefits families who would otherwise be unable to afford private education. For students entering kindergarten or first grade, or students currently attending public school, this program offers a tuition scholarship between \$3,000 and \$6,000 every year through grade 12, assuming the family continues to meet the annual financial qualifications. Donations to the program are, for tax purposes, considered charitable and donors receive 65 percent of their donation back as a Virginia tax credit.



Dan Jensen, SVA recruiter, joins the school's recipients of the tax credit program: (front row) Iara Nobre Ayala ('18), Kimberly Ware-Simmons ('16), (back row) Edrian Sanchez ('18) and Jamel Northover ('17). Graciela Almendarez ('18) and Elizabeth Cruz-Mejia ('15) are not pictured.



Gail Melkersen (second from left) presents a scholarship check to Tim LaPierre, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School principal, and Ron and Debbie White, SVA staff members.

Through the generous donations of 42 individuals and businesses in the Potomac Conference, the program awarded \$150,831 in scholarships for the fall 2014 semester, benefitting 99 students in 12 Seventh-day Adventist schools in Virginia, including SVA.

Dan Jensen, SVA recruiter and promoter of the program, says, "We were able to help seven students attend SVA through this program. These are students who would not have been able to attend SVA without this financial support. This program is truly a win-win for all parties involved—the state, the donors and the students. We're grateful to those who stepped out in faith to get this program off the ground. It will have an eternal impact on those students who have been able to take advantage of it."

It is anticipated that the requests for scholarships from the program will be even greater for the spring semester. For more information, contact Jensen at danj@pcsda.org or (952) 221-5707.

www.ta.edu TATODAY APRIL 2015

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Alumni Weekend Highlights “Moving Forward Together”

Over the past three years, one of the greatest indicators of a sustained renaissance at Takoma Academy (TA) has been the resurgence of a well attended reunion weekend. The alumni weekend scheduled for April 24-26 aims to maintain that momentum, and based on the list of activities and guest speakers, there is no doubt that the goal will be achieved with aplomb, says Carla Thrower, principal.

The following classes will be honored this year: 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010. The annual event takes place on TA’s campus in Takoma Park, Md.

The events, themed “Moving Forward Together,” kick off Friday, April 24, at 6:15 p.m. with the annual business meeting, followed by a welcome reception



and registration, vespers in the renovated chapel and then mini reunions throughout the school. Charles Tapp (left), former TA Bible teacher and current senior pastor of the nearby Sligo church, will speak at the 7 p.m. vespers.

Lars Houmann (right), is the featured guest speaker for the divine Sabbath service. Houmann is a member of the Class of 1975, and currently president and CEO of Florida Hospital and the Florida

division of the Adventist Health System, which includes 22 hospitals. Under his leadership, the organization has grown into a seven-hospital system that serves the Orlando metropolitan area. It has the distinction of admitting more patients annually than any other hospital in the United States and being the

largest provider of Medicare services.

Ken “Uncle Willie” Wilson, a member of the Class of 1955 and former science teacher, will teach Sabbath School. Many of TA’s graduates who went on to careers in healthcare attribute Wilson as their source of inspiration due to his passion for God, the sciences and unique pedagogy. Wilson is a proponent for Adventist education, and though retired



from TA, he stays active as an adjunct professor at nearby Washington Adventist University.

Several of the honor classes will host special activities during the weekend, including a meal for the Class of 1955 at the Waterside Restaurant inside the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia, Md., at 6:30 p.m. The Class of 1975 will meet at Glen and Mandy Gibb’s home at 3812 Dustin Road in Burtonsville, Md., at 6:30 p.m. More information about honor class events will be available during the weekend.

In response to requests for new activities, planners have added a tennis tournament Saturday evening sponsored by Irving Westney (’81), a former alumnus of the year. The tournament will take place at Fairland Tennis Bubble at 13950 Old Gunpowder Road in Laurel, Md. Ron Braithwaite (’93), a faculty physician at Loma Linda University Medical Center (Calif.), and Earl Monkou (’98), are sponsoring the third annual Alumni Basketball Tournament.

George “Chef George” Suggs, head of Dining Services, will prepare the alumni luncheon. The price is \$14 and meals can be purchased online. Visit Xpress-pay.com to purchase event and meal tickets.

This is Our Promise

Washington Adventist University (WAU) produces graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities. Our strategic focus for 2015 continues to be on the quality of the academic programs and services we offer. It is compelling that our students, parents and the employers of our graduates experience the value of a WAU Christian education. This WAU experience must resonate with our students and differentiate them with the employers who hire them.

We want every student to experience a caring, engaging and intellectual learning experience in a loving, Christian environment, and we continue to develop a strong educational experience based on consistent assessment of the benefits, costs and value that we deliver to our constituent groups. It is all part of our "Vision 2020—Growing With Excellence" plan.

This is our promise at Washington Adventist University.



Weymouth Spence
President

Professor Presents Adventist Study Findings

Professor John Gavin (pictured) recently presented the results of a study on Seventh-day Adventist demographics in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area at an Adventist Community Action Council's (ACAC) meeting. ACAC is a group of Adventist church and organization leaders who coordinate efforts and resources to address key community issues. Although the study was completed in 2009, the results were again presented to help new ACAC members better understand Adventist demographics and perspectives as they plan activities for 2015.



Gavin, a professor and chair of the Social Work Department and director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry, conducted the initial study six years ago, and compared data with previous studies from 1987 and 2004. The study included a telephone survey in 2008 of 379 randomly selected Adventist families in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. More than 22,000 Adventists lived in the area in 2009, with the highest concentration along the Route 29 and Interstate 95 corridors.

"This information provides a clear profile of Adventists in the Baltimore-Washington area, along with candid responses from members about Adventist education that is vital for school leaders and educators who are members of the ACAC," reports Gavin.

In comparing the data with previous studies, the ethnic profile of the local Adventist membership is clearly changing. Between 1987 and 2009, the percentage of parents who are white dropped by half, while all other ethnic groups grew. Nearly half of the families reached (44 percent) included at least one parent who is an immigrant to the United States.

The study was commissioned by the ACAC and funded by Washington Adventist University, along with two nearby Adventist schools, Takoma Academy and Sligo Adventist School.

For more information about the ACAC, contact Erwin Mack at eandsmack@aol.com. For copies of the study, contact Gavin at jgavin@wau.edu.



Fun Fest Features Music, Food, Family Entertainment

The annual Family Fun Fest will be held on campus Sunday, April 12, from noon to 5 p.m. The free event will feature music, food and family entertainment. The event has been an annual tradition on campus for more than a decade, always taking place during the university's alumni weekend, held April 9-12 this year.

SGPS Hosts First Week of Spiritual Emphasis

Washington Adventist University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) recently hosted its inaugural Week of Spiritual Emphasis, offering adult evening students a half-hour break from class to hear student speakers from the Department of Religion present on the theme "Spiritual Distractions."

"Most of the students in our accelerated evening degree program are busy adults, who not only hold full-time jobs but are also raising families," says Nicole Currier, SGPS dean. "We thought it was important to offer them the opportunity to enhance their spiritual well-being so that they can graduate strong."

The student speakers for the week included:



Richard Matthews (below) is pursuing his Master of Arts in Religion. He has been serving God, family and country for 30 years, and has a long and distinguished career in military and government.

Oye Sobo is an ordained pastor at Watchman Ministries in Capitol Heights, Md. In addition to his pastoral and ministerial duties, he is a social worker with the Prince George's County Department of Social Services.

Tim Soper has taught religion courses and served as an academy chaplain for the past 14 years. He and his wife, Amy, spent two years serving as missionaries on the South Pacific island of Guam, after which they served in Ohio and Maryland. He is currently the campus chaplain at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md.

Curtis Roberts is currently completing a Master of Arts in Religion with a concentration in ethical leadership. He holds two bachelor's degrees, one in finance from Florida Atlantic University and the other in theology from WAU. He currently serves as an elder at the Re-Creation church in Baltimore.

Novella Smith is completing her Master of Arts in Religion with a concentration in ethical leadership. Smith is a member of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., where she serves as an elder, Pathfinder drum leader and teen ministry leader.



Profiles in Caring

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Caretaker or Caregiver?

Way back in the middle of the 19th Century there was a general lack for a word in English to designate the individual who had hands-on responsibility for the way something (usually a building or property or an asset) was managed. The people then came up with the word “caretaker,” which meant the one who takes responsibility for an object or asset. Eventually the word began to be used for someone taking responsibility for just about anything — an estate, a trust, a collection of paintings or art — even a person.

The idea of “taking responsibility” slowly dimmed in the usage of the word, but the “care” part of the word grew brighter, and by the middle of the 20th Century, the word caretaker had basically flattened out to mean someone who takes care of something, regardless of who is responsible for it.

By the last quarter of the 20th Century, healthcare professionals were still using the word caretaker to describe at least part of their jobs. But they were concerned that the word may seem passive — as if that person were the one taking or receiving the care. Or, conversely, the word could be perceived entirely differently and imply that the caretaker had complete responsibility for another’s care. And this was at a time in healthcare when there was a growing appreciation and understanding of the responsibility role an individual has in understanding and responding to their own health needs.

Enter the word “caregiver.” We hear it so frequently now that it’s hard to imagine a time when we didn’t have it. By shifting to “giver” from “taker” the underlying meaning also shifted. A caretaker takes responsibility for care, while a caregiver would provide the care itself, with the responsibility intact with the care receiver (another fairly new term.) In the United Kingdom the word that emerged was just “carer,” which sounds a bit strange on our American ears, but means essentially the same thing.

Not everyone likes the word caregiver, but I like it quite a lot. It is clearly a better description of the relationship with those we serve than caretaker. It is a word that helps us keep a human, relational focus in our work. It helps us better understand how to respond when we encounter limits for what we can do. It re-emphasizes that we are focused on the care we can provide.

Thinking about these two words has made me even more aware of how focused and effective the caregiver must be. It makes me mindful of the care we need to extend to caregivers. And it makes me thankful for all of the caregivers with Adventist HealthCare who are a part of fulfilling our mission to demonstrate God’s care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.



Terry Forde

President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare

Pa. Congressman Tim Murphy Visits the Lourie Center

Congressman Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania visited the Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness (Lourie Center) on January 26 to learn more about the organization's work in serving young children with socio-emotional and mental health needs.

Dr. Murphy, a trained clinical psychologist, has been leading mental healthcare reform and building support for the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which proposes a nationwide framework for early identification, treatment and community-based support systems for children and adults with severe mental health needs.

The Lourie Center is the only organization in the Washington, D.C. region that provides early therapeutic intervention for young children whose socio-emotional and mental health needs impede their ability to function at home and at school.

"Congressman Murphy has been a strong advocate for early mental health intervention programs like the Lourie Center for several years," said Marcel Wright, executive director of the Lourie Center. "He understands the importance of recognizing and treating social, emotional and mental health problems in young children to help prevent more severe mental health challenges as an adult."



Congressman Tim Murphy (left) is guided on a tour of the Lourie Center School by Marcel Wright, Executive Director of the Lourie Center.

During the visit, Dr. Murphy was given an overview of the Lourie Center's program, a tour of the facility, and an opportunity to talk to students in the Lourie Center School. The Congressman also met with Terry Forde, President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare, and Kevin Young, President of Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services. The meeting helped to build support for the children and families served by the Lourie Center as well as the chronically ill adults served by Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services' programs.

In 2014, Dr. Murphy was honored at the Lourie Center's annual benefit and presented with the Lourie Center's Outstanding Federal Service Award for his leadership in mental health reform and advocacy on behalf of young children with mental health needs.

The Lourie Center has been a member of Adventist HealthCare since 2006. Through its four programs—the Lourie Center School, Therapeutic Nursery Program, Early Head Start Program and Parent and Child Clinic—the organization cares for more than 4,200 children and families each year.

Congressman Tim Murphy (left) and Terry Forde, President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare.



Senior Chaplain Judith Mufuh Receives Annual Extraordinary Spiritual Care Award

Congratulations to senior chaplain Judith Mufuh, winner of the Extraordinary Spiritual Care Award for 2014, in appreciation of her compassionate, interfaith pastoral care ministry. The annual award recognizes her as an “Angel that goes the extra mile,” caring for those who are sick, suffering, anxious, alone or grieving.

Chaplain Judith is known for providing remarkable, consistent and compassionate pastoral care to fellow employees, patients and their families. She stands out for her active involvement promoting the vision of Mission Integration & Spiritual Care, while truly living our organization’s mission.

Judith is a board-certified professional chaplain and pastoral counselor with

the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, and has worked in pastoral care ministry for three years. She serves both the Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center campuses.

“Senior Chaplain Judith has the gift of pastoral wisdom to provide needed presence and guidance.

She is a skillful and graceful pastoral counselor,” says Shelvan Arunan, Ph.D., executive director of Mission Integration & Spiritual Care.

“We, the chaplains, are thankful for Judith’s insight, sense of humor and gentle, quiet presence; as well as her forward-thinking regarding the emotional and spiritual needs of patients, families and staff,” he

continues. “She has spent many nights comforting families who have lost their loved ones, and offering prayers with employees needing support. She is one of the most needed chaplains by staff, patients and their families. She exemplifies compassion in her action, dedication and commitment to the pastoral care ministry at Adventist HealthCare.”

Clinical nurse manager Nancy Do says, “Judith goes beyond the call of duty in order to provide care for staff, families and patients in crisis. She goes out of her way to bring comfort and hope.”

Congratulations, Judith, on this well-deserved award, and thank you for the blessings and extraordinarily compassionate care you provide to us and those we serve on a daily basis.

“...the gift of pastoral wisdom to provide needed presence and guidance.”

Chaplain Judith Mufuh is recognized for being the embodiment of our mission, and is acknowledged as “one of the most needed chaplains” by those we serve. She is pictured with Ismael Gama, left, and Shelvan Arunan.



El congresista Tim Murphy visita el Lourie Center

El congresista Tim Murphy de Pensilvania visitó el Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness (Lourie Center) el 26 de enero para conocer más sobre el trabajo de la organización al servicio de los niños pequeños con necesidades socio-emocionales y de salud mental.

El congresista Murphy, psicólogo clínico capacitado, ha estado al frente de la reforma de la salud mental y fomentando el apoyo a la Ley de ayuda para familias en crisis de salud mental, que propone un marco nacional para la identificación temprana, el tratamiento y los sistemas de apoyo basados en la comunidad para niños y adultos con necesidades severas de salud mental.

El Lourie Center es la única organización en la región de Washington, D.C. que proporciona intervención terapéutica temprana para niños pequeños cuyas necesidades de salud socio-emocional y mental impiden su capacidad de funcionar en el hogar y en la escuela.

“El congresista Murphy ha sido un firme defensor de los programas de intervención temprana de salud mental como el Lourie Center durante varios años”, Dijo Marcel Wright, director ejecutivo del Lourie Center. “Él entiende la importancia de reconocer y tratar los problemas sociales, emocionales y de salud mental en los niños pequeños para ayudar a prevenir problemas de salud mental más graves en la edad adulta”.

Durante la visita, el congresista Murphy recibió una visión general del programa del Lourie Center, hizo un recorrido por las instalaciones y tuvo la oportunidad de hablar con los estudiantes en el Lourie Center School. El congresista también se reunió con Terry Forde, presidente y director ejecutivo de Adventist HealthCare, y Kevin Young, presidente de Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services. La reunión ayudó a fortalecer el apoyo a los niños y familias atendidos por el Lourie Center, así como a los adultos con enfermedades mentales crónicas atendidos por los programas de Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services.

En 2014, el congresista Murphy fue condecorado en la reunión benéfica anual del Lourie Center donde recibió el Premio Federal al Servicio Destacado del Lourie Center por su liderazgo en la reforma de la salud mental y la defensa en nombre de los niños pequeños con necesidades de salud mental.

El Lourie Center ha sido miembro de Adventist HealthCare desde 2006. A través de sus cuatro programas –Lourie Center School, Therapeutic Nursery Program, Early Head Start Program y Parent and Child Clinic– la organización atiende a más de 4,200 niños y a sus familias cada año.



Arriba: El congresista Murphy (izquierda) recibe una visita guiada del Lourie Center por Marcel Wright, director ejecutivo del Lourie Center. Abajo: El congresista Murphy (izquierda) con Terry Forde, presidente y director ejecutivo de Adventist HealthCare.

Para más información sobre los servicios de Adventist HealthCare, visite www.AdventistHealthCare.com



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EMPLOYMENT

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1. Master's degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at (817) 202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Communication Department, seeks full-time professor in advertising/public relations or radio/TV to begin July 1. Master's degree required, doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as Nursing Department chair beginning fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosen@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department seeks faculty to begin fall 2015. Master's degree required, PhD preferred, with emphasis in finance, marketing and accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses, and provides service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Nursing Department seeks full-time educator to begin this fall. Master's degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Focus

areas include mental health, community health or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosen@swau.edu.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor for

undergraduate and graduate marketing courses, including integrated marketing communications, marketing research, marketing management, e-marketing and service marketing. Requirements: earned doctorate in marketing/related field (master's candidates with graduate hours in marketing may be considered), computer skills and related business experience (preferred). Must be a Seventh-day Adventist member in regular standing. Send cover letter, CV and Statement of Teaching Philosophy to markhyder@southern.edu. Visit southern.edu/hr for more information.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor in counseling education, specializing in clinical mental health/school counseling. Responsibilities: teach graduate/undergraduate courses and provide advisement/clinical supervision. Requirements: doctoral degree in counselor education/supervision from a CACREP-accredited program, licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee, two years of practicing clinical mental health or PK-12 school counseling. Send cover letter and CV (include teaching philosophy, research interest, unofficial university transcripts and three reference letters) to Dr. Ileana Freeman: ileanaf@southern.edu. Phone: (423) 236-2960. Or visit southern.edu/hr.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty member to serve as director of the DNP program. This individual will provide the administrative/management direction for this graduate program with a focus in FNP preparation, or DNP preparation or those who are already advanced-practice nurses. Qualified person should have a DNP prepared, FNP certified, FNP experience; formal academic teaching experience; experience with accreditation; evidence of scholarship and experience with online teaching. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_10.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE/OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL is accepting résumés for a full-time attorney. Required: good standing/member of a U.S. State bar, licensed to practice in the U.S., and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in intellectual property, media law and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring, Md. A wide range of benefits included. Submit résumé to Karnik Doukmetzian, General Counsel, at karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced

in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certificate to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and CV to Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewwhite@ucollege.edu. Effective this summer.

UNION COLLEGE seeks professor specializing in emerging media. Minimum five years of experience in public relations or integrated marketing communication essential, as is commitment to staying current with constant changes in practice. Doctorate preferred; master's required. Email cover letter and CV to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard at mimesnar@ucollege.edu.

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Bulletin Board

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENTIST PHYSICIST,

ROBERT GENTRY, will present his scientific disproof of the big bang theory, while also showing why this discovery reveals the existence of a nearby center, which, in fact, is the location of the eternal throne of God (cited in Ps. 103:19 and Rev. 20:11). Presentation is April 14, at the 2015 American Physical Society meeting, to be held at the Baltimore Hilton, 401 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201. For more information and abstract, go to meetings.aps.org/Meeting/APR15/Session/X2.9.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY

ALUMNI WEEKEND: April 24-25, at the N. Aurora church, Aurora, Ill. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Honor classes: 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School and church. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses! Send to: Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net, or call (630) 232-9034. More Information to come. Don't miss it!

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE

ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 5-7 for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955 and

1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit glaa.net.

MADISON COLLEGE ALUMNI

ASSOCIATION wants to include any graduates, attendees or friends who may not already be on our mailing list, to receive the quarterly newsletter and any other communication. Write to POB 1735, Madison, TN 37116, or email madisoncollegealumni@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

TEMPLEMAN, Pauline "Polly,"

born February 23, 1917, to John and Lena Vogt, in Davy, W.Va.; died October 5, 2014, at Elizabeth House in Flat Rock, N.C. She was the first born of six: John Floyd, Carl, William, Robert and Shirley Ann. Polly graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy, continued her education and had a career as an RN. She worked at the Florida Hospital in Orlando and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md. She married Richard Mallory Templeman in 1943, who was then serving in the armed forces during World War II. After the war, they moved to Takoma Park, where he enrolled at Washington Adventist University. Polly worked at Washington Adventist Hospital for 38 years and

Richard at the Review and Herald Publishing Assn., until his death in 1977. In 1984 Polly moved to Hendersonville, N.C., to be near her brother, Bill, and his wife, June. She joined the Park Ridge Hospital Auxiliary Volunteers, and for the next 20 years spent most of her time managing the gift shop. She was highly honored when they opened a new gift shop named Polly's Gifts. Her photograph still hangs on the gift shop wall. She was the last surviving sibling, with her sister Shirley Ann Schmachtenberg passing a month prior. Her sister-in-law, June Vogt, and many beloved nieces and nephews survive her.

VOGT, William "Bill" W.,

born November 22, 1921; died December 14, 2013. He was a member of the Fletcher church in Hendersonville, N.C. He retired from the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., with 42 years of service. Bill enjoyed traveling, working on the lawn and with flowers, and volunteered for Park Ridge Hospital. Three brothers, John Floyd, Carl and Robert Vogt, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, June Vogt; and a host of nieces and nephews. Since Bill's death, his two sisters, Shirley Schmachtenberg of Leonardtown, Md., and Pauline "Polly" Templeman of Hendersonville, died in September and October 2014, respectively.

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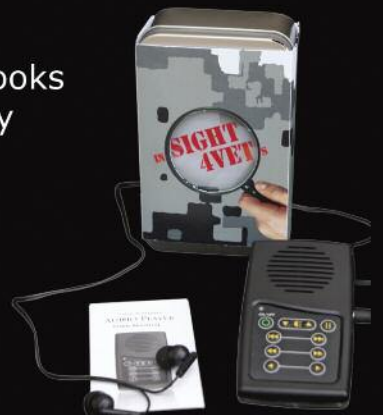


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