

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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## Navigating the Road to San Antonio

On women, ordination and unity: church leaders  
and members explore the best way forward

Plus:  
Your Guide  
to Camp  
Meeting

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#### **Navigating the Road to San Antonio**

*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

The road to yes or no in San Antonio has been long and bumpy. And, somewhere between the yes or no are members with earnest questions. Read the answers we solicited from some of the church's top leaders and theologians.

### 15 | **Newsletters**

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## ON THE WEB

### READ ABOUT ORDINATION

Reports, articles and timelines have been published during the past many years as the discussion continues around ordination without regard to gender. To access them, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination).



### NORTH AMERICAN AFFIRMATION

Visit [nadordination.com](http://nadordination.com) to read the report of the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee, why they support women's ordination and why they believe each division should decide. There are also links, videos and educational resources on the topic.

### GOOD DEEDS IN SAN ANTONIO

There are a number of activities taking place during and around the General Conference (GC) Session in San Antonio this July that offer attendees of all ages opportunities to give back and do outreach—like IMPACT San Antonio. To read a full list of events, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/sessionevents](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/sessionevents).



### SOCIAL SESSION

Help keep the Columbia Union family connected during GC Session through social media using #GCSA15 and #ColumbiaUnion.



Post pictures of your daily activities and favorite quotes by meeting and event speakers.

### VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Even if you can't attend the session meetings, you can watch them nightly on Hope Channel. Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/watchgc](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/watchgc) for a schedule and the best way to be a virtual attendee.

### NEED DIRECTIONS TO CAMP MEETING?

You're ready to head to the annual spiritual retreat known as camp meeting. Find addresses, driving directions and contact information for camp meetings across the Columbia Union online at [columbiaunion.org/findacampmeeting](http://columbiaunion.org/findacampmeeting).

# VISITOR

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

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## The Road to Yes or No

**W**hen delegates convene this July for the General Conference (GC) Session, they will be faced with this question: Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry?

Along the journey that led us back to this question, two very important things happened. First, the church came to a consensus on a Theology of Ordination that underscores ordination as the formal acknowledgement by the church of God's call on the life of an individual for ministry. This acknowledgment neither supersedes God's call nor enhances it. God's chosen person accepts the call and God's people affirm it. Many think this theological perspective alone gives ample basis for answering yes to the question we face.

Like the early church leaders in Acts reacting to the clear evidence of God's leading in the lives of gentile believers, recognizing God's prior activity preceded any formal decision. God revealed His will in a marked way regarding Cornelius, and Peter could do nothing but say, "Who was I to think I could oppose God?" (Acts 11:17, NIV). James, the brother of the Lord, said basically the same thing to the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).

Today the church follows carefully structured policies related to the preparation for ordination. These include lengthy educational requirements, development of certain core competencies, experience in a wide array of ministerial functions, evidence of a fruitful ministry and, most importantly, the clear call of God in the candidate's life. A yes vote does not negate this careful process of preparation and examination.

The second thing that has happened is that, after a worldwide study on ordination, the church was unable, once again, to come to consensus. Like the North American Division (NAD) study commission stated unanimously: "We believe that an individual, as a Seventh-day Adventist in thorough commitment to the full authority of Scripture, may build a defensible case in favor of or in opposition to the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, although each of us views one position or the other as stronger and more compelling." That is why they set forth their recommendation—with overwhelming support by the NAD Executive Committee—to let each division consider, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the most appropriate approach for their territories.

We believe a yes vote is the most appropriate response to the reality that faithful Adventists can come down on either side of the issue without jeopardizing unity. Our unity is in Christ and His mission. Our 28 Fundamental Beliefs mark the boundaries of our theological unity because they are based on a clear consensus of what Scripture teaches. Our unity exists within a wonderful diversity of age, ethnicity and gender. A vote of yes keeps the decision-making authority—established at the 1901 GC Session—at the union level, which will best enhance the mission of the church in its specific, localized context. A worldwide mandate on the issue is neither practical nor necessary.

—Your Columbia Union Officers



# Members Prepare for 60th General Conference Session

**S**eventh-day Adventist Church members from around the world will converge in San Antonio, July 2-11, for the church's 60th quinquennial General Conference (GC) Session themed "Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming!" Hosted at the Alamodome and Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, leaders, delegates and members will unite to discuss, vote and worship together. Here are some other specifics:

## SESSION AGENDA

The session agenda will include elections of president, secretary, treasurer, vice presidents and some department heads for the world church's headquarters and its 13 divisions. There will also be numerous reports from various organizations and entities (i.e., comprehensive health evangelism, Mission to the Cities initiative), as well as evening reports from each division.

Other items of discussion include recommended changes to the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, including causes for church discipline, such as sexual misconduct and pornography. Proposed updates to the church's fundamental beliefs will include a stronger position about our belief in a literal six-day creation. There will be proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws, including the ownership of Oakwood University (Ala.) and the Pacific Press Publishing

Association (Idaho). Another major item of discussion will be a five-year strategic plan for the church.

## CAN DIVISIONS DECIDE?

Leaders expect to spend a full day prayerfully discussing this headlining item. Their discussion will be dedicated to the question voted at the 2014 Annual Council meeting, which reads in part, "Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No."

To read the church's official "theology of ordination; the full, multi-faceted question being sent to session; and the Theology of Ordination Study Committee's three position statements, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination).

If a yes vote is reached, "Every division will have the opportunity to explore what ordination means in their division and have the ability to decide whether it is appropriate if we move forward, whether gender inclusivity will move the mission forward in their division," says Dave Gemmell, associate director for the North American Division Ministerial Association.

## NEW BIBLE REVEALED

Friday, July 10, there will be a special evening presentation to mark the publishing of a new translation of the Bible into

modern-day Russian, a project spearheaded by Michael Kulakov (pictured), religion professor and director of the Bible Translation Institute at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., in partnership with the General Conference and Euro-Asian Division. Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/bibletranslation](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/bibletranslation).



## COLUMBIA UNION BOOTH

The Columbia Union Conference's booth, number C1658, will feature our many ministries. Stop by and get your picture on a mock cover of the *Visitor*, collect free souvenirs and participate in a video about what it means to you to "experience the mission."

## VISITOR COVERAGE

To get vote results, updates and news from the session, follow the *Visitor* daily on Facebook and Twitter using #GCSA15 and #ColumbiaUnion; receive special *Visitor News Bulletin* email reports by signing up at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/VNB](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/VNB); and visit the website daily.



**Spencerville Singers to Perform** ■ The Adventist Children's Choir from Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., will perform Friday, 6:30 p.m., July 10.

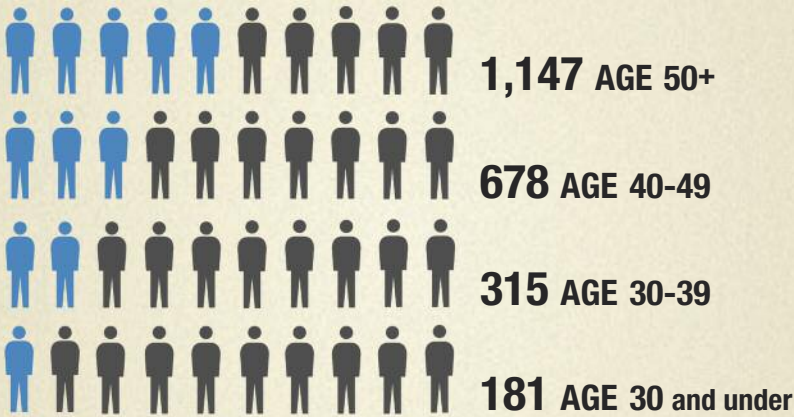
by the numbers

Delegates and Special Guests by Gender



\*153 not specified

Delegates and Special Guests by Age



\*962 not specified

2015 GC Session  
STATS

60,000 Estimated number of attendees expected

2,571 Number of delegates selected to represent the 18 million members worldwide

240 Number of North American Division (NAD) delegates

13 Number of young adult delegates (aged 20-40) from the NAD (representing 7 of 8 unions)

Source: GC, NAD and Columbia Union secretariats. Final figures will be tallied after the session.

Columbia Union Delegates

1. Dave Weigley, *Columbia Union Conference president*
2. Rob Vandeman, *Union Executive Secretary*
3. Seth Bardu, *Union Treasurer*
4. Henry Fordham, *Allegheny East Conference (AEC) President*
5. William T. Cox, *Allegheny West Conference (AWC) President*
6. Rick Remmers, *Chesapeake Conference President*
7. Larry Boggess, *Mountain View Conference President*
8. José Cortés, *New Jersey Conference President*
9. Ron Halvorsen Jr., *Ohio Conference President*
10. Ray Hartwell, *Pennsylvania Conference President*
11. William Miller, *Potomac Conference President*
12. Marcus Harris, *AEC Pastor*
13. Albert Kelly, *AEC Lay Member*
14. Deborah Hill, *AWC Lay Member*
15. Lisa Burrow, *Chesapeake Lay Member*
16. Sedley Johnson, *Chesapeake Pastor*
17. Marisa Medina, *New Jersey Lay Member*
18. Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, *New Jersey Education Superintendent*
19. Pedro Simpson, *Ohio Hispanic Ministries Director*
20. Renee Battle-Brooks, *Potomac Lay Member*
21. Mark Sorensen, *Pennsylvania Lay Member*
22. Corrine Rawlins, *Potomac Lay Member*
23. Eliasib Farjardo, *Potomac Pastor*

Young Adult Delegates

24. Marcia Moore, *AEC Lay Member*
25. Shaun Arthur, *AWC Pastor*
26. Jaime Rodriguez, *Mountain View Pastor*
27. Tara VinCross, *Union Employee*
28. Sanjay Thomas, *Potomac Lay Member*

Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/delegates](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/delegates) to learn what formula is used to select session delegates.

# La feligresía se prepara para la 60ª Sesión General

Los miembros de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día de todo el mundo se reunirán en San Antonio del 2 al 11 de julio para la 60ª Sesión de la Asociación General (AG) bajo el tema: “¡Levántate! ¡Brilla! ¡Jesús está viniendo!”. Celebrada en el Alamodome y el Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, los líderes, delegados, y miembros se unirán para dialogar, aprobar, y adorar juntos. A continuación algunos detalles:

## AGENDA DE LA SESIÓN

La agenda incluirá la elección del presidente, secretario, tesorero, vicepresidentes, y algunos directores de departamento de la sede mundial de la iglesia y sus 13 divisiones. También se presentarán numerosos informes de las distintas organizaciones y entes (i.e., evangelismo de la salud integral, iniciativa de la misión a las ciudades), además de los informes de cada división presentados en las tardes.

# 2,571

El número de delegados a la sesión elegidos para representar los 18 millones de miembros en el mundo.

Otros puntos para discusión incluyen los cambios recomendados para el *Manual de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día*, incluido las causas de la disciplina de la iglesia—como la mala conducta sexual y la pornografía. Las actualizaciones propuestas a las creencias fundamentales de la iglesia incluirá una posición más sólida acerca de nuestra creencia de los seis días literales de la creación. Se propondrán cambios a la constitución y estatutos, incluyendo la propiedad de Oakwood University (Ala.) y Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho). Otro punto importante de discusión será el plan estratégico de cinco años para la iglesia.

## ¿DEBEN DECIDIR LAS DIVISIONES?

Los líderes anticipan dedicar un día entero analizando con oración este punto titular. La discusión se centrará en la pregunta aprobada en la reunión del concilio anual del 2014 que en parte lee: “¿Es aceptable para los comités de la división, según se estima apropiado en sus territorios, permitir la ordenación de la mujer al ministerio del evangelio? Sí o No”.

Para leer la teología de la ordenación oficial de la iglesia; la pregunta multifacética a presentarse en la sesión; y las declaraciones de las

SI SE APRUEBA UN VOTO “AFIRMATIVO”

**“Cada división tendrá la oportunidad de explorar lo que significa la ordenación en su división y tendrá la habilidad de decidir si es apropiado avanzar, si la inclusión, según el género, moverá la misión hacia delante en su división.”**

—Dave Gemmell, director asociado de la Asociación Ministerial de la División Norteamericana

tres posiciones del comité para el estudio de la teología de la ordenación, visite [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination).

## EXPOSICIÓN DE COLUMBIA UNION

El stand de Columbia Union Conference, número C1658, presentará muchos de nuestros ministerios. Deténgase allí y tómese una foto para la cubierta modelo de la revista *Visitor*, colecciona recuerdos gratis y participe en un vídeo sobre qué significa para usted “experimentar la misión”.

## COBERTURA DE VISITOR

Para ver los resultados de los votos, las actualizaciones, y las noticias de la Sesión General, siga periódicamente a *Visitor* en Facebook y Twitter usando #GCSA15 y #ColumbiaUnion; obtenga los informes especiales *Visitor News Bulletin* electrónicos inscribiéndose en [columbiaunionvisitor.com/VNB](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/VNB); y visite nuestra página web cada día.



El New England Youth Ensemble de Washington Adventist University en Takoma Park, Md., sera unos de los grupos musicales en la GC Session.

## Los hispanos planifican un campestre

A pesar de que algunas asociaciones cancelaron sus campestres en lugar de la Sesión General en julio, muchos miembros hispanos en la Unión aún tienen planes de reunirse. A continuación algunos detalles para ayudarle a planificar:

### CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE

**Tema:** “Compartiendo Esperanza”

**Fecha:** 12 al 24 de junio

**Lugar:** Highland View Academy en Hagerstown, Md.

**Orador principal:** Julio Chazarreta, director de mercadeo multilingüe y ventas de Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho)



**Orador para jóvenes:** Alvin Payne, capellán/profesor de Biblia en Greater Miami Adventist Academy (Florida)

### MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE

**Tema:** “Familias de Esperanza”

**Fechas:** 16 al 18 de octubre

**Lugar:** Valley Vista Adventist Center en Huttonsville, W.Va.



**Oradores:**

Miguel Adonia, un pastor, y su esposa, Delia María Adonia, directora del Ministerio de

la Familia en la Misión Caribe de Costa Rica

### NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

**Tema:** “Proclamando la Esperanza” (English and Spanish)

**Fecha:** 6 de junio

**Lugar:** Tranquil Valley Retreat Center en Tranquility



**Orador principal:**

Dan Jackson, presidente de la División Norteamericana

**Orador para niños:** David Turner, sub director de la escuela Sligo Adventist School en Takoma Park, Md.

### OHIO CONFERENCE

**Tema:** “Compartiendo Esperanza”

**Fechas:** 18 al 20 de septiembre

**Lugar:** Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center en Danville, Ohio

**Orador principal:** Julio Juárez, un especialista de grupos pequeños de California

### PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

**Tema:** “VIVANGELISMO 2015”

**Fechas:** 5 al 7 de junio

**Lugar:** Blue Mountain Academy en Hamburg, Pa.



Hamburg, Pa.

**Orador principal:**

Melchor Ferreira, director de Ministerios Personales en la División Interamericana

### POTOMAC CONFERENCE

**Tema:** “Profecías de Esperanza”

**Fechas:** 19 al 21 de junio

**Lugar:** Takoma Academy en Takoma Park, Md.

**Sitio web:** <http://ministerioshispanos.com>

## ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR

# Las mujeres, su ordenación y la unidad— La respuesta a sus preguntas

El camino hacia un sí o un no en San Antonio ha sido largo y lleno de baches por no decir más. Y todo ha sido sobre la cuestión de la ordenación de la mujer que se discutirá en la 60ª Sesión de la Asociación General en julio: ¿deberían decidir las divisiones?

No es la primera vez que la iglesia mundial ha intentado resolver este problema, pero a diferencia de la última discusión en 1995, está siendo facilitado en gran parte por los medios de comunicación social, que ha permitido a los miembros, pastores y líderes igualmente intervenir en los puntos finos de la teología e interpretación eclesial como nunca antes. Ampliando los libros acostumbrados, los artículos, los sermones y las conversaciones durante las comidas, están los sitios web dedicados, páginas de Facebook, videos más vistos, hasta “hashtags”. Entre los defensores fuertes del sí o del no, existen miembros con preguntas serias. Obtenga las respuestas a sus preguntas más frecuentes en español visitando [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination).



## Leaders and Members Weigh in: What Will a Yes Vote Mean for the Church?

Should the Seventh-day Adventist Church allow divisions to choose if women should be ordained in their territories? That's the question going forward to the General Conference Session in San Antonio in July, and one that received support from the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee during its meeting in November 2014.

As the session approaches, many are now wondering what a yes vote could mean for the church. The *Visitor* hosted a Facebook chat March 25 to bring together church leaders and members from the Columbia Union territory and across the North American Division to discuss the vote, and what they think might be the best way forward as a denomination. Here is a summary of the chat:

### Visitor: Do you think women's ordination should be left up to divisions?



**Gary Patterson**, former administrator for the North American Division and Columbia Union:

"Neither divisions nor the General Conference have the authority to say who may be ordained. That decision is delegated by General Conference Policy\* to unions who confirm the recommendations of the local conferences. It may be that unions in a given division will agree to proceed with this decision, but it is not up to the division either to allow or disallow the unions the choice. It may be that the time has come to consider

making divisions constituent entities with such authority, but at the present this is not the case."

**Sid Kelly**, a member from Miami, Fla.: "Ordaining women should be a decision for the entire world church, not [the] divisions ... fracturing the church ... What's next?"



**Duane J. Thomas**, pastor of the Breath of Life church in Memphis, Tenn., and an alumnus of Pine Forge

Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.: "This whole debate is so ridiculous, it is beyond words. How are we going to have a committee study the Bible on a subject that the Bible does not address? ... I need someone to explain to me the difference biblically and practically between a woman commissioned and ordained."

### Visitor: Do you support a yes vote?



**William Miller**, Potomac Conference president: "I support yes for many reasons, the most

important for me is that if God calls someone to ministry, the church should recognize whom God calls. Ordination does not imbue special powers, but is a recognition of the activity of God."



**Fredy Reinoso**, a member at Potomac Conference's Roanoke Spanish church in Roanoke, Va.:

"Yes! I fully support our church moving forward and allow[ing] women to serve as ordained pastors. There is no text in Scripture that prohibits the ordination of women. We have a woman as one of the founders of our church and it didn't split our church. Let's listen to the Spirit and move forward."



**Larry Bogges**, Mountain View Conference president: "The research and researchers both concluded that

there is not a clear biblical "thus saith the Lord" to ordain women. There was not a clear majority among the [Theology of Ordination Study Committee] researchers themselves, that the Bible supported that position. Thus, we must

## Continue the Conversation

How would you answer the questions? Share your opinion at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordinationdiscussion](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordinationdiscussion).



be so surrendered to God and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us God's desire on this issue."



**Brenda Billingsy**, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md.:

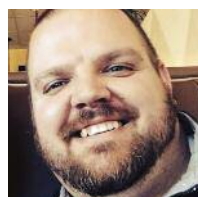
"I fully support the church allowing divisions to make a decision that would be beneficial to their territory. Just be mindful that while we are debating, people are dying (physically and spiritually), and in these last days, all our energies should be focused on sharing the gospel with our communities, not on debating about the work and credentials of a female pastor. We need all hands on deck! Let's move forward and get the work done!"



**Susan Swayze**, a member of the Brunswick (Maine) church: "Absolutely not. [My] vote is a big strong *no*."

There's plenty of God-ordained work for women to do that does not require being ordained elders or pastors. We are living in the last days and have far more weightier issues facing our world church today on which our time could more wisely be spent. Times change but God never changes."

### Visitor: What would a yes vote mean for the church, ministry and mission?



**Gregg J. Hutman**, a member of Ohio Conference's Stillwater church in Vandalia: "I think a yes

vote will bring the [Adventist] Church more into a modern day church. That it could potentially keep the young adults from drifting away and leaving the church altogether. I think it would bring a whole

new perspective for the mission and for the ministry of our church."



**David Lamoreaux**, a member of Potomac's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.: "For our

congregation, I believe it would be seen as a breath of fresh air and what we have been hoping and praying for over quite a few decades. Of course, we were pioneers in ordination of women in ministry so we have been pushing for this quite a while. I see a majority "yes" vote in San Antonio as a boost to members to share the Christian Adventist message with more people with less chance for shame for the church being still in the Dark Ages as far as equality of treatment of women in ministry."

**Fredy Reinoso:** "[A] yes vote would mean that the Holy Spirit would work in our churches how He always wanted to do it. According to Ephesians 4, pastor, prophet, teacher, etc., are all gifts that the Holy Spirit gives how He wishes. None of these gifts are gender specific. I feel it will accomplish the mission that God wanted to fulfill in these last days as He has promised to pour the Spirit among all flesh!"

### Visitor: Can we achieve unity through this issue?

**Gary Patterson:** "The notion has been advanced that the unity of the church and authority of the church will be diminished by opening ordination to women. The reality is that refusal to do so will destroy unity. One may legitimately ask why it is unity only if the vote is negative."



**Gina Saville Meekma**, a member at the Niles Westside church in Niles, Mich., and a former Chesapeake member: "Churches make their own

## \*What's the Policy?

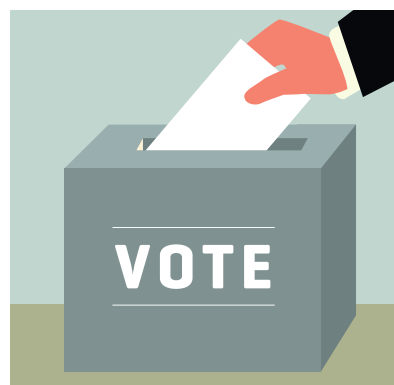
What qualifies ministers for ordination, and who decides? To learn more, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordinationpolicy](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordinationpolicy).

decisions on ordaining women elders and that hasn't fractured the church. We already have many women pastors who do almost everything that [male] pastors do. How would recognizing that God has called them to do what we already pay them to do cause problems in the church?"

### Visitor: What's the best way forward for the world church today?

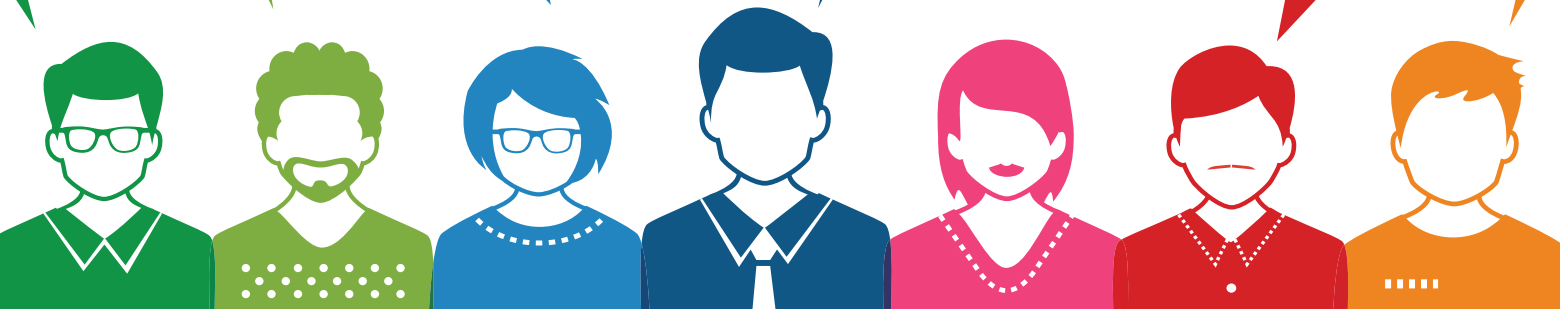
**Gary Patterson:** "First, we need to recognize that the social setting and customs of the 13 divisions are different. Such matters should not be imposed by one division on another. Second, we need to recognize the conclusion of multiple commissions and study groups set up by the General Conference for over 50 years, which state that this matter is neither a biblical, theological nor doctrinal issue. The union authority in matters of personnel to be ordained must be recognized and upheld."\*

**Larry Boggess:** "I strongly encourage readers to be in prayer for the leaders and delegates. May we as a people be a people of prayer all the time and not just when we think we need God's guidance in time of crisis."



# Navigating the Road to San Antonio

We asked church leaders and theologians the questions you're asking about women, ordination and unity.



By Celeste Ryan Blyden

**T**he road to a yes or no in San Antonio has been long and bumpy to say the least. Sincere Bible-toting, Spirit of Prophecy-quoting Seventh-day Adventists who agree on doctrine, give sacrificially to the mission and long for Jesus to return, can't find consensus on the question of women's ordination that will be discussed at the 60th General Conference Session in July: Can divisions decide?

It's not the first time the world church has attempted to sort out this issue, but unlike the last discussion in 1995, it's being facilitated in large part by social media, which has enabled members, pastors and leaders alike to weigh in on the fine points of theology and ecclesiastical interpretation like never before. Augmenting the customary books, articles, sermons and

potluck conversations are dedicated websites, Facebook pages, videos gone viral, even hashtags. Adding to the melee are trolls who pounce on every conversation with alacrity and precision to police the discussions and insert their perspectives.

## What Does the Bible Say About ...

What does the Bible say about creation order, headship, spiritual leadership and authority? Get answers in our Bible study at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination).

Somewhere between the proponents of a yes or no are members with earnest questions:

### What are the issues?

The discussion around the question is currently centered on creation order, headship, hermeneutics and cultural impact.

Creation order suggests that since God created Adam before Eve, and she subsequently caused their fall, women are to be subordinate to men in home, church and life. The headship principle suggests that Paul's writings about women in the church of Ephesus transcend time and culture and are applicable today. Hermeneutics is the study of Bible interpretation and how it should be applied to church practice. Some worry that the church is being overly influenced by the post-modern culture, which could lead to compromise on doctrine or fundamental beliefs.

### Why didn't Jesus call a woman to be one of the 12 disciples?

"Jesus did not choose a female disciple, but neither did He choose Latinos or Africans," explains Jiri Moskala, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.) and author of a chapter on hermeneutics in the new book *Women and Ordination* (Pacific Press, 2015). "He was a child of His time and did things that were possible for that time. To have women in

His close company, it's difficult to imagine how it would have gone and how it would have looked for Him."

In a March 1996 article in *Ministry* titled "Proving More Than Intended," church historian George Knight took that premise a step further. In relaying a story from his pastoral formation class, he shared how a student noted that every ordained priest was male. "If you follow your logic, you will have to conclude that very few, including you, are biblically eligible for ordination, because the Old Testament approved only the ordination of male Orientals. ... They had to be Hebrew, and then only of the Aaronic line of the Levitical family. ... Jesus appointed only non-Diaspora Jewish disciples."

### Should we follow the plain reading of Scripture?

"Many people are using hermeneutical principles to prove their points, but they are very selective," says Moskala. In one discussion, he says the apostle Paul speaks about silence of women in church, women have to have a veil and they need to have long hair. "Our practice is inconsistent. Either all three need to be observed or none. You cannot take one or two and say it's literal and say the other is cultural. All three are cultural and need to be interpreted."

As for plain reading of Scripture, one author asked, "If masculine gender terms in the Ten Commandments do not exclude women from obedience, how then can they be excluded from serving as pastors or elders in Timothy or Titus?"

### Does the Bible speak of ordination?

Although the word *ordination* does not appear in the Bible, the concept has been linked with biblical terms such as "laying on of hands" (see 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; Heb. 6:2). While seminary professor Darius Jankiewicz cites a Catholic origin for today's practice, the Consensus Statement on a Seventh-day Adventist Theology of Ordination, voted and endorsed at the 2014 Annual Council, states: "English versions of the Scriptures use the word *ordain* to translate many different Greek and Hebrew words having the basic idea of *select* or *appoint* that describe the placement of these persons in their respective offices. Over the course of Christian history, the term *ordination* has acquired meanings beyond what these words originally implied. Against such a backdrop, Seventh-day

Adventists understand ordination, in a biblical sense, as the action of the church in publicly recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global church ministry. ...

While ordination contributes to church order, it neither conveys special qualities to the persons ordained nor introduces a kingly hierarchy within the faith community. The biblical examples of ordination include the giving of a charge, the laying on of hands, fasting and prayer, and committing those set apart to the grace of God" (see Deut. 3:28; Acts 6:6; 14:26; 15:40).

### Do Adventists ordain women?

The Adventist Church has been ordaining women for 40 years—as deaconesses (voted at GC Sessions in 1975, 1985 and reaffirmed in 2010) and female elders (voted in 1975 and 1984). Today's ministers who are licensed or commissioned are required to be ordained as local elders before being considered for further recognition (see NAD Working Policy L 26 05).

In most places, a woman can be ordained as long as it's not as a pastor, and a woman can be a pastor as long as she's not ordained as one—though, by policy, "commissioning" is approved. But, to be commissioned as a pastor, she first must be ordained as an elder.

### Was Ellen White ordained?

Shortly before her death in 1915, White reflected on her calling at age 17: "In the city of Portland the Lord ordained me as His messenger, and here my first labors were given to the cause of present truth" (*The Review and Herald*, May 18, 1911).

"Ordination is simply the recognition of a gift. To deny that recognition is immoral."—*Calvin Rock, retired church administrator*



### Join the Prayer Circle

The apostle Paul counseled in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 that we are to pray for all people and those in authority. Please join all who are praying for God's divine guidance at the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio.





The Adventist Church was officially established in 1863. From 1871 onward, White was granted ministerial credentials by the General Conference and the Michigan Conference. According to a February 1989 article in *Ministry*, “The certificate that was used read ‘Ordained Minister.’ Several of her credential certificates from the mid-1880s are still in our possession. On the one from 1885 the word *ordained* is neatly struck out. On the 1887 certificate, the next one we have, it is not” (William Fagel, “Did Ellen White Support the Ordination of Women?”).

In his March 1996 article in *Ministry*, Knight tells of an evangelist who came to California promising to “prove that the Adventist Church was a false church [and Ellen White a false prophet] because one of its primary founders was a woman who defied the teachings of the apostle Paul forbidding women to speak in Christian churches. Adventists, for obvious reasons, have always resisted that interpretation,” explained Knight in the article. “The church has traditionally justified Ellen White’s public ministry by noting that the counsel given about women being silent in church in 1 Timothy 2:11, 12, was rooted in the custom of time and place and was not to be woodenly applied now that conditions had changed. Thus, as *The Seventh-day Adventist Commentary* puts it, ‘Because of the general lack of private and public rights then accorded women, Paul felt it to be expedient to give this counsel to the church. Any severe breach of accepted social custom brings reproach upon the church. ... In the days of Paul, custom required that women be very much in the background.’”

Knight went on to say of Ellen White that, “To put it mildly, she seldom remained silent in church. She taught authoritatively to men and women everywhere she went. ... She was (and is) the most authoritative minister the Seventh-day Adventist Church has ever had.”

### What role did other women play in the early days of Adventism?

From the earliest days of our church’s history, the highest credential given to ministers has been that of “licensed minister.” Before 1900 at least

“Does it make sense to deny the evidence of my calling because I’m a woman?”  
—Dilys Brooks, associate chaplain, Loma Linda University (Calif.)



**In most places, a woman can be ordained as long as it’s not as a pastor, and a woman can be a pastor as long as she’s not ordained as one.**

31 women were credentialed as licensed ministers. As fully credentialed ministers, these women served as full-time evangelists, preachers, teachers and departmental ministry directors who baptized new believers and raised up churches. Records reveal that a few served as conference administrators and Lorena Florence Plummer as acting president in Iowa (1900). In those times, because most people traditionally used their first initials and last names (i.e., J.N. Andrews), it’s possible there were untold others.

### What changed?

According to Laura Vance, author of *Adventism in Crisis: Gender and Sectarian Change in an Emerging Religion* (University of Illinois Press, 1999), 15 percent of church administration positions were held by women in 1890. By 1905 it had dropped to 11 percent. At the 1923 Autumn Council, just a few years after Ellen White’s death, it was recommended that all departmental leaders, including home missionary and missionary volunteer secretaries be selected [from those] who have had successful experience in evangelistic work, preferably *ordained* ministers. This automatically eliminated many women who had specialized in departmental ministry. As a result, by 1928 the percentage of administrative positions in North America held by women declined to 7.8 percent. In 1932, during the Great Depression, Autumn Council recommended: “Because of the exigencies of the present economic conditions ... We recommend that ... husband and wife shall not be remuneratively employed. Where ... it seems necessary to vary from this rule ... the wife be paid on the basis of a greatly reduced wage.” As a result, by 1935 the number of administrative positions in North America held by women declined to 4.5 percent (see [session.adventistfaith.org/timeline](http://session.adventistfaith.org/timeline)).

In the 20th century, a new job for ministers was recognized—the local church pastor (as opposed to exhorter and traveling evangelist).

### How did ordination become a focus at the world church level?

In 1881, 1950 and 1970, GC leaders discussed women’s ordination. It gained global interest in 1973 when two overseas divisions asked for further study; Ellen White’s July 9, 1895, *The Review and Herald* article was rediscovered, suggesting that some women should

be set apart for service by “prayer and laying on of hands;” and several conferences moved forward and hired women pastors.

Nearly 20 years later, at the 1990 Annual Council, the church officially authorized women to serve as pastors. However, they held back on endorsing ordination “due to widespread lack of support and in view of the possible risk of disunity, dissension, and diversion from the mission of the church” (“Session Actions,” *Adventist Review*, July 13, 1990, p. 15).

William Johnsson, former editor of the *Adventist Review*, recalls, “I was deeply involved during the 1970s, 80s and 90s when the church studied these same issues at considerable length,” he shared via email. “No resolution could be found because neither the Bible nor Ellen White’s writings gave clear direction. Now 25 years later, we have gone through a similar exercise at similar expense, to reach the same conclusion. But, the church is not in the same place as it was then. We now have a 25-year track record of women in [pastoral] ministry, and the evidence is overwhelmingly positive. The Holy Spirit has made it abundantly clear that women belong in ministry.”

### Can we maintain unity if some parts of the world ordain women?

Cindy Tutsch, retired associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate, and Martin Hanna, a seminary professor, co-editors of *Questions and Answers on Women’s Ordination* (Pacific Press, 2014), wrote, “Throughout Adventist history, we have often faced theological and ecclesiastical issues that have caused differences among

us. Despite vigorous debate at times, we have remained united as one body under Christ pursuing our unique God-given mission” (p. 98).

“We now have a 25-year track record of women in [pastoral] ministry, and the evidence is overwhelmingly positive.”—*William Johnsson, former Adventist Review editor*



They quote Ellen White as saying, “We cannot then take a position that the unity of the church consists in viewing every text of Scripture in the very same light. The church may pass resolution upon resolution to put down all disagreement of opinions, but we cannot force the mind and will, and thus root out disagreement. Nothing can perfect unity in the church but the spirit of Christlike forbearance” (“Love, the Need of the Church,” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 11, p. 266).

“Ministry is not a human right that we clamor for; it’s a non-negotiable commission from God that we are compelled to obey.”

—*Kessia Reyne Bennett, pastor and candidate for PhD in Theology, Chicago*



### What’s the best way forward?

Although church policies and practices are implemented differently throughout the world, all interviewed expressed confidence that the church will remain a unified, worldwide organization. “The church is not going to fall apart,” assured one GC official. “Though some places have not implemented the policy on ordaining women elders, for example, we haven’t fallen apart.”

Because the worldwide Theology of Ordination Study Committee of 2013-14 failed to reach consensus on the best way forward, some leaders suggest that each division should choose what best promotes the mission of the church in their field, yet no organization should be forced to move forward or wait for worldwide readiness based on cultural influence.

### Are there signs of change?

Some say that, although ordination remains a decision at the union level, as established at the 1901 GC Session, there are signs of change since the last worldwide discussion 20 years ago. First, eight of the 13 world division study committees took a more flexible and supportive stance on the subject. Secondly, at the GC Session in San Antonio, there will be more female delegates than ever before (20 percent) and 181 young adults under age 30. Third, since the 2010 session, six unions have voted support: North German, Mid-America, Columbia, Pacific, Norway and Netherlands; three have acted. There’s also China, where women pastors are ordained in compliance with government regulation and lead churches the size of some of our conferences. Fourth, our own division is actively seeking to double the number of women pastors, currently about 100 out of nearly 5,000.

While some feared in 1990 that ordaining women would hamper mission, the South African Union study committee recently concluded, “Ultimately, we believe that the church will fulfill its mission only when women are empowered to achieve their full potential.”

# What's a Woman's Place in the Church?

What is the role of God's feminine creation in fulfilling the Great Commission? From 1857-1861, *The Review and Herald* published a series of articles that addressed this topic. Here are two excerpts and one from 1894:

In the 1858 article "Unity and Gifts of the Church, No. 4," church co-founder James White directly addressed the oft-quoted prophecy of Joel 2:28-32:

"Some have excluded females from a share in this work, because it says, 'your young men shall see visions.' They seem to forget that 'man' and 'men' in the Scriptures generally means both male and female. The infidel Paine would have been ashamed of a quibble involving such ignorance" (*The Review and Herald*, Jan. 7, 1858, Vol. 11, No. 9).

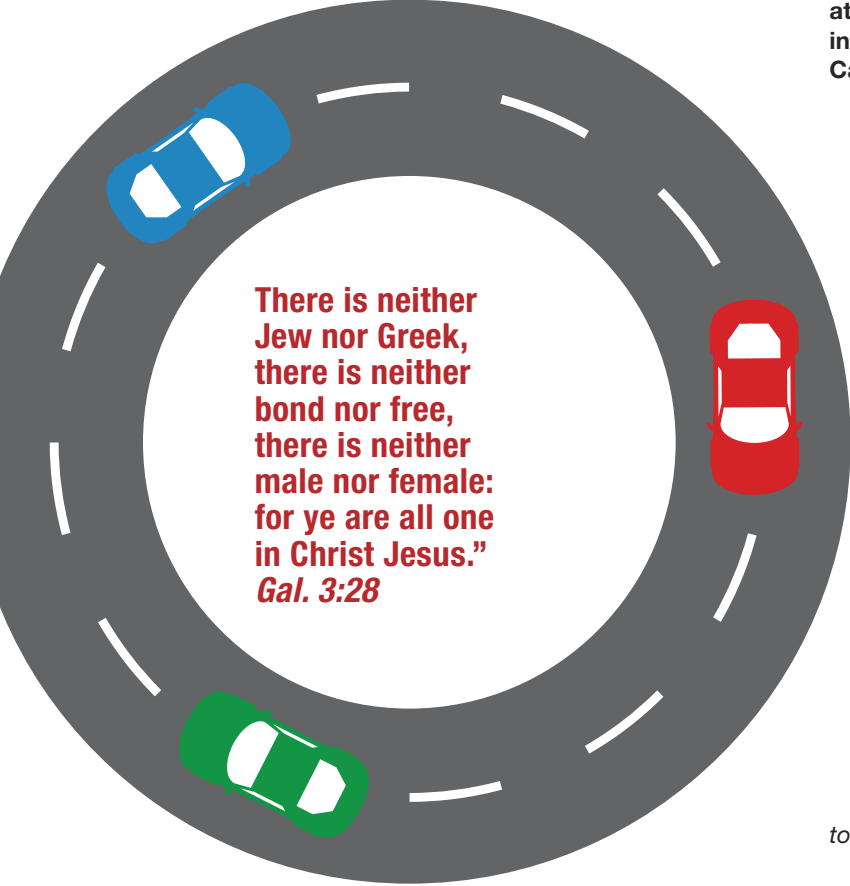
In 1859 White's contemporary B.F. Robbins wrote directly to women in an essay titled "To the Female Disciples in the Third Angel's Message":

"I know that most of us have been gathered into this message of the third angel from the sectarian churches where we received our religious training, which we now, in the clear light of

God's truth see was defective, both in doctrine and practice. ... In some of them the prejudice against woman's efforts and labors in the church have crushed out her usefulness. This kind of training has in many of you caused timidity, and discouragement, and the neglect of the use of the gifts designed to edify the church and glorify God." (*The Review and Herald*, Dec. 8, 1859, Vol. 15, No. 3).

In June 1894 assistant editor G.C. Tenney attempted to address the many letters received in an article titled "Woman's Relation to the Cause of Christ":

"Considering the question from a broader standing, it will be seen at a glance that while it has ever been the work of the powers of darkness to degrade woman, the work of the Bible has been to elevate her. The Bible and its religion is the great civilizing agent in this world, where the natural tendency is downward to destruction. Under Christianity, multitudes of women have been raised from the degradation of slavery to their rightful place by the side of him for whom she was created a help meet for him (not *help-meet*), that is, a fit companion. It was the work of the gospel to remove distinctions among men in race, nationality, sex, or condition. Paul declares that "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). This text has a generic application; it is of universal force wherever the gospel reaches. In the light of such a statement, how can women be excluded from the privileges of the gospel?" (*The Review and Herald*, June 5, 1894, Vol. 71, No. 23).



**There is neither  
Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither  
bond nor free,  
there is neither  
male nor female:  
for ye are all one  
in Christ Jesus.”  
*Gal. 3:28***

Find links to all the full articles at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ordination).

## Young Professionals Form New Ministry in Baltimore

On a dimly lit street in the Madison Park neighborhood of Baltimore, a group of young adults gathered in the unfinished basement of a historic synagogue for the first gathering of Connect Baltimore.

Connect Baltimore is the latest installment of a growing nationwide ministry geared toward young adults and professionals pioneered by Rebecca Davis, a pastor in Atlanta. The ministry was birthed out of a desire to bring more awareness to the spiritual needs of the younger church crowd and to foster unity

among young adults in the Baltimore area.



Porsche Vanderhorst leads in praise and worship at the Connect Baltimore inaugural event.



Pastor Marquis Johns leads a Bible study and discussion at Connect Baltimore.



Young adults from the greater Baltimore area have a new venue for fellowship with like-minded believers.

Jasmine Anderson, one of several founders of Connect Baltimore who hail from Berea Temple, has a clear vision for the group. “My hope is that Connect Baltimore will impact how Christian young adults interact with each other and with those who desire a Christian lifestyle,” she says. She, along with another founder, Urcille Goddard, is part of the creative team behind Connect Baltimore.

Invitations for this first event were mostly sent through social media and word-of-mouth. Another founder, Joshua Kane, welcomed attendees to the event and encouraged people to pray for divine presence and blessing over the group’s first gathering.

Attendees enjoyed fellowship, music and prayer. The latter part of Connect was a hybrid sermon/discussion facilitated by Marquis Johns, assistant pastor of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md.

“I hope that this movement will not only reach those in Baltimore but in all of the DMV area,” says Anderson.—Ryan Lang

PHOTOS BY JASMINE ANDERSON

## Serenity Church Couples Renew Marriage Vows

The Serenity church in Martinsburg, W.Va., recently culminated their marriage sermon series with a marriage vow renewal ceremony for 11 couples. Prior to the ceremony, Dorothy and Dennis Keith, the church's



After participating in a marriage series, guest presenters line up behind 11 couples who renewed their vows in a ceremony at the Serenity church.

Family Life Ministries leaders, led the congregation through a family series that included *Fireproof Your Marriage* seminars, presentations, video clips from the movie *Fireproof* and other resources.

Alvin M. Kibble, vice president of the North American Division for media ministry, media evangelism and communication, was the speaker and also officiated the vow renewal ceremony. Couples were presented personalized, framed certificates that included their years of marriage.

Participant Joe Williams says, "It was a pleasure to see all the married couples lined up in the front of the church, smiling at each other, enjoying each other's company [after] the many years that they had been married."

At the conclusion of the renewal ceremony, the church served dinner then held a seminar, where Kibble spoke on the role of church leadership.

Church leaders say they hope to offer more marriage enrichment and family seminars to the entire Martinsburg area and surrounding communities.

## Pastoral Group Travels to New Testament Church Sites

A small band of travelers from the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently took a tour of New Testament church sites in Turkey. Stephen Richardson, ministerial director, and his wife, Margaret; Pastor William and Roxanne Hall of the Willow Grove (Pa.) church; Pastor Stephen Boyce of the First Millsboro church in Millsboro, Del.; Pastor Donald McKinnie of the Mizpah church in Philadelphia; Pastor George Jackson of the Macedonia church in Chester, Pa.; and local elder Sherry Hall of the North Philadelphia church in Philadelphia joined about 20 other Christians from the United States and Canada for the excursion.

The group visited the sites of the seven churches of Revelation—Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea—along with Colossae and Hierapolis. The travelers say learning pertinent facts about each church's location, demographics, artifacts and commerce contributed to a better understanding of the significance of these population centers within early Christianity. The group read the biblical messages to each church while standing on their respective sites. This led to a greater appreciation for the early believers

and the apostles who urged them to remain faithful in the context of their community, says Richardson.

The tour was scheduled to help support plans by AEC pastors in the Philadelphia metro area for a week-long revival series this spring featuring the seven churches of Revelation.



The tour group stands in front of the Library of Celsus in ancient Ephesus.



## We Helped Start First Hispanic Company in Pittsburgh

Many may associate the city of Pittsburgh with its iconic sports teams, the Steelers and Pirates, but the Allegheny West Conference has decided to cheer for another team in “the Steel City”: Team Hispanic.

The conference shares this territory with the Pennsylvania Conference, and neither had a Hispanic presence in the city. With the help of the Columbia Union, the Allegheny West Conference decided to take the city by storm. We recently sent a star player, Pastor

Ricardo Castro, to teach and preach the message of salvation to the Hispanic population in that area.

Pastor Castro spent a lot of time in an area with a high density of Hispanics. Every day he stopped by the local Hispanic supermarket, making friends, helping those in need carry grocery bags to their houses and promoting free English classes. As a result, Castro convinced more than 100 people to study the Bible with him.

When asked why he was willing to sacrifice so much time in that particular area instead of being more traditional and spending additional time with his family, his answer was, “Why not?”

In March local churches hosted an evangelistic crusade in the city, and many people attended the nightly meetings. Even the local pastor from the host church attended.

Now there is a Hispanic presence in Pittsburgh. A congregation has been established, and on a recent Sabbath, more than 40 Hispanic people worshipped together in an Adventist company for the first time.

We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, great decisions were made and now the church is moving forward full steam.



**Sergio Romero**  
Pastor, Multicultural Director/  
Church Growth



Most of the meeting attendees are joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## Akron Bethel Takes Ministry Beyond the Walls

The Akron Bethel church in Akron, Ohio, regularly ministers to members of their community. Twila Belle, Personal Ministries leader, felt a desire for the church to further minister outside their walls and began the HANDS (Helping All Neighbors Discover Salvation) ministry. She comments, “I feel like you don’t really experience ministry until you are outside [the church’s] four walls.”

HANDS provides hats, gloves, scarves, socks, baby diapers, wipes, prepackaged food items and water to the homeless and less fortunate in the community. They also minister to the spiritual, mental and physical needs of those they help. They pray and touch people, encouraging them to go to church and serve God, says Derrick Moffett, church pastor.

Members are energized as they help others. “It has helped me to be more open and free to pray with people and meet immediate needs,” says member Fanta Weems.



HANDS members volunteer at a local community center.

## Columbus Academy Students Create Mock Statehouse

A visit from Rep. Kevin Boyce recently transformed the fifth- through eighth-grade classroom at Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) into the floor of the statehouse where bills and laws are debated. Rather than lecture students about the ins and outs of state government, Boyce called them up to the board, had them debate issues they care about and made them rise in support or disdain of those issues. He made them feel like real lawmakers.

Students learned about decorum and how to express their support or opposition of proposed bills. Boyce, who also serves as the minority whip in the Ohio House of Representatives, also taught about the structure of state government and how it mirrors the federal government.

The visit made an impact on students. “[Boyce’s] visit was inspiring,” said fifth-grader Dalin Murray following the one-hour presentation. This sentiment was echoed over and over again in thank-you letters students wrote to Boyce. Excerpts from some of those letters are below:

“I thought that this visit would have bored me to sleep, but you made it fun and easy for us to learn about politics. ... Because of your coming here, now I don’t think politics are boring anymore. Now I want to be a representative just like you.”—*Marco Tapia, sixth grade*



Rep. Kevin Boyce illustrates how a young man with determination can rise to become a leader.



Students ask Rep. Boyce questions during an hourlong session, where he taught them how the legislative process works.

“One thing that impacted me is encouraging other people to vote, such as my parents.”—*Reginald Ware, Jr., seventh grade*

“What astonished me most is how orderly our government is, because for a long time I thought they all came together and just argued. This was a great experience.”—*Nana Ossei-Wusu, seventh grade*

“P.S. Can you see if you can really [have] a ‘no uniforms’ policy enacted? You never know. Arguing over it in the real House of Representatives could be as fun as it was at CAA!”—*Romiaun Speed, sixth grade*

“We live in an age where African-American males are getting [hurt] every day. ... The whole time you were speaking, I was thinking, ‘Wow! It’s amazing to know we still have good African-American males out there who stand for something besides basketball and music.’ Thank you for being the exception to the rule and using your knowledge to influence others for good.”  
—*Morgan Lewis, eighth grade*

“I thought you would just tell us stuff that wouldn’t stick in my brain, but everything you shared did!”  
—*Alayna Crawford, seventh grade*

## 113 Students Gather for MusicFest

More than 110 fifth- through eighth-graders from Pennsylvania and New Jersey recently participated in MusicFest at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA).

The weekend was full of musical feasts, including vespers featuring La Sonnette, BMA's bell choir; Bel Canto, the touring choir; and the orchestra. Seven student soloists and the orchestra also performed selections from *The Exodus Story*, an opera written by Lawrence Galera, music director.

"I love it!" says Derek Sandstrom, who played



A choir of elementary students from Pennsylvania and New Jersey sing for special music Sabbath morning.



Brenden Reese, a sixth-grader from Blue Mountain Elementary in Hamburg, Kevin Kim ('17) and Carlos Torres, a sixth-grader from the Lake Nelson Adventist School in Piscataway, N.J., practice for the festival orchestra.

saxophone in the orchestra and is a parent of an eighth-grader from the Harrisburg Adventist School in Harrisburg. "Kids get a God-centered educational and spiritual opportunity they wouldn't have otherwise."

Sabbath morning the festival orchestra, comprised of elementary and academy students, played several selections. The elementary school choir, with guest conductor Satara Nadarajan, performed special music.

MusicFest closed Saturday night with a secular concert by the festival orchestra and festival choir, including members from BMA's Sylvan Singers, the mass choir.

## New Scholarship Honors Former Student

Blue Mountain Academy recently announced a new scholarship in honor of former student Greg Haley. Haley's life took a turn in his teens, and, at 24 years old, he was sentenced to life in prison. But, prison interrupted his destructive lifestyle and "saved his life," say his parents, Ervin "Erv" and Judy Haley (pictured).

Greg was incarcerated near Phoenix and his parents, who live in Pennsylvania, couldn't visit regularly. Friends of the Haley family were visiting another set of friends, Ed and Ruth Turner, in Phoenix when they heard about Greg on the evening news. Ed agreed to see Greg and faithfully visited him for 26 years, becoming a strong, spiritual mentor and good friend. Remembering the positive impact of his Christian education, Greg focused on his education in prison and became a teacher's aide, interviewing new inmates as they registered for classes.

This past Christmas, the Haleys visited Greg for the last time. Erv asked him if he was ready to meet the Lord. "I am definitely ready," Greg replied. He died this past January.

"We believe helping a student attend BMA is what Greg would have wanted," says Erv. The Greg Haley Scholarship Fund benefits students who work in the various on-campus industries. For more information or to contribute, contact Stephen Reese at (484) 662-7000 or sreese@bma.us.



## 25th Career Day Helps Students Plan Futures

School administrators recently organized 16 presentations on possible vocations for the school's 25th Career Day. Students had the option of attending two sessions.

The day began with keynote speaker Herbert Goulding, a physician and parent of junior Imani Goulding. Other presenters included alumni, parents and professors from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.; Andrews University in Michigan; and Kettering College in Dayton, Ohio.



Brian Gerardo ('16) learns how to intubate a baby during the respiratory care seminar as Vicki Rosette, a Washington Adventist University instructor, oversees the technique.



Alumni, parents and professors from three universities participated in Career Day to help students plan their futures.

Junior Joel Whitney thought the day was very helpful. "I didn't know all the training they went through," he says about emergency medical technicians. The chemical engineering session also opened his eyes, he says.

Throughout the day, students were reminded that if they picked a job they love, it makes it easier to go to work every day.

Career Day began 25 years ago with a conversation between Duane Ferguson, former Bible teacher/guidance counselor, and Marion Stridel, former typing/business teacher. "We both felt that there was a void in career information we were giving to our students," Ferguson explains.

## Ministry Teams Serve Conference Churches

Several groups of students regularly get up early and travel across Pennsylvania to lead Sabbath morning worship services at small churches. Students offer the sermons, perform special music and provide children's stories.

"I like sharing my own experiences with Jesus when I was growing up," says Nigel Emilaire ('18) about the children's stories he shared.

"Any positive interaction with churches helps our students feel that they belong to the church as a whole and not just within their peer group," says John Musselman, math teacher, who volunteered with his wife, Ellen, as a driver for the day.

"This helps our students feel like there is a place for them in today's church," says David Morgan, principal.



Solomon Lazar, physics and chemistry teacher, Brandon Hayes ('16), Ashli Lewis ('18), Kristina Esmer ('17), Yaser Monterrey ('16), Joyful Adindu ('18) and Rachel Munene ('15) minister at the Meridian Road church in Butler, Pa.

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MAY 2015



## THE Gathering

iCONNECT | OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD

Highland View Academy  
Hagerstown, Md.  
June 19-20

## Welcome

**C**all failed! When is the last time you saw that on your cell phone? It is a frustration I've grown accustomed to. I'm talking away, having a good conversation—usually while I'm driving (hands-free for safety)—I'm not even aware that I've driven into a dead spot. But, at some point I ask a question or pause to allow the other person to talk and there is silence. The call has failed and I've just been talking to myself. There is no connection.

That's why we've chosen "iConnect: Opening Our Hearts to God" as our camp meeting theme. Similarly, it is easy to speed through each day, carrying on the business of life without realizing our walk with Jesus is failing. Somewhere along our hurried way we become disconnected.

Camp meeting is an opportunity to reconnect with God—to set aside intentional time to enjoy our best friend. "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 93).

You're invited to come, enjoy, connect and be refreshed.



**Rick Remmers**  
President

## Keynote Speaker



**Pavel Goia**, who will speak Friday evening and Sabbath, knew at a young age that God had called him to ministry. Growing up in communist Romania didn't make following that calling an easy task. After drifting briefly during his teenage years, his life took a turn and he promised to serve God and fulfill his original calling. His promise was tested almost immediately. Goia pur-

sued careers in engineering, private business and law before finally settling into his calling as a minister.

Today he pastors the Lexington (Ky.) church and is a member of the North American Division's Ministerial Advisory Committee. His life continues to be one miracle after another.

## Featured Musician

**Laura Morena** was born into a family of musicians in her native Brazil. She began singing at the age of 6 and took that passion with her to college. In São Paulo, Brazil, she studied music and literature. Shortly after graduating, she released her first solo album. Now living in Maryland, her ministry in the English language is flourishing. Last year she married Cesar Grassioto, associate pastor of the Hagerstown (Md.) church.



# THE CHALLENGE

## Sabbath Afternoon Programs



### Music and Mission

Hear inspiring mission stories and enjoy a concert by some of Chesapeake's finest musicians, including a camp meeting choir and brass ensemble.



### Juniors

Get up close and personal with God's creatures at the Catoctin Zoo and Wildlife Sanctuary in Thurmont, Md.\*

### Earliteens

Tour battlefields and points of interest in and around Gettysburg, Pa., and examine history from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective.\*

### Youth

Screen a thought-provoking film and participate in a Q-and-A session.

### Young Adults

Take a hike and experience breathtaking views from nearby Black Rock.

*\*Pre-register to secure your seat on the bus. Donations are greatly appreciated.*

## Special Features

**Family Swim:** Friday, 1-5 p.m., at the Mount Aetna Retreat Center.



**Campfire and Stories:** Friday at the Highland View Academy ball field following the evening meeting.

**Church Picnics:** Fellowship with friends over an outdoor potluck lunch.

**Watermelon Refresher:** Following the Sabbath afternoon music and mission program.



### Women's Sabbath

**Breakfast:** Ruthie Jacobsen, North American Division Prayer Ministries director, will present at the nearby Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School.



For more details and schedules, scan this code or visit [cosda.org](http://cosda.org).

The Gathering 2015 is a special two-day camp meeting due to the budget and the upcoming General Conference Session. Chesapeake Conference anticipates returning to a five-day camp meeting in 2016 and has booked keynote speaker Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker/director.

The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference ■ 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044  
Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ [ccosda.org](http://ccosda.org) ■ President, Rick Remmers ■ Communication Director, Samantha Young

# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

MAY 2015

## “Be Ready ... ”

Valley Vista Adventist Center, Huttonsville, W.Va. ■ June 12-20

## Welcome

I'm excited to invite you to 2015 Mountain View Conference Camp Meeting. The beautiful Valley Vista Camp has been prepared for you to enjoy and experience an awesome nine days basking in the presence of our almighty Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ. From far and near, young and old, from this wonderful territory called Appalachia, members will come together in record number to let these mountains ring with praise and thanksgiving.

The theme that our attention will be drawn to is “Be Ready,” and two texts that will be the center of our focus are Matthew 24:44 and 1 Peter 3:15. We will also make a call to fervent prayer during this year's gathering.

Throughout the camp meeting week, you will not want to miss a single presentation that the speakers are preparing for us. Surely the Holy Spirit has laid on each speaker's heart the message that we need to hear. Our prayer for you is, when you leave Valley Vista, you will depart a changed and empowered person for the Lord.



**Larry Boggess**  
President

## Weekend Speakers



**Dwight Nelson** will be the main speaker the first weekend. Since 1983 Nelson has served as lead pastor of the Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University (Mich.). He preaches on the *New Perceptions* telecast, teaches at the seminary and has written several books.



**Lonnie Melashenko** will be the main speaker the second weekend. Melashenko spent 45 years as a gospel minister and radio-TV evangelist. He is a premier speaker, musician and author of dozens of books.

## Concert

**Mary Grace**, who was born without her right forearm and with one leg eight inches shorter than the other, will perform Sabbath, June 13, at 4 p.m. Listen to her music and testimony as she shares about the unconditional love and acceptance she found in the Lord.



MOUNTAIN  
VIEWPOINT

## Daily Presenters

**Sabbath-Sabbath, 6:30–7:30 a.m.**



**Rudy W. Hall** is a public speaker and author of several books on the topic of soul winning. His passion is leading others to Christ in the simple manner that Christ intended. He will present “Journey Through the Parables of Christ.”

**Monday–Friday, 9:30–10:45 a.m.**



**Ben Boggess** and his wife, Marvel, have traveled the world to present Jesus as Savior to thousands. He served as a church pastor for 42 years before retiring to Carrollton, Ohio. Boggess will present a seminar titled “Prayer Power Now!” Ben is a brother of conference president Larry Boggess.

**Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**



**Pastor Charles Byrd** will present “A Thunderful Experience.” Byrd is the founder and president of QuestLine Productions and the producer of *In Search of the Truth* and *Thunder in the Holy Land*. Byrd has pastored since 1986 in Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin, even Saipan.

**Sunday–Friday, 2:30–3:45 p.m.**



**Stanley Patterson** currently teaches and mentors ministry professionals at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). He has published numerous academic and professional articles on Christian leadership and helped develop Christian leaders throughout the world. Patterson will present “The Up Side Down Church.”

**Sunday–Thursday, 4–5:15 p.m.**



**Chad and Fadia Kreuzer** will present “Media on the Brain.” The Kreuzers share seminars on health, the Bible, overcoming bad habits and creation versus evolution. They have taught in Europe and throughout North America and have a video ministry called Anchor Point Films.

## Events

**June 12-14**  
Pathfinder Fair

**June 14**  
7 a.m.—Blood tests in the lodge

**8:30–10 a.m.**—Lay Advisory Council in the Calfee Pavilion

**10:30 a.m.**—Adventist Book Center Big Sale in the Calfee Pavilion

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

- May 19** Executive Committee Meeting, Parkersburg, W.Va.
- May 25** Conference Office Closed
- June 7-12** Life Guard Camp, Valley Vista Adventist Center
- June 12-20** Camp Meeting, Valley Vista
- June 21-28** Camp Staff Training, Valley Vista
- June 28–July 5** Adventure Camp, Valley Vista
- July 5-12** Junior Camp, Valley Vista
- July 12-19** Teen Camp, Valley Vista
- July 19-22** Family Camp, Valley Vista
- July 28** Executive Committee Meeting, Parkersburg



# NEWS

## NEW JERSEY

MAY 2015

## United Camp Meeting 2015: “Proclaiming Hope”

Tranquil Valley Retreat Center ■ Andover, N.J. ■ June 6

### Welcome

How wonderful it is to proclaim hope for a world that lives in uncertainty and despair. Jesus has given us a reason to be unconcerned. In John 14:1-3, He urges us not to be troubled and remember that He is returning.

If it were not for that glorious hope of Jesus’ return, life would have little meaning—but the promise is there. It is true. It is this very promise upon which our hope is founded. We can live joyfully if we live with the hope of that glorious day—the day when we shall see the skies open up and Jesus coming in the clouds in all His beauty and splendor. This great truth fills my life with purpose. This is why I rejoice in proclaiming and sharing what I find to be good news, because I know that it will give hope to those who have yet to hear it.

This is the very purpose and motto for our 2015 New Jersey Conference Camp Meeting: “Proclaiming Hope.” We will gather to inspire one another to fulfill the mission. This promises to be a gathering filled with blessings. I look forward to seeing you there!



**José H. Cortés**  
President

### CAMP MEETING OVERVIEW

This year because of the General Conference Session in San Antonio, beginning July 2, the New Jersey Conference will only hold a one-day, combined English and Spanish camp meeting, Sabbath, June 6, at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover. Spanish translations will be provided for all programs.

Camp meeting will help reinforce the conference’s “Proclaiming Hope” theme for the year. Conference leaders challenged members to proclaim hope in Jesus and bring five friends to Jesus in 2015. Give Me Five is one of the projects planned to help members bring people to the Lord. Leaders are encouraging members to find five people, pray for and love them, be their friends, show them sympathy and the way to heaven through their example of care and friendship.

**ONE DAY JOINT CAMP MEETING**  
LET'S COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE GOD'S AMAZING LOVE!  
WE WILL SPEND ONE JOYFULL DAY WITH GOD'S FAMILY  
JUNE 6, 2015 - From 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Tranquil Valley Retreat Center - 17 Academy Ln, Andover NJ

**PROCLAIMING HOPE** in **JESUS**

Guest Speaker  
**Elder Dan Jackson**  
North American Division  
President

Special program for children - Meals available at a cost  
Applications available at your local church or visit [www.newjerseyconference.org](http://www.newjerseyconference.org)  
For more info call Amalia Aguero (609) 802-0860 or email [aaguero@njcsda.org](mailto:aaguero@njcsda.org)



## SPEAKER



**Dan R. Jackson**, president of the North American Division, was elected June 28, 2010, by delegates of the world church at their business session in Atlanta. Jackson is a native Canadian, and with the exception of five years of service in the Southern Asia Division, lived and ministered primarily in Canada. He is a graduate of Canadian University College (Alberta) and Andrews University (Mich.), from which he holds a master's in religion in systematic theology. He has served as a pastor, teacher and administrator. Jackson and his wife, Donna, enjoy the three children and four grandchildren the Lord has given them. **José Cortés, Jr.**, associate ministerial director for evangelism in North America, will translate the messages into Spanish.

**José Cortés, Jr.**, associate ministerial director for evangelism in North America, will translate the messages into Spanish.



## CHILDREN'S CAMP MEETING

The Children's Ministries team is preparing a great program for camp meeting 2015, say conference leaders. Themed "Faith in Action!" the activities will focus on parables that teach about faith. Sabbath School will be divided by ages, with Children's Church designed for children 5 and older. Children will also have an afternoon program 3-4 p.m.

## SPEAKER



**David Turner** is the speaker for the children's meetings this year. Turner's calling is sharing Jesus with kids and teens, and he has spoken to kids and teens across the North American Division. "We are in the people business as soul winners," he states. "We have

the great task, a most rewarding opportunity to use every means possible to reflect the heart of God to everyone." Turner is always excited to share his unique brand of children's worship with numerous congregations as he mentors young people and trains leaders through forums and workshops.

Turner lives in Maryland with his wife, Lenore, and their daughter, Danae. He is vice principal at the Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md. He previously served as vice principal at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., and as a teacher/instructor in the Northeastern Conference.

## YOUTH CAMP MEETING

The youth will be joining the adults at the main auditorium this year.



Children from the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway present a play during Camp Meeting 2014.

## SCHEDULE

8:30-10 a.m.	Sabbath School
10:15-1 p.m.	Divine Worship
1-3 p.m.	Lunch
3-4 p.m.	Baptisms
4-5 p.m.	Concert
5-6 p.m.	Evening Session
6-7 p.m.	Dinner

# Mission Ohio

OHIO CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

## Hometown Camp Meetings Bring Members Together

As noted in an earlier issue of *Mission Ohio*, the Ohio Conference Camp Meeting originally scheduled for June 2015 will not take place since many of Ohio constituents and their families will attend the General Conference Session this summer. However, there are several Hometown Camp Meetings this summer:



### Southern Ohio Campout

Pike Lake State Park, Bainbridge, Ohio

June 12-14

Enjoy a weekend of spiritual revival with special guest Dave Weigley (pictured), Columbia Union Conference president. Meetings begin Friday evening and continue through Sunday morning. Enjoy a potluck lunch and supper too.

Guests are responsible for their own lodging. Cabins and campsites are available at <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/pikelake>. Bring a chair and food to share.

For more information, contact Pastor Ron Anderson at [randerson143@yahoo.com](mailto:randerson143@yahoo.com).

### Rev It Up! Revival

Newark Church, Heath, Ohio

July 24-26

Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, biker games and rides, and spiritual enrichment with fellow Christian bikers.

#### Special Guests:

- Paul Collins, one of the founding members of Leave a Mark Church in Columbus, Ohio, is a Christian Motorcycle Association member and past chaplain.
- Dwight Hall is a writer, author and the founder and CEO of Remnant Publications. His message will encourage every biker to stand up and witness for Jesus.
- Rudy Hall is the president of Remnant Publications, a writer, author and soul-winner who will take fellow biker enthusiasts on a "ride" deep into the Word of God!
- Mike Hearsh, a Bible worker, left church by age 20, then turned his life over to Christ in 2002 and was baptized. He is currently serving as a Bible worker for

the South Louisville church in Kentucky.

- Tom (pictured) and Debbie Hughes have been sharing God's Word for more than 45 years. Tom, pastor of the Newark church, founded Bible Biker Ministries and is the chapter president of Adventist Motorcycle Ministry Ohio.



For more information, contact Pastor Hughes at (740) 739-0750, or email [TomHughes@BibleBiker.com](mailto:TomHughes@BibleBiker.com).

## Conference Invites Men to Retreat

Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center, Danville, Ohio

May 29-31

Ohio men 18 and older are invited to attend the annual Ohio Conference Men's Retreat, May 29-31, at the Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville, Ohio.

The theme this year is "Courageous." A team from the Walk of Faith Fellowship church in Cleveland will present the weekend programs. Activities include praise music, worship, Bible study and several fun "surprise" events. Organizers also planned a work bee for the camp after breakfast on Sunday.

For more information, visit [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org) and click on Men's Ministries.

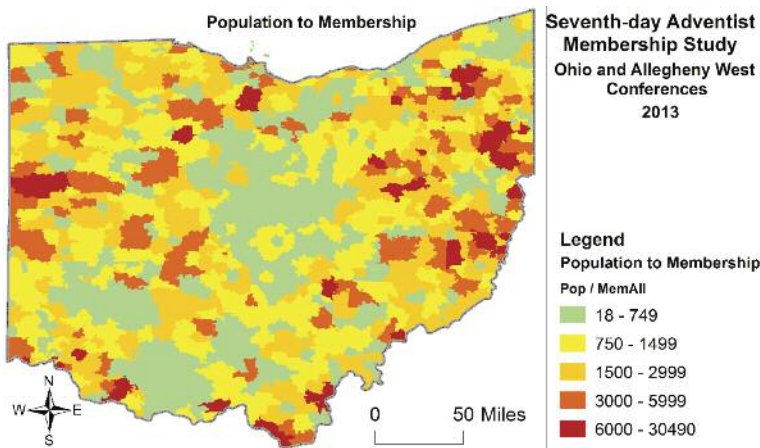
## Akron Pastor Shares How Technology Advances the Mission

Church members often either love or hate incorporating technology, like PowerPoint and digital media, into worship services. Some feel technology can lessen interpersonal connections. But, technology can also be used to further the mission of the church.

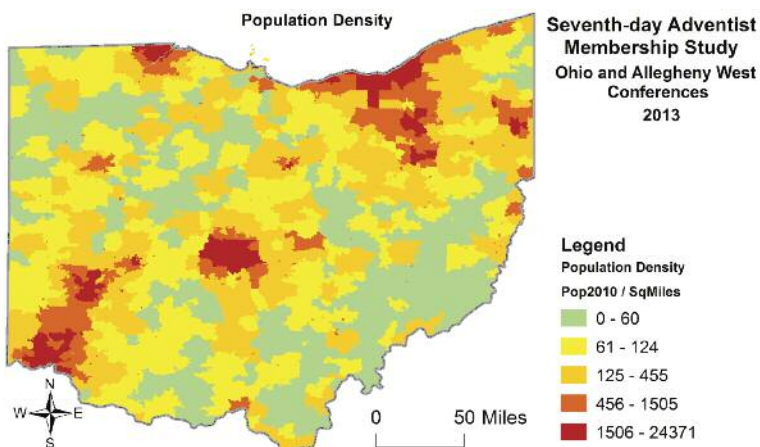
This is precisely what Jerry Chase, pastor of the Akron church, presented at the annual Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) Conference held online. Chase is also a geographic information system (GIS) specialist who began using this technology with Adventist Frontier Missions in 2000, when he and his team “identified the people groups reached and unreached by the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” says Chase. GIS application software tools allow users to create interactive



*Jerry Chase (middle) sits on the GAIN set with Jonathan Brauer, software development manager for the General Conference, and Joshua Marcoe, General Conference database/Web developer.*



*This map of Ohio shows the ratio of state population to church membership in 2013.*



*This map displays 2013 population centers within Ohio.*

queries (searches) on specific sets of data, analyze the data and graphically present results on a map.

Chase has used his expertise for everything from a 2012 Andrews University (Mich.) archaeology dig as their GPS and GIS specialist in Jordan, to examining membership data for the Ohio Conference for their 2013 online town hall meeting. His work in this field caught the attention of denominational leaders at the Global Mission Department of the General Conference and, ultimately, GAIN organizers.

GIS technology allows users to examine and analyze statistical data collected by the Adventist Church and utilize it in strategic planning for local conferences, in particular mission fields, or in a specific division. This enables church leaders to use GIS to make decisions on valid facts and statistics rather than on hunches and anecdotal information, shares Chase. Leaders can easily examine how many Adventists live in a particular area, or which areas lack Adventist outreach and which regions are experiencing a membership growth, plateau or decline.

“There has been a growing coalition of [Adventist] leaders from information technology, global mission and communications who are working toward a connected, interactive data system to assist leaders in making important mission critical decisions,” says Chase.

Constituents can expect to see an increased use of this technology as this science continues to grow and data becomes more widely available. To learn more about this and other technology impacting the mission of our church, visit [gain.adventist.org](http://gain.adventist.org). Presentations, including Chase’s, will soon be available.

# Pennsylvania Pen

MAY 2015

## “Growing in Christ, Going With Christ”

Blue Mountain Academy ■ Hamburg, Pa. ■ June 12-20

This year’s camp meeting will encourage attendees to focus on growing in their relationship with Christ and equip them to go into mission and service with Him.

### SABBATH SPEAKERS



**JUNE 13:**

**Bill Knott**, editor and executive publisher of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, will speak at the adult meetings.



**JUNE 20:**

**James Rafferty**, speaker/co-director of Light Bearers Ministry, will speak at the adult meetings.



**Dwain Esmond**, former administrator and editor at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, will present the message for the young adult meetings.



**David Ferguson**, director of Undergraduate Leadership at Andrews University (Mich.), will speak at the young adult meetings.

### SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday is a fun-filled day for families beginning at 9 a.m. with the SuperFit Family 5K/10K run sponsored by Adventist WholeHealth. Morning worship with Ray Hartwell, conference president, and the annual “ABC auditorium sale” round out the morning. Have lunch at “The Gathering” as local churches and Pathfinder groups raise funds for their ministries by selling food. Then go on a hike, take a motorcycle ride or just enjoy the kids’ activities all afternoon. Church leaders will also host a variety of training seminars in the afternoon for church treasurers, membership clerks, lay pastors and elders, and Children’s Ministries leaders.



### WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

During the week, enjoy worship and seminars with speakers, including Russell Burrell, John Baldwin, Kermit Netteburg, Kris Eckenroth, Tamyra Horst, Steve Nelson, John Kent, Aaron Weber, Kristi Rutt, Dalynn Stricker and Ron Christman.

Children will enjoy their own meetings and activities with crafts, games, pool time, mission projects and Bible stories.

Teens and youth will have fun during the day at the lake, at nearby Ozzy’s Family Fun Center and doing service projects in the community. They’ll also grow in Christ during the evening meetings.

Young adults are invited to gather around the campfire each evening for worship. During the day, there will also be opportunities to serve in the community or volunteer in the Blue Mountain Academy garden.

Sabbath morning services and all evening meetings will be livestreamed at [paconference.churchonline.org](http://paconference.churchonline.org). For more information or to register online, go to [paconference.org/camp-meeting](http://paconference.org/camp-meeting).

## Hispanic Camp Meeting VIVANGELISMO Nuevo estilo de vida espiritual

Blue Mountain Academy ■ Hamburg, Pa. ■ June 5-7

**E**n este año las iglesias hispanas de la Asociación de Pennsylvania nos hemos propuesto desarrollar en cada discípulo de Jesús, un nuevo estilo de vida espiritual, que vive y proyecta el evangelio con acciones cristianas. Nuestro fundamento bíblico es: “Ya no vivo yo, mas vive Cristo en mí” (Gálatas 2:20).

Siguiendo la instrucción dejada por Elena de White: “Únicamente el método de Cristo dará verdadero éxito para alcanzar a la gente. El Salvador se mezclaba con los hombres como alguien que deseaba su bien. Les manifestaba simpatía, atendía a sus necesidades, y ganaba su confianza. Luego los invitaba así: ‘Sígueme’” (*Obreros Evangélicos*, p. 376).



Bajo la dirección divina nos proponemos los siguientes objetivos de vivangelismo:

- Cada miembro de iglesia crezca en santificación.
- Cada miembro de iglesia desarrolle la amistad.
- Cada miembro de iglesia atienda las necesidades de su prójimo.
- Cada miembro de iglesia testifique de su fe.
- Cada miembro lleve a sus amigos a participar de un Grupo Pequeño.

No puede existir vivangelismo sin una acción combinada de todos los elementos apuntando a un solo objetivo: salvar almas integralmente y permanentemente. Con estas metas propuestas convocamos a toda la feligresía hispana para el gran encuentro del campestre 2015. Todo se está preparando para cumplir el objetivo de VIVANGELISMO 2015. Los seminarios que estarán a cargo del pastor **Melchor Ferreira** (en la foto), director de ministerio personal de la División Interamericana apuntan a entrenar, inspirar y movilizar a la iglesia para el cumplimiento de nuestras metas para el segundo semestre del año 2015.

Los esperamos a todos y vengan al encuentro de su Salvador y de todos sus hermanos que nos preparamos para encontrarnos con el Príncipe de los pastores en su próxima venida.—Pr. Saúd E. Elías, Coordinador del Campestre Hispano

## Haitian Camp Meeting

Blue Mountain Academy ■ Hamburg, Pa. ■ June 20

**L**es frères et soeurs haitiens de la pennsylvanie conference vous saluent dans le précieux nom de notre Seigneur et Sauveur Jésus Christ. Ils profitent de cette occasion pour vous remercier de votre fidèle participation à nos camp meetings. Une fois de plus, ils vous invitent à adorer le Seigneur avec eux le 20 Juin prochain. Avec une fraternelle appréciation, ils vous disent Bienvenue.

En leur nom,  
Darnel Marius, *Pasteur*

**Elie S. Honoré**, Il est actuellement le Président de l'Association des Institutions Adventistes de soins de santé à la Division Interaméricaine de la Conférence Générale des Adventistes du Septième Jour MD, MPH, MHA, diplômé médecin le 5 Aout 1969, s'est spécialisé en Obstétrique et Gynécologie. Il est détenteur d'une double maîtrise : En Santé Publique, et en Administration Hospitalière de l'Université de Loma Linda en Californie. Originaire d'Haïti Il a servi l'église pendant plus de 40 ans. Il a été consacré au saint ministère en Avril de l'année 2003.



# Potomac People

MAY 2015

## “His Amazing Grace”

Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Va. ■ June 16-20

### Welcome

This year’s theme for camp meeting is “His Amazing Grace.” The beauty of His grace is that there is no costlier gift heaven could give to Earth! Jesus consistently reminded us of His grace in His stories: the prodigal son(s), the lost coins, the lost sheep, the king who forgave a debt and the laborers in the field.

In His daily life, Jesus exemplified grace. We see it at the wedding at Cana, with the woman caught in adultery, with Zacchaeus and the thief on the cross, and when Jesus died on the cross for you and me. We are reminded, “Jesus was sent into the world, not to condemn it, but, amazing grace! to save the world” (*Signs of the Times*, Feb. 5, 1894).

Each speaker and presenter has been challenged to bring clarity to and emphasize the grace we have been given, and on Sabbath, we will invite our community to come and learn more. We will only scratch the surface, for it will take us an eternity to fully understand the depth of His amazing grace.

This camp meeting, may you be renewed by His costly grace—which is free to you and me. “And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price” (Rev. 22:17, RSV).

Looking forward to seeing you at camp meeting!



**Bill Miller**  
President

### Small Groups

Attendees can join small group interactions twice a day on timely subjects:



**Saved to Serve Prayer:** Facilitated by Charles Tapp, senior pastor of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.



**Revelation’s Seven Churches:** Facilitated by Bob Banks, who is planting a church in northern Virginia’s Dominion Valley.



**The Psalms:** Facilitated by Jim Hiner, pastor of the Patterson Avenue church in Richmond, Va.



**Deeper Praise—Music, Majesty or Mayhem:** Facilitated by Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, Sligo’s pastor for worship.



**Building Bridges:** Facilitated by John Cress, Potomac’s vice president for pastoral ministries.



**Active:** Facilitated by Peter Casillas, Potomac’s associate for pastoral ministries, church planting and evangelism.



**Connecting With Teens:** Facilitated by Gerry Lopez, children’s pastor at the Sligo church.



**Sabbath School Lesson:** Facilitated by Don McFarlane, administrative pastor at the Sligo church.

# Potomac People

## Main Speakers



**Fredrick Russell** will be the Tuesday–Thursday evening speaker. He is the lead pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta and the immediate past president of the Allegheny West Conference. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Russell presents professional growth seminars in

corporate, academic and religious settings on leadership, conflict resolution, leadership team development, men’s issues and marriage intimacy.



**Chris Oberg** currently serves as lead pastor of the La Sierra University church in Riverside, Calif., and will be the Wednesday–Friday morning speaker. Oberg describes her work as one of life’s greatest blessings. Oberg is a double alumna of the Divinity School

at La Sierra University, completing both a bachelor’s and master’s in religion, with an emphasis in New Testament Studies.



**Bron Jacobs** is senior pastor for the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., and will be our Wednesday–Friday afternoon speaker. Jacobs holds a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Leadership and Congregational Studies from the Seventh-day

Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). Jacobs also served as a pastor in North Carolina, Georgia and California. Jacobs joined the Potomac Conference in 2014.



**Rear Adm. Barry C. Black (Ret.)** will be the Sabbath morning worship and evening speaker. In 2003 Black was elected the 62nd Chaplain of the Senate. Prior to serving on Capitol Hill, Black served in the U.S. Navy for more than 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the Chief of

Navy Chaplains. He is an alumnus of several universities, including Oakwood (Ala.), and holds master’s degrees in divinity, counseling and management, as well as a Doctor of Ministry and a PhD in psychology.

## Music Feature

**Jamie Jorge**, a renowned Adventist violinist, will hold a small concert before each evening meeting Tuesday–Thursday. Born in Cuba, Jaime began violin studies at age 5. At the age of 10, he began lessons with the eminent violinist Cyrus Forough. He dreamed of becoming a missionary doctor, but in his second year of medical school, Jorge felt the Lord’s call to live a life of service dedicated to music ministry.



**The Booth Brothers**, a southern gospel trio, will hold a special concert Sabbath afternoon. Refreshing humor, inspiring songs and encouraging words are embedded in every performance. This trio, collectively and individually, have



received many awards over the years, including Song of the Year, Album of the Year, Trio of the Year, Male Group of the Year and others. Although the group is grateful for the recognition of their work, their aspiration is for all honor and glory to be God’s alone.



# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

MAY 2015

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### Students Preach During Week of Worship

Millennia ago, God asked a young man named Jeremiah to speak to His people. Jeremiah responded that he didn't know how to speak; that he was too young" (see Jer. 1:7, NIV). But, God touched

his mouth and proclaimed that, since He was with Jeremiah, age was not a hindrance. What was true for Jeremiah is still true for our youth today. God still touches them with words that they need to speak.

Ten Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) students were inspired to share a message of God's love to their peers during a recent Week of Worship. They spoke twice each day, to middle and high school students, on the theme "Numbers." They used stories from Scripture to illustrate that people often find value in different types of numbers: there is physical—Zacchaeus was short; mental—Nicodemus was highly intelligent; social—the woman at the well had few friends; or monetary—the young ruler was rich. Yet, Jesus sees past our worldly value and instead accepts us because of His love and His grace.

"It was a good experience sharing how I feel about God with my friends," says Allison Retz ('16). She challenged the student body to give up their reliance on worldly numbers, which they might use to measure themselves, and instead look only to the One who gave His life for them, for it is there that they find their true worth.—Tim Soper



*Week of Worship Speakers: (seated) Theresa Kruger ('17), Adriana Pacheco ('17), Allison Retz ('16), (standing) Evelyn Martinez ('17), Dominique DeAbreu ('15), Reignon Prillman ('17), Chaplain Tim Soper, Jeff Fennell ('17), Alex Gibbons ('17), Harrison Mann ('16) and Haley Butler ('15)*

### Students Delve Into STEM at SciFEST

The opportunity to spend four days immersed in the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) drew seven Spencerville students to Andrews University (Mich.) earlier this year for the annual SciFEST.

"As an administrator, I am always looking for opportunities to take students beyond the classroom to engage in real world opportunities. SciFEST provides enrichment and growth," says Brian Kittleson, principal.

At the event, students interacted with the STEM professors and performed hands-on activities. Using only cardboard and tape, students built a bridge that supported 100 pounds and determined an unknown compound in the chemistry lab using solubility and flame tests. They also got a taste of the school's spiritual atmosphere by participating in vespers and Sabbath School discussions and visiting Pioneer Memorial church Sabbath morning. The weekend culminated with a quiz game to challenge the students' knowledge in each of the STEM subjects.

"Overall, it was a tremendous experience," says Nayeli Moretta, a senior attendee.—Nathan Hess



*Science students are challenged by the SciFEST activities.*

PHOTO BY NATHAN HESS

## NEWS

### Pre-K Students Experience Communion

Each spring as Easter draws near, students in the pre-K classroom enjoy a hands-on learning experience about the connection between Jesus' last supper and the communion service. They began by reading the story of the Last Supper. Next, teachers Amber Mayer, Donna Calderon and Marilyn Scott, Spencerville church associate pastor, washed each student's feet. Pastor Scott concluded the lesson by explaining the symbolism of the grape juice and bread as the teachers, students and pastor partook together.



Emily Salas patiently waits to taste the bread and juice.

"This lesson is always a favorite of teachers, the pastor and the students. The students enjoy the ticklish feet, the shyness, the questions and all the giggles," says Mayer. She adds that one of the best questions asked by one of the 4-year-olds during the footwashing

was, "So, is God washing away my sins right now?"

Luke 18 tells the story of Jesus inviting the little children to come to Him even at the protest of His disciples. "This story is a great encouragement to include our young learners and allows them to actively participate in spiritual lessons," says Mayer. "Pre-K's classroom communion was a special, shared moment. Hopefully this experience will knit together a lifetime

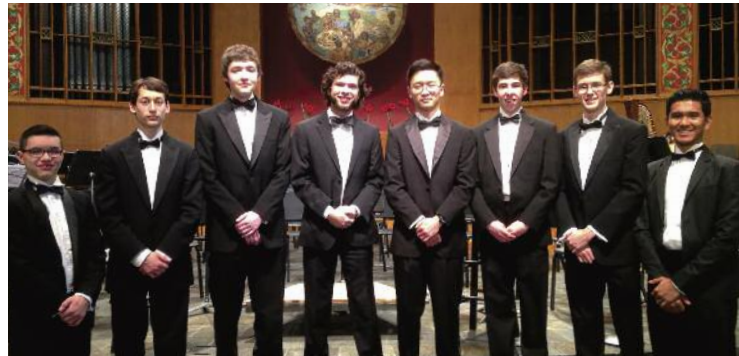


Teacher Amber Mayer washes a student's feet.

of church and school interacting together in the lives of our young people."

### Band Students Travel to Festival

Seven Spencerville Adventist Academy band students, accompanied by Michael Patterson, SAA's band director, recently travelled to Walla Walla University (WWU) in Washington to participate in a band festival. The festival, under the direction of Brandon Beck, WWU's band director, included many rehearsals.



A select group of SAA band students participate in the Walla Walla University Band Festival, including Ryan Conway ('17), Ryan Carrera ('15), Joshua Wade ('15), director Michael Patterson, Cory Shim ('16), Jeff Fennell ('17), Ben Dabney ('16) and Matthew Rajarathinam ('15).

"We practiced a lot, but it was worth it," says sophomore Ryan Conway. "The conductor taught us a lot about the music we were playing."

Participants also presented a concert and created many wonderful memories. "I liked that there was a high level of performance, and also enjoyed the fun times just hanging out together," says senior Ryan Carrera. SAA was one of nine schools participating in the festival.

### Alumni Weekend Slated for May 15 and 16

The leadership team at Spencerville Adventist Academy invites all alumni of Spencerville Junior Academy/Spencerville Adventist Academy to alumni weekend services May 15 and 16.

Alumni weekend events include:

- Friday, 7 p.m.** Vespers in the SAA auditorium
- Sabbath, 11:15 a.m.** Church service at the Spencerville church
- Sabbath, 1 p.m.** Sabbath lunch in the SAA multipurpose room
- Saturday, 8 p.m.** Alumni volleyball and basketball games in the SAA gym

# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY



# HAPPENINGS

MAY 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

## We Say Farewell to an Alumna, Employee, Friend

As our school year draws to a close, we as a staff naturally reminisce over the times we have shared these past many months. And, like the many years before it, this school year was filled with incredible moments that reinforce our belief in Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) mission: "We exist to provide a distinctly Seventh-day Adventist college preparatory program through experiences to produce disciples of Jesus who are compassionate citizens prepared for college and careers."

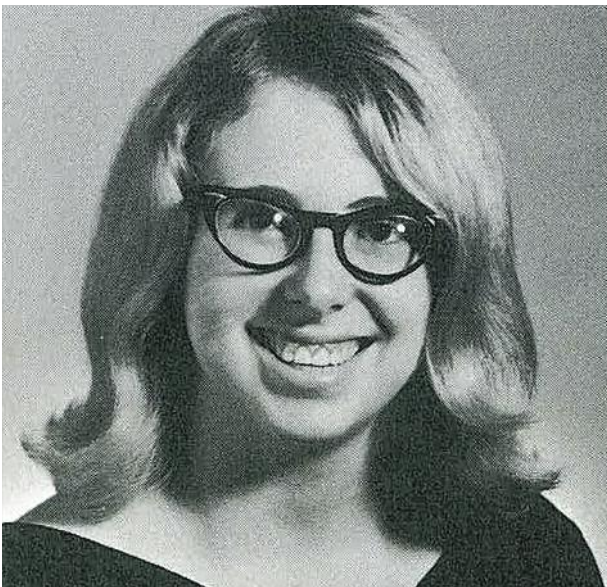
For one of our beloved staff members, the end of this school year signifies more than yet one more successful academic year—it signifies the cap of a 30-year career of providing excellence to our youth. Sarah Smith, assistant director of food services and a beloved staple on this campus for three decades, is retiring.

"I began working here in the summer of 1984," Smith recalls. "My husband's job had recently transferred him to nearby Harrisonburg, and I wanted my children to be in our Adventist schools."

Smith, an SVA Class of 1968 alumna, is also a product of Seventh-day Adventist education. "My parents



"I'll miss my students the most," says Sarah Smith, pictured here with Kimberly Ware-Simmons ('16), one of her student workers.



Smith, from SVA's Class of '68, poses for her senior picture.

had a big influence on me and my deep-rooted belief in our system," she says. "Many years ago, they proudly watched five out of six children receive their diplomas from SVA. And, that is why I support it to this day."

She adds, "I have many fond memories here, both as a student and as an employee. It's been very interesting working with the students—it's never dull! I will miss that the most. ...The students; watching them grow up. The staff. All of the friends I have made here."

Though Smith is moving on, she will stay connected. Her retirement plans include "volunteering much more and joining a quilting group."

Smith is a prime example of the caliber of staff member SVA strives to employ. Her steadfast and Christian spirit is a wonderful example to the students. SVA has been incredibly blessed to have had Smith as a student, an employee, a leader and, most importantly, a friend.



Dale Twomley  
Principal

## Junior Lands Scholarship for International Research

Takoma Academy (TA) junior Chynna Smith has been accepted into and bestowed a full scholarship with Pioneer Academics, an organization founded by American university professors in cooperation with international education experts.

The organization's goal is to provide outstanding high school students from around the world with challenging and creative research opportunities across a wide range of disciplines. Through the Pioneer Research Program, the organization states, "Students not only improve their academic experience and research skills but are also guided, mentored and inspired by thought leaders in their fields." TA is the first Seventh-day Adventist high school to have a student accepted into this prestigious, international program.

Smith, whose career goal is to become a physician, will conduct research with Grant Jensen, associate professor of biology at the California Institute of Technology, known as Caltech. *Time Magazine* and *U.S. News & World Report* both rank Caltech as a top-10 university. Her area of study will be "Introduction to Cells and Intracellular Machines," a course that will introduce students to cell biology by considering the four basic classes of biological macromolecules and how these might have come together to form the first simple cells.

Next, Smith and other students will consider what cells must do to replicate, and survey some of the amazing macromolecular machines that have evolved to accomplish this function. The research component of the class will be to choose one particular machine, or



PHOTO BY RICHARD JOSEPH GORDON

*Junior Chynna Smith takes her academics seriously, which helped her earn a scholarship for a prestigious research program.*

class of machines, and write a review summarizing current knowledge about its structure and function.

Smith was the only American student chosen for this research project. Other students on the research team all live in China.

A well-rounded student, Smith is also a member of the girls varsity basketball team, who recently won their fifth straight Maryland Independent School Association League Championship title. She is also a former member of the Takoma Academy Chorale. Teachers say her pleasant personality and humility draw others in.

Smith says the rigorous classes at TA are the primary reason she was accepted into Pioneer Academics. "I feel as though my AP biology and chemistry classes have really prepared me for success and understanding in this research program so far. I'm excited to get into the research and prepare myself for college-level learning," she says.

Alban Howe, chair of TA's Math Department, says, "Chynna excels academically because she combines diligence and thoughtfulness with her natural intelligence."

David Hooker, TA science teacher, adds "that it's nice to see a student athlete who is also an exceptional student."



## We're Creating Ambassadors for the Lord

This is the time of year when our students exit the university through the "Gateway of Service" to continue on their career pathway. Some will transfer to other institutions of higher education, while others will enter the workplace.

I recently chatted with several members of the Class of 2015, and it is exciting to hear what our seniors are saying about their Washington Adventist University (WAU) experience. They say they enjoyed the transformational experience and now will leave WAU with the confidence of being well-prepared, global citizens, ready to take on the challenge of positively impacting their communities.

They expressed appreciation to the faculty and their classmates for what they have become. In their own words and behaviors, our graduates are "leaving better prepared to take on the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century."

They have experienced the WAU blend of faith and learning and are aware of the positive outcomes of aligning their lives with that of Jesus Christ. They are proud WAU graduates but, more importantly, ambassadors for the Lord. This is the point at Washington Adventist University. Congratulations to the Class of 2015!



**Weymouth Spence**  
President

## Summer Programs Help Those Who Help Others

This summer Washington Adventist University will offer a substance abuse seminar and biblical counseling course to help students, counselors, pastors and healthcare professionals enhance their

counseling and spiritual support skills.

The substance abuse seminar consists of four separate sessions conducted June 11-12. Sessions include: Alcohol and Drug Dependency (June 11, 1-3 p.m.), Psychopharmacology (June 11, 3:15-5:15 p.m.), Addiction Counseling (June 12, 8-10 a.m.) and Psychotherapy for Drug/Alcohol Users (June 12, 10:15-12:15 p.m.). The two-hour sessions will offer two continuing education credits and focus on the latest awareness, prevention and treatment information.

The program is approved by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for Category A.

For more information, email Grant Leitma, psychology department chair, at [gleitma@wau.edu](mailto:gleitma@wau.edu).

The Biblical Counseling course will be taught July 12 and 26, 2-6 p.m. A Christian counselor with extensive professional experience will teach the one-credit course. It is open to both ordained and unordained church leaders and counselors, as well as to nurses and other medical professionals.

The course will provide a simple, in-depth, biblical approach to helping others overcome complex personal challenges. For more information, call (301) 891-4092 or email [vrbattle@wau.edu](mailto:vrbattle@wau.edu).



Grant Leitma works with graduate students (from left) Alana Pabon, Steven Lane and Willy Quiambao.

## Watch Graduation Online

Washington Adventist University's traditional commencement ceremony will be held May 3, 10 a.m. to noon, at Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Md. Individuals interested in watching the ceremony live online can visit [wau.edu](http://wau.edu) and click on the livestream link.

## Enactus Team Guides Small Businesses to Success

The Washington Adventist University Enactus team hosted a small business symposium earlier this year for local business owners at the nearby Takoma Park Community Center. The team offered presentations on how to develop branding, create strategic marketing plans for maximum results and use social media. Presenters for the event were Kimberly S. Pichot, chair of the WAU business department; Jude E. Edwards, professor in the business department; and Tatiana Reyes, a junior management major.

"I am very proud of our students' efforts and the results they've achieved," says Pichot, who is also the sponsor of the WAU Enactus team. "Last year the team began helping the nearby Rainbow Coin Laundry, which was struggling to stay afloat. Since the team rebranded the business, painted and cleaned the store and helped the owner attract some media attention, the enterprise is currently breaking even and on the path to success."

The university's Enactus team is part of an international nonprofit organization that brings student, academic and business leaders together to develop projects that improve the quality of life for people in need by applying business concepts.



Kimberly Pichot addresses small business owners at the recent small business symposium, hosted by the WAU Enactus team.

For more information about the WAU Enactus team, contact Pichot at [kspichot@wau.edu](mailto:kspichot@wau.edu).

## Counseling Programs Rank High Among Small Colleges

Washington Adventist University was recently listed among the "30 Great Small Colleges for a Counseling Degree (Bachelor's)," which appeared in the March 2015 online blog site Best

Psychology Degrees: Your Guide to Top Psychology Degree

Programs. The listing was compiled by Kelley Jacobs, a Midwest business consultant and former program evaluator with experience in qualitative and quantitative research, survey development and statistical analysis.

"We are extremely pleased to be included in this listing, as it validates

what we've long known, that Washington Adventist University is a great, small college and our counseling degree programs are outstanding," says Cheryl Harris Kisunzu, provost.

In addition to the bachelor's degree in counseling psychology, Washington Adventist University's Department of Psychology also offers a master's degree in counseling psychology. The university is currently one of only two schools in Maryland that offers a master's degree program for drug abuse counseling.

For more information about the university's undergraduate counseling degree programs, contact [gleitma@wau.edu](mailto:gleitma@wau.edu). The university also offers undergraduate and graduate counseling degree programs through its School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) to accommodate working adults. For information about SGPS classes, call (301) 891-4092.





## Answering the Call

On a cool December evening just over a year ago, as my wife and I were talking at home in southern California, my phone lit up with an unexpected call from Ohio. Just six weeks later I began a thrilling journey at Kettering College, where the Seventh-day Adventist church practices two of its most extensive and important ministries: health care and education.

Have you ever been called? Quietly, persistently, irresistibly? To serve, to heal, to teach? As I walk the halls of Kettering College and Kettering Medical Center, I encounter students, faculty, nurses—many of whom feel called here by God for just such purposes. It is no accident that they are drawn to Kettering Adventist HealthCare. The original Kettering family, desiring the best health care for their family and their community, called on Adventists to run their medical center and college.

Today at Kettering College that vision of excellence and innovation in faith-based health care lives at the core of our culture. Over the last several years we have shifted toward bachelor's degrees and higher academic programs. This fall we will receive students into our first doctoral program, in occupational therapy. Newly-renovated classrooms, laboratories, and clinical spaces in other programs ensure that our students receive the most up-to-date training using modern equipment. And students receive weekly 60-second video messages from our campus chaplain delivered to their smartphones.\*

These innovations and pursuits of excellence are more than just a service to our students. They are a response to the trust that has been placed in us to deliver, as Adventist health care providers and teachers, the best healing and education possible.

When Matthew described in the Bible how Jesus called out to Peter and Andrew as they were fishing, he wrote, "at once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:20). Jesus still calls. He called an inventor to help found a Seventh-day Adventist medical center in Kettering, Ohio. Many calls are to perform much more modest feats. Some are to perform major ones. At Kettering College our mission is to "educate students to make service a life calling." It is a beautiful and irresistible calling.

I pray that all of your calls are beautiful and irresistible.



**Nate Brandstater, PhD**  
President, Kettering College

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Kettering:60 on YouTube or  
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# your healing MINISTRY

## Ready to Roll

By Jessica J.W. Beans

### **Kettering College Set to Launch New Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program**

Anticipation is in the air at Kettering College as they look forward to the imminent launch of their first doctoral training program. The occupational therapy doctoral program is one of only 18 entry-level programs of its kind in the United States.

The program's founding director, Terrance Anderson, OTD, joined Kettering College in November 2013. An experienced educator and clinician, Dr. Anderson led the efforts to develop the curriculum, apply for accreditation, and hire faculty. On October 2, 2014 the college received final approval by the Higher Learning Commission to offer the doctorate in occupational therapy, and on March 10, 2015 the college began to interview potential students.



"It is exciting to see the number of highly-qualified applicants. We had 206 people apply for the 18 available positions this fall." Dr. Anderson said. "The hard work by so many at Kettering College and Kettering Health Network is paying off as we now prepare ourselves to move into our newly-renovated building and greet our new students this fall."

### **Filling a Need**

Occupational therapy is a rapidly growing field, and therapists are in short supply in many parts of the country, Dr. Anderson explained. In response to the demand for occupational therapists and the large number of applicants, Kettering College will be expanding the program by accepting 28 students for fall of 2016.

"Our close connection with the 140 occupational therapists who work at Kettering Adventist HealthCare hospitals make this program stand out," Dr. Anderson said. "Another big draw is that Kettering College's values of trustworthiness, innovation, caring, competence, and collaboration mesh well with the values shared by occupational therapy practitioners."

Plans have also been put into place to create an Exceptional High School Senior Enrollment Program intended for advanced high school seniors to secure a position in Kettering College's occupational therapy doctorate program.

"This is an opportunity for driven, bright high school students to be guaranteed a spot in this highly-competitive program," said Victor Brown, dean for Enrollment Services and Student Affairs. "This degree would set these students on the path to obtain a career in a growing and successful healthcare field."

### **A National Emphasis on Doctoral Training**

The program is being launched at a time when the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is encouraging the development of such entry-level doctoral programs.





Shanese Higgins, Dr. Terrance Anderson, and Jessica Carpenter  
OTD Program Faculty

“Occupational therapists need a great deal of didactic instruction and clinical experience to become proficient, and it is difficult to fit all of that into a master’s program,” said Dr. Anderson. “A doctoral program also has the advantage of giving students extensive training to improve participation in clinical research, which will help them gain a better ability to provide evidence-based care.”

“Occupational therapy is a growing field and is demanding more professionals who have post-graduate degrees,” explains Nate Brandstater, president of Kettering College. “We are thrilled to be offering an innovative doctoral program that will propel Kettering College into the future of health care.”

The occupational therapy doctoral program will welcome applicants who have a bachelor’s degree in a health-, education-, or humanities-related field. The program is full time and traditional (not online), with five semesters of classroom instruction and a full year of field work and the doctoral experience, which can include clinical practice, research, administration, and other areas of training. You can learn more about the OTD program at the Kettering College website, [KC.edu/otd](http://KC.edu/otd). Program applications will be opened on [otcas.org](http://otcas.org) each September to begin the process for students entering the following fall.

# NEWS



MAY 2015

## Kettering College Offers New 3-year Bachelor's Degree in Respiratory Care

Kettering College now offers a Bachelor of Science in respiratory care that can be obtained in three years.

The newly-accredited, three-year respiratory bachelor's degree will address a higher level of critical thinking skills and more extensive learning experience than the Associate of Science degree. Students will undertake an accelerated course schedule. The new bachelor's degree was approved in September of 2014 by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) and will begin admitting students in fall of 2015.

Nancy Colletti, respiratory care program director, says that most respiratory care bachelor degrees are four-year programs, in which the students don't start core respiratory classes until their junior year. "We're a unique program that stands out by offering a different path of

quality healthcare education by finishing in only three years." The new degree allows students to be admitted without any prior college experience.

"We are all extremely proud of the accomplishments of the respiratory care program," says President Nate Brandstater. "This is another significant milestone for Kettering College."

Another recent advancement for the respiratory program is their newly-renovated labs, classrooms, and office space. The renovated facility, which reopened in fall 2014, is larger allowing the professors to create more student-centered learning activities. It also includes a ceiling mounted projector for better visibility when viewing videos and slides, and has a dedicated space for brainstorming and critical thinking exercises.

## Two Hospitals Named Top 100 Hospitals Again

Truven Health Analytics has named Kettering and Sycamore medical centers as two of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals. This is the 11th time that Kettering has been recognized with this honor. This year marks the seventh time that Sycamore has received the award. Fort Hamilton also ranked very high for quality and safety in the annual report, achieving top decile status.

"We are extremely proud of this remarkable achievement," says Roy Chew, president of Kettering Medical Center. "Kettering is one of only six hospitals in the country



that has been named a Top 100 Hospital at least 10 times and consecutively for at least the past three years. We are grateful to be consistently recognized as being one of the best hospitals in the country."

"This award reflects the commitment of our hospitals'

physicians, nurses and staff to providing an exceptional experience for every patient who comes through our doors for treatment," says Walter Sackett, senior vice president of Sycamore Medical Center. "We are honored to receive this distinction."



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Malachi 1:11



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Kettering Health Network Recruiter  
benjamin.moushon@khnetwork.org

# Bulletin Board

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## EMPLOYMENT

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a faculty-aeronautical technician. This individual is responsible for teaching, planning, organizing and operating within an FAA approved part 147 maintenance school, to prepare students for a Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) career and related fields. Qualified person must possess an A&P and IA Certificate and at least a bachelor's degree. A PhD or Master's in Aviation or related field is preferred. For more information and to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_2](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks an assistant/associate/full professor in electrical/electronic engineering. This individual will teach courses in the Engineering and Computer Science Department, advise students and participate in university and college committees. Qualified person should have a PhD in Electrical Engineering. For more information and to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_4](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks an administrative assistant. This individual will serve as administrative assistant to the director of the PhD in Religion and ThD programs, as well as to the director of the PhD in Religious Education and the director of the PhD in Biblical Archeology. A bachelor's degree is preferred with emphasis on secretarial, communication or educational skills or equivalent in experience. For more information and to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff\\_hourly#job\\_9](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_9).

**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](mailto:karnikd@gc.adventist.org).

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** Advancement Office seeks full-time director of alumni relations. Focus areas include alumni events, engagement strategy, volunteer coordination and fundraising. Some travel required. Bachelor's degree and two years of relevant experience required. Submit cover letter and current CV/résumé to Human Resources at [denise.rivera@swau.edu](mailto:denise.rivera@swau.edu).

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks development officer/grant writer. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination and case articulation. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Bachelor's degree required and previous success securing grants. Submit cover letter and CV/résumé to Human Resources at [denise.rivera@swau.edu](mailto:denise.rivera@swau.edu).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**BUTLER CREEK HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER** for diabetes reversal, permanent weight loss and overcoming depression. May 10-22 and June 14-26. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty

of nature. Cost: \$975. Register online at [butlercreekhealth.org](http://butlercreekhealth.org) or call (931) 213-1329.

**EARLITEEN AND YOUTH: ELLIOTDYLAN.COM** for the *Undercover Angels* book series for Christian teens that builds on biblical principles and reinforces integrity. Great for Sabbath reading, church schools, home schools and gifts! Youth will enjoy these Christian novels filled with action, character-building lessons and Bible truths. Kindle and large print editions available.

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**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE TRAINING COURSE:** Two weekends, June 24-26 & August 7-9, at Adventist WholeHealth Network, Wyomissing, Pa. Official IPNRC curriculum, approved for 34 contact hours of continuing education by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. Tuition: \$300 (includes materials and one meal/day), or \$100 with 3-way scholarships available. *Registration deadline: July 8.* For more information, call (610) 685-9900 or visit [awhn.org](http://awhn.org).

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK ABROAD?** Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) is now mobilizing tentmakers. AFM is looking for a core group of 20 professionals to seek secular foreign employment in Turkey, India, China or other countries for 10 months to 3 years. For more information on becoming part of this group, visit [GoTential.org](http://GoTential.org).

**IS YOUR CHURCH ORGAN NEGLECTED OR IGNORED?** Does it sit Sabbath after Sabbath quietly in its corner? Please consider letting our church adopt it! It would receive much loving attention, make a joyful noise to God and be a blessing to our musical church family. Contact Jeanne Sinka, (440) 728-5762, or email [jcs@nhwaeap.com](mailto:jcs@nhwaeap.com).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SALEM CHURCH 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** Sabbath, June 13, starting at 9:30 a.m. The church is located at 685 Salem-Quinton Road, Salem, NJ 08079. There will be special speakers and musical guests, and a fellowship dinner. For further information, you can contact the church at (856) 935-4215.

**GREATER NEW YORK ACADEMY 95TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION**, will be held October 9-11. Schedule includes Friday night vespers and welcome table; Sabbath worship service, lunch and "Music and Memories"; and Sunday breakfast and basketball. Send your name and contact information to [alumni@gnyacademy.org](mailto:alumni@gnyacademy.org); friend us at Greater NYA (group page Greater NY Academy Official Alumni); write to GNY Academy, 41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377; or call (718) 639-1752.

## OBITUARIES

**GROVE, Harry D.**, born December 23, 1923, in Arden, W.Va.; died October 14, 2014, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; his sons: Rodney, Richard, Terrence and Timothy Grove; his stepson, M. Lee Williams; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**VETTER, Hazel Hope (Downs)**, born November 21, 1913, in Forest Grove, Ore., to the late William Butler and Anna Laura Russell Downs; died November 13, 2014, in

Sunset Calendar					
	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
<b>Baltimore</b>	7:59	8:05	8:12	8:18	8:24
<b>Cincinnati</b>	8:30	8:37	8:43	8:49	8:55
<b>Cleveland</b>	8:23	8:31	8:38	8:45	8:51
<b>Columbus</b>	8:25	8:32	8:39	8:46	8:52
<b>Jersey City</b>	7:51	7:58	8:05	8:12	8:18
<b>Norfolk</b>	7:53	7:59	8:05	8:11	8:16
<b>Parkersburg</b>	8:18	8:25	8:32	8:38	8:44
<b>Philadelphia</b>	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:14	8:20
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	8:14	8:21	8:28	8:35	8:41
<b>Reading</b>	7:58	8:05	8:12	8:18	8:24
<b>Richmond</b>	7:59	8:05	8:11	8:17	8:23
<b>Roanoke</b>	8:08	8:14	8:21	8:26	8:32
<b>Toledo</b>	8:31	8:39	8:46	8:53	8:59
<b>Trenton</b>	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:13	8:19
<b>Wash., D.C.</b>	8:00	8:06	8:13	8:19	8:25

Hagerstown, Md. Hazel graduated from Walla Walla College in 1936 with a degree in elementary education. She taught for two years before marrying James Charles Vetter in 1938. They served as missionaries in West Africa for eight years, with their son, James "Jim," and where their daughter, Joyce "Joy," was born. Upon returning to the U.S., Hazel worked in the bindery at the Southern Publishing Association, and then continued teaching in small, multigrade Adventist schools connected to churches where her husband pastored until she retired in 1978. Her husband died in 2001 and Hazel moved several times, relocating near family. In 2007 her daughter and son-in-law moved to Hagerstown, where they started working at the Review and Herald Publishing Assn., and Hazel moved there too. She said she was "the last leaf on the tree" because she was preceded in death by her four brothers: Alvah William, John Melvin, Wendell Lawrence and Raymond Ira Downs; and five sisters: Evelyn Margaret, Martha Helen and Geneva Gertrude Downs; Laura Ellen Harding and Louise Anna Mosser. Hazel leaves behind her son, Jim Arthur Vetter of Weston, Fla.; her daughter, Joy Annette Thomas of Hagerstown; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

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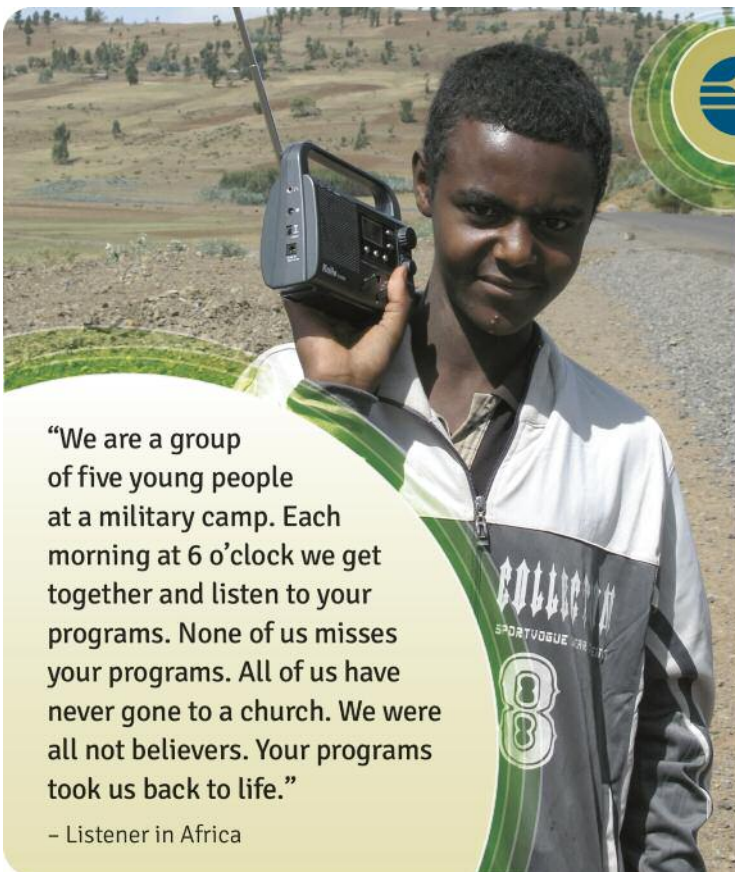
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