

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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A Campaign of Hope

Three conferences join forces to share Christ in Baltimore and D.C.

Plus: How can We Improve Racial and Police Tensions?

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A Campaign of Hope

Beth Michaels

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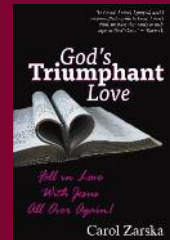
Above: Pastor Maurice Taylor (kneeling) and his team at Allegheny East Conference’s Berea Temple in Baltimore celebrate with “Prophecies of Hope” series graduates.

About the Cover: David Leiva photographed the baptism of 9-year-old Rayssa Togo, accompanied by her parents, Silvio and Gislaine Togo, at Potomac Conference’s Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md.

ON THE WEB

HOPE ON VIDEO

How has the “Prophecies of Hope” series made an impact? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/pohvideo to watch several videos featuring the churches, leaders and members who helped organize this unprecedented evangelism initiative. And, meet some of those who’ve joined our church family because of it.



HEART JESUS—AGAIN

Carol Zarska, a member of Mountain View Conference’s Inwood church in Gerrardstown, W.Va., published *God’s Triumphant Love: Fall in Love With Jesus All Over Again!* where she shares Jesus’ character through the great controversy story. Read our interview with Zarska at columbiaunionvisitor.com/triumphantlove.

#TBT WITH DAD

For #ThrowbackThursday each week this month, check out our Columbia Union dads at facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor. Think we should feature your dad? Send a picture and caption to visitor@columbiaunion.net.

HONOR-ING EGW

We interviewed Pam Scheib, union Pathfinder coordinator, to discuss the new God’s Messenger honor, which introduces youth to the life of church co-founder Ellen G. White. Read the interview at columbiaunionvisitor.com/messenger and learn how to complete the honor through an app.



HEALING BALTIMORE

Following the riots in Baltimore, members and leaders walked block by block praying with residents and providing much-needed supplies. Watch the news video about this response at columbiaunionvisitor.com/baltimore. And, read through our coverage, see photos, get tips and more.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014

Peruse our 2014 annual report at columbiaunionvisitor.com/annualreport2014 and see how God has blessed the union via ministries, missions, values and priorities.

VISITOR

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 6

Evangelism is Alive and Well

Several years ago, my wife, Shirlene, and I were given the privilege of planting a new church in Tulsa, Okla. I freely admit we had no idea what we were doing, but we knew we wanted to start a church like the one we read about in Acts 2. God put it in our hearts to grow a congregation singularly focused on reaching people with the gospel.

We decided that, if we were going to live that out, evangelism would have to be the church's primary activity. Over the next 10 years, we did a lot of traditional public evangelism, somewhere around 50 seminars. Can you guess what happened? God used that committed church to bring hundreds and hundreds of people into His kingdom.



DON'T GIVE UP

I know a lot of people who have given up on traditional public evangelism. Their reason is usually because, some time back, their church held an evangelistic meeting, spent thousands of dollars, only a few people were baptized and then, after a few weeks, they all left the church. I will not deny that sometimes happens. But, sometimes it doesn't.

You should also know that I am one of those who stayed. I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, and I certainly didn't know any. The only chance the church had of reaching me in the crucial moment of my life, when I was open and searching, was a handbill. There were 100 of us that cold, October Sabbath morning who braved a freezing pond to be baptized. For some of us, that was the moment our life changed forever. The fact is, the church is full of people like me who stayed.

BE ENCOURAGED

We shouldn't be surprised or discouraged when people leave. Jesus said it would be so. In the parable of the sower recorded in Matthew 13:5-7, He says some that spring up will be scorched by the sun and others will be choked by thorns. But, notice in verse 8 that Jesus promises all will not be lost: "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty" (NKJV).

I am a realist. I will admit that public evangelism doesn't always work as well as I would like. There isn't a meeting I have been a part of that I didn't wish there were more attendees and certainly more people baptized. Instead of getting discouraged and giving up, however, I work with church leaders and congregations to find better ways of doing it.

Public evangelism takes a lot of time and effort. It can be expensive. It can be exciting, thrilling, disappointing and heartbreaking all at once. But, after making public evangelism a top priority during my past 25 years of ministry, I believe it is still a very effective way to grow God's kingdom. If you are one of those who have given up on public evangelism, why not give it another try?

William McClendon is the pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md.

Newsline

BETH MICHAELS

PHOTO BY RANDOLPH ROBIN



WAU HONORS SGPS FOUNDER, PROFESSOR

During the 30th anniversary celebration of Washington Adventist University's (WAU) School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) program, staff honored Gladstone Gurubatham, PhD, who founded the university's first adult evening program. Gurubatham, who is pictured receiving the honor from Cheryl Kisunzu, provost, is one of WAU's longest serving faculty members as a professor of psychology. Read more on page 37.

UNION SELECTS NEW CURF DIRECTOR

Columbia Union Conference administrators recently selected Emmanuel Asiedu (pictured), MBA, CPA, to serve as secretary/treasurer for the Columbia Union Revolving Fund as well as associate treasurer for the union. Asiedu most recently



served as associate treasurer at the Chesapeake Conference.

"I see CURF as a financial tool to help

accomplish the great mission within the Columbia Union and beyond," says Asiedu, who is also an adjunct professor of undergraduate and graduate financial courses at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. "I appreciate the opportunity granted me to step into [shoes] bigger than my size."

Seth Bardu, union treasurer and

a CURF vice president, says, "Emmanuel is a gifted and resourceful young man and we're looking forward to him joining the union team."

200 ATTEND ANNUAL ASI CONVENTION

Nearly 200 Seventh-day Adventist professionals recently gathered for the Columbia Union's annual ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries) convention, where attendees bore witness to the faithfulness of God in their businesses and ministries.

Emanuel Pelote, union ASI president, says he was proud to give attendees an opportunity "to work together more strategically for Christ in the Columbia Union." He adds, "There are so many wonderful things that God is doing in and through our fellow church members."

Guest presenters led seminars intended to assist ASI members in their work. New ASI member

David Kim (pictured), from Pennsylvania Conference's Fairview Village church in Norristown, Pa., shared how to witness to the challenging group of wealthy, worldly and well-educated individuals that God sometimes places in professionals' paths.

—Larie Gray



UNION STARTS CHURCH AUDITING STANDARDS

Conference treasurers and auditors recently gathered to learn how to implement the union's new standards for auditing local churches, which meet national criteria, reports Seth Bardu, union treasurer. The union executive committee approved the standards in November 2014. Bardu believes the Columbia Union is the first union worldwide to create standards for auditing local churches.

"The wealth of the Adventist Church originates at the local church so we wanted to put more resources into making sure all funds are accounted for," says Bardu.



Each conference will be required to be in compliance with the new standards by January 2016. A second training session will take place this fall.

OHIO WELCOMES NEW TREASURER

Last month the Ohio Conference leadership team welcomed a new

ADVENTISTS RALLY, VOLUNTEER IN BALTIMORE

Dozens of Adventist volunteers rallied to encourage the residents of West Baltimore, an area impacted by recent riots. Adventist Community Services (ACS) leaders from the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) and Berea Temple congregation, with support from the Columbia Union, Chesapeake Conference and North American Division, joined members in being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community. Together they prayed with residents and donated and distributed more than \$10,000 in water and personal hygiene products Sabbath afternoon, May 2.



PHOTO BY LATASHA HEWITT

Groups from AEC's Miracle Temple in Baltimore and Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., also distributed water and encouragement to participants at the Victory Rally in front of Baltimore City Hall.

"I am very pleased to see the collective Adventist family working in a unified effort as we demonstrate God's love to a hurting community," says Minnie McNeil, Allegheny East ACS director and union coordinator. "That goal is being realized as noted by community members who continue to respond to volunteers."

ACS and other volunteers, including the entire student body from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, continued to minister in the neighborhood in the following weeks.

treasurer, Karen L. Senecal, who most recently served in the same role at the Oklahoma Conference. Senecal also worked as an assistant professor at several colleges and universities.

"I'm very excited to work for the Lord in Ohio. I believe I'll be joining

a dedicated, self-sacrificing, enthusiastic team," says Senecal. Read more on page 29.—Heidi Shoemaker



During the crisis in Baltimore, [our staff] conducted special interviews, played special songs and shared from their heart. Listeners shared how ... it has brought them peace; it has brought them close to God and His many reassurances.

—Kevin Krueger, vice president and general manager at WGTS 91.9 FM in Takoma Park, Md.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SWAU



TRIDELPHIA SPARKS TAKE FIRST PLACE

The Tridelphia Sparks (pictured with Pathfinder and event leaders) from Chesapeake Conference's Tridelphia church in Clarksville, Md., were one of 14 Columbia Union teams to receive first-place rankings at the recent Pathfinder Bible Experience finals at Southwestern Adventist University (Texas), where more than 125 teams competed.

Noticias

BETH MICHAELS

LAS IGLESIAS SE UNEN PARA “PROPHECIES OF HOPE”

La iniciativa de “Prophecies of Hope (profecías de esperanza)” envuelve la participación del personal de Columbia Union Conference; de los líderes de las asociaciones Allegheny East, Chesapeake y Potomac; pastores y miembros de más de 100 congregaciones del gran Baltimore, Washington, D.C., y la región norte de Virginia. Fue la primera cruzada evangelística colectiva en Columbia en respuesta al proyecto de Misión a las Ciudades de la Asociación General.

Frank Bondurant, el vicepresidente para el desarrollo de ministerios de la Unión y director del comité directivo, explica que, al unir sus esfuerzos, todas las iglesias participantes se benefician de una imagen única y unida en identidad, publicidad, materiales, y una sola fecha de lanzamiento el 11 de abril. Además, la publicidad promocionó un solo sitio web donde las visitas podían inscribirse.

Orar y planificar juntos antes del evento garantizó el éxito y probó que “realmente necesitamos unir nuestros recursos y trabajar unidos, especialmente en estos lugares cuando se trata de evangelismo urbano”, dice Bondurant.

Aunque los números continúan



FOTO POR DAVID LEIVA

umentando, cientos se han bautizado, rebautizado, o unido a la iglesia por profesión de fe, y muchos más están tomando estudios bíblicos. A continuación dos aspectos notables de este proyecto ambicioso:

Los congregantes de la iglesia Washington Brazilian en College Park, Md., de Potomac Conference, celebraron los bautismos de más de 20 adultos y cuatro niños. El pastor David Barrozo informa que sus bautismos se triplicaron porque transmitieron en vivo sus servicios por internet a la iglesia Richmond Brazilian en Richmond, Va., al igual que a una gran congregación en Brasil, en donde más personas entregaron sus vidas a Cristo.

Como parte de un intercambio evangelístico internacional, dos oradores de Colombia, Sudamérica, predicaron la serie en las iglesias Frederick Spanish en Frederick, Md., y Hagerstown Spanish en Hagerstown, Md., ambas de Chesapeake Conference. El pastor Ron Clouzet (en el centro, Jairo Rodríguez y David Bedoya) reportó ocho bautismos en cada iglesia, además de 10 compromisos para futuros bautismos.

LOS MIEMBROS DISTRIBUYEN EL CENTINELA

La Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho) envió un millón



de copias de la revista *El Centinela* para distribución en la División Norteamericana (DNA), como parte del plan de Un Millón. Esta fue una iniciativa conjunta del departamento multilingüe de la DNA, los coordinadores hispanos de cada Unión y Asociación, las iglesias hispanas locales, y *El Centinela*.

Se anima a cada miembro a entregar una revista a sus amistades y vecinos, y luego, entre mayo y noviembre, dar estudios bíblicos a los que respondan a las tarjetas que están dentro de la revista solicitando estudios bíblicos. Lea más en columbiaunionvisitor.com/elcentinela.—Karen Pearson



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Blyden*



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Spence*



*Charles
Tapp*



*Richard
Castillo*



Underscore

MARK TYLER

As the Country Faces Racial and Police Tensions, How can Adventists Make a Difference?

Riots and protests erupted in West Baltimore in April when an unarmed citizen died in police custody. Tensions flared in a neighborhood plagued by systemic problems as people lashed out over the death of another black man by police. The events in Baltimore are the latest to increase tensions started by similar situations in Ferguson, Mo., and other locations.

Some of the biggest purveyors of peace during the incident, however, were Seventh-day Adventist pastors and other clergy who literally provided a buffer between demonstrators and police, then organized block-by-block prayer bands.

“God used the clergy to prevent loss of life,” explains Reginald M. Anderson-Exum, pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Edmondson Heights church in West Baltimore. “I held gang members in my arms and we wept together. I wanted them to know I understand their anger. Now they know they have a God and a pastor who empathizes with them.”

Maurice N. Taylor, AEC’s Baltimore Extended Area Ministerium leader and pastor of Berea Temple, the church closest to the unrest, held a service of hope and healing just days after the riots and invited in the community to address tangible needs. Taylor says everyone was positive.

Minnie McNeil, Adventist Community Services (ACS) coordinator for the union and director for



Allegheny East, with support from the Columbia Union, Chesapeake Conference and North American Division, also organized relief efforts. Together they donated funds and mobilized volunteers to distribute water and personal hygiene products in a neighborhood where looters destroyed a local pharmacy. (Read more on page 5.)

“I’m proud to see our community of faith provide support to a hurting city,” says Dave Weigley, union president. “The tragedy in Baltimore is repeated too often across the country, and while many are looking to find solutions, we know there is really only one: for everyone to experience the love and transforming power of God’s grace.”

Eli Rojas, ACS and ministerial director for Chesapeake, says, “It was a really good feeling [to] get in touch with the people who are going through the struggle. This was a Band-Aid put on the wound, but we need to do more.”

And, they are. As racial and police

tensions persist, church leaders and members around the Columbia Union continue to contribute through action and voice. Here are some methods they’ve employed to bring long-term healing:

1. CHANGE THE RHETORIC

As fiery images of Baltimore filled national news coverage, something became clear to those with boots on the ground—the whole story wasn’t being told. That’s why AEC’s Miracle Temple held a Social Media Activists Organizing Meeting to teach people how to create their own content. “The narrative that has come out of Baltimore has been slanted toward the negative, but there have been a lot of positive things that have happened,” says David B. Franklin, senior pastor.

Since that meeting, more than 100 people have volunteered for a long-term campaign to create positive content for social media pages and to determine how to most effectively share those stories. A social media

You Can Help

For tips on how church members can help improve police relations, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/policerelations.

expert from Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios is assisting in the project.

Chip Dizard, media director at Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., and media teacher at Digital Harbor High School in Baltimore, also explored how to impact the reporting. He met his senior class during the protests to begin filming a documentary. "We're teaching them how to tell their own story," Dizard says. "I told them, 'Your job as a filmmaker is to let people see it from your perspective and make their own decisions.'"

2. UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM

Even before the unrest, Baltimore, like many urban centers, was troubled, explains Colin Wellenkamp, adjunct professor of public policy at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md. From the 1960s through the 1980s, urban communities lost manufacturing jobs. Urban blight set in while businesses and professionals fled to the suburbs. Poverty, drugs and other social ills grew leading to a greater need for crime suppression.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 25 percent of Baltimore City residents now live below the poverty level. Even the lack of a neighborhood supermarket can have a negative impact, Wellenkamp says. "If there are no resources in the community, the community starts to feel like it doesn't matter," he says. "The more abandoned [and] stressed the community feels, the worse the relationship with the police."

Wellenkamp grew up two miles from Ferguson and has worked as a public interest advocate consultant for Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., fighting for appropriations and legislative issues on Capitol Hill. He compares the social and economic environments in places like Baltimore to a room filled with gasoline—the spark that can ignite a community is its relationship with local police.

3. FIND SOLUTIONS

Wellenkamp suggests a three-step process for improving police

and community relations: hold police accountable through oversight technology, like body cameras; place greater emphasis on community policing programs that encourage officers to know the neighborhoods; and encourage municipalities, nonprofits—including religious organizations—and the private sector to work together to address social ills.

Pastor Taylor says AEC's local churches are already helping and plan to develop a learning center. "If you teach people, you can help them realize they can do better," he says. "You don't have to have money to keep your community clean."

Vincent Dehm, pastor of AEC's Recreation church in Baltimore, says his congregation will offer a free martial arts summer camp for young people taught by a top athlete. "If there's a 25-year-old in Park Heights, we can reach them by giving food, but we're not going to have a vast impact on their life," says Dehm. "But, if we have 100 kids who we can minister to for two hours a day, three days week, what kind of impact can we have?"

Celeste Ryan Blyden, union vice president for strategic communication and public relations, reports that the union executive committee in May voted to host a summit later this year to assess needs in the 10 major cities located within its territory. "We need to ask how we can come alongside our churches and ministries to create dialogue and partnerships that address current realities and challenges and make a transforming impact," she says.

4. JOIN THE DISCUSSION

WAU held a Summit on Race and Justice in March to start a dialogue not often broached from the pulpit. The forum, hosted by the university's Center for Metropolitan Ministry and Center for Law and Public Policy, dealt with the issues in a constructive manner.

"The oppression is real and the frustration is understandable," says John Gavin, director for the Center for Metropolitan Ministry. "We have to work at understanding all the



Strengthening Baltimore: (top) Maurice Taylor, Berea Temple pastor; Minnie McNeil, Allegheny East ACS director; and Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, organize relief efforts. (above) Erykah St. Louis, from the Takoma Park (Md.) church, participates in Miracle Temple's social media campaign. (opposite page) Members from Potomac's Sligo church in Takoma Park pause from distributing water to pose with Rep. Elijah Cummings.

forces that make people angry and feel down and out." He adds that people have to try not to alienate one another. "Basically the way to improve race relations is to interact more," he says.

Potomac's Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md., also hosted a forum in April titled Social Justice and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dwayne Leslie, director of legislative affairs for the General Conference and discussion moderator, says Micah 6:8 instructs Christians to take moral high ground on social issues. "Let's keep the conversation going," he says. "The goal is to not be political, but there's nothing wrong with helping our fellow man."

A CAMPAIGN

Three conferences erase territory lines and prove that teamwork really does produce the best results: hundreds of new members dedicated to Christ

Beth Michaels

It started as a modest dream. Allegheny East and Chesapeake, two conferences in the Columbia Union, agreed to break tradition and collaborate on an evangelistic campaign—to erase territory lines in the Baltimore area and, together, win individuals for the kingdom. When these conference leaders approached the union for support, the union executive committee realized it was the perfect opportunity to support the General Conference’s Mission to the Cities project, “a five-year emphasis on sharing Jesus’ love and the hope of His soon return with people in some of world’s largest cities.”

As plans developed, this simple partnership became a collaboration of grand proportions. The “Prophecies of Hope” initiative ended up involving the teamwork of union staff; Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac conference leaders; as well as pastors and members from more than 100 congregations across the greater Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia region. With financial support from the General Conference, this was the first known collective evangelistic crusade to take place in the Columbia Union’s mid-Atlantic territory.

Planning Together

Frank Bondurant, the union’s vice president for ministries development and director of the “Prophecies of Hope” steering committee, explains that, by uniting their efforts, all participating churches could benefit from cohesive branding and a single launch date, April 11, which they advertised through radio spots, newspaper and movie theater ads, mall banners and social media. The ads promoted a single website where visitors could register for the meeting location closest to them.

Bondurant says they also developed two distinct handbills, which pastors could choose to send to their neighbors. Lastly, the steering committee promoted and provided an incentive gift that churches could give away on their opening night: a DVD on the prophecies of Daniel.

“Not only could every local church design their own program, but by being a part of this bigger package, they could get exposure they could not afford on their own,” says Bondurant. “Who knows better than the local church about what would work best for their community.”

Some churches chose unique themes, and their meetings varied in length—from a weekend, to one week, to a full month. But, one thing is sure, says Bondurant, by planning and praying together for the success of the meetings, including two prayer rallies, all of the leaders agree that more teamwork needs to happen.

“We really, really need to pull our resources and work together more in these places, especially when it comes to urban evangelism,” shares Bondurant. “We need each other.”

The success of “Prophecies of Hope” proves his point. Although numbers continue to come in, hundreds were baptized, re-baptized or joined the church through profession of faith, and many more are taking Bible studies. Here are some highlights from the ambitious venture*:



OF HOPE



PHOTO BY DAVID LEIVA

Washington Brazilian Live Streams Near and Far

During a Sabbath morning at Potomac Conference's Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md., congregants celebrated their meetings' harvest: the baptisms of one adult and four children, whose parents accompanied them into the baptismal waters. Rayssa Togo, 9, shares that she gave her life to God because, "He died on the cross and gave His life for me, so now I wanted to give mine to Him."

By week's end, an additional 20 people made decisions for baptism. A few were invitees; many had been longtime church attendees. One in particular had visited for more than 20 years and decided it was time to give his heart to the Lord.

Pastor David Barrozo reports their blessings were tripled because they live streamed their services to the Richmond Brazilian church in Richmond, Va., as well as a large congregation in Brazil, where more people committed their lives to Christ.—Vanessa Leiva

Young members watch closely as Rayssa Togo celebrates her public commitment to Christ.



Pastor Lalropuia Fanai, of Chesapeake's Mizo church in Burtonsville, Md., baptizes one of many new believers.

Linthicum Tries Roundtables

Frank Bondurant and David Glass, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Linthicum (Md.) church, teamed up to try a new method: hosting meetings in a hotel banquet hall and using a roundtable approach. Each table consisted of a trained Bible facilitator to lead the study, then visitors contributed with questions and comments.

"It was a beautiful thing to see people of all beliefs sitting at a table casually with their Bible open, talking to each other, discussing the lesson," states Bondurant. "Throughout the meetings, we developed very strong relationships."

Another unexpected blessing was more registered guests than they'd planned for, about 40. Bondurant and Pastor Glass scurried to find additional facilitators and thought of Scott Loschiavo, one of Linthicum church's newest converts. "He still wasn't baptized but was on fire and said he would love to do it," recalls Bondurant. And, although they were initially concerned when the pastor of another denomination and six of his church members sat at Loschiavo's table, "Scott and this group bonded, and Scott is so excited," says Bondurant. "This has done exciting things for Christ and has encouraged church members."

Loschiavo says, "God gave me the opportunity and ability to help, explain, teach and lead discussions about topics they didn't really understand. The Holy Spirit is using all of us to get the Word out and save people."

—Leander Tomazeli, co-writer



PHOTO BY JAE SHIN



Soo Me Lee, the church's healthy cooking lecturer, educates attendees how to best prepare their food.

Washington-Spencerville Korean Feeds Body and Soul

The Washington-Spencerville Korean church in Spencerville, Md., launched their series with a health food festival, teaching

healthy cooking and eating principles to more than 120 attendees. They followed up with a week of evening sermons. As a result, more than 20 individuals requested Bible studies and

have been connected to one of this Chesapeake church's 24 small groups. They hosted a simultaneous four-day series for young adults, where they used the small group approach, gathering at people's homes.

"Our meetings were successful in three ways: 1) they encouraged our own members to participate in the blessing of sharing the Adventist message; 2) they confirmed to the community that we are a church that serves our neighbors; and 3) we have more people becoming part of our church and movement!" shares David Kim, youth pastor.

Atholton Serves Deaf Members

One truly unique aspect of the series at Chesapeake's Atholton church in Columbia, Md., were the American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters (one pictured). Churches rarely afford "qualified" interpreters for programs, reports Laura Quinn, a member who regularly interprets but isn't officially trained. Having the interpreters gave deaf members from all around Maryland the rare opportunity to truly benefit from an evangelistic series, which Quinn says produced big smiles and a few tears of joy.

"The deaf community is often passed over because we do not have qualified individuals in the church to interpret the speaker's message accurately and fully into ASL," says Quinn, an ASL advocate for the church. "We want the message of hope to be accessible to all people, including those who use ASL, which is a complex visual language."



PHOTO BY BETH VILLANUEVA



AEC's Pisgah church in Bryans Road, Md., celebrates the baptisms of Jared Moore (12), a fourth-generation Adventist, as well as Carlise Shaw (11) and her father, Carlos Shaw, who witnessed Jesus' love through Carlise and his wife, Cerise, an active member.



Pastor Ron Clouzet prepares new believers for the baptismal pool following a series at Chesapeake's Frederick Spanish church in Frederick, Md., where a guest speaker from Colombia presented the message. (Read more on page 19.)



Rear Adm. Barry C. Black (Ret.), the 62nd chaplain of the United States senate, speaks at Potomac's Takoma Park (Md.) church, which attracted more than 70 visitors. Pastor Henry Wright reports six new members and eight who came forward for baptism.



Charles Blythe, pastor at Chesapeake's Pikesville (Md.) church, greets visitors at his evangelistic series, which resulted in five baptisms.



PHOTO BY MARLON MING

Glenridge Finds Visitors at Community Fair

Allegheny East Conference's Glenridge church in District Heights, Md., attracted some visitors to their four-week seminar through participation in a community fair, where they taught attendees the health message, prayed with them and invited them to the meetings.

Chris Segnigan attended from the beginning and took his stand for the Lord through baptism on the final Sabbath. Segnigan, whose brother had also recently joined the Adventist Church, says after hearing Pastor Vernon Waters' nightly presentations, "This solidified my stand for biblical truth and my desire to be baptized."

On closing night, others took their stand for the Lord and Glenridge Bible workers continue to follow up and conduct Bible studies.—Ivett Scott

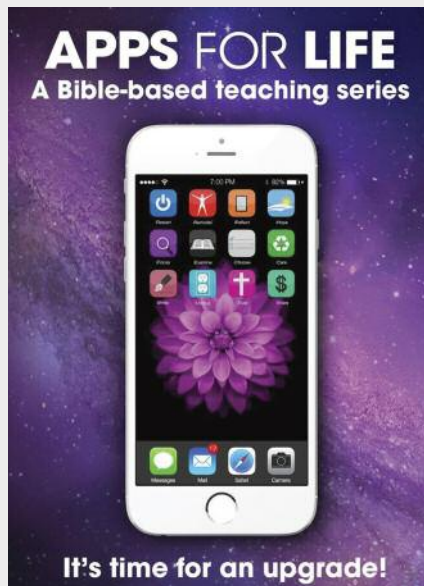
Chris Segnigan stands with Pastor Vernon Waters to publicly declare his commitment to the Lord.



New Laurel Church Plant Connects Residents

The Connection Community church plant was only six months old when they participated in "Prophecies of Hope." Their monthlong series attracted 60 or more from the Laurel, Md., community, seven of whom made decisions for baptism.

One new believer found her way into the church "by mistake," reports Steve Leddy, pastor of the Chesapeake church. Tamesha Romans (pictured with Leddy) was trying a new shortcut to her home from the local park when she passed by the church. A greeter offered her a bulletin and invited her in. And, she continued faithfully attending, says Leddy. "Providentially, she called her mother and found out she also had recently started studying at an Adventist church in Jamaica," he says. Romans' newly baptized mother flew into town to witness her life-changing dip in the water.



Reisterstown Creates "Apps for Life"

Pastor Andre Hastick creatively titled his series at the Reisterstown (Md.) church "Apps for Life." The meetings included inspirational messages to address everyday challenges, such as iTrust—how to find long-term security; iRemodel—how to revitalize health and life; and iChoose—how to find belonging and purpose through community.

His team, part of Chesapeake, even developed an app for those who wanted to watch via live stream.

Many attendees say the series helped them better understand the Bible, and several requested baptism. "The biggest take away is that there is still a very strong interest in society [to know] what the Bible has to say concerning real-life issues," says Pastor Hastick. "People are recognizing that God's original plan for humanity is still relevant for life today."

**Read more stories about "Prophecies of Hope" in the July newsletters of each participating conference.*

Conference Youth Celebrate Global Youth Day

For the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Global Youth Day, many churches in the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) participated in various community-focused activities. Here is how some of the churches decided to "be the sermon" that day:

In addition to prayers and free hugs, the **Rehoboth Spanish church** in Reading, Pa., distributed hot ginger tea, healthy fruit smoothies and homemade granola. Members of the congregation also sang to passersby. In the afternoon, they served lunch to community members and administered free health screenings. That evening they presented a worship program at a local shelter.

The Orange Constellation Adventurer Club from the **Church of the Oranges** in Orange, N.J., visited the



Members of the Campostella Heights church pray with a community member.



Members of the Rehoboth Spanish church sing and offer free hugs to passersby.

Orange Fire Department to donate fire alarms they collected for families in need. They also assembled food packages at a local food bank and volunteered at a soup kitchen.

The Norfolk Comanches Drum Corp from the **Campostella Heights church** in Norfolk, Va., attracted an audience, then youth from the Campostella Heights church distributed 200 snack sacks to residents of two redevelopment communities near the church. Church members also handed out fresh produce.

Germantown Church Drama Draws Community

For the past four years, during the time of year when many communities celebrate Easter, the drama ministry at the Germantown church in Philadelphia has transformed its sanctuary into a set for a stage play. This year's production, *The Playbook*, written by member Ina Farrell, was set in an urban community plagued with drugs and crime. The play centered on the struggles of a recovering addict and a church forced to re-evaluate their evangelism efforts.



During *The Playbook*, leaders of a community drug ring visit the local church.



Members of the Hillside church choir perform a musical selection.

"The mission of the story is to show that, regardless of the things that we plan or the efforts of the enemy, God's Word prevails in the end," says Farrell.

The play's three-day run attracted more than 100 community members.

"By celebrating the Lord's resurrection and making it a prominent feature in our evangelistic efforts, it has opened doors for us," says Pastor Pete Palmer.

NEWS

New Web Series Explores Importance of Regional Conferences

Through a new video Web series, Allegheny East Conference leadership is spearheading an ongoing discussion on the origin of regional conferences and the state of race relations in the church. Frank E. Legette, III, pastor of the Walnut Street church in Pottstown, Pa., and Truth Tabernacle in Norristown, hosted the first discussion in the series titled “Are We Still Relevant? A Critical Look at Regional Conferences Past, Present and Future.”

“The goal of this series is to provide multiple perspectives on the relevance of regional conferences and continue to address racial equality in the church,” says Legette.

These “webisodes” hosted on visitaec.org include interviews with Dan Jackson, North American Division (NAD) president; Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial church (Mich.); Benjamin Baker, assistant archivist in the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics and Research; Calvin Rock, retired church administrator; and Alvin Kibble, NAD vice president.



Pastor Frank E. Legette interviews Dan Jackson during “Are We Still Relevant?”

Prior to launching the series, AEC hosted a symposium on the subject that featured an audience of administrators, pastors, students and special guests. More than 2,200 viewers watched the live stream.

PFA Holds 69th Commencement

Conference leadership recently wished congratulations to the “insuperable Class of 2015” (pictured), the newest alumni of Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa. Every graduating senior was accepted at four-year colleges, including La Sierra University (Calif.), Oakwood University (Ala.), Pacific Union College (Calif.) and Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Morgan Winkfield is the class valedictorian.



Alumnus MyRon Edmonds, pastor of Allegheny West Conference’s Glenville church in Cleveland, spoke for the baccalaureate ceremony. Heather J. Knight, 21st president of Pacific Union College, gave the commencement address.

Recreation Church Serves Community

The Recreation church in Baltimore is providing much-needed service to its Park Heights community, where nearly 50 percent of the residents live at or below the poverty line. Members come together each week during the traditional Sabbath School time to provide a small meal for residents. This has come to be known as “Service School.”

The goal of the program, say church leaders, is not to get people to join the church, but for members to learn to follow the example Jesus set when He walked the Earth—to meet people’s immediate needs.

“We strive to make everything we do about Jesus and those who He loves. It’s not about us,” says Vincent Dehm, lead pastor.

Mitchellville Pastor Helps Make History

Leslie Moise, pastor of the Mitchellville (Md.) church, helped make history when he administered the oath of office to Jean Monestime. Monestime is the first Haitian-American to serve on the Board of County Commissioners in Miami-Dade (Fla.). “I was grateful to be asked to participate in such a momentous occasion,” says Moise. “I hope that his term of service will be profitable to the community.”



Leslie Moise administers the oath of office to Jean Monestime as Monestime’s wife, Kettia, holds the Bible.

PHOTO BY RYAN HOLLOWAY

Glenville Church Builds Relationships in Euclid

The Glenville church in Cleveland is currently in the middle phase of their Building a Place for Grace campaign to build a multifunctional community facility in the Euclid neighborhood. Construction is set to take place in early 2016. Church members have become more active at introducing themselves to the community, including going door to door to meet residents.

One of their more successful efforts was an inaugural ice cream social in a neighborhood park. Church leaders planned the social to reach the youth and families of Euclid while also providing an opportunity for church members to leap out of the brick-and-mortar building and engage with the people. Planners also wanted to reveal the grace of Christ through beyond-the-surface conversations as well as free ice cream and exciting games.



Two young ladies from the neighborhood enjoy their time with the Glenville youth.



The Glenville Drum Corp performs as the crowd gathers for the ice cream social.



Glenville members knock on doors of community members.

“Euclid is a community in grave need of social and cultural transformation, having bared the painful marks of poverty, crime and fragmented families. It is in deep need of God’s grace,” says Pastor MyRon Edmonds. “The ice cream social [helped us] break through spiritual, cultural and socio-economic barriers and bring people from different spheres of life together as brothers and sisters.”

Hundreds of youth and their parents attended the event. The atmosphere was lively, ringing with childrens’ laughter and the booming base of Christian music. Aaron Cammon, youth coordinator, provided the spoken word and led testimonies that included children proclaiming the greatness of God.

Glenville’s church members, young and old, got to know the youth and parents of the community. “The feedback from the event affirmed that when you focus on extending grace, no matter the form, it naturally draws all men closer to God,” says Edmonds. A single mother who attended told a church member, “Sometimes you feel so neglected as a community, and it feels good to know that someone cares about us.” Another neighbor raved about the event and expressed deep appreciation for their church really acting like a church.

The event was not only a blessing to residents, but also to the church members says Edmonds. He adds, “The opportunity to step out of the confinements of our church building and serve the needs of the people of Euclid brought an unspeakable joy and peace to our souls that can’t be captured in words.”—*Akhil Esdaille*

Cincinnati Hispanic Churches Unite, Celebrate Baptisms

La Voz de la Esperanza (Voice of Prophecy) recently hosted a series of meetings in Cincinnati. Rafael Soto, senior pastor for the Central Hispanic, El Buen Pastor and La Esperanza churches in Cincinnati, says the many Hispanics in the community were eager to receive the message of the soon coming of Jesus and of His love for them.

La Voz speaker Omar Grieve and his wife, Nesy, preached messages about health and church doctrine each night to a packed room.

On the last Sabbath, the three churches met at one location, the Cincinnati Central Spanish church's new facility. There were no empty seats that afternoon—



Newly baptized members say the Lord helped them win many battles before baptism.



New members publicly affirm their faith before being baptized at the Central church.

even the hallways were full of church members and visitors. They also celebrated their first meeting in the building by baptizing 23 new members.

Angie de la Mota Rilo, from the Columbus Hispanic church in Columbus, was part of the celebration and sang several songs. She says it was “very emotional” to see every member in attendance stand in response to Pastor Grieve’s call to action.

At the end of the program, many members committed to establish more churches in the city. “They will do it, not because it is easy, but because God is by their side,” declares Soto.

Ethan Temple Hosts Community Guest Day, Health Fair

Ethan Temple in Clayton, Ohio, recently hosted two community-based events. The Sabbath School department, led by Donna Taylor, hosted the annual Community Guest Day and presented special awards to well-deserving local citizens. William T. Cox, president of the Allegheny West Conference, presented the sermon that morning. Church leadership then recognized Mia Wortham Spells, a local attorney, and Brandon McKinney, a former NFL player, with the Outstanding Community Service Award.

Both awardees are known for their involvement in community volunteerism. For years Spells has worked in private law practice and volunteered to help the less

fortunate through organizations like the local NAACP. McKinney played for the San Diego Chargers, the Baltimore Ravens and the Indianapolis Colts. Through his foundation, BJ 91kids, he hosts football camps and provides free back-to-school haircuts. The foundation also runs the Fatherhood Initiative for children and young adults that teaches responsible parenting, conflict resolution and the prevention of early fatherhood.

The Adventist Community Service department also recently sponsored a community health fair. Several local healthcare related organizations, such as Premiere Health, the Alzheimer’s Association and Life Connections, provided free tests to individuals and families.—*Don G. Black*

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JUNE 2015

The Joy of Renewing Old Friendships

I was recently able to combine a Sabbath church appointment with an opportunity to visit friends whom I had not seen in far too many years. My wife and I, taking a risk, stopped and knocked at their door unannounced. We were greeted warmly and enjoyed a couple of hours just catching up. We felt that the visit was a heartwarming happening for both families.

That visit reminds me of another friendship that I have been renewing lately. Although I have read many of the Spirit of Prophecy books from cover to cover, I have not done so for some time. Oh yes, I have read portions of different volumes in my personal study, but I gain a broader personal perspective when reading these books from beginning to end. The results of recapturing the big picture have been rewarding, inspiring and regenerating. I have enjoyed the privilege of being drawn anew to that close walk with God.

If you also have not read some of those good books recently, I encourage you to read a selected volume from cover to cover and enjoy the privilege of renewing your friendship walk with God.



Mark Walker
Associate Superintendent
of Schools

Chesapeake, Colombian Pastors Swap Mission Fields

Chesapeake Conference recently sent 10 pastors to Bogotá, Colombia, where they conducted 10 evangelistic meetings in the southern part of the large cosmopolitan capital city as part of an exchange program. The outcome was positive—with some 105 people baptized and many more participating in Bible studies.

“The pastors came back very inspired about the results God brought about,” says Eli Rojas, conference ministerial director.

Following the meetings in Colombia, 14 pastors from Bogotá came to the United States to conduct evangelistic efforts in 14 Hispanic churches in Maryland



At the close of their visit to America, pastors from Colombia join Chesapeake pastors at the conference office in Columbia, Md.



Ramon Croussett, pastor for the Baltimore Central, Dundalk, Glen Burnie and Annapolis Spanish churches in Maryland, preaches to a congregation at the Nasareth church in Bogotá, Colombia.

and Delaware. Orlando Rosales, conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator, reports the meetings helped lead more than 50 people to accept Christ and get baptized, with others now preparing for baptism.

“We are used to ‘going to the mission field,’ but this time the mission field [represented by these 14 pastors] came to us,” says Rojas. “The excitement of these two events was felt in Bogotá, and also here in Chesapeake. The interesting thing is that the Colombian pastors [also] saw their trip as a mission trip.”

NEWS

Middletown Valley Church Partners With Meals on Wheels

The community services team at the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md., recently partnered with Meals on Wheels of Frederick County, Maryland, to provide emergency boxed meals for homebound senior citizens. Seniors keep these boxes on hand in case Meals on Wheels is unable to deliver, says Celeste Voigt, the church's community services coordinator.

Participants brought in shoeboxes they decorated with wrapping paper and added shelf stable food items to make the meal kits. This was the first batch of many emergency meals the church plans to provide to the local seniors.

"This is a project we want to be a part of. [It's] easy to do as a group and fun for the kids," says Voigt. —Yvonne Rozman

PHOTO BY JEENA INJETY



Middletown Valley church kids craft drawings to include in emergency meal boxes for homebound seniors.

Brooklyn, Glen Burnie Churches Celebrate Merger

After several months of dialogue, two south Baltimore area churches led by Pastor Diego Boquer recently agreed to combine their congregations. The 62-member Brooklyn (Md.) congregation listed their church building for sale and began worshipping—just seven miles away—with the 151-member Glen Burnie (Md.) congregation at their church on Aquahart Road.

"The purpose of the merger is to strengthen our ministries to better serve the Lord and hasten His coming," says Boquer.

The blended church family commemorated the happy union with a "marriage celebration" Sabbath. Highlights include the baptisms of Mignon Scott and Raymond Weiland during the worship service. Members and guests



The merged congregation joins in a responsive reading during their "marriage" service.

also invited church leaders to the front of the sanctuary for a prayer of dedication, then enjoyed a standing-room-only fellowship luncheon after the service.

The newlywed congregation will select a new name for their church this summer.

Summer Camps Offer Fun in the Sun

Good times are in store for young people who opt to spend a week in a cabin at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., or attend a day camp in one of the six locations in Maryland or Delaware.

Staff is busy preparing spiritual programs and drama for evening gatherings and outdoor pursuits ranging from water sports and a zip line to crafts and field trips. Camps begin this month and run through July. The day camps, called FLAG

(Fun Learning About God) Camp, take place at the West Wilmington church/school in Wilmington, Del.; Park church and Beacon of Light church in Salisbury, Md.; and the Chest River Adventist School/Chestertown church in Chestertown, Md. The New Hope church in Fulton, Md., is also hosting a day camp called Kids Camp Fulton.

"Our theme this summer, 'Eyes on the Prize,' is to encourage our young campers to begin now to enrich their relationship with God," says Carl Rodriguez, conference Youth Ministries director. To register and get details, visit mtaetnacamp.com or call (301) 824-2729.

PHOTO BY DIDIER BRIVAL



God Had Greater Plans for Us in Brazil

The Highlanders, Highland View Academy's (HVA) choir, recently shared our talents on a music mission trip to Brazil. Fellow students commented that the trip was exhilarating, life-changing, tiring, indescribable, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and an experience that brought many closer to God.

As on most mission trips, surprises arose shortly after we arrived. We initially intended to start our concert series with vespers at a school that first evening, but, after arriving, administrators asked if we could first perform a concert for the students. Although jet lagged and tired, we happily obliged. As the days continued, a similar trend followed. Each day we added more and more concerts as word of the performances spread to the regional schools and churches. By the end of the trip, our schedule expanded from 11 to 20 performances—sometimes four or five in one day.



The Highlanders enjoy a visit to a botanical garden in Rio de Janeiro.



Juniors Rachel McNeave and Kayla Miller enjoy the view in Rio de Janeiro.

Although the schedule was tiring, God did amazing things at each of the performances. We could truly feel His presence. All the nervousness that encompassed us before the trip quickly dissolved when, each day, we saw the joy and blessing we were bringing to the lives of so many.

During one concert, Alissa Tanguay ('16) played a violin solo featuring the tunes of two hymns and says she was particularly blessed as the audience sang along in Portuguese. She shares, "That amazing experience reminded us that the body of Christ spans the whole world, and it is wonderful to be a part of this special family."

Later in Rio de Janeiro, the Highlanders saw the favelas, homes made with roofs of sheet metal and walls of wood scraps, and began to truly understand how blessed we are. We also realized that our purpose was not simply to sing, but also to give the children hope. A pastor at one of the schools told us, "Many of these children will never leave the borders of Brazil simply because it is so large. Your being here has given the students hope that they, too, can have the opportunity to go to another country to visit and study."

Our intent was to go to Brazil and sing, but God had much greater plans. He used our songs as tools that allowed us to develop friendships and inspire others to live for Him and strive for greatness. This trip allowed us to realize our true mission and purpose: to inspire others and spread hope and love through the power of Jesus Christ.—Kayla Miller ('16)

PHOTO BY CATHY JACKSON



The Highlanders get ready to head to Brazil.

STEM Outreach Programs Draw Visitors

This year Highland View Academy started two outreach STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) after-school programs, which allow children aged 8-11 to engage in hands-on learning activities once a month at the academy. The 20 students involved in the program enjoyed activities, such as working with polymers, studying the Antarctic, experiencing microscopy and dissecting owl pellets. Ophelia Barizo, HVA vice principal for advancement and STEM; Natalie Harr, Einstein Fellow at the National Science Foundation (Va.); and Klynda Bauer ('09), a recent graduate from Andrews University (Mich.), led the sessions. Parents of the children in the after-school program appreciate the STEM engagement their kids experience and say that their kids are eager to return each month.

The school also introduced a monthly STEM lecture series for adults. Speakers have included Harr, who spoke about science research at the Antarctic; Joseph Bozenko, senior research chemist at the Drug Enforcement Agency (Washington, D.C.), who spoke about forensic drug chemistry; mycologist Jared Urchek, who spoke about medicinal mushrooms and mycoremediation; and Daphney Jean, from the National Science Foundation, who spoke on Alzheimer's disease.

Thirty to 35 people attended each lecture, including members of the community, teachers and students from Washington County Maryland Public Schools, and HVA students and staff. The Washington County STEM

program encourages teachers to attend the lectures each month. In fact, one local public high school teacher attended every lecture and gives her students extra credit for attending as well.

The outreach programs will resume in the winter. For more information, please contact Barizo at ombarizo@gmail.com.

PHOTOS BY OPHELIA BARIZO



Students in the afterschool program make polymer slime.



Klynda Bauer, Class of 2009 (center), teaches students to use the digital microscope.



Students dissect a barn owl pellet and check out the bones of its prey.

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

JUNE 2015

What I Learned From My Mission Trip to Thailand

Last November my mother and I left our home in West Virginia for a three-month mission trip to Sunshine Orchard Children's Home and Learning Center in Tak, Thailand. Sunshine Orchard serves more than 3,000 Karen refugee children from Myanmar. It was challenging to learn to use their toilets, take a bath and just live regular life. The worst part was I couldn't understand them.



Timothy sits in a bale of blankets purchased with money largely donated by churches in the Mountain View Conference.

The kids there have lost so much because of civil war, but they don't take life for granted. Often they begin attending our school with threats that they will be disowned or killed if they become Seventh-day Adventists.

One gloomy day, I took a walk and a group of orphans I worked with joined me. I found myself carrying 3-year-old Timothy and, as we neared home, he said in a sad little voice, "Bekah. Papa Doh



Rebekah Jones relaxes with refugee students.

[Paul Adams, the children's home director] sick."

"Oh, no! Are you sad?" I asked. "Yes." He looked up at me with soft black eyes, creased his eyebrows and snuggled deeper in my arms. I knew he wanted me to fix the problem, but I couldn't do much. "Do you want me to pray for him?" I asked looking intently into his eyes. "Yea," he said. So we prayed for Papa Doh.

When we finished, I asked him if he believed Papa Doh would get well. He said he did, and I told him that Jesus would make him well. Then he laid his head on my shoulder. I learned that sometimes the little "unimportant" moments that we share make the biggest difference.—*Rebekah Jones, a member of the Glenville (W.Va.) church*

Pathfinders Compete in Bible Championship

Five Mountain View Conference youth recently participated in the Columbia Union Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) held at Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church. Zachary Dale, Nathan Dale, Annicka Hoffman, Kristiana Hoffman and Braden Stapleton comprised the combined team from the Summersville (W.Va.) and Charleston (W.Va.) Pathfinder clubs. The questions for the 2015 PBE were based on the book of Matthew and the introduction to Matthew found in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. The youngest team member, Kristiana, shared, "I loved the Pathfinder Bible Experience and I can't wait to do it next year. I'm going to start learning Exodus right now!"

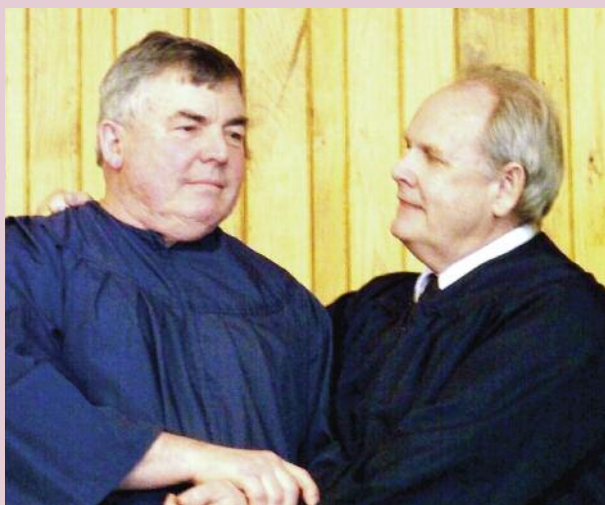
This event continues to spark an interest in God's Word among the youth, says Joel Stecker, conference Pathfinder director.



Joel Stecker and the Mountain View Pathfinder PBE team share in the excitement of the day.

I Learned About God's Perfect Timing

Little did I know that, when I met Phil Fogleman in 2007, he would help *me* in my Christian walk. My wife and I met Phil at Frontier Homes in Summersville, W.Va., where he is the proprietor. I knew there was something different about him. It seemed every time we asked him a question about a model home, he answered and immediately started talking about the Second Coming. He was determined to ask us about Jesus.



Pastor Jim Buchanon baptizes his friend Phil Fogleman.

We eventually began studying the Bible together. He then attended an evangelistic series at the Summersville (W.Va.) church in 2009 and came forward during a call to baptism. Phil called me faithfully every morning, telling me the end is here. He said he saw all the signs, but was not ready to follow Christ and get baptized. I have to admit there were times I thought I should just dust my feet off and move on. I was impatient and not waiting on the Lord. But, the Holy Spirit nudged me to hang on. I continued to encourage, mentor and love him as my friend.

Then Phil started regularly attending church, witnessing and inviting friends to church. I continued talking to him most mornings, even after I transferred to another district. Summersville church members also reached out to him. In 2014 he attended another series of meetings at the church. Pastor Jaime Rodriguez, the new pastor of the Summersville church, had a couple of studies with him, and Phil finally made the decision.

"[When] I look at Christ, I see how sinful I really am," says Phil about why he finally decided to get baptized.

More than seven years passed between when I met Phil until his baptism earlier this year. I learned our job is to plant the seeds of truth, then allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and change to the life of individuals.—*Pastor Jim Buchanon*

Conference Schools Start Growth Initiative

There is an extra buzz of activity at Mountain View Conference schools thanks to an innovative school growth and marketing initiative. The conference administrative team, including the executive committee and board of education, have hired Teresa Kelchner, president of Christian Education Matters, to provide one year of consulting services to the conference's eight schools.

Kelchner, a specialist in helping Christian schools flourish, is working with each school to develop an individualized action plan for improving school quality, stability and enrollment. Members and leaders clearly see the evangelistic potential of well-run Adventist schools and are excited about the possibilities this innovative program offers.—*Cheryl Jacko*



Teresa Kelchner (back row, second from left) meets with Mountain View Conference teachers and staff.

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

JUNE 2015

Alumni Weekend Serves as Bittersweet Homecoming

Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) recently hosted the last alumni weekend to take place on their 122-year-old campus. Titled “122nd Year Homecoming,” the school packed the three-day program with traditional activities, which were marked with boisterous greetings of lifelong friends and more than a few tears that this chapter of their collective history was coming to a close.

The weekend was the largest alumni gathering in recent history with an estimated 1,400 attendees on Sabbath. Many described the reunion as bittersweet, though the spirit was positive throughout the weekend. During the worship service, the Alumni Association distributed special awards, including one for teachers Bruce and Shari Bellchambers for 30 years of dedicated service to the students of MVA.

“The Bellchambers didn’t think of teaching at MVA as just a job. They set a standard. They were MVA,” says James Fortner ('66), a member of the Columbus Eastwood church in Westerville and an Ohio Conference Executive Committee member.

Returning students, as well as former and retired faculty and staff, gave tributes to deceased classmates, many of whom went on to be pastors, teachers and denominational leaders. More than 7,000 students have attended and/or graduated from MVA during the past 122 years, and many have impacted the world to a great extent through various occupations and/or community involvement.



During her vespers sermon, senior Alyssa Thompson reminds attendees that “God is always with us.”



Longtime MVA educators Shari and Bruce Bellchambers receive recognition for more than 30 years of service to the academy.

During the benediction, Brenda Colegrove Fortner ('65), a member of the Columbus Eastwood church, said, “Many of us may never see each other again after today, but we will see each other in heaven.”

Senior Alyssa Thompson summarized the emotion of the weekend during her direct vespers message. She encouraged everyone present by saying, “God is always with us. ... What we’re facing here on Earth is nothing compared to the eternity we’re facing with Jesus.”

Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president, and Lyle Litzenberger, former interim Ohio Conference treasurer, addressed the alumni during the standing-room-only business meeting Saturday night. They shared the details of MVA’s journey to this point and answered questions collected by Dayne Thomas, alumni president. The school made history when, at the conclusion of the meeting, they voted students from all grades into the alumni association.

While the immediate future may be uncertain, MVA students, faculty, staff and alumni say they are undaunted. As posted in the bulletin, their legacy will continue: “May we always keep the love of Christ in our hearts, be of service to our world and be engaged in our community of faith. MVA lives as long as we live and breathe and serve!”—Heidi Shoemaker

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

JUNE 2015

Our Hard Work Paid Off at the Band Festival

I recently traveled to the biannual Walla Walla University (Wash.) Honor Band Festival with a select group from our band. To attend the festival, we had to pass very challenging auditions. This truly tested our perseverance, but helped us grow as musicians and facilitated learning the festival pieces before attending.

Only six Spring Valley Academy (SVA) students attended, but we proved ourselves to be capable, hardworking musicians. During the first days of the event, we spent hours rehearsing and striving to master several difficult, sacred pieces. Though the honor band was composed of about 50 students from several Adventist academies across the nation, we worked as a team to accomplish the difficult goals we set for ourselves. We were truly blessed to have the opportunity to play with such a skilled group of musicians and achieve such an elevated level of musicianship with which to praise God.—*Brenda Keppke* ('16)



Annual Gala Raises More Than Funds for Worthy Students

The Jolly Holiday Gala, Spring Valley Academy's fourth consecutive annual campaign, centered around *Mary Poppins*, the classic 1960s film, and included sophisticated décor and talented actors and singers. With 100 more attendees than last year, this year the gala raised more than \$335,000. What might be most impressive, however, is that the amount raised from the past four fundraisers has secured SVA's Worthy Student Fund with sufficient reserves to meet financial aid requests for the next three years. Frank Perez, SVA board chairman, reports that those funds are helping 35 percent of SVA's current students attend the academy this school year.

With those funds secure, every dollar raised at this

year's gala will go toward a new auditorium/chapel. To date, \$1.5 million has been donated or pledged toward the chapel. And, with the proceeds of the next two fundraisers to go toward the new structure, reports Perez, SVA hopes to break ground in 2017.

Darren Wilkins, principal, told gala attendees, "For all that SVA does to prepare students to succeed and contribute in their chosen careers, it is through worship and the arts that they discover beauty, meaning and the imprint of the divine in their hearts. We are gathered here for big reasons. We're coming together to put our stake in the ground, to create a space where miraculous things will happen in the lives of our kids."

—*Beth Michaels* ('90)



Volunteers make up the *Mary Poppins* cast for the Jolly Holiday Gala.

PHOTO BY SCOTT CASSELL

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

NEWS

NEW JERSEY

JUNE 2015

Is Evangelism a Gift or Duty?

On various occasions, I have heard members of the church say, “I don’t have the gift of evangelism.” To that I generally reply, “That may be true, not everyone is cut out to manage great campaigns or do television and radio presentations, but all of us as disciples have a responsibility.” Then I hasten to add that we all need to remember that evangelism itself is not so much a *gift* as it is a *duty*. It is a universal obligation, and it is the most fundamental reason why the church exists.

Evangelism has so many different facets and approaches. All of us may do something meaningful in our community. As Jesus said, “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

People are waiting for somebody who can bring hope, love and compassion. You will find that even difficult, sophisticated and secular people have needs and will open to the touch of a compassionate hand. This is also real evangelism.

Let us seek to discover our talents and then work harmoniously within the body of believers. We are to become part of Jesus’ team. In the final analysis, we will come to recognize that all of our gifts, talents and resources were bestowed for the purpose of finishing the great commission of bringing sinners to the feet of Jesus so they will be ready for His second coming. The more time we waste on mere religious myths, human excuses and secondary matters, the longer it will take for us to enter the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem.



José H. Cortés
President

Wayne Church Teams With ADRA to Spread Love

The Wayne church has been collecting money for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) each month for about five years. Church leaders recently decided to do something extra special. The church set a goal of donating \$5,000 toward drilling a well for a community unable to safely draw clean water, which is one of the projects from ADRA’s *Really Useful Gift Catalog*.

“We thought we could give Jesus a gift since He is the One to be celebrated [during] the holidays. So, [when] giving water to people that really need it, we think we have done it for Jesus as well,” says Jim Creighton, Prayer Ministries coordinator.

“This is not the end of our continued support [for] ADRA. We will continue to take collections for different causes,” says Pastor Eduardo Monteiro. “We encourage other members of the community and other congregations to support local and global charities to help



the world become a better place, and to help spread the love of Jesus Christ.”—*Jan Chris Tacbianan*

Collingwood Park Member Serves Church, Society

Last December Bernice Bouzy graduated summa cum laude from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a bachelor's in nursing. Bouzy, a member of the Collingwood Park church in Tinton Falls, has put her Seventh-day Adventist education into practice and demonstrated commitment to serving the church and society in a myriad of ways.

As a recent graduate, she dedicated the first part of her career to God by spreading the gospel as a student missionary for more than eight months in the jungles of Peru. While there, she volunteered as an English teacher, volunteered at a local orphanage, led Bible studies and helped start a church.

Bouzy is also actively involved in her local community, including teaching children from low-income homes about Jesus. She once helped a Cuban family adjust to life in the United States by transporting them to the doctor, providing them clothing for the winter, teaching them about health, buying them a family Bible and more. She also often provides special music at church.

"We are glad that Bernice has chosen to return home to New Jersey, especially the Collingwood Park church," says Pastor Sadrail Saint-Ulyssee. "She is a product of Adventist education, and we are looking forward to her involvement with the youth. Because of her love for Jesus; her commitment to service; her love for the church, the community and for humanity, Bernice is an excellent role model to our youth."



Conference Community Center Meets Needs

Since the New Jersey Conference opened an Adventist Community Service (ACS) center in 2012, it has been a hub of activity. "Our first opportunity to serve came in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy," says Mike Gill, conference executive secretary and ACS director. "In the months that followed, we prepared and delivered over \$1 million in donated goods from our center. Another army of Seventh-day Adventist volunteers operated the Robbinsville Warehouse where we received, sorted and distributed \$50 million in donated goods to a host of non-profit entities serving along the Jersey shore."

The center remains busy. Gill reports that the center staff hosts ACS disaster response training sessions



with nationally accredited instructors and serves 140 families monthly at the food pantry. He adds that the Second Acts thrift shop also generates income to help fund the center's free services.

Because the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., closed, the conference reopened its Adventist book store, also located in the center. In addition to selling books, it also hosts a weekly Bible study with 10 regular visitors.

But, the center isn't done growing. "Our center serves its community faithfully. Plans are underway to add classes in beginning computer training and English as a second language," adds Gill. "But, all this requires volunteers and donations. Please come, shop, train and serve."

Conference Welcomes New Treasurer

After conducting an extensive search for more than a year, the Ohio Conference leadership team introduced new Ohio Conference treasurer Karen L. Senecal. Senecal arrived last month from the Oklahoma Conference where she served as treasurer for three years, including one year as executive secretary/treasurer. She also worked as an assistant professor at several colleges and universities.

"I'm very excited to work for the Lord in Ohio. I believe I'll be joining a dedicated, self-sacrificing, enthusiastic team. And, I can't wait to experience the wonderful ways that the Lord will lead," says Senecal.

When not traveling on weekends for conference-related commitments, Senecal enjoys being active in her local church. For more than 20 years, in several different churches, she taught Beginners' Sabbath School. "I love making friends with the little ones and teaching them about Jesus," she shares.

Senecal also trains and participates in half-marathons, travels and enjoys southern gospel music.

She replaces interim treasurer Lyle Litzenberger who, with his wife, Runette, served in Ohio for the past six months.



Mount Vernon Hill Church Hosts Hometown Meeting

As noted in the May issue of *Mission Ohio*, the Ohio Conference Camp Meeting originally scheduled for June 2015 will not take place due to the General Conference Session in July. The "Landmarks of the Faith" meetings, July 29–August 1 at the Mount Vernon Hill church in Mount Vernon, are part of the Hometown Camp Meetings planned for the summer.

At these meetings, attendees will review how Seventh-day Adventist Church pioneers, from approximately 1844 to 1890, developed the church's core biblical doctrines. Each doctrine has a particular story behind it, whether it

was confirmed on a walk in a cornfield October 23, 1844, at the Sabbath-Sanctuary Conferences of 1848-50 or at the 1888 Minneapolis General Conference Session. This series will look at each particular story.

Fred Shoemaker (pictured), pastor of the Mount Vernon Hill church, enjoys studying Adventist history and will present this seminar series about the historical development of Adventist theology. Utilizing his PhD in American History from The Ohio State University, Shoemaker will share insights on this story of the development of the faith of the church.



Here is the schedule of seminar topics:

- July 29, 7 p.m.—The Sabbath
- July 30, 7 p.m.—The Second Coming
- July 31, 7 p.m.—The Sanctuary
- August 1, 11 a.m.—Sleep of the Dead
- August 1, 2 p.m.—Righteousness by Faith

For more information, visit welcometothehill.org.

Medina Community Services Center Helps Local Teens

The Adventist Community Services Center (CSC) of Medina, sponsored by the Medina church, helps provide food, clothing, holiday gift baskets, household goods and, now, formal dresses to those in need in Medina County.

CSC leaders continually evaluate the needs of their community and clients to see if there is anything further they can do to help. Kristy Baddley, assistant director for the center, noticed that there were a lot of young girls who could not afford a prom or banquet dress. She worked with Michelle (La Mar) Hitchcock, director, to develop a ministry to provide dresses to students who live in Medina County. They started collecting formal dresses to distribute to local girls for their high school proms or banquets.



Young ladies can complete their formal ensembles with a variety of accessories, including shoes.



High school girls enjoy "shopping" for their formal school functions from the hundreds of donated dresses.

Four years later, CSC now offers hundreds of formal dresses complete with shoes, purses and other accessories for the students. Volunteers display the dresses and accessories in a large room where girls can shop.

"Sometimes girls come individually with their mothers, and sometimes they come as a group," says Pastor Chester Hitchcock. "Kristy says that she really enjoys watching the girls' eyes light up when they see so many dresses to choose from. She also said that when they come as a group, they seem to not only have fun but are very helpful and supportive of each other."

Conference Kicks Off New Leadership Course

Earlier this spring, the Ohio Conference kicked off a new lay pastoral assistant (LPA) program. "This will be a training course for elders from within our churches, elders who are team players, motivated, positive and



William Kilgore instructs elders during a lay pastoral assistant program meeting.

interested in winning souls for Christ," shares Ron Halvorsen Jr., president.

William Kilgore, a professor from Southwestern Adventist University (Texas), spent the weekend with the future LPA's at the Mohaven Resort and Conference Center in Danville and shared the techniques and tips of crafting a sermon. He taught the elders how to understand Bible texts, compare passages in multiple translations and construct a sermon outline. "Attendees returned to their churches with practical tools to share with their churches," says Halvorsen.

Once an elder completes the two-year program that requires three or four training sessions a year, they may receive an LPA credential through the Ohio Conference, renewable on a two-year basis.

The next LPA weekend is scheduled for October 2-3. For more information, contact Oswaldo Magaña at (740) 397-4665.

Pennsylvania *Pen*

JUNE 2015

Conference Expands Education Focus

Although faced with economic challenges, the Pennsylvania Conference team is committed to continuing to build a strong school system and provide quality Seventh-day Adventist education to children and teens. “We believe that Adventist education can play an important role in the spiritual development of young people, and we are unswerving in our commitment to provide this opportunity,” says Jeff Bovee, vice president of education.

Conference leadership is helping two churches work toward opening schools in the near future, as well as working with Simplicity, an urban outreach ministry in Allentown, to start a mission school for the community—one of the first such schools in the North American Division.

To help further this goal, the conference leadership team announced that, starting July 1, Rick Bianco (below) will serve as education associate for mission



Children learn about urban gardening at the Simplicity ministry in Allentown.



and growth. Bianco served as the principal at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy (HVCA) in Huntingdon Valley for the last four years and taught there for 16 years.

The Pennsylvania Conference Association Board recently allocated 20 percent of the funds remaining from the sale of the Richland school in Gibsonia to be used to create this new position. Eighty percent of those resources were divided amongst the churches that financially supported the school in the past 10 years of its ministry: the Pittsburgh church, Meridian Road church in Butler and New Brighton church. Association board members say they desired to see the conference

portion of the funds spent on strengthening and advancing education in a way that would benefit the entire conference, thus the creation of this new position.

The Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee affirmed the association’s decision and voted the funds be used to retain Bianco for three years. They intend for Bianco to partner with Bovee to accomplish three goals:

- Support the current development of the mission school
- Focus on mission and growth
- Develop and support sustainable and measurable conference educational plans

“I am looking forward to working alongside Rick to create an educational system in the Pennsylvania Conference that is mission focused in bringing students and families to the foot of the cross,” says Bovee. “And, I am excited about teaming up with pastors, churches, Pathfinders, Adventurers, the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge, Cool Camp, Simplicity and all ministries of the conference to create a unified focus on reaching out to the communities where we live to build His kingdom.”



Hispanic Ministries Director Retires

Pastor Juan López will retire from pastoral ministry this summer after leading the Hispanic work in the Pennsylvania Conference for the past 18 years. For the last three years, he pastored the Lehigh Valley Hispanic, Bethlehem Hispanic, Easton El Camino, El Faro and

Luces de Sión Hispanic churches in the Lehigh Valley Spanish District.

He began his pastoral ministry in 1978 as associate pastor of two Hispanic congregations in Los Angeles before attending Andrews University (Mich.), where he earned a master's in divinity. He returned to California and served as the associate pastor at the Hollywood Hispanic church in Los Angeles before pastoring the Ocean City Hispanic church in Ocean City, Md.

López joined the Pennsylvania Conference in 1992 and has pastored twice at Reading Hispanic in Reading, twice at Lehigh Valley Hispanic in Allentown, at Kingston Hispanic in Kingston (now the Wilkes Barre Hispanic church), at Lancaster Hispanic 1 in Lancaster and at York Hispanic in York.

He and his wife, Daisy, who works at the Pennsylvania Conference office, will remain in Reading.

Longtime Lehigh Valley Teacher Retires

"Charles Rutt (left) has served the Pennsylvania Conference for 42 years with outstanding service," reports Jeff Bovee, vice president for education. "For the last 32 years, he has served as principal and teacher at the Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist School."

This summer Rutt retires after teaching at Lehigh Valley in Whitehall, where he attended as an elementary student; the Harrisburg Seventh-day

Adventist School in Harrisburg; and the Mountain View Christian School in Williamsport.

"I could have worked in the public sector, as many of my friends did, but I always felt God calling me to teach students in the Adventist education system," shares Rutt. "I believe that Adventist education makes a difference."

He and his wife, Barbara, plan to remain in Pennsylvania and enjoy time with their two sons and three grandchildren.

Laurel Lake Church Runs Special Camp for Disabled Adults

The Laurel Lake church in Rossiter is hosting Camp Can Do August 17-21. This special summer camp is planned for adults 18 or older with physical or mental disabilities. During the week, camp volunteers will help campers enjoy horseback riding, crafts, swimming, archery, beeper ball and much more.



This is the third year church members, under the leadership of Randy Mallory, have offered this special camp at the Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center. Staff members are committed to helping every camper experience a great week of summer camp despite whatever challenges they face, says Mallory.

For more information, visit laurellakecamp.org or email Mallory at rmcm1085@aol.com.



Potomac People

JUNE 2015

Let's Focus on Cultivating for Christ

Farmers have been expert cultivators since creation. But, today cultivation means more than preparing and raising crops. Paul instructs, "Whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Gal. 6:7, ESV), and Jesus tells us "one sows and another reaps" (John 4:37, ESV). Sowing is a part of cultivating, but, more importantly, cultivating and reaping are inseparable.

Since 2012 Potomac Conference teachers, pastors, staff and administrators have focused on cultivating for the purpose of reaping. Cultivate, the conference-wide initiative, focuses on creating a presence in the community by caring for its needs. Conference churches, schools and entities like LivingWell (read about it below) have diligently worked to reach their communities, and stories are beginning to seep out of organizations that have been dormant for years. With five years of cultivating culminating in 2017, imagine the celebrations members could enjoy if they commit to reaping across Potomac!

Under Cultivate, pastors request funds for evangelism, then the conference distributes them to local churches. The more cultivating and reaping that occur, the more funding is needed to support this incredible work. This summer conference leaders set a challenge to look for 3,000 members to commit to donating \$10 per month for two years, specifically earmarked for to conference evangelism. For more information and to participate, visit tinyurl.com/pcgiving.

Staff will share more info about the 2017 reaping event at Potomac Camp Meeting, or visit pcsda.org/cultivate.



Peter Casillas
*Associate Director
of Evangelism and
Church Planting*

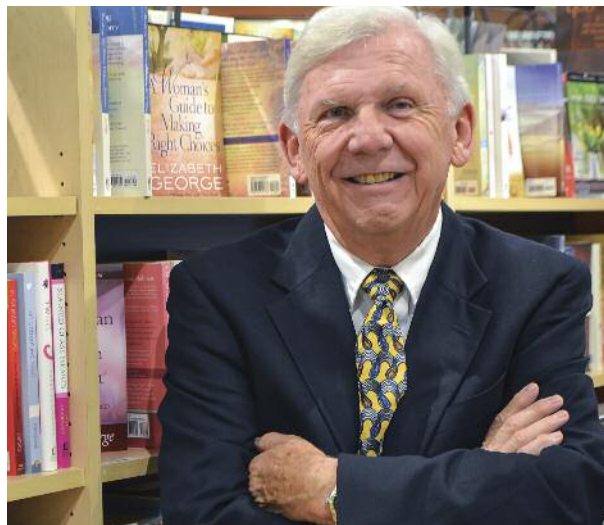
Potomac ABC Becomes LivingWell

The Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md., recently changed its name to LivingWell. The change comes after an 18-month process of talking with customers, Seventh-day Adventist church members and pastors.

"Helping people to live better physically, emotionally and spiritually is the focus of our mission," says Kermit Netteburg (pictured), interim general manager. "Our new name helps us focus on that like a laser."

The store also started several new initiatives to make certain the spiritual side of the mission increases. "We have started Bible study groups at the store, and people love them," says Kathleen Burton, operations manager. The store also gives away free Adventist literature. About 70 percent of the 13,000 monthly customer transactions are not with Adventists, making the mission potential huge.

Netteburg worries that some people may feel the store is abandoning its Adventist roots because the Adventist name isn't in the store. "We won't ever change our Adventist DNA. But, our research showed we had people who hadn't come into the store because they thought the store was only for Adventists," he says. "We want to be a 'mission field' store, as well as one that serves Adventist members."



Potomac People

Desmond T. Doss School Grows by Refocusing on Mission

Our schools and churches should assist each other through relationships, excellence and service. When we catch the vision of what we can do together, it makes a difference,” said Keith Hallam, vice president of education, at Potomac Conference’s pastor/teacher meeting in Charlottesville, Va., earlier this year.

The Lynchburg church and Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, both in Lynchburg, Va., exemplify this. At its peak, the academy had 100 students. Through the years, however, enrollment dropped to 47. This made finances tight and, with administration’s focus on boosting enrollment to meet financial obligations, principal Steve Doss admits they began to see students as money instead of a ministry.

“I know and you know that Jesus desires a relationship with our kids,” says Doss. “But, we became fixated on getting more kids for tuition purposes. The turning point came when a group from our church and school came together and prayed for the academy. At the end of the prayer session, they said we didn’t want any money, just kids. The atmosphere changed and amazing things started to happen.

Kids, resources and money started to fall out of the sky,” Doss adds. “That summer I got a call from a lady who worked for the Liberty Bible Institute in Lynchburg. She wanted to enroll her son in kindergarten. By the end of the school year, she signed up all four of her kids.”



Pastor Mike Hewitt baptizes seventh-grader Alex Doss.



Billy Wright, Desmond T. Doss teacher, leads a baptismal class with fifth- to eighth-grade students.

Noting that about 75 percent of their students aren’t Adventist, school leadership developed a plan to help further the academy’s mission to minister. Each spring and fall, administrators now plan a Week of Prayer, ending with a baptismal appeal.

Billy Wright, vice principal and fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, recently hosted a baptismal class for the students who responded to the recent appeal. At the end of the class, the parents joined a celebration of their child’s commitment.

“I knew we had kids that had been baptized in our school who were no longer attending church,” says Mike Hewitt, Lynchburg pastor. “That bothered me. So, we began asking parents to bring their child to church, and asked them to be a part of their child’s commitment and to encourage them by attending church with them ... And since then, we have started baptizing the parents as well.”

Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year was up to 77 students, with an additional 13 in the academy’s Connected School program. It’s amazing what God is doing and amazing to see the transformation that can happen when you give it all to Him,” adds Hewitt. Doss expects enrollment to be at 100 for the upcoming school year.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



JUNE 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Students Live the Great Commission Through Missions

Spring break for many students around the country is full of catching up with friends, forgetting about schoolwork and focusing on themselves. However, for some Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students, that isn't the case.

Many SVA students dedicated their spring break to living the Great Commission. Members of the school's band, orchestra, handbells, chorale and the Shenandoans, the select touring choir, traveled to Germany and Austria to share the good news.

"It was exciting to be in Europe with fellow [Seventh-day] Adventists, but still have a sense of mission," says Joshua Goines, choir director. "What we have at SVA is special, and our German and Austrian brothers and sisters are interested in sharing the gospel the same way we do."

Their performances included an impromptu concert in the streets of a market in Munich. It started when Buz Menhardt, assistant pastor of the New Market (Va.) church, started playing a song on his guitar. Several students joined in on the violin, bass and fiddle. The jam session progressed to a full, worship-filled concert presented by student musicians dressed in their tuxedos and concert gowns. After playing two songs, a restaurateur invited the group to play for the patio-seated guests at her establishment.



SVA students and volunteers pause from their hard work.

The trip was also rich in cultural and musical education. "It was a whirlwind trip, but we saw so many amazing places: Munich, Nuremburg, Vienna and Salzburg," says Kelly Weidemann, music department chair. "To walk and perform where the great composers walked and performed ... it doesn't get much better than that!"

Other students joined a mission trip to the Issachar Calling School in Waterflow, N.M., an Adventist elementary school serving the Native American community. Students built structures for the school and held daily Vacation Bible School meetings for the children. The students took Christ's words to heart: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Tim Harley, SVA chaplain and religion teacher, says the school's director told him, "SVA students accomplished more than we could have done in six months." Harley adds, "I was very proud of the work and ministry of our students on the mission trip."

Sophomore Luke Fogg says, "What an experience! It feels incredible to see the difference you make when looking at the faces of those you are helping. The people were wonderful. The children were happy to see us—they loved the worship songs we sang and Bible stories we told."

Lives were definitely changed this spring break, shares Harley. "It's truly amazing to see the Lord work through His children."



SVA students pose with Joshua Goines, choir director, in front of Ludwig van Beethoven's memorial monument in Vienna.

Junior Earns Prestigious Cultural Opportunity

The Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC) recently awarded Takoma Academy (TA) junior Janaye Dowers the chance to spend five weeks in Uruguay. The SDC provides outstanding students the opportunity to travel around the world to learn more about various languages and cultures. TA is the first Seventh-day Adventist high school to have a student chosen by this eminent organization. Keith Wilkerson, senior program manager for the A Better Chance Program, which assists students in getting into the best college preparatory high schools and colleges, recommended TA to the SDC program.

To earn the SDC trip, Dowers and fellow classmates went through an intensive application and interview process. During the final application round, Dowers excelled in an intense interview with one of the organization's founders.

Students from around the nation and from some of the country's greatest preparatory schools competed for the 140 slots. "Janaye is the perfect ambassador for God and for Takoma Academy on an international exploration like this one," says Wilkerson. "Her poise belies her years, and she will enhance the group that she will be a part of just as much as the trip will enhance her understanding of the world around her."



Dowers is junior class president, a member of the Camerata choir and recently attended TA's second annual Success Weekend. Success Weekend is an exclusive retreat created by Steve Silver ('71) to give TA students the tools and support to clarify and achieve their career goals.

Dowers will participate in Uruguay: Gaucho Culture—Traditions in the South of the World. The first part of her trip will introduce her to Uruguayan life and culture during several days in Montevideo, where she will see the beautiful colonial streets, eat empanadas and visit with a nonprofit organization that serves the indigent. She will spend the majority of her time absorbing the Gauchos culture—comprised of farmers and ranchers who have lived in harmony with nature for generations. She will also converse with cowboys and learn about sustainability in farming.

One reason the SDC is so selective and highly competitive is because of the sizable scholarships given to the selectees so that finances will not be a major hindrance to attending the trip. Takoma Academy and Dower's family provided additional support.

"I feel very privileged to have been accepted to such a nationally competitive program," says Dowers. "I look forward to growing wholistically from the experience and broadening my understanding of a new culture."

We're Growing a Passion for Excellence, Not Power

The leadership team of Washington Adventist University (WAU) is committed to creating a learning environment that fosters a passion for excellence, not power, like many in today's society. Max Lucado points out in his book *Let the Journey Begin* that the push for power has come to shove, and most of us are either pushing or being pushed. He clarified the difference between a passion for excellence and a passion for power by stating that the desire for excellence is a gift of God. It is characterized by respect for quality and a yearning to use God's gift in a way that pleases Him.

Lucado further stated, "There are certain things in life you can do that no one else can ... There are things that only you can do, and you are alive to do them ... But there is a canyon of difference between doing your best to glorify God and doing whatever it takes to glorify yourself. The quest for excellence is a mark of maturity. The quest for power is childish."

WAU staff are committed to helping our students grow academically and enhance their God-given talents to serve Christ. With that goal in mind, we promise to create a learning environment that instills a passion for excellence, not power.



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS



SGPS Marks 30th Anniversary

This spring Washington Adventist University celebrated the 30th anniversary of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) as part of its alumni weekend activities. The celebration included a tribute to Gladstone Gurubatham (above), who played a key role in founding the first adult evening program. Gurubatham is one of WAU's longest-serving faculty members and continues to educate graduate and undergraduate students as a professor of psychology.

What began as an evening program for 35 working adults seeking undergraduate degrees grew over the years into the current SGPS program, with a record number of graduate students enrolled this past fall. The school now offers 11 accelerated undergraduate and eight graduate degree programs, including two master's programs.

Summit on Race and Justice Promotes Discussion

Washington Adventist University's Center for Metropolitan Ministry and Center for Law and Public Policy recently held a Summit on Race and Justice.

"The summit was intended to bring together the community, faculty and students for a frank discussion leading to positive action, to guide us toward a time when racial profiling and injustice cease to be the norm. We hope that the conversation will continue," says Joan Francis, director of the Center for Law and Public Policy. The entire summit can be viewed on the university's YouTube page.—John Gavin



Alan Goldberg, Takoma Park police chief, and Mark McCleary, pastor of the Liberty church in Baltimore, participate in the Summit on Race and Justice.

Why I Chose WAU

This spring Washington Adventist University graduated 169 students, including 90 from the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. The students' degrees and experiences are diverse, but the quality of education remains consistent. Below, two senior class officers share why they attended WAU:



Royanne Ranique Richards, class president, earned a bachelor's in accounting and English.

Why did you choose to study at WAU?

During my college tour, I saw the passion that professors at WAU have for their students and I wanted that. In addition, I heard nothing but good reviews from my friends who were attending.

What do you love most about your WAU experience?

I love the opportunities for students to be involved. These opportunities have been the very backdrop of our experience.

What made studying at WAU so special?

I think each department has its own flair. For accounting, my involvement in Enactus—a business department-sponsored club that applies principles learned in the classroom to community projects—has allowed me to become a much better leader. The most memorable thing for me about my English degree is all the plays we attended. The department fully utilizes the fact that we are so close to all the theaters in Washington, D.C., as a way to combine learning and enjoyment.

How has WAU prepared you for the next phase of life?

WAU has prepared me to face the unknown. My

professors told me that no matter where I go after I leave, I can always contact them for advice or anything. It feels so good knowing that I have a team cheering me on.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I am going on to England to pursue a master's in international law and, one day, I hope to work at the United Nations.



Sashawna McCalla, class treasurer, earned a bachelor's in business administration with an emphasis in finance.

What do you love most about your WAU experience?

The relationship I developed with faculty, staff and other students.

What made studying finance at WAU so special?

The professors in the business department care about more than just the academic success of the students. They treat us like the adults we are and demand accountability.

How has WAU prepared you for the next phase of life?

The coursework has given me a basis for understanding what I do when I get a job; however, no class can completely prepare you for what you will encounter in life.

What are your plans after graduation?

This fall I will begin a master's in international commerce and policy, and then I will start my own business in international matchmaking and event planning.



Profiles in Caring

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WATCH US ON YOUTUBE

VISIT OUR BLOG ON WORDPRESS



Hidden Blessings

There is a short prayer in the book of Deuteronomy that is perhaps particularly useful to people who work in healthcare. I'm going to paraphrase it to make it plural and gender inclusive, but without altering the core meaning at all: "Bless all their skills, O Lord, and be pleased with the work of their hands" (Deuteronomy 33:11).

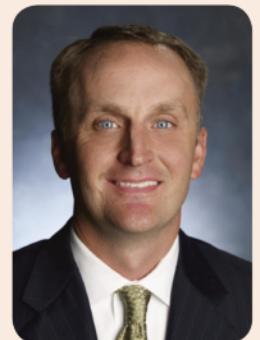
Skills are important in our work and in our world. We've worked hard to develop them, we are expected to keep them sharp and focused, and we are constantly aware that our success depends on how well we use them. If there is a single aspect of our lives that can be singled out for blessing, perhaps it makes sense that we seek a blessing on how proficient we are at doing our jobs.

But there is more to be learned from this prayer. Bible translators are not agreed that "Bless all their skills" is the only meaning within the words of this prayer. Some of them offer an alternative translation: "Bless their substance, O Lord."

So, not just our skills – those things we have worked so hard to develop – but also our very lives, our selves, our distinctive character and personalities, the things that make us each unique. If you add that meaning to the prayer, it paraphrases to read something like this: "Bless their individual lives, O Lord – not just what they are good at, but every little thing that makes them unique and special – all the wonderful and diverse things that come together to make up their lives. Bless their substance, O Lord."

But there are other translators still not satisfied with this translation of the words of the prayer. They translate the prayer: "Bless their powers, O Lord." Rather than focusing on who we are (substance), or what we can do (skills), this translation focuses on our capacity to make a difference, the impact of our endeavor, the power to bring healing to those we serve.

So taking all three of these three translations into account, and combining them into one statement, here is the Terry Forde paraphrased prayer for our Adventist HealthCare family this day: "Bless all of us, O Lord. Bless our hearts and hands. Bless our commitment to do the best we can. Bless every aspect of our lives – everything that makes us who we are. And bless us as we use the things we have learned to do the work you have given us to do. Make those skills shine with your blessing and grace. May the gifts you have given us, and the skills we have learned, be better used today than ever before. Bless our lives and actions with the power to make a difference, and may we be ever mindful that the power of our being and the skills you have given us have been blessed by your great love and grace." Amen.



Terry Forde

President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare

Adventist HealthCare Expands Mission with First Urgent Care Center



Chaplain Shelvan Arunan welcomes visitors to our new Urgent Care facility with a blessing while VP Business Development and Strategic Planning Amy Carrier listens.

Adventist HealthCare welcomed its newest service earlier this year with the opening of its first urgent care center in Rockville.

Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care is a partnership between Adventist HealthCare, Montgomery County's largest healthcare provider, and Centra Care, which has 26 urgent care centers in Florida and is affiliated with the Adventist Health in Florida.

"Our new urgent care centers allow Adventist HealthCare to further our mission of improving the health of our communities," said Terry Forde, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. "We are pleased to bring Centra Care's extensive experience in providing quality and convenient urgent care to Maryland."

The first Centra Care Maryland site is located at 750 Rockville Pike, just south of Rockville Town Center. A grand opening celebration was held on March 18. Additional sites will open later this year in Germantown and Laurel.

"Centra Care has delivered quality, convenient care and a high level of patient satisfaction in Florida for over 30 years and we look forward to serving the needs of the community in Maryland," said Scott Brady, MD, president and senior medical director of Centra Care.

All Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care sites will be open daily at 8 a.m. with extended evening hours. The centers will offer treatment for a variety of non-life threatening illnesses and injuries in both adults and children including colds, flu, sore throats, ear aches, stomach aches, cuts, broken bones and sprains. Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care facilities will always have a board-

certified physician on site and will also be able to fill most prescriptions for patients.

The new Rockville center features a special children's waiting area and a dedicated pediatric exam room. Patients can walk-in a Centra Care site or make an online reservation for a time that is convenient to their needs.

"Urgent care centers offer fast and convenient medical care at a lower cost. As the nation looks to reduce health care costs, urgent care centers offer a more cost-effective and patient friendly alternative to emergency departments for non-emergent conditions and illnesses," said Dr. Tim Hendrix, medical director for Centra Care.

Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care sites will also offer comprehensive business health services and workers' compensation to local businesses. The occupational health services provided by Centra Care sites include drug testing services, health risk appraisals, occupational health examinations, on-site lab screenings, Department of Transportation examinations and other employment physicals. Additional wellness services will be offered in conjunction with Adventist HealthCare's LifeWork Strategies.

To learn more about Centra Care, Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care, visit www.AdventistUrgentCare.com.



Left to Right: Scott Brady, MD, Centra Care; Sidney Katz, Councilmember, Montgomery County; Virginia Onley, Councilmember, City of Rockville; Amy Carrier, Adventist HealthCare; Brent Reitz, Adventist HealthCare; Marta Brito Pérez, Adventist HealthCare; Terry Forde, Adventist HealthCare; Robert Paswaters, Ph.Ed, Centra Care; Ken DeStefano, Adventist HealthCare; Jake McKelvy, Centra Care; Brandon Robertson, Centra Care; Patrick F. Garrett, MD, Adventist HealthCare.

Adventist HealthCare Bringing Quality Care to All Levels of our Community



Eunmee Shim Selected as Baldrige Fellow for Visionary Leadership

Eunmee Shim, chief operating officer of Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center, has been selected as a 2015 Baldrige Executive Fellow. This program helps elite senior executives foster performance excellence in their organizations. By networking with other fellows, leaders learn from each other how to best encourage innovation while also creating the knowledge and foundation needed to sustain improvement. Eunmee will be

able to establish relationships with national organizations, benefiting Adventist HealthCare and also spreading our vision of care and compassion to others.

Adventist HealthCare Leader Takes Part in White House Meeting

In April, the head of Adventist HealthCare's Center for Health Equity & Wellness joined national health leaders, hospital executives and community services organizations at the White House to discuss how the nation can better address health disparities, increase access to care and preventative services, and promote community health and wellness.

Adventist HealthCare's **Marcos Pesquera** took part in the two-day event, "Partners in Health: Aligning Clinical Systems, Faith and Community Assets," which was sponsored by the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Leaders from across the nation were invited to help create a vision for new kinds of partnerships and collaborative strategies. The focus of the talks was on how to integrate clinical systems with community and congregational health in ways that recognize their unique nature, strengths and assets.

"I was honored to work with health, hospital and faith groups across the United States to help improve the health of our nation," said Pesquera, who has led Adventist HealthCare's Center on Health Equity & Wellness since 2007. "Together, we shared the experiences in our communities to help look for national solutions toward healthier communities."

Adventist HealthCare, a long-time leader in community and population health, founded the Center on Health Equity & Wellness. Its goal is to reduce and eliminate disparities in health status by working to improve healthcare access and ensure quality treatment and outcomes throughout the community. The Center is working to ensure that all physicians and employees provide both culturally respectful and compassionate care to patients by providing training, education opportunities, and research awareness. In addition, the Center on Health Equity and Awareness also directly provides health services to the community.



Adventist HealthCare Hospitals Recognized for High-Quality Stroke Care

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center each received two awards in April from the American Heart Association (AHA) for life-saving, high-quality stroke care.

Both hospitals earned Gold Plus Quality Achievement, which recognizes them for aggressively treating stroke patients with 85 percent or higher compliance to the core standard levels of care outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for 12 consecutive months. Fast evaluation and treatment of stroke patients is crucial to prevent serious brain damage and allows for optimal outcomes in patient health.

The second award, AHA's Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus, is a new award this year reserved for hospitals that reach the most rigorous standards in stroke treatment. This achievement honors both hospitals for providing anti-clotting medication quickly which can reduce long-term damage and increase the chances of a full recovery.

Both hospitals are designated Primary Stroke Centers by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). As Primary Stroke Centers, the hospitals have measures in place that allow for a streamlined, coordinated approach to caring for stroke patients.

Adventist HealthCare amplía misión con el primer centro de atención de urgencias

Adventist HealthCare dio la bienvenida a su servicio más reciente a principios de este año con la apertura de su primer centro de atención de urgencias en Rockville.

Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care es una asociación entre Adventist HealthCare, el mayor proveedor de atención médica del Condado de Montgomery, y Centra Care, que cuenta con 26 centros de atención de urgencias en Florida y está afiliado a Adventist Health en Florida.

"Nuestros nuevos centros de atención de urgencias permiten a Adventist HealthCare avanzar en nuestra misión de mejorar la salud de nuestras comunidades", dijo Terry Forde, presidente y director general de Adventist HealthCare. "Nos complace traer la amplia experiencia de Centra Care en la prestación de atención de urgencias práctica y de calidad a Maryland".

La primera sede de Centra Care Maryland se encuentra en 750 Rockville Pike, justo al sur de Rockville Town Center. El 18 de marzo se llevó a cabo una gran celebración de inauguración. Se abrirán sedes adicionales más adelante este año en Germantown y Laurel.

"Centra Care ha brindado atención práctica y de calidad y un alto nivel de satisfacción de los pacientes en Florida por más de 30 años y esperamos poder atender las necesidades de la comunidad en Maryland", dijo Scott Brady, MD, presidente y director médico sénior de Centra Care.

Todas las sedes de Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care estarán abiertas todos los días a partir de las 8 de la mañana con horario extendido por la tarde. Los centros ofrecerán tratamiento para una variedad de enfermedades y lesiones que no amenazan la vida para adultos y niños, incluyendo resfriados, gripe, dolores de garganta, dolores de oído, dolores de estómago, cortaduras, fracturas y esguinces. Las instalaciones de Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care contarán siempre con la presencia de un médico certificado y capacidad de surtir la mayoría de las recetas médicas de los pacientes.

El nuevo centro de Rockville cuenta con una zona de espera especial para niños y una sala para exámenes

exclusivamente para niños. Los pacientes pueden llegar sin cita a una sede de Centra Care o hacer una reservación en línea para el horario que se ajuste a sus necesidades.

"Los centros de atención de urgencias ofrecen atención médica rápida y práctica a un menor costo. En la medida en que el país busca reducir los costos de atención médica, los centros de atención de urgencias ofrecen una alternativa más económica y amigable para el paciente a los servicios de urgencias para las afecciones y enfermedades que no son de emergencia", dijo el Dr. Tim Hendrix, director médico de Centra Care.

Las sedes de Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care también ofrecerán servicios médicos integrales y de compensación de trabajadores para las empresas locales. Los servicios de salud ocupacional que proporcionan las sedes de Centra Care incluyen servicios de pruebas de drogas, evaluaciones de riesgo de salud, exámenes de salud ocupacional, exámenes de laboratorio en el sitio, exámenes del Departamento de Transporte y otros exámenes físicos de empleo. Se ofrecerán servicios de bienestar adicionales en combinación con LifeWork Strategies de Adventist HealthCare.



Nuestro primer sitio en Rockville tiene un brillante mural acuático para entretener los niños en la sala de espera.

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

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

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

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

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

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Bulletin Board

VISITOR ADVERTISING AND SERVICES

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EMPLOYMENT

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks talented Adventist candidates for a full-time instructional faculty position in the Department of Biology and Chemistry. The position is available beginning July 1, 2016. The successful candidate will have a graduate degree with curriculum awareness in the following areas: entry-level undergraduate biology courses, genetics and bioinformatics; doctorate or ABD; experience teaching biology and related fields (preference will be given to individuals with teaching experience in entry-level undergraduate biology courses, genetics, and bioinformatics); and possess exceptional written and oral communication skills, exceptional analytical and organizational abilities, and demonstrated initiative. For full details and to apply, go to wau.edu/careers.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks talented Adventist candidates for the position of registrar. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing leadership and coordination for all aspects of the university registration/records activities. For full details and to apply, go to wau.edu/careers.

WGTS 91.9, IN WASHINGTON, D.C., is looking for the next personality to be at the helm for the extended afternoon commute time for the nation's capital. We are announcing a salaried job opening—lead host for the afternoon drive. If you are an excellent communicator, creative storyteller, and can engage listeners by living out your life and your faith on the air, we encourage you to apply. If you are able to share content in a casual way, are known for excellent attention to detail, and if you want to be part of a thriving, growing, ministry-minded team, well, this may be your next long-term role. The right candidate will have at least five years of medium-to-large market on-air experience, preferably morning or afternoon drive. Additional valued skills include public presentation experience, expertise in digital editing and leadership experience. Apply here: wau.catson.com/careers/index.php?m=portal&a=details&jobOrderID=5183829.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES in Orlando,

Fla., seeks a department head for their Center for Academic Achievement who provides oversight for general education and nursing tutoring, career advising, mental health counseling, disability services, testing accommodation, coaching and testing services. Master's degree in counseling, psychology or related field required. Reply to Fred.Stephens@adu.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty for Public Health/Nutrition/Wellness who will be the director for the internship program of nutrition and dietetics. A preferred, qualified person should be a registered dietitian with a master's degree. Clinical and teaching experience desired. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_15.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a principal for Andrews Academy who will be responsible to lead and ensure that the school fulfills its mission and goals. A preferred, qualified person should have experience as a secondary school principal, a secondary school teacher and/or a doctoral degree. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_1.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member for the Leadership Department, who will teach graduate-level courses related to educational administration and leadership and will serve on doctoral dissertation committees. A preferred, qualified person should have a doctorate in education, leadership or related field, plus a record of excellence in teaching at the graduate level. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_8 and andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_9.

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.

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.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY has an immediate opening for a full-time nurse educator to serve as chair for the nursing department. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Advancement Office seeks full-time vice president. Responsibilities center primarily in development in addition to PR/marketing and alumni. Minimum bachelor's degree and two years of advancement experience required; master's degree preferred. Submit cover letter and CV/résumé to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

MISSION PILOTS AND OTHER MISSIONARIES are urgently needed. Do you have a desire to share Jesus with others, to live in another country and learn a different culture? Adventist World Aviation is expanding into other parts of the world and urgently needs pilots, A&P mechanics, project managers, Bible workers and medical personnel. Pilots must have instrument ratings, commercial ratings and high performance ratings. Mail your résumé to Adventist World Aviation, P.O. Box 444, Sullivan, WI 53178-0444, or email to projects@flyawa.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

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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for more information, or visit wildwoodhealth.com.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE TRAINING COURSE: Two weekends, July 24-26 and 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.

DO YOU LOVE TO TALK ABOUT JESUS? Why not talk about Jesus where His name isn't known? Consider going as an Adventist Frontier Missions tentmaker. Reach the unreached through your skilled profession! Find a good salaried job and serve Jesus! For more information go to: GoTential.org.

DR. GRACE D. KIMBROUGH AND DR. JAMES H. HOWARD: I am doing research on these two black Adventist medical doctors. If you have any information, stories, pictures or memorabilia on or about them, please contact D.S. Williams at mdwilliams39@gmail.com or call (240) 264 8499.

DEMAND IS HIGH for managers of skilled nursing facilities and senior care centers. Southern Adventist University's degree in long-term care administration is available on campus or online. Enjoy being a licensed professional and a leader in the business of caring. For more information, visit southern.edu/business, call (800) SOUTHERN or email lta@southern.edu.

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

A special constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m. Sunday, August 23, 2015, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio.

This meeting is called so that delegates, as members of the Mount Vernon Academy (an Ohio nonprofit corporation also known

Sunset Calendar

	Jun 5	Jun 12	Jun 19	Jun 26	Jul 3
Baltimore	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:37	8:37
Cincinnati	9:00	9:04	9:07	9:08	9:08
Cleveland	8:56	9:00	9:03	9:05	9:04
Columbus	8:57	9:01	9:03	9:05	9:05
Jersey City	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:32	8:31
Norfolk	8:21	8:24	8:27	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:49	8:53	8:55	8:57	8:56
Philadelphia	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:33	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:46	8:50	8:53	8:54	8:54
Reading	8:29	8:34	8:36	8:38	8:37
Richmond	8:27	8:31	8:34	8:35	8:35
Roanoke	8:36	8:40	8:43	8:44	8:44
Toledo	9:04	9:09	9:11	9:13	9:12
Trenton	8:24	8:29	8:31	8:33	8:32
Wash., D.C.	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:37	8:37

as the "Corporation"), hereby adopt, ratify and approve the sale, conveyance and transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation, both real property and personal property, including the real estate, as approved by the Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees in its resolution adopted on April 21, 2015, in one or more transactions by public or private sale, auction or other sale process to such buyers as are determined by the corporation's board president in consultation with the Ohio Conference Executive Committee. Consideration of the possible disposition of conference lands and properties adjacent to and around Mount Vernon Academy Corporation properties may also be discussed.

Delegates to this session are those who served as delegates to the 41st regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held May 18, 2014.

Should an emergency prohibit this meeting, an alternate date of September 13, 2015, has been chosen at the same time and location. Delegates will be notified of any postponement.

Ron Halvorsen, Jr, *President*
Oswaldo Magaña, *Secretary*

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation will be held in connection with the special constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio, Sunday, August 23, 2015. This meeting will convene immediately following the adjournment of the Ohio Conference special constituency meeting.

This meeting is called so that delegates, as members of the Mount Vernon Academy (an Ohio nonprofit corporation also known as the "Corporation"), hereby adopt, ratify and approve the sale, conveyance and transfer of all, or substantially all, of the assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation, both real property and personal property, including the real estate, as approved by the Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees in its resolution adopted April 21, 2015, in one or more transactions by public or private sale, auction or other sale process to such buyers as are determined by the corporation's board president in consultation with the Ohio Conference Executive Committee. Delegates to

Bulletin Board

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Should an emergency prohibit this meeting, an alternate date of September 13, 2015, has been chosen at the same time and location. Delegates will be notified of any postponement.

Ron Halvorsen, *President*
Karen L. Senecal, *Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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; 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.

COLLONGES ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: Will you be in San Antonio, Texas, in July during the GC Session? The Campus Adventiste du Salève delegates invite you to an alumni dinner meeting Friday,

July 10, from 4-7 p.m. at the Hilton Palacio del Rio next to the convention center, to reunite with old friends and reminisce about "the good old times" in Collonges! It will be great to have you there. Tell your friends!

OBITUARIES

McMAHAN, Beatrice Juanita, born June 10, 1925, in West Virginia; died October 1, 2014, in Greenbrier County, W.Va. She was a member of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church, where she was a faithful church member. Survivors: her daughters, Wanda Wykle of White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Ruth M. Williams of Lindsie, W.Va., Shirley Springston of Lindsie, Delsie Pack Knicely of Friars Hill, W.Va., Georgia McMahan of Renick, W.Va.; sons, Raymond McMahan of Renick, Dalford I. McMahan of Lindsie, Carl McMahan of Peterstown, W.Va., George McMahan of Caldwell, W.Va., and Dale McMahan of Renick; a special grandson, James Pierce, Jr., of Wind Gap, Pa., whom she raised as a son from 15 months of age; 44 grandchildren, great- and great-great grandchildren. Her husband, Ira McMahan; her daughter, Barbara McMahan Freeny; two grandsons, Ronnie Lee Wykle and Tracy D. Pack; granddaughter Crystal Williams; and son-in-law Roy D. Pack preceded her in death.

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Aug 29	Dave Weigley
Sept 5	Gerald Klingbeil
Sept 12	Nathan Krause
Sept 19	Don McFarlane
Sept 26	Nikolaus Satelmajer

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