

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY 2015 • VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 7



Home Grown

WAU's 30 ministries develop service-minded individuals

A WAU professor helps the gospel bloom in Russia

+ Why your church should have a thriving social media presence

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About the Cover: James Ferry photographed Danielle Barnard, a 2015 theology graduate of Washington Adventist University, in his studio in Columbia, Md.

ON THE WEB

PRESIDENTIAL MELODY

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president and Adventist HealthCare (AHC) board chairman, sang the national anthem at a recent Washington Nationals game. A portion of proceeds from select ticket sales for that game supported the Washington Adventist Hospital Foundation in Takoma Park, Md. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/nationalanthem.

REBUILDING NEPAL

Gabe Suarez put his emergency management skills into action after the recent Nepal earthquakes. Suarez, who attends Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fultion, Md., traveled to Chatautara to assist with rebuilding efforts. See photos from his trip at columbiaunionvisitor.com/nepaltrip.



GOT LOVE?

Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, a Pennsylvania Conference member of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, wrote *13 Weeks to Love: Allowing Jesus to Heal Your Relationships*. She hopes to help readers maximize love in their lives by following Jesus' teachings. Read more about the book at columbiaunionvisitor.com/13weeks.



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

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WAU Grows Emissaries

Russia is a nation of nearly 150 million people from many backgrounds and stretching over 11 time zones—one of the vastest on Earth. Nearly 25 years ago, my wife, Becky, and I led a small team of evangelists to Russia to conduct three-night evangelistic meetings in seven large cities along the Volga River. Thousands of individuals accepted Christ and began their preparation for His return. During the 90s and early 21st century, North American evangelists went behind us to hold literally hundreds more such evangelistic endeavors there.



Today Michael Kulakov, religion professor at our own Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., leads another initiative to help the wonderful people of Russia get to know Jesus Christ. Thanks to Kulakov's Russian Bible project and WAU president Weymouth Spence's vision, along with the support of WAU's board of trustees (some pictured with other supporters), all Russian-speaking people will have access to a clearer understanding of God's Word.



IMPACTING THE WORLD

WAU started impacting the globe more than 30 years ago, when it was the first school of its kind to send a student missionary to a world field. It continues to be a leader in North America at advancing the church's mission of educating and sending emissaries for Christ, which is just one way they fulfill their vision statement "Engaging Minds, Transforming Lives." More than 100 WAU students have been involved in short-term mission trips to Africa or Asia in the past three years. And, nearly 300 graduates symbolically walked under the famed Gateway of Service arch this spring to join the thousands of others who have taken their place in God's great plan to advance His cause on Earth.

Now WAU joins the Columbia Union Conference in addressing the increasingly formidable challenge of engaging young adults in the North American mission field of our church, which has a steadily climbing median age, rising from 52 to 57 during the past decade. We believe we must be highly intentional at involving this age group, which is one of the motivating factors for our new REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School in Philadelphia, which opened last month. Under the able directorship of Tara VinCross, students enrolled in this urban laboratory will earn university credit at WAU by engaging in experiential ministry—duplicating, we believe, our Lord's model for education.

Our university continues to deliver excellence in many accredited offerings and has a bright future making a difference in the lives of its students. I can still hear the president of a recent class of graduates state why she, though not an Adventist, chose to attend WAU: "I want to tell you. I am so thankful to have attended a faith-based school like WAU because it has made a huge difference in my life!"

Dave Weigley is president of the Columbia Union Conference and chair of the WAU Board of Trustees.

Newsline

BETH MICHAELS



REACH SCHOOL OPENS

Early last month, Tara VinCross oversaw the launch of the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School, based in Philadelphia. The opening included a prayer and training weekend for participating churches in Columbus, Ohio, where the first session takes place. VinCross, director, reports there are 13 young adults (some pictured with VinCross, far left) enrolled in the first semester, all of whom will partner with Allegheny West Conference's Pastor John Boston and his Central church members, and Ohio Conference's Pastor Milt Pruitt and his Eastwood members, to learn effective evangelism techniques.

"It was inspiring to see elders from both churches interceding for the young adult students and the mission of reaching Columbus," says VinCross, whose REACH team includes Justin Khoe, Taunya Grissom and Jason Vanderlaan. "The students that God led to REACH are exceptional and represent five different conferences. It's inspiring to see so much collaboration and support from across the Columbia Union."

UNION PATHFINDER COORDINATOR NAMED

Pam Scheib, a longtime Pathfinder and Adventurer leader for the Pennsylvania Conference, will now add Pathfinder/Adventurer coordinator for the Columbia Union to her duties.

"She will represent our union at North American Division meetings and help our local conference



Adventurer and Pathfinder leaders collaborate on union-wide activities and events," shares Frank Bondurant, the union's vice president of Ministries Development. "We are pleased to be able to utilize her skills and experience."

KC BACKS BILL FOR NURSING EDUCATION

Kettering College (KC) in Kettering, Ohio, has been working behind the scenes to support federal legislation that would protect funding for nursing schools nationwide through the Making the Education of Nursing Dependable for Schools Act. The legislation would allow Medicare "pass-through" support payments to hospital-based nursing programs continue after accrediting bodies required hospital-based programs to become separately incorporated to retain accreditation.

Nate Brandstater, college president, called the bill "vital legislation" that "protects the training of highly-skilled nurses and tens of thousands of healthcare-related jobs throughout Ohio and the United States." Rep. Lynn Jenkins reintroduced the bill as H.R. 1784.—*Jessica Beans*

FORMER OHIO, EAST PENN PRESIDENT DIES

Church leader Francis Wernick recently passed away at age 95. Amongst other positions around North America, Wernick pastored churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio before becoming president of the former East Pennsylvania Conference in 1958. He later served as president of the Ohio and Oregon conferences and the Lake Union Conference before being elected General Conference vice president, a position he held until his retirement in 1985.



"The Pennsylvania Conference was privileged to have Francis serve as the spiritual leader of God's work," says Ray Hartwell, conference president. "His life and integrity continue to provide inspiration to God's people down through the years."

Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president, adds, "Though Elder Wernick served a relatively short time as our president (1964-67), his support and dedication can still be seen in our conference through our continued commitment to evangelism, multilingual churches and expansion of churches into various communities."—*Adventist Review and Visitor staff*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO WIN A UNION EDUCATION AWARD?

The Columbia Union Conference Office of Education recently presented one administrator and two teachers with their annual awards. Below, recipients share their reactions:



I am uncomfortable being singled out; the motto I've lived by is "etch your name on hearts, not on marble." However, I see this as recognition of my team, of their passion and hard work to impact the lives of our students. It is for them that I humbly accept this recognition!
—*David Morgan, principal at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., is Outstanding Administrator of the Year*



As Christian educators, we daily minister to students and their families. As a product of Adventist education, I know what my teacher's modeled. I stand on their shoulders. This challenges me to continue to "press on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (see Phil. 3:14).—*Cassandra Danley-Arnold, math/technology teacher at Dupont Park Adventist Elementary in Washington, D.C., is Outstanding Educator of the Year*



It is very humbling. I truly feel like you are only as good as the people around you. Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy and the Lynchburg church have amazing groups of people who support each other for the ultimate goal of bringing our students closer to Christ.—*Stephen Doss, principal at Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy in Lynchburg, Va., is Outstanding Educator of the Year*



UNION AWARDS STUDENT SERVANTS

Juniors or seniors from the Columbia Union's nine academies are selected each year for the Office of Education's annual Caring Heart Award. These students are nominated for their demonstration of personal commitment to service and witnessing activities:

1. **Eveling Grajales** from Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Va.
2. **Tyler Messam** from Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md.
3. **Benin Lee** from Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio.
4. **Miata Smith** from Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.
5. **Giovanna Vanucchi** from Richmond Academy in Richmond, Va.
6. **Andrea Herrera Navarro** from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.
7. **Chelsea Kent** from Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md.
8. **Morgan Mainess** from Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio.
9. **Avary Williams** from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

LA ESCUELA REACH DA INICIO

A principios del mes pasado, Tara VinCross supervisó el lanzamiento de la Escuela de Evangelismo REACH de Columbia Union con base en Philadelphia. La apertura incluyó un fin de semana de capacitación para las iglesias participantes en Columbus, Ohio, donde se llevó a cabo la primera sesión. VinCross, directora, reporta que se matricularon 13 adultos jóvenes el primer trimestre. Los jóvenes se asociarán con el pastor John Boston y sus miembros de la iglesia Central de Allegheny West Conference, y con el pastor Milt Pruitt y sus miembros de Eastwood de Ohio Conference, para aprender las técnicas eficaces para evangelismo.



“Fue inspirador ver a los ancianos de ambas iglesias interceder (en la foto) por los estudiantes adultos jóvenes y la misión de alcanzar a Columbus”, dice VinCross, cuyo grupo REACH incluye a Justin Khoe, Taunya Grissom y Jason Vanderlaan. “Los estudiantes que Dios guió a REACH son excepcionales y representan cinco Asociaciones. Es inspirador ver tanta colaboración y apoyo en toda Columbia Union.”

LA UNIÓN NOMBRA A UN COORDINADOR DE CONQUISTADORES

Pam Scheib, una líder de Conquistadores y Aventureros con gran experiencia en Pennsylvania Conference, ahora añadirá a sus responsabilidades la coordinación de Conquistadores y Aventureros para Columbia Union.



“Ella representará a nuestra Unión en reuniones de la División Norteamericana y ayudará a nuestros líderes de Aventureros y Conquistadores de nuestra Asociación a colaborar en actividades y eventos a nivel de Unión”, comparte Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente de desarrollo para ministerios de la Unión. “Nos complace poder utilizar sus habilidades y experiencia ahora a nivel de Unión”.

LOS JÓVENES DE PENN SE REÚNEN

Casi 600 Conquistadores, niños y sus padres, provenientes de las iglesias Lancaster y York hispanas de Pennsylvania Conference, junto a otras seis congregaciones, se reunieron en Lancaster recientemente para alabar y adorar. Feleidi Garcias (en la foto de abajo), pastor de Lancaster Spanish, y un equipo excelente de líderes planificaron la reunión. Paulo Macena, director de jóvenes de New Jersey Conference, fue el orador. En la



tarde, los asistentes distribuyeron más de 2,500 piezas de literatura y luego compartieron sus testimonios de sus encuentros con personas que recibieron los materiales.

LOS JÓVENES DE REHOBOTH SIRVEN A OTROS

Para el Global Youth Day [día global de jóvenes] de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, las iglesias de Allegheny East Conference participaron en varias actividades de



enfoque comunitario como el “sermón” de ese día. Además de oraciones y abrazos gratuitos, la iglesia Rehoboth Spanish en Reading, Pa., distribuyó té caliente de jengibre, batidos de frutas y granola hecha en casa. Los congregantes también cantaron a los transeúntes (en la foto). En la tarde sirvieron almuerzo a los miembros de la comunidad y realizaron exámenes de salud gratuitos. Esa noche presentaron un servicio de adoración en un refugio local.



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KC.EDU

Underscore

DANIEL GRANDERSON

How Important is a Presence on Social Media to Thriving, Impacting Churches Today?

At the nexus where religious tradition merges with 21st century technological omnipresence, the gospel has been officially hashtagged. According to social media pundits in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Facebook, Twitter and the like are the modern-day gathering places for members to strengthen congregational ties.

“[Our church] is actively using social media to promote events and share pictures and videos with members that they might have missed if they were traveling or homebound,” says Jason Lombard, associate pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville (Md.) church, who is also responsible for media. “We also promote our sermons after the fact. ... Some of our best traffic has come from cell phone video of some of our musical events posted on Facebook.”

Richard Castillo, pastor for media and outreach at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., regards it a blessing to work the “frontlines” from a church where he can recruit young people to help tell stories through videos he shares on Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo. This, he says, helps expand the church’s brand to other denominations.

Those visiting Potomac’s Williamsburg (Va.) church just may find Pastor Heather Crews busy taking photos. “As a pastor, I carry my phone everywhere and snap often,” she says, and adds that even her sermons are social media fodder. She might take 20 pictures before choosing the one she’ll post on the church’s sites, then invites congregants to take a look.

Less than half a year into his tenure at Sligo, Castillo already sees how the social media ministry is energizing the church and building morale among members, especially as they ask to participate. “I’m proud to be a part of this era of Adventist ministry and [excited about] some of the things I and my fellow colleagues will be able to accomplish in Jesus’ name in the coming years,” he says.

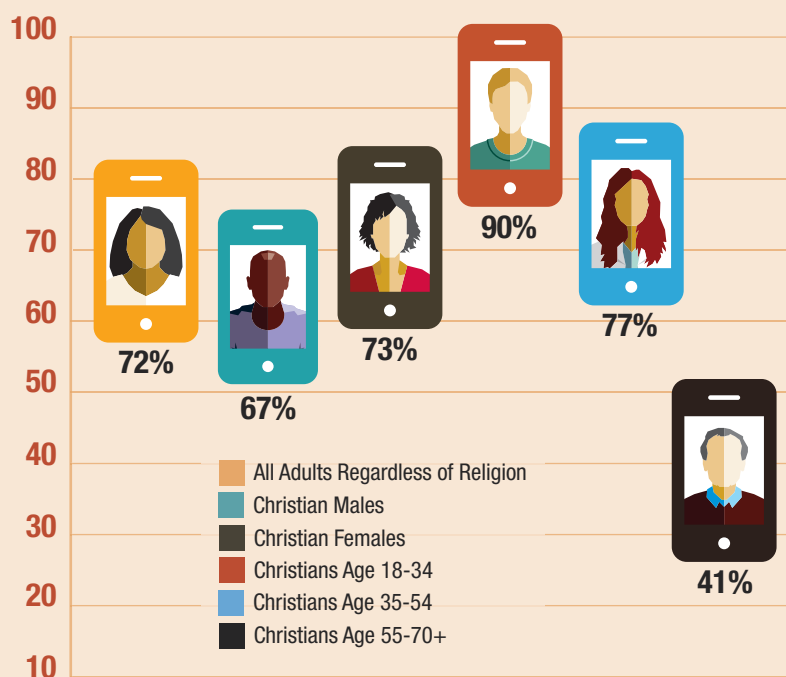
In addition to young families and professionals, many Adventist churches are finding social media to be an effective way to reach a variety

of age groups, even seniors. Ingrid Forss, social media coordinator at New Jersey Conference’s Parkway South church in Marmora, comments, “Older people really appreciate how much social media helps them stay connected. A few of our retired members who go to Florida for the winter love the fact that they aren’t disconnected from the church. They can keep in touch and see what’s going on. They still feel very involved even when they’re not here.”

A NEW KIND OF PULPIT

Kasper Haughton Jr., technical

AMERICAN ADULTS AGED 18+ WHO USE SOCIAL MEDIA



Source: Experian Marketing Services, Fall 2014 Simmons NCS Adult Study 12-Month. Base: Population.

director and youth pastor at Ohio Conference's Kettering church, believes social media is also its own type of pulpit, where the church can preach to the world a personalized narrative about who Adventists are and what they are about.

"As a church, we can really work to tell the story of Adventists as people, as neighbors, as believers at next-to-no cost since social media is essentially free," says Haughton. "As we begin to acclimate to the social media sphere and understand how to interact with it and interact within it, the archives of the narratives we have will be positive and people will have a positive association with us."

Milli Mike, communication leader at Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., says her church's sermons are live-tweeted and video clips are shared online. "If you want to continue to share the gospel of Jesus, join the conversation. That's what social media is and can be, a way to share Jesus," she says. "You never know who your message will reach or how it can bless. It's another way to build your community and further God's kingdom," she adds.

Noah Washington, senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Bladensburg (Md.) church, is more frank. "Any church that doesn't have a Facebook page may not be doing relevant ministry," he asserts. Bladensburg has a weekly attendance between 375 and 400, but their Facebook page has more than 1,200 fans. Pastor Washington reports that the church's social media efforts have had a tremendous impact. "We've had people attend service because of our Facebook and Twitter accounts," he says.

Pastor Lombard says his church has also witnessed a virtual impact. "When we look at the analytics, we see a social reach that extends far beyond our immediate congregation," he shares.

According to the Pew Research Center, on any given week, one out of five Americans share their faith online. Even more intriguing, 46 per-

cent of American adults notice someone else share their faith online during an average week.

What's more, with greater than 72 percent of online adults using social media sites but only 37 percent going to church weekly or more, according to other Pew studies, it's clear that social media has granted churches unprecedented access to people—that is, if they are willing to take advantage of the opportunity.

"If people aren't interested in coming to church, we need to bring the message to them," says V. Michelle Bernard, digital media coordinator for the Columbia Union Conference. "All of our ministries should seek to meet people where they are and fulfill their needs. Why not meet them where they spend a good deal of their time?" she proposes.

Pastor Crews believes in the mantra that a church without a social media presence essentially doesn't exist to the rest of the world. "Coming to Williamsburg, a college town and vacation location, we realized that we needed to up our game if we want to reach young professionals and visitors to the area," she says. "Our mission in social media is to share who we are as a vibrant, active and engaging Adventist church so [that] young families and professionals will want to join with us in our events, and along with this, [to] build brand recognition in our community."

PERSONAL INTERACTION IS STILL KEY

Although it's possible to post the best content, videos and graphics online, churches can still miss the point of social media—social interaction. "The use of social media as a means of outreach is important, but I don't believe that it is 'key' to shepherding people into the church," says Lombard. "I think the key is intentional, Spirit-led, in-person interaction. However, social media can play a role in facilitating those interactions."

Bernard agrees. "Would you continue talking with someone who never acknowledges you?" she

5 Best Uses of Social Media in Ministry

Realize target audience differs by social site. Facebook reaches the largest generational range. Instagram and Vimeo are best for the younger crowd.

Recruit help from within church: Big or small, your church likely has members with the talent and passion to contribute to a social media ministry.

Have a plan. Coordinate frequency of posts and carefully generate original visual content to share with followers.

A picture is worth a thousand words, but video is worth a million. Short videos get the best response, followed by pictures, then audio only.

Keep posts current: Photos from a church event even a few months earlier will have minimal appeal for most church members, and almost no appeal for visitors.



asks. "It is important for ministries and members to engage with 'fans' on social media and start building relationships that can hopefully grow in person."

While technology has made the world a smaller place, church leaders are concluding that social media is a mere conduit to the reality that face-to-face, loving interaction is the true heart of ministry.

HOME GROWN

While giving students overseas mission opportunities has been a priority at Washington Adventist University for more than 30 years, nothing supersedes the school's focus at home through nearly 30 campus ministries

It's Washington Adventist University's (WAU) Spiritual Master Plan, established in 2014 by the office of ministry, that acts as the blueprint for all things spiritual on their Takoma Park, Md., campus. Under the plan, faculty and staff nurture students through fellowship, worship, discipleship and service—not only to develop Christ-like individuals but also to leave a positive imprint on local communities.

All week WAU offers programs that minister to students' hearts and souls and prepare them for productive lives. "The DNA of these programs is salvation and service. These ministries are provided to develop a culture of service in students for the many years to come," says Baraka Muganda, WAU's first full-time vice president of ministry. "We strongly believe that when our youth fall in love with Jesus, they will be compelled by that love to go and share it with others."

Weymouth Spence, WAU president, adds that the rich campus ministries program "is blessed by the Holy Spirit." He says, "Each year the university baptizes numbers of students who have decided to dedicate their hearts to Christ. It gives me so much joy to see students who have fallen in love with Christ for the first time or who are renewing their lives to Him."

Since 2013, 68 WAU students have been baptized.

And, at least 70 percent of 2015 graduates who completed the Spiritual Identity Survey agree they've grown closer to Christ and found personal, spiritual meaning while studying at WAU. They also declare to be more dedicated to lives of service.

Below we highlight 18 of the nearly 30 ministries responsible for nurturing WAU's young disciples:

1 CROSSROADS • a student-run service (below) that operates in conjunction with Sligo, the church that abuts the campus. Regina Johnson ('12), WAU chaplain, oversees Crossroads with Vincent Wilson, student leader. Wilson says it's a place where students can experience soul-searching and growth. He recalls the difficulties one friend, a senior, experienced following a car crash.



Story by Elizabeth Anderson with Beth Michaels

During that tough time, Wilson says Crossroads attendees and the basketball team rallied around him with support. “We’ve seen his relationship with Christ kind of grow up to the point where he has talked to me about baptism,” Wilson shares.

2 PULSE (Pray Until Life Shows Evidence) • a prayer ministry that consists of group prayer, weekly night prayer meetings and Friday night worship services. As prayer leader, 2015 graduate Danielle Barnard says she’d encourage students to view prayer as a chat with a friend.

“Prayer meetings are usually not very well attended in most churches,” says Barnard, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md. So, she tried having prayer services outside traditional time slots, like a midnight prayer meeting that attracted 60 students.

3 ANNUAL SPRING REVIVAL • with a tent pitched on The Commons, a central grassy area on campus, it’s used as a time to boldly call students to make decisions to live for Christ. During one revival, Barnard witnessed friends who had mentally disconnected from their Adventist roots move from nonchalance into a personal relationship with Christ. They showed up on a cold, Friday night—the only night of an appeal. One friend chose to follow Christ; another started struggling with the idea.

“To go from not even caring ... and seeing with my eyes one of my friends battle with a decision of really choosing to live for God, that was something very powerful,” Barnard says.

4 WISE (Week in Spiritual Emphasis) • are weeks of prayer for traditional students. This year WAU also hosted a WISE for those enrolled in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS), a career-building degree program for working professionals.

The SGPS program provides WAU a unique opportunity to reach out to the community and to impact people from all backgrounds, says Charles Tapp, Sligo senior pastor. “So, if you want to reach out to them educationally, then we have to say, okay, how do we now reach out to them spiritually as well?” He reports that the SGPS week of prayer was the answer, getting positive feedback and giving religion students a chance to practice speaking.

5 WATER (Washington Adventist Trauma & Emergency Response) • a collaboration between the WAU community and local church members to provide relief after domestic catastrophes. WATER volunteers also prepare food, provide inspirational programming and repair buildings.

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, WAU students went to New Jersey and joined local church members in distributing water and cleaning up streets. “Service is more than a day or event; it is a lifestyle. That is why it is important for students to get involved in such projects,” said Kaneil Williams (’07), director of outreach and mission, following their efforts.

6 FISHES & LOAVES • a program where WAU students and staff meet on third Sabbaths to prepare meals and distribute food, literature, clothes and encouragement to homeless individuals at 14th and K streets in Northwest Washington, D.C.

Service in Action

Jenny Matias and Cindy Ascencio, senior social work majors at WAU, got unique opportunities to intern at Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington in Silver Spring, Md. They share how spiritual lessons from campus activities helped them better serve others:



Matias, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Georgetown Spanish Company in Georgetown, Del., says WAU’s focus on ministry, action and “helping people around us,” ingrained in her a desire to help others. She recalls one client who confessed he considered calling the center to request a visitor during his two-month hospitalization. “It made me realize that there are people out here that don’t have any support system,” she says. She enjoyed getting to pray for him.

Ascencio, who attends a new, local Hispanic Adventist group, says WAU’s emphasis on treating all people with kindness helped her set a goal to be a ray of sunshine to each patron. She recounts meeting a client going through a contentious divorce. She was able to pray with and tell her “that even though sometimes people think God is not there, God is always there and He’s always listening,” she says.





“Our goal is to encourage them, but also to provide some of their basic needs, particularly in the winter months,” says Williams, who also serves as elder of outreach at Potomac Conference’s Community of Hope church in Silver Spring. The campus community also raises money each year for food donated for a Thanksgiving meal. “That’s one of the big events that really unites our campus in service,” adds Williams.

7 SERVICE DAYS • give students at least two opportunities each fall and spring to serve the community. Activities include picking up trash along Sligo Creek (pictured, above), gardening, packaging food, making food deliveries, cleaning and yard work, conducting health screenings and assisting at local elementary schools.

For its extensive efforts in the community, the President of the United States placed WAU on the 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. “We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition that our programs and activities are making a significant contribution to the community,” says Spence.

8 THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE • a safe space for students to explore their creativity through Christian poetry, song, music and comedy.

9&10 REFLECTIONS AND SINGSPIRATION • these Friday night vespers and praise and worship services, respectively, are geared toward those looking for a more contemporary worship style.

11 ENCOURAGEMENT MINISTRIES • offer a spiritual lift to students, faculty and staff facing challenging times and facilitate worship at all campus services.

12 SILENT JUDAH • a performance team that shares God’s love through sign language, singing and praise dancing.

13 IMV (I am Valuable) • supports female students through the transition to womanhood. Faculty and staff act as mentors.

14 PROJECT SONSHINE’S NURSING HOME MINISTRY • students and staff gather the first Sabbath of each month to pray, sing, read and encourage local nursing home residents.

15 ALL SHADES OF CHRIST • knit and crochet items for those in need and meet second Sabbaths to support survivors of terminal disease and those facing life-threatening illness.

16 GRACE FUND • confidentially gifts meal tickets, food and Metro fare cards to students facing financial emergencies.

17 IRON MAN MEN’S MINISTRY • provides monthly brotherhood and manhood sessions and seminars to encourage male students to be godly men.

18 TAKE IT TO THE STREETS • where students and staff visit local shopping centers to sing, pray for patrons, distribute literature, offer encouragement and invite them to campus spiritual events.



Baraka Muganda, vice president of ministry, baptizes alumnus Caleb Patterson at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

PHOTOS BY RUDOLPH ROBIN

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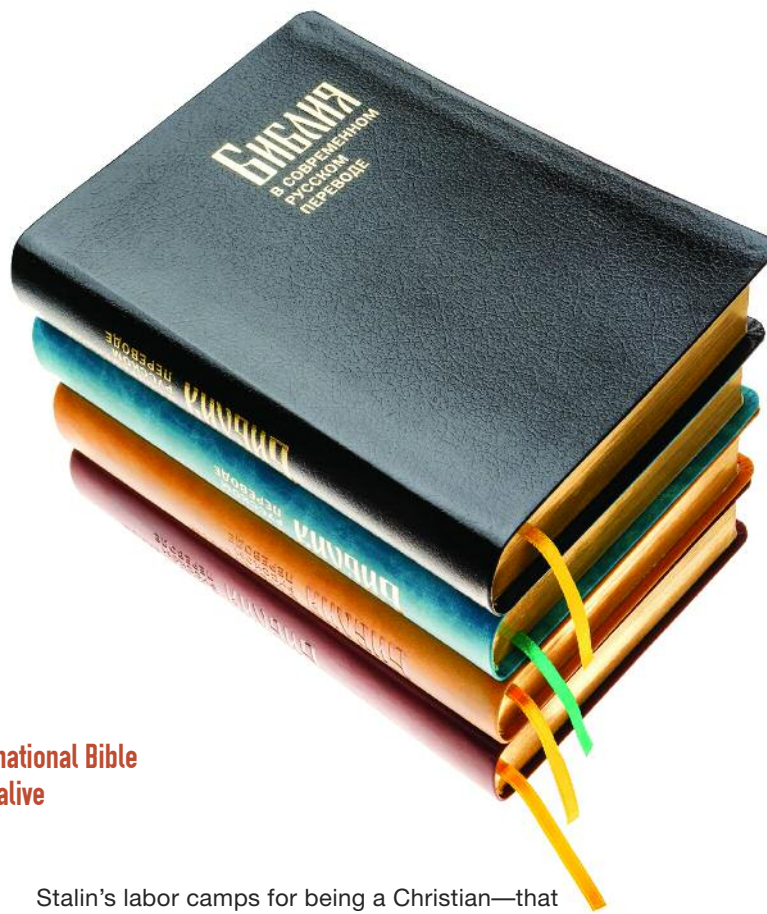
Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
7700 Carroll Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Phone: 301-270-6777

sligochurch.org

Angie Crews

To Russia, With (God's) LOVE



A WAU professor translates and unveils an interdenominational Bible for Russian-speaking people, making God's Word come alive

He did it. Michael Kulakov Jr. accomplished what many thought impossible. He completed an epic spiritual work started by his impassioned father that transcended denominational affiliation in a country marked by years of religious intolerance. Kulakov, through an unprecedented collaboration between nearly a dozen Seventh-day Adventist, Orthodox and Jewish scholars, recently published a new interdenominational Bible translation in Russia, and only the second major translation to be released in post-Soviet Russia.

In May at an official unveiling of the *New BTI Bible* at Zaoksky Adventist University in Tula, which Kulakov Jr. helped establish in 1987, there were joyful tears and excitement as those involved in the undertaking shared their stories of sacrifice and dedication to making the Bible a reality.



HOW IT BEGAN

Converting the Holy Scripture into modern Russian was first put into motion through the formation of the Bible Translation Institute (BTI), founded in 1993 by M.P. Kulakov Sr. (left), a Russian pastor, scholar and church leader. Opening the BTI, housed inside the Zaoksky Theological Seminary, was the pastor's lifelong dream.

It was in the late 1940s, very early in his ministry in the city of Daugavpils, Latvia—and prior to a five-year imprisonment in

Stalin's labor camps for being a Christian—that Kulakov Sr. began to comprehend the great need for a new translation of God's Word into modern Russian. During that time, he frequented the home of Pastor Janis Oltinsh, which contained a massive library of theological literature in various languages. Oltinsh was an accomplished Bible scholar, and he had a strong, formative influence on the young pastor.

It was Oltinsh who introduced Kulakov Sr. to the advantages of comparing various translations of the Bible—literal and amplified. Out of that mentorship, Kulakov Sr. decided to begin a collaboration with scholars from other denominations, to produce from the original languages a more accurate version that would help Russians clarify the meaning of passages that may have once puzzled them.

There have only been two major translations released in Russia during the past millennium: the Gennadievskaya version published in the 15th century and the Synodal version at the end of the 19th century. Both use antiquated language that is difficult to interpret, and the Synodal version was hard to come by. As a result, Russian seminarians in the early 19th century instead used the more accessible Latin Vulgate Bible. As Russian universities slowly began teaching biblical studies, the Bible was often absent from the curriculum. Not even students at Kazan Orthodox Seminary had a Bible of their own.

Translation work was impossible for most of the 20th century due to the atheistic regime. Only at the end of that century did translation work resume, and some new versions emerged.



Translation Team: (top row) Tatiana Lebedeva, BTI (Zaoksky) project coordinator; Ivan Lobanov, BTI stylistic editor; Victor Lyakhu, BTI stylistic editor; (bottom row) Lyudmila Kulakov, BTI U.S. office manager; Michael Kulakov Jr., BTI director and editor in chief; and Iliya Velgosh, BTI Euro-Asia treasurer

A LEGACY FULFILLED

Kulakov Sr. spent more than a decade working on the new translation of the New Testament and Psalms. When he passed away in 2010, his BTI colleagues were despondent, as they assumed the project and institute would die with him. What they didn't realize was that his son was committed to finishing the work.

Kulakov Jr., however, was a full-time professor of theology, history and philosophy at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md. He decided to seek the support of Weymouth Spence, WAU president.

"I saw how important this project was to the mission of our church and how it aligned with our values as a university," explains Spence, whose administrative team granted Kulakov Jr. the university's first five-year sabbatical to complete the translation.

"We couldn't have done this without the support of Washington Adventist University," said Kulakov Jr. at the unveiling ceremony. "This is all happening as if it were a dream. It will take a few years, lots of rest and meditation for this moment to really sink in."

BUILDING BRIDGES

The project was also a momentous landmark for the Adventist Church in Euro-Asia. Although Russia's primary religion is Eastern Orthodox, through the BTI collaboration and leadership of G.E. Biaggi, president of the Euro-Asia Division, a more trusting relationship has been forming between the Adventist Church and other faith communities.

This is evident in the *New BTI Bible's* quick acceptance across the country. A number of Orthodox

clergymen are excitedly using it. Also, professionals from the department of biblical studies at St. Tikhon's Orthodox University and other theological schools are encouraging their students to use it.

Adventist BTI team members have been surprised to see their work received so positively, but see it as testimony that the Lord led in the project. "What a blessing it is for this to be received so positively by other denominations," says Biaggi. "We are thrilled to see this happen in our lifetime."

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference and WAU board chair, adds, "I am so excited that we can be a part of providing the Word and the Light to the masses. Incredible, incredible opportunity! This will make such a difference because we know the Word does not return void."

THE WORK CONTINUES

The *New BTI Bible* is formally presented this month at the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, giving the world church body an opportunity to praise the Lord for His divine work. And, Ted Wilson, church president, will ask the Holy Spirit to speak to the hearts of the thousands of Russian readers who will get a first or renewed taste of God's Word.

Next for the new Bible is an effort to reach Russian young adults and youth. The BTI Board of Trustees voted in May to support the development of a mobile app version, along with an illustrated children's edition.

IT TOOK A TEAM

"We are honored to celebrate the successful partnerships that helped make the *New BTI Bible* a reality," says Weymouth Spence, WAU president. "What an amazing accomplishment the Lord has done."

The teamwork included the following individuals and organizations:

- Washington Adventist University
- Zaoksky Theological Seminary
- Bible Translation Institute (Zaoksky)
- Euro-Asian Division
- Biblical Theological Institute of St. Apostle Andrew
- Institute for Bible Translation (Moscow)
- The United Bible Societies
- Bible College "Heritage" (Moscow)
- Russian Bible Society
- Dialogue Foundation, Inc.
- and scholars from the Russian Orthodox and Jewish communities

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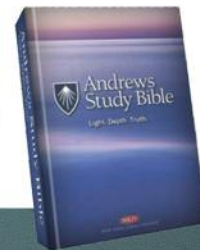
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Glenridge Church Offers Hope to Community

The Glenridge church in District Heights, Md., recently participated in their local community's Unity in the Community event. The Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs participated and many community members inquired about the "group of well mannered and neatly dressed children." Some parents even approached the Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders, Donett Cole and Daphne Anderson, to ask if their children could join the clubs.

The Adventist Community Services and Health, Personal and music ministries departments also participated, and the church hosted a prayer corner. The event gave Glenridge members another chance to promote their "Prophecies of Hope" seminar, which kicked off that same day. Several people attended because of those invitations.

"Glenridge looks forward to participating in next year's community event and to use the opportunity to win souls for Christ," says Pastor Vernon Waters.—Ivett Scott and Camille Allen



Pauline Salmon explains the NEWSTART health program to an event attendee.

Young Philadelphia Church Baptizes 24

Allegheny East Conference's young Bethel church and community services team in Philadelphia recently hosted a community youth and family service celebration, where nearly 200 guests witnessed 24 new believers publicly declare their commitment to the Lord through baptism.

Family members gathered around the large portable pool to witness the power of God in changing the lives of their loved ones. Former drug addicts, alcoholics,

talented young teens and young adults, white, black and Latino were among those who went down into the watery grave and sprang forth to new life.

The Bethel congregation inspires youth and families in their neighborhoods through praise, worship and creative arts, breaking the chains of oppression and depression that bind so many in the inner city. Bruce Patterson, lay pastor, believes that the only way to truly win souls for the kingdom is to do exactly what Jesus did, "nothing more, nothing less." He adds, "Love them, serve them, teach them and love them some more."

Patterson and his wife, Anita, started the Bethel church as a mission group in 2013 with a simple desire to help those in need find faith in God. Members say the recent baptisms were a reward for the Pattersons' passion, perseverance and willingness to continue to give to those in need.

There are an additional 21 new believers waiting to join this ministry-focused church by profession of faith.—Dawn Robinson



New believers worship before their baptisms.

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Allegheny East Conference

Membership Clerk

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Pine Forge, PA 19548

jobryant@myalleghenyeast.com

(610) 326-4610, ext. 310

Members Provide Relief to Baltimore Residents

The tragic death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray while in police custody this spring led to unrest in Baltimore. Although there were peaceful protests, there were also several riots and looting. Some local businesses were damaged during the looting, making them inaccessible to residents. Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Adventist Community Services (ACS), with the support of the North American Division (NAD) ACS and the Columbia Union and Chesapeake Conference, spearheaded an effort to address the needs of the Baltimore community.

The ACS team at Berea Temple in Baltimore, led by Kecia Hitch, organized the distribution of essential items, such as water, protein drinks, hygiene products, baby diapers and other items.

The distribution efforts kicked off after a Sabbath service at Berea Temple. Volunteers from across Maryland served 845 households. Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president; Rear Admin. Barry Black



Maurice Taylor, Baltimore area ministerial leader; Minnie McNeil and Dave Weigley participate in relief efforts.



William Lessane, a member of the Recreation church in Baltimore, gives essentials to a resident.

(Ret.), U.S. Senate chaplain, and other NAD and union representatives also volunteered.

Henry Fordham, AEC president, expressed how proud he was to see so many willing to come together to support Baltimore residents. For three additional days, volunteers distributed goods and prayer support to nearly 400 households.

"I am very pleased to see the collective Seventh-day Adventist family working together in a unified effort as we demonstrate God's love to a hurting community," shares Minnie McNeil, AEC ACS director and union coordinator.

In addition to the distribution efforts, AEC pastors participated in a peaceful march with fellow Baltimore clergy, and Baltimore area members organized prayer groups and a social media campaign.

The Baltimore area ministerial leadership team is planning a long-term response to address the city's challenges.

Dupont Park Teacher Receives Union Recognition



Cassandra Danley-Arnold, a teacher at Dupont Park Adventist Elementary in Washington, D.C., recently received the Columbia Union Office of Education's Outstanding Educator Award for the 2014-15 school year.

Recipients of this award have demonstrated consistent excellence in one or more of the following areas: using creative, innovative teaching strategies; expanding curricula and/or school programming; and implementing programs and/or outreach that has significantly and measurably enriched the local communities served.

"I feel honored and humbled by this selection. I know that I ride on the shoulders of all the Christian educator's that modeled great teaching," says Danley-Arnold.

Cassandra Danley-Arnold accepts the union's Outstanding Educator Award for 2014-15 at the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C.

Conference Says Goodbye to Five Workers

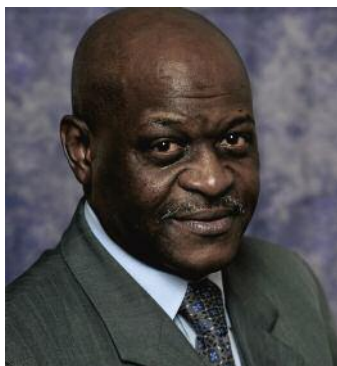
This summer five Allegheny West Conference (AWC) staff members left their posts or retired. William T. Cox, conference president, says, "Their contributions and service have been invaluable and we will miss the impact of their ministry."

Irene Hale worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 41 years. She served as executive assistant to Calvin Rock, when he served as president of Oakwood University (Ala.), before transferring to the AWC, where she served for more than 38 years as executive assistant to five presidents: Harold Cleveland, Willie Lewis, Hector Mouzon, James Lewis and Fredrick Russell. She also served as administrative assistant for various departments within the conference office.



Hale looks forward to spending time with her husband, Frank Hale, III, son and grandchild.

Joseph Grider has pastored for 34 years, including the last three as senior pastor of Ethan Temple in Dayton, Ohio. Grider recently accepted a call to the South Central Conference to pastor in Tuscaloosa, Ala. He will also serve as assistant ministerial director for the conference.



Allen Baldwin worked in the AWC for 23 years. He pastored in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio and served as director for the Sabbath School, Children's and Men's ministries departments. Baldwin accepted a call to the South Atlantic Conference where he will pastor the Milledgeville and Dublin (Ga.) church district.

Yvette Cooper worked in Adventist education for 33 years. She spent 16 of those years in Allegheny West during two separate stints. While at the AWC, she served in several roles: education superintendent, Pathfinder director, conference Pathfinder coordinator, Deaf Ministries coordinator, Health Ministries coordinator and Singles Ministries coordinator. Cooper is moving to the South Atlantic Conference to serve as principal of Decatur Adventist Junior Academy in Georgia.



Bryant Taylor served 25 of his 27 years in denominational ministry in the AWC. He pastored in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio, and served as communication director for the last nine years. Taylor accepted a call to the Southeastern Conference in Florida to serve as director of communication/technology.

Conference Mourns Loss of Longtime Employee



The Allegheny West Conference is mourning the loss of Cheryl Alli, a longtime administrative assistant. This spring Alli was involved in a tragic car crash while driving home from a lunch celebrating Administrative Assistants Day. She sustained major injuries and underwent several surgeries but passed away May 20. Longtime friend Mario Broussard Sr., pastor of the South Fountain church in Springfield, Ohio, says, “We asked the Lord for restoration but He chose [future] resurrection.”

Alli was very engaged in church life and was a sought-after wedding coordinator, decorator and singer. She also coordinated the conference’s annual youth cotillion. William T. Cox, conference president, says, “She will be greatly missed, and the void of her impact on the lives of young people will be felt for years to come. We await the resurrection and look forward to being reunited with Cheryl.”—*Bryant Taylor*

Columbus Central Pastor Speaks at Mayor Luncheon

John T. Boston, pastor of the Columbus Central church in Columbus, recently spoke at the Mayor’s Interfaith Luncheon held at the Jewish Community Center. More than 250 attendees represented nearly every faith group in the city.

Mayor Michael B. Coleman says he began the initiative in 1999 to “thank the almighty God” when he was first elected. Former keynote speakers include Bishop T.D. Jakes and a litany of nationally recognized faith leaders.

Pastor Boston was in Columbus less than eight



PHOTOS BY KARLA BOSTON

Pastor John Boston speaks at the Mayor’s Interfaith Luncheon.



Sergio Romero, AWC Multicultural Ministries director, Mayor Michael Coleman and Pastor John Boston meet at the Mayor’s Interfaith Luncheon.

months when he received the invitation and says, “It is a humbling thing to be numbered amongst those that were keynote speakers of such an incredible event.”

Coleman says he chose Boston because “Pastor Boston represents the future of Columbus. We must make room for and pass the torch of leadership to them.”

Since the luncheon, city officials have formed an exploratory committee to vet Boston as a chaplain for the Columbus Division of Police. “The Central church is one of the only Seventh-day Adventist churches downtown, and church leaders continue to create inroads to reach their city with the light of God’s love,” says Boston.



Blue Mountain Academy

COMMUNIQUE

JULY 2015

Students Perform Teacher's Original Opera

This spring Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students performed *The Exodus Story*, an original opera by Lawrence Galera, director of music. The cast of 88 included soloists, a choir and orchestra, gymnasts and actors, as well as stage, lighting and sound crews. Auditions began in September, rehearsals began in January and the cast finally performed twice in May.

For Galera, this was the crown of a two-year journey. "As I first began this project, it was difficult to imagine the epic journey from hundreds of years of slavery to a mental and physical state of freedom," Galera says. He explains that he intertwined music of prevalent composers throughout the story with his own lyrics, compositions and orchestrations.

Senior Nolan Seidel, who played Aaron, says he joined the choir his freshman year because he needed the credits, but his participation turned into a ministry through the opera. He shares, "I prayed and said, 'God, You have to help me. It is about the message, so use me.'"

Courtney Doyle, a senior who played Pharaoh's daughter, also saw the production as a ministry. "I thought that maybe this would touch people where a normal church service wouldn't," she says.

BMA staff and members of the local Seventh-day Adventist community also helped produce the opera. Karyl Kramer, English and French teacher, was the director and dialogue author. Ever Perez, chaplain and Bible teacher, designed the set. Christy Link, a Hamburg, Pa., resident, coordinated the costumes. And, a crowd of



The cast and orchestra perform the finale of *The Exodus Story*.



Jocabed (front left), played by senior Paige Barney, joins the Hebrew slaves to gather straw for bricks while singing Mozart's "Requiem."

volunteers and their families, students and other supporters tirelessly worked to make it possible.

Galera was overwhelmed by the experience. "I am truly blessed with being surrounded by such talented students—singers, actors and musicians. Relentless faculty and committed community members went far above and beyond my highest expectations," he says.

Esther Reese, a staff member and professional musician, played first violin. "I was completely blown away," she says. "This was their best. All of the kids pulled together and made it *their* Exodus story."

Jeff Bovee, vice president of education for the Pennsylvania Conference, says *The Exodus Story* was "a glimpse of the powerful and wonderful God who loves us and claims us for His own. ... I am so proud of the students, faculty, staff and volunteers who have worked to put together this amazing theatrical production."

10 Students Join National Honor Society

Ten new members—five sophomores, three juniors and two seniors—recently joined the National Honor Society (NHS), bringing the Blue Mountain Academy membership to 22. Qualifications include a cumulative grade point average of 3.67 or higher for three consecutive semesters. But, grades aren't the only requirement for membership. There are four tiers of criteria: leadership, citizenship, character and service. Members must also have “an attitude of a servant heart,” explains junior Victoria Acosta, president.

Students keep portfolios of activities and meet monthly to review them with a committee of five faculty members.

Doug Stewart, teacher of United States History, Western Civilization and psychology, started BMA's NHS chapter in 2005. “The NHS improves the school by exemplifying students who show scholarship and integrity and encourage others,” says Stewart.

As part of the program, the school offers United States History and Western Civilization as honors/dual enrollment classes that earn students college credits.

Members enjoy other benefits. Acosta was recently a finalist for the Carson Scholarship Program, and senior



National Honor Society members pose during the induction ceremony of 10 new members.

Bridget Baska won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Federal Express Scholarship Program.

Sophomore Field Trips Extend Classroom Learning

Sophomore biology and Life Science students at Blue Mountain Academy recently took field trips that enriched the information they learned in the classroom. Biology students participated in a biodiversity workshop at the National Museum of Natural History in



Sophomore Life Science students participate in a biodiversity workshop at the National Museum of Natural History.

Washington, D.C. “Students identified and studied coral reef species using the same techniques that a marine biologist would use to observe and analyze a mini ecosystem,” says Rose Bechtel, biology, Life Science, and anatomy and physiology teacher.

The sophomore Life Science class visited the Mütter Museum at the College of Physicians in Philadelphia to learn about the diagnosis and treatment of disease and to view medical artifacts. “One of the most striking collections was the 139 human skulls from Viennese anatomist Joseph Hyrtl,” Bechtel says.

Students also saw 2,347 obstructions that Chavaliler Jackson removed from patients' airways. Jackson, sometimes known as the “father of endoscopy,” developed methods and tools to extract foreign bodies inhaled or swallowed. Other displays included conjoined twins, an arm with herpes and a seven-foot colon.

“The displays were graphic and very realistic,” says student Michael Davis.

“Sometimes it just got creepy,” adds Ailyn Arana.

For Janick Brun, it was eye opening. “It made me grateful that I was born in a time where medicine and hospitals are advanced,” she says.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JULY 2015

When God Calls Your Name

Saul had enjoyed great success in persecuting the Christians in Jerusalem and was authorized to chase them down after they escaped to the North. But, on the way to Damascus, God called his name.

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, ‘Who are You Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting’” (Acts 9:4-5, NKJV). This encounter turned upside down the life of Saul, who became Paul.

Paul had been brought up to zealously keep the law, but now he found that salvation could only be experienced through faith in Jesus Christ. It became his theme as he preached and wrote. His beliefs were transformed by Jesus’ call. Paul’s actions were altered; he went from being a persecutor to a preacher. Instead of trying to extinguish the fledgling Christian church, he became the boldest of the apostles. He brought multitudes to the faith through his persevering efforts.

Paul became motivated by a love for Jesus. Hunger, imprisonment, stoning, shipwrecks, exhaustion and rejection were nothing compared to the joy of sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. He had heard Jesus call his name and wanted everyone else to know the peace of walking with the Lord.

Today Jesus calls your name as well. What will it mean for you to hear and respond like Paul? What kind of transformation will it bring to your life? It is the most incredible call any of us will ever receive.



Rick Remmers
President

Highland View, Spencerville Academies Graduate 66

This spring more than 60 students graduated from Chesapeake Conference’s Highland View Academy (HVA) and Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA):



HVA celebrated 24 graduates during the recent Commencement ceremony on their campus in Hagerstown, Md. Staff also gave honorary diplomas to retiring employees Dan Lindow for 40 years of service and Steve Gatz for 17 years of service, and to the Recuenco family in honor of their daughter, Catherine, who would have graduated with the Class of 2015. Recuenco died of leukemia September 1, 2011, just three months after graduating from eighth grade at the nearby Mount Aetna Adventist School.

Former principal LeRoy Snider spoke at the Baccalaureate service and former teacher Cliff Gadsden gave the keynote address for Commencement.



SAA seniors donned 3-D glasses to experience the presentation by Somer Knight, former campus pastor, during the Friday evening Consecration service at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Knight explained that one sees the world differently with Jesus in one’s life.

DeWayne Boyer, Bible teacher, spoke during the Baccalaureate service, and Ben Carson, a long-time Spencerville member, retired pediatric neurosurgeon and United States presidential hopeful, spoke to the 42 graduates at Commencement.

Students at the school in Spencerville, Md., received more than \$1.8 million in academic scholarships. A highlight of the weekend was the baptism of graduating senior Matthew Rajarathinam.

PHOTO BY MERLE POIRER



MISSION: THE EDGE PANAMÁ

**Thinking about a mission trip but don't know where to start? Its easy!
Just assemble your team and pick a date. We will take care of the rest.**

CONTACT:

Chesapeake Conference
Missions - César González
revg@easternshoresda.org

Quick Facts:

>**Dates** - dates are flexible but Spring fills up fast.

>**Cost** - the usual 10 day trip will cost between \$720-\$850 per person plus air. Price depends on lodging and food preferences and includes hotel, ground transport, meals, and materials.

>**Travel** - you will be flying into Tocúmen International Airport (PTY) in Panamá City and transferred by coach to your hotel in Chiriquí province. Plan

your flight to arrive in the early pm. Once on site you will use our bus for transportation.

>**Projects** - all work is done on an Indian reservation in the mountains of Western Panamá. Work in construction, medical, dental and children's ministries are all welcome. Tools and equipment are included. Local driver and construction foreman can be arranged.

>**Groups** - we can handle groups from 12-50

persons, and from age 15 and up. Family groups are also welcome, but anybody under 15 will have to be accompanied by a chaperone.

>**Extracurricular** - a tour of Panamá City is included in the package. Also available at an extra cost are white water rafting, zip line, horse back riding and hiking. You can visit the beach every day if your schedule permits. Special meals and other outings can be arranged.

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

JULY 2015

Young Musicians Hold Concert at Mountaintop Church

The Mountaintop church in Oakland, Md., recently hosted a concert with three members of the New England Youth Ensemble, Washington Adventist University's (WAU) orchestra. Alexander Marte and Geoffrey Cua played violin, and Beatrice Serban accompanied on the piano. The musicians have studied with notable instructors, traveled extensively in the United States and abroad, and received numerous awards. Cua and Serban are students at WAU in Takoma Park, Md., and Marte is a junior homeschool student and member of Chesapeake Conference's Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church.

The musicians played a variety of classical selections interspersed with Scripture readings that depicted God's redeeming love. The program climaxed with the hymn "O When Shall I See Jesus" and a rendition of "The Holy City."



Geoffrey Cua and Alexander Marte, members of the New England Youth Ensemble, perform at the Mountaintop church.



Alexander Marte waits to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York.

The violin Marte played also has a special story. It was once owned by Peter Fuchs, a young Jewish musician who played it in the Vienna Symphony Orchestra in pre-war Austria. After fleeing Nazi occupation, Fuchs and his mother were captured and sent to a work camp. Following a miraculous rescue, Fuchs found his violin and came to America, where he began a new life, married and raised a family. However, for nearly 70 years, and for reasons that remain a mystery, he could not play his beloved violin.

On his deathbed, Fuchs requested it be given to someone who would understand its beauty and significance. His daughter, a friend of the Marte family, brought it to Alexander, who says he is thankful to be playing a violin with such a wonderful history. "I plan on continuing to share the special gift of the violin to God's glory," he added.—Mary Brown

Buckhannon Member Receives Activity Award

Carol Holden, a member of the Buckhannon church, was recently named West Virginia's Activity Professional Star Employee of the Year at a conference in Parkersburg, W.Va. Holden is the medical records director at the Holbrook Nursing Home in Buckhannon and assists in the activity department with outings and special events.

"Carol loves what she does," says Vicky Kelley, activities director at Holbrook. "She is a very caring and giving person and is always willing to help."

Besides working at Holbrook, Holden is the clerk at the Buckhannon church and "is one of those busy people who others like to ask to do anything that needs to be done," says Pat Ridpath, Buckhannon church communication director. "Carol's winning personality, with a permanent smile and positive spirit, is a blessing, not only to her church family but also to the residents and workers at the Holbrook Nursing Home."



Romney Member Inspires Others to Join Health Ministry

When Paige Tighe's (pictured right) 15-year-old daughter, Molly (far right), was diagnosed with lupus, Paige had little knowledge of raw and vegan diets. She knew a change in diet could possibly

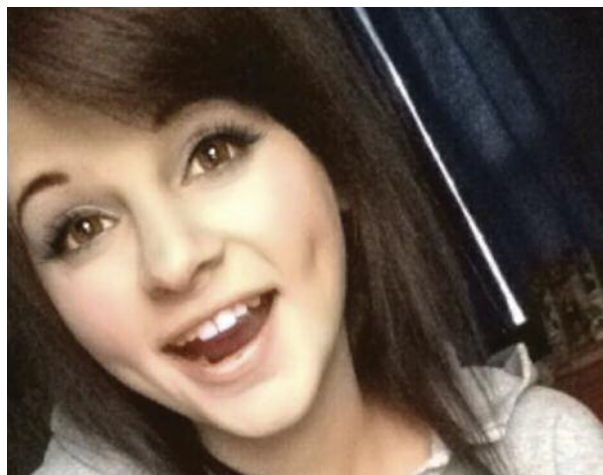


have a positive impact on her daughter's health and searched for more information. Kathryn Styer (below), a member of the Romney church in West Virginia, struck up a conversation with Paige when Styer brought a raw and vegan avocado, carob, fruit dip to a local home-schooling event. Before long they were talking about vegan recipes and Styer invited Paige to the Romney church's health seminar.

"I was more than excited when I saw Paige walk in the door the day of the health seminar," says Styer. "And, being one of the few visitors there that day, I felt

that God put the whole event together just for this mother and daughter!"

At the seminar, Dalva van Melle, a member of the Moorefield (W.Va.) church, taught about the raw and vegan diet and shared several success stories about healthy eating. The event gave Paige hope for battling her daughter's health challenges.



Paige and Molly spent the following week getting personalized instruction with van Melle. "Molly reports that she now has a lot of energy and her pain, for the most part, has subsided," says Styer.

Styer adds, "We are called to share our health message with the world, to open our homes to those who are hurting and show them the love of Jesus. The health message truly is the right hand of the gospel because it is love lived out. Jesus first met the needs of the people around Him, then He taught and they listened. Ellen White tells us, 'When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart'" (see *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 131).

Paige and Styer are now working together to help more people learn about healthy eating. They created a monthly community group where they share recipes, techniques and distribute food samples to help support and inspire families in their own health journeys.



At Summit, Families Work to Rebuild Relationships

Paulo Macena, conference Youth Ministries director, welcomed attendees to the Teens and Parents Summit with a sobering statement: “The statistics show that two-thirds of our youth will leave the church by the time they are 20 years old. Teens are leaving the church because they are deeply immersed in secular culture, and religion has no space in their lives. They spend about 31 hours online per week compared to three hours at church! It is time we do something.”

The event was the first of many that the Youth Ministries department will host to help combat this trend. During the summit, leaders educated parents on today’s teen culture and how to deal with the increased amount of information our teens are exposed to through media every day. Some presentation topics for parents included family worship, effectively communicating with teens and why teens are leaving the church.

The teens participated in sessions covering dating, relationships and purity, lies teens believe, the importance of respecting parents, consumerism, the impact of music and homosexuality.



The Bonilla family from the Laurel Springs church pray together.

At the end of the event, leaders encouraged parents and teens to confess how they have wronged one another, ask for forgiveness, pray and work to rebuild their relationships.

Rockaway Church Hosts Women’s Day of Prayer

This spring more than 40 women of all ages gathered at the Rockaway church to celebrate International Women’s Day of Prayer. Women’s Ministries organizers themed the event “He Lifts Up My Head” based on

Psalm 3:3. Organizers showcased the group’s diversity and displayed flags representing the countries where members were born. Two young ladies kicked off the event by leading a rousing song service, which was followed by a lively Sabbath School lesson study.

Keeping the focus on prayer, the group prayed for abused and violated women and girls around the world. Leaders and participants also prayed for the ladies of the church to develop more intimate relationships with the Lord and each other.

Volunteers provided music and three short presentations on prayer, family, thanksgiving and the importance of building strong relationships in the church. During the evening program, volunteers presented skits on verbal and physical abuse and how to overcome an abuser.

“This was truly an uplifting experience for us, and we give all the glory to our Lord for allowing us to be a part of this great program,” says Betty-Jean Cox, outgoing Women’s Ministries coordinator. “Our prayer is that we [will] allow the Lord to continue to guide in our lives as we reach out through prayer and other means to those who are hurting in our church and our community.”



Ladies from the Rockaway church celebrate the International Women’s Day of Prayer.

Women “Arise and Shine” for Jesus

This spring women from across New Jersey let their lights shine for Jesus at their annual retreats based on Isaiah 60:1 and themed “Arise and Shine.” One hundred and twenty attended the English women’s retreat hosted at the Wyndham Hamilton Park Hotel in Florham Park. Katia Garcia Reinert, North American Division Health Ministries director, spoke in the main meetings. Cristina Macena, administrative assistant at the New Jersey Conference; Marilyn Mapp, a member of the Burlington church; and Sheila Izzard, a member of the New Brunswick church, presented seminars.

About 340 Spanish-speaking women attended another retreat, also at the Wyndham Hamilton Park Hotel. Josefina Sanchez, a pastor’s wife from Ontario, Canada, spoke at the main sessions. Macena and Flor Rivero, a pastor’s wife, presented seminars.



Women from the Wayne church enjoy the English women’s retreat.



About 340 ladies attend the Hispanic women’s retreat.

About 40 of the attendees were not believers but showed an interest in giving their lives to Jesus after the retreat. One of those women was baptized at the Trenton Spanish church in Trenton.

“I am thrilled that so many ladies came to the retreat to recharge their energy so they can go back to their churches and be alive for others who are [spiritually] dying,” says Amalia Aguero, Women’s Ministries director.

Edelina Zajac, a Wayne member, shares, “It was unbelievable to feel a presence that we never felt before! We felt moved, and now we are ready to arise and shine and be the people that God created us to be.”

Toms River Church Puts Faith in Action

Carin Roa, Adventist Community Services director at the Toms River church, and 34 volunteers in bright, lime green shirts, recently participated in a community cleanup program. Together they collected 40 pounds of trash along State Highway 37 and near the Toms River Hotel, a site where the church also held an evangelistic series this spring. Afterward church workers, including several visitors, assembled at the church for refreshments and labeled handouts and books for distribution at the Toms River Food Fest, which drew thousands of visitors from the community.

Roa reports that community members recognized and appreciated the team’s work. She says events like this help build comradery and fellowship among participants, and those visitors are now attending church services, fellowship luncheons and Bible studies.

—Lucy Greene



The Toms River church prepares for their community cleanup day.

Centerville Prophecy Series Grows the Church

It was a grueling schedule. Five nights a week for five weeks? Who makes that kind of commitment these days? We wondered if we could sustain interest,” says Winston Baldwin, senior pastor of the Centerville church, of their recent 22-meeting evangelistic series conducted by evangelist Lonnie Melashenko. However, church leaders and volunteers remained committed and attracted an average of 40-50 guests from the community each night.

Attendance climbed throughout Melashenko’s “Hope Through Prophecy” series, opening with 350 people and closing with an unprecedented 400 attendees. Baldwin and his team connected with more than 250 guests during the series, the majority of whom continue to attend the church’s home Bible study fellowships and seminar sessions. “The days of public evangelism aren’t over!” states Melashenko.

Organizers say this Bible seminar was for everyone, Christians and unbelievers alike, and drew a wide variety of individuals. “If these meetings continued five nights a week for the rest of this year, I’d be at every one of them!” says attendee Dorie Evans. [“I’d] been praying earnestly for a clearer understanding of prophecy when the ‘Hope Through Prophecy—What’s Next?’ handbill arrived in my mailbox.” She attended every night and brought her husband, John, when he wasn’t flying to Brazil for Delta Airlines. True to her word, Dorie and John continue to attend programs at the church.

Another visitor drove more than 60 miles each night to attend the meetings. Others came because of their children, who learned age-appropriate versions of what their parents learned from Melashenko. By the conclu-



Winston Baldwin baptizes Mary Felts.

sion of the series, 10 attendees chose baptism and many continue to study and prepare for baptism. Baldwin shares that they are now using Melashenko’s “Thunder in the Holy Land” series and have several small groups with at least seven attendees continuing to study. He adds that there are nearly a dozen new people in the groups.

The series also revitalized longtime members. Many were overheard saying, “I’ve heard these messages before, but never like this! It has revitalized my spiritual life!” After one particularly inspirational message, several remarked to Melashenko, “This was the most powerful [outpouring of the] Holy Spirit’s presence I have ever experienced.”

Melashenko says few meetings like this have been conducted in Ohio in recent years. Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president, texted Melashenko and his team nightly with encouraging words, like, “I’m out of state, but my prayers are with you. May God just pour Himself out on you and these meetings.”



Winston Baldwin, senior pastor, prepares to baptize Chasity Walker.

PHOTOS BY JAMES GARBER AND CHELSEY MITTLLEIDER

Conference Leaders Mentor Youth for Christ

Ohio Conference Youth Department leaders have a passion for mentoring young people into faithful disciples of Christ, says Edward Marton (pictured), director. And, mentoring begins early. When a baby is dedicated at church, the youth department sends a gift certificate for the Camp Mohaven Conference and Retreat Center in Danville, as well as a gift with a note encouraging the parents in their role as the child's first mentors.

Parents then have the privilege of partnering with their local church family in mentoring their child. The pastor and Sabbath School teachers both help mold the child. The circle of influence widens when children attend church schools and the teachers become mentors. Adventurer and Pathfinder directors and leaders also help mold their young members.

Once a year, the Camp Mohaven staff also get a chance to mentor young people for Christ. This year the theme for summer camp is "Mission Mohaven." Staffers will encourage the youth to become Christ's missionaries and ambassadors in their homes, neighborhoods and schools.

Marton hopes all these activities will enrich the spiritual health of the children. "As youth director, it is my

privilege to plan events; serve the Adventurer, Pathfinder and youth leaders of Ohio; visit churches, and share the vision and importance of mentoring our children in Ohio, that they may become the hands and feet of Jesus," he shares.

To learn more about youth department events, call (740) 397-4665 or email emarton@ohioadventist.org.



Mount Vernon Elementary Celebrates Arbor Day

This spring students at Mount Vernon Adventist Seventh-day Adventist Elementary (MVE) participated in a special Arbor Day program. The eighth-graders read *Love Letters*, a poem by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, and Kimberly Clarke, upper-grade teacher, read *The Giving Tree* by Shell Silverstein. Susan Kahrl, Mount Vernon City councilwoman, visited and read a proclamation on behalf of

Richard K. Mavis, mayor, commemorating Arbor Day.

Jim Brown and Kate Burley, from Mount Vernon's Shade Tree and Beautification Commission, planted a crimson king maple tree for the students to enjoy. After the tree planting, MVE students and staff cleaned up Hiawatha Park located across from the school. Each student also received a free sapling to plant elsewhere in honor of the day.



MVE staff and students celebrate the new sapling they helped plant on their campus.

Pennsylvania Pen

JULY 2015

Conference Ordains Two Pastors

This summer the Pennsylvania Conference ordained pastors Keith Ingram and Randy Nims. The special service took place during the Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg.

Keith Ingram

Ingram first felt his call to ministry on an archeological trip to Egypt. In that moment, he knew there was a need for God's people to be saved and preserved more than the remnants of the past.

Pastor Ingram earned a bachelor's in theology from Southern Adventist University (SAU) (Tenn.) His wife, Nancy, also graduated from SAU with an

associate degree in nursing. She is currently taking a break from nursing to care for their two children, Nathaniel and Abigail.

Ingram serves as pastor of the Bucks County church in Warminster and the Fairview Village church in Norristown.



Randy Nims

During his junior and senior years at Blue Mountain Academy, Nims took flying lessons, which fueled his love for airplanes. He graduated from Andrews University (Mich.), enrolled in an aerospace engineering program and worked as an engineer in Texas. But, his career took a turn and he went back to Andrews and earned a Master of Divinity.

"I spent most of my childhood dreaming of being an astronaut and visiting countless worlds," Nims says. "And really, when I think about it, I am still going to visit countless worlds. The only difference is now I am proclaiming the gospel message so countless numbers can join me!"

Nims has developed his own 18-part evangelism series, which he uses three times each year. He enjoys public evangelism, but says about 60-70 percent of the people he's baptized resulted from personal ministry.

Nims and his wife, Amy, a registered nurse, have two children. Nims currently pastors the Meridian Road, New Castle and Shenango Valley churches in western Pennsylvania.



BMA Sends Off Class of 2015

This spring 37 seniors graduated from Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). During a Sabbath afternoon service, the graduates paid tribute to their parents. That evening they participated in a candle lighting ceremony, where staff awarded the Columbia Union Office of Education's Caring Heart Award to Eveling Grajales, and the President's Award, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and President Barack Obama. Students also received National Honor Society, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), leadership and music certificates. Twenty students received college scholarships ranging from \$16,000 to \$42,380.

"I am very proud to have walked beside these students and wish them well as they move into the next chapter of their lives," says Dave Morgan, principal.—*Caron Oswald*



Stroudsburg Opens Community and Wellness Center

Church members, local residents, volunteers, local politicians and Pocono Medical Center representatives attended the grand opening of the Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist Community and Wellness Center (SCWC). The facility provides clothing, food and wellness programs to the Stroudsburg community under the leadership of Jamala Asiyo, director, and a team of volunteers from the Stroudsburg church.

The center's ministry began more than 20 years ago when church members distributed clothing to those in need. The ministry quickly outgrew its space at the church and moved to a garage donated by Edith Funk, a local resident. It later moved into another building near the church property.

In February the center began a partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank in

The newly opened SCWC features a wellness center with screenings, seminars and other resources to help people live healthy, successful lives.

the Lehigh Valley and now operates a food pantry two Wednesday afternoons a month and distributes clothing on Wednesday mornings.

SCWC staff are committed to improving the lives of community members and now offer online wellness bulletin boards, disease prevention programs, weight control seminars and meal planning for diabetics, aerobic classes, health fairs and other programs designed to help people live healthy lives. They work with various health organizations and professionals in the Lehigh Valley to provide these services free of charge.

"As a community-based volunteer organization, our goal is to provide individuals of all ages and abilities access to healthy lifestyle changes and give them the tools to be successful," says Asiyo.



Jamala Asiyo, SCWC director, and Pastor Livingstone Aaron receive a plaque of recognition from state Rep. David C. Parker.



BMA Principal Receives Administrator Award

During Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting, Evelyn Sullivan, associate director for early childhood education at the Columbia Union Conference, presented Dave Morgan, principal of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), with the union Office of Education's Outstanding Administrator Award.

Morgan received the award because of his exceptional leadership qualities and true sense of care, compassion and dedication to the mission.

Morgan has worked in the Pennsylvania Conference since 1988. He taught in the classroom for 17 years, served as education superintendent for five years and as BMA vice principal for two years. He has served as principal since 2012. He also teaches leadership and vocational ethics classes.

Jeff Bovee, Pennsylvania Conference vice president for education, and Evelyn Sullivan, associate director for early childhood education at the Columbia Union Conference, flank Dave Morgan.



Potomac People

JULY 2015

Union Names Lynchburg Teacher Outstanding Educator

Last month Steve Doss, principal and seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Desmond T. Doss (DTD) Christian Academy in Lynchburg, Va., received the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education's Outstanding Educator Award.

As a young man, Doss joined the Air Force and was later accepted into nursing school. Before he started his first semester, he cut his finger and needed stitches. "Right then and there, I decided nursing wasn't for me," he laughs. Instead, he pursued a history degree.

During this time, he attended an evangelism series and gave his life to God. After graduation his friend Tammy Tomlin, then principal of DTD, gave him the opportunity to explore teaching as an aide. "Within two weeks, I knew this was the place for me," says Doss. "God led me."

Many recognize Doss' ability to bridge the school and church to visiting families. "In a meeting, I distinctly remember Steve outlining all the non-Adventist students enrolled," recalls Keith Hallam, vice president for education. "When completing his report, he was quick to add that he believed, before the school year closed, many students would accept Jesus as their personal Savior."

Doss continued to develop his teaching certifica-



Steve Doss receives the Outstanding Educator Award from Donovan Ross, Columbia Union Conference associate director of education.

tions and now has a master's in education.

"Steve is a big part of the school's success story," says Hallam. "He lives with integrity and always demonstrates kindness, love and compassion."

Sligo School Boasts Young "City Engineers"

Not many people can say they've designed a town from scratch, giving Sligo Adventist School (SAS) eighth-grader Angelou Davis (below) something to tout. "I actually did two city designs for Angeloutopia, a city with 20,000 residents," he says.



For the past five years, SAS in Takoma Park, Md., has named eighth-graders as city engineers through a project Melody Trauthwein, sixth- to eighth-grade math and science teacher, developed. Students choose a population size, from 1,000 to 1 million residents, and consider how to manage 12 areas, like sewage/landfill issues, sustainable energy sources, types of housing and road designs to avoid traffic congestion.

The project idea stemmed from Trauthwein's involvement with CoastLines, a National Science Foundation program. "The program emphasized that geography is key to [understanding] many topics, including politics and town planning, which made me interested in *why* things are *where* they are when a town is designed," she says.

Trauthwein says this project builds critical thinking skills and hopefully equips students with better decision-making skills as they consider the short- and long-term variables. Each school year, SAS students conduct several science projects. Last year students created a food chain/web within a biome and did a presentation about common teenage lifestyle risks.

Potomac People

“Prophecies of Hope” Seminars Lead to 100-Plus Baptisms

Thirty-eight Potomac churches recently engaged in a tri-conference evangelism effort with Allegheny East and Chesapeake conferences. Participating churches themed their meetings “Prophecy of Hope” with the idea that hope is a movement, reaching people where they are, transforming and inviting them to become part of God’s saving story.

Members of the Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md., wanted their meetings, which featured evangelist Luis Goncalves, to stretch beyond state lines. The church, which livestreams their services, also streamed the meetings. This resulted in people from Brazil to Japan to Serbia tuning in each night. The Richmond Brazilian Community, another congregation in Virginia, also tuned in, averaging 30 guests each night.

“We had a tremendous response,” says David Barrozo, Washington Brazilian pastor. “We have reports of people in more than 90 locations worshipping with us. At our location, we had five baptisms and one profession of faith, along with 20 decisions for future baptisms. Decisions were also made at other locations, but the exact number is hard to know.”

Goncalves reminded the five baptized in his congregation that this was an act of giving their futures over to God and giving them a lifetime of walking with the Lord. Nine-year-old Rayssa Togo recognized this



Baptismal candidates affirm their decision at the Washington Brazilian church.



Rear Adm. Barry Black (Ret.), chaplain of the U.S. Senate, preaches for the “Prophecies of Hope” meeting at the Takoma Park (Md.) church.

by stating that she wanted to give her life to God “because He died on the cross and gave his life for me, now I want to give him mine.” Young brothers, Thomas and Thiago Adao, were also baptized as well as 10-year-old Erik Boeira. More than 40 requests for prayer and Bible studies also resulted from the Washington Brazilian meeting.

Because of the powerful Spirit-led messages, more than 100 baptisms have been claimed in the Potomac Conference through these hope-filled weeks of evangelism.

“There were so many dedicated people working together,” says Barrozo. “The members at my church were amazing. After working a full day, they still came in early to help and orchestrate what we were doing. I’m sure this was the case across the three conferences.”

Peter Casillas, associate for evangelism and church planting, reiterates the power of teamwork to better reach communities: “Mission needs to take priority over any other thing for such a time like this. It’s time to blur more and more lines that divide us, like conference territories. It was a blessing to see so many working together to reach the metro areas in Baltimore and D.C.”—Vanessa Leiva contributed to this article

PHOTO BY DAVID LEIVA

Spotlight

on Spencerville

JULY 2015
Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

We All Grow Through Service

Education is an endeavor that involves more than mental growth. I've also seen students improve physically, socially and spiritually. All four aspects can sometimes be developed simultaneously. Going into the community and serving others provides physical training through manual labor, mental growth through on-site problem solving, social improvement through interacting with community members, and spiritual growth through the practice of putting others first.



Sophomores Sylvia Juarez, Maddie Kline and Jasmin Granados work in the community garden plots at the Briggs-Chaney Community Garden.

In late March, nearly 40 Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) students grew in these areas during the annual mission trip to Panama, and many others through service to the community. The students who served locally spent their first day back from spring break focused on helping the community prepare their organizations and businesses for the onset of summer. Students cleaned beaches at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. They created trails and cleaned lawns at the Sandy Spring Museum in Sandy Spring, Md. They mulched along fences and cleared garden plots at the Briggs-Chaney Community Garden in Silver Spring, Md., and prepared the Sandy Spring Adventure Park for the influx of summer visitors by mulching, digging, picking up trash and unloading storage trailers.

We are reminded that “in our labor, we are to be workers together with God,” and that by working together for others, we can learn “the true dignity of labor” (see *Education*, p. 214). Our students received many positive notes and emails from the community, affirming not only their “good job” but also the friendly, Christian spirit with which they worked.

The simple act of laboring together with God can have far-reaching impacts on the workers and on those for whom they work.



Tim Soper
Chaplain

Students Raise \$1,700 in Pennies for Cancer Patients

Students in pre-K through eighth-grade recently learned that, when they combine their pennies, they can help do great things for others. For nearly a month, students collected all sorts of coins to benefit Pennies for Patients, an organization that supports the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s mission to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

SAA’s goal was to collect \$700, but students more than surpassed that goal and raised \$1,738.19. Classrooms competed with one another to see who could collect the most. The eighth-grade class came in first place with a total collection of \$872.97.

“I am very proud of every student that participated in the Pennies for Patients campaign,” says Linda McEowen, guidance counselor and campaign organizer. “Our students learned about service, leadership and philanthropy and how they can change patients’ lives.”



Linda McEowen counts up the donations collected by elementary students for the Pennies for Patients project.

Elementary Students Celebrate Writing

Kindergarteners can be the most prolific and imaginative thinkers on the planet,” says Lynette Sigh, kindergarten teacher. This year her class captured their thoughts in a published book titled *Things That Make Me Smile*. Birthday parties, laughing, God and quality time with loved ones are a few of the things the kindergarteners wrote about. On the Meet the Author page, students described their aspirations to be a doctor, uncle, secret agent and farmer. “The book is a collection of pictures and words that are impossible to read without smiling,” says Sigh.

The class then hosted Meet the Authors, where families celebrated the young writers’ accomplishments. Student Gustavo Silva says, “I liked drawing a picture of my family and having it in the book.”

The kindergarteners weren’t the only ones polishing their writing skills. Rachel Fuentes, second-grade teacher, believes that writing is an essential skill, and in her class, students sought their voice. In her writer’s workshop, she taught the students the six traits of writing: organization, ideas, word choice, voice, sentence fluency and conventions.

“I use trade books to show students what or how authors use the writing traits to convey their messages,” says Fuentes.

Toward the end of the school year, Fuentes says students are proficient writers and choose one of their writing pieces to publish in individual books. They also



Students are excited to meet guest author Annette Abrams.



Rachel Fuentes’ second-grade class are now published authors.



Lynette Sigh’s kindergarteners show off their self-published books.



Kindergartener Christian Martinez autographs his page in the *Things That Make Me Smile* book.

illustrated the books. Fuentes asked the parents to write the About the Author portion of the book, which was added on the last page.

Fuentes invited parents and families to a young author’s celebration where they listened to Annette Abrams, author of *My Body Needs Help*, speak about writing her book. The book tells Abrams’ story of cancer treatment and survival from a child’s perspective. Each student then got an opportunity to read to the crowd and received an award recognizing their hard work.

“The event is special,” says Fuentes. “Students begin to realize that word choice matters. I want my students to enjoy writing, thus the huge celebration at the end of the school year.”

Calendar

- August 13** New Student/Parent Orientation
- August 17** First Day of School
- August 19** Back to School Night

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



JULY 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

New Staff Join School Family

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) ended the 2014-15 school year with immeasurable blessings from God. SVA leadership is committed to continuing that momentum into the 2015-16 school year. Four new hires will play a major role in accomplishing this:



Donald Short, principal in transition, brings more than 12 years of experience as an administrator at Georgia Cumberland Academy (Ga.). Short comes to SVA with an unmistakable passion for Seventh-day Adventist education.

His experience in strengthening academic programs and improving student leadership will prove especially helpful in his new role.

“We are humbled and challenged by the opportunity to work with a team of dedicated Christian educators to shape the next chapter at SVA,” says Short. “With God’s help, we will honor the rich SVA heritage.”

Short is married to Laura Lee. They have three daughters.

David Niño, music chair, comes to SVA from Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where he served as the music department director for six years. Niño has a passion for music and the youth.



“I see coming to SVA as an opportunity to make new friends, build memorable moments with the talented SVA students and grow together, all while doing one of the most beautiful things in life: making music for the glory of God,” he says.

Niño is married to Ana and they have two children, David Jr. and Natalia.



Janel Haas Ware, director of development and alumni relations, is no stranger to SVA. Ware is a Class of '86 alumna and has served on the Shenandoah Valley Academy Board of Directors since 2013.

“It has been an incredible blessing to give and volunteer for the sake of the alumni, students and ministry of SVA,” says Ware. “My prayer is that many more young people and generations will have the opportunity to experience the unique and life-transforming Adventist boarding education SVA offers. One of the greatest blessings of my life has been to know and experience Christ’s love as a member of the SVA family.”

Ware is married to Stuart ('79) and they have two children, Carter ('15) and Peyton, a senior at SVA.

Ryan Knight, dean of boys, joins SVA after serving as head dean at Maplewood Academy (Minn.) for four years. “One of my favorite things about being a dean is being able to mentor young men and help them grow a more Christ-like character,”



says Knight. “I enjoy building personal relationships with each one of my guys. My family and I are looking forward to working with the gentlemen at SVA, sharing our love for Jesus and our love for academy.”

Knight and his wife, Jaclyn, have two young sons. —Chris Simons

www.ta.edu **TATODAY** JULY 2015

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Prestigious School Network Embraces TA

Takoma Academy (TA) was recently granted admission into A Better Chance program's network of more than 300 educational institutions, which include the United State's greatest college preparatory schools often attended by the children of U.S. presidents. TA is the first and only Seventh-day Adventist school to be admitted into the group.

With notable alumni, like former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick, A Better Chance has distinguished itself as the pre-eminent resource for identifying, recruiting and developing leaders among young people of color in the United States. The organization identifies candidates from the community who perform at or above their grade level and, based on the decision of the national admissions committee of the A Better Chance program, refers them to outstanding schools, such as Takoma Academy.

Becoming a member of the network is a strenuous process that starts with an extensive application process and thorough site review from A Better Chance program officer. Then, the national board of directors reviews the school and makes the final determination. Keith Wilkerson (pictured with students), senior program

manager for the organization's mid-Atlantic region, conducted TA's onsite review. He explains why he recommended the school: "Takoma Academy's willingness to provide opportunities for students to receive a better education, in spite of already being a tremendously diverse institution of learning, speaks to a spirit of service that makes us proud to include TA as a part of our network of member schools. We look forward to referring students there in the coming years."



Junior Earns Cultural Program Opportunity

Last month TA announced its first student accepted into the Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC), which provides outstanding students the opportunity to travel around the world to learn more about various languages and cultures. Another junior, Symonne Francis, has also been accepted into the prestigious program and will enjoy the opportunity to travel abroad.



This month Francis will participate in Spain: The Importance of Being Basque, where she will be immersed with the

Basque people who, according to SDC officials, "fiercely preserve their linguistic, artistic, economic and cultural heritage." On a trip that promises to have a profound impact on various aspects of her development, she will learn about the links between cultural preservation and modern economics.

"I think four words accurately sum up my emotions regarding my Student Diplomacy Corps acceptance: humbled, honored, grateful and excited. ... It hit me that I would not only represent TA but also the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I truly felt honored—not only for being selected but also for the opportunity I am being afforded to witness," Francis says. "I am so very grateful to Keith Wilkerson and [the] A Better Chance program for introducing this program to TA and advocating for this opportunity for TA students. Wow, what an awesome God I serve!"

After 100 Years, We're Still Growing With Excellence

Washington Adventist University (WAU) was established in 1904 as a coeducational institution known as the Washington Training College. Its vision then was to train young men and women in the liberal arts. Although there was a name change, the concept of the original vision still remains: "To produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities."

At the first commencement, held May 22, 1915, five students received Bachelor of Arts degrees. This May during the 100th commencement weekend, 289 students received degrees. To God be the glory! On behalf of the board of trustees, we thank all the faculty, staff, administrators and friends of the university for their dedication and commitment to Christian education.

Our faith-based institution remains fully accredited by the Middle States Commission for Higher Education and is fully approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission to offer eight graduate programs and 35 undergraduate programs. The 2013 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the university among the best colleges in the northern region. We are growing with excellence! Today the university celebrates more than 12,000 alumni who have walked through the Gateway to Service and returned to their communities to impact the world.



Weymouth Spence
President

Religion Professor Represents School in England

Just hours after completing the 2014-15 school year, Olive Hemmings (pictured), religion professor, flew to England to lead an evangelistic effort, host a workshop and present a paper.

Her first stop was the Palmers Grove church in London where she and two other speakers presented "Core of Adventism," a weeklong annual evangelistic series. She also conducted "Hermeneutics and

Hemmings has been teaching at WAU for the past 12 years and has a master's degree from Andrews University (Mich.) and a doctorate from Claremont Graduate University (Calif.).



Adventism: Approaching the Challenges," a workshop for pastors in the British Union Conference.

After the series, she presented a paper titled "Paul and Gender Relations: A Didactic Approach" at the South England Conference's Summit on Women's Ordination. Summit organizers planned the event to help members deliberate on the question of ordaining women before attending the General Conference Session in San Antonio this month, says Hemmings.

Hemmings teaches several classes, including one on Pauline theology, and recently published a book, *Sacred Texts and Social Conflict: the Bible and the Debate Over Women's Ordination in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*. She also spoke about women's ordination and the politics of interpretation as part of the 34th G. Arthur Keough Lectureship program at WAU last spring.



289 Students Accept Diplomas at 100th Commencement

Washington Adventist University graduates 289 students. Faculty conferred the following degrees: 77 graduate, 203 bachelor and 11 associate degrees.

Students Travel the Globe to Serve

Before Washington Adventist University students receive their diplomas, they walk through the Gateway to Service, a symbol of the university's commitment to service, locally and globally. "We want students to leave with a lasting impression, a message that we have prepared them for a lifetime of service," says Baraka Muganda, vice president for ministry.

Each year about 30 WAU students go on short-term mission trips. By the end of this summer, WAU students and staff will have served in Jamaica, Kenya, Thailand, St. Kitts and Nevis in the West Indies. Five graduates even joined the most recent trip to Nevis.

"These trips allow our students to put their faith into practice, not just locally but globally. As they serve, they start to own their faith. They have the opportunity to come face to face with other people throughout the world, to learn about another culture and to become moral leaders," says Muganda.

On a recent trip to Nevis, Alvin Fuentes, professor of physical education, and Kaneil Williams, chaplain, and nine students held a weeklong revival series themed "The Church is Dead." They shared powerful personal testimonies and strong biblical doctrine that affirmed the advent message while suggesting its uselessness if Christians are segmented and stationary, says Williams. To reach young people, the organizers held the meetings in a tent instead of a church.

"I feel like the mission trip was not only a revival for the youth of Nevis but also for us, especially me. I know that God had me on that trip for a reason, and I grew because of it," says Erik Copeland II, a physical education major.



PHOTOS BY JOHNNY NWANAKWO

A WAU student demonstrates the importance of good dental hygiene to elementary students in Nevis.



A WAU student enthusiastically shares his educational knowledge with elementary students in Nevis.



Washington Adventist University students and a local artist complete a mural in front of the Charlestown church in Nevis.

The university students also visited nine elementary schools to instruct the students about nutrition and the importance of hand washing. They painted a mural of the three angels announcing Christ's second coming outside the Charlestown church in Nevis. On the mural, students painted the words "Lift up the trumpet! And loud let it ring! Jesus is coming again."

The trip allowed students to build on skills sharpened in the classroom and helped them further develop their faith. "God used me by stretching and challenging my skill set in ways I did not even imagine as we spoke to kids at schools about various topics. When we had to improvise and make last-minute changes and adjustments, God ordered our every step, and challenges still turned into blessings," says Jazmine Walls, senior religion major.



Giving Light in a Dark Place

Many years ago, the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Greater Dayton area combined their talents and resources to reach those in need. It was a brilliant, Spirit-led decision that has been a source of blessing ever since. Today, the concept of a food and clothing pantry has expanded thanks in part to Kettering Adventist HealthCare, which helped provide medical, dental and vision services in the same building.

It is essential that we feed the mind, body and spirit. People come in starving for purpose, meaning and dignity. Together, our staff and volunteers provide Christ's commission of Matthew 25 to help the least of these by listening, nurturing, praying and providing access to food, clothing, household items and health care to low income individuals.

If you would like to help us change people's lives for the better, we are always looking for volunteers and supplies. Visit our website for more information on how to get involved: goodneighborhouse.org

Blessings to you and your family.



Jonathan Leach
executive director of
The Good Neighbor House

*Member of Kettering
Seventh-day Adventist Church*



**GOOD
NEIGHBOR
HOUSE**

EMPOWERING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES



your healing MINISTRY

Reaching Our Community Through the Good Neighbor House

By Jonathan Leach



Vicki had reached rock bottom. She found herself without a morsel of food in the pantry or appropriate shoes on her feet. A victim of domestic violence, Vicki says, "You do what you have to do. But I didn't have to steal or sell myself. I found the Good Neighbor House, and because of them I have more than food and clothing. I now have hope."

Vicki is not alone. Last year more than 20,000 individuals suffering from pain, hunger and poverty in the Greater Dayton area found hope to face the future through the ministry of the Good Neighbor House.



The organization is helping create a healthy community. This past spring, community volunteers planted gardens so people could have access to fresh, healthy produce. They are teaching the community how to make good choices by facilitating nutrition and cooking classes.



The Good Neighbor House provides a “choice” pantry where clients don’t just get a bag of empty calories, but can select products that foster healthy habits.

“I don’t know where we would be if the Good Neighbor House wasn’t here,” says Edith, a grandmother who is the primary caregiver of her two grandchildren. “These people have given us a new lease on life.”

Volunteers are the backbone of the organization. Last year volunteers gave 15,154 hours of service. God be praised for this hands-and-feet-of-Jesus center where ministry happens every day.

NEWS



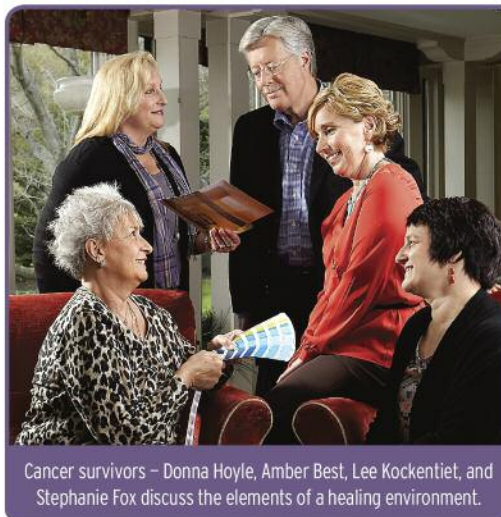
JULY 2015

A New Era in Cancer Care

To transform the experience of cancer care, Kettering Adventist HealthCare consulted the experts—community members who have faced the extraordinary challenge of a cancer diagnosis. The council includes about 30 members, and meets monthly at Kettering Medical Center.

Council members often share positives from their own experiences as cancer patients at Kettering Medical Center. Donna Hoyle, for example, felt very strongly that certain furry friends continue to be a part of the treatment process. “Some of my radiation therapy sessions were very difficult for me emotionally,” says Donna, a Kettering resident. “A therapy dog came to my side, and he really lifted my spirits.”

Kettering Adventist HealthCare broke ground on a new cancer center this past May. This five-story facility on the campus of Kettering Medical Center



Cancer survivors – Donna Hoyle, Amber Best, Lee Kockentiet, and Stephanie Fox discuss the elements of a healing environment.

will open in late 2016, bringing all of Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s cancer services under one roof, including:

- Radiation oncology
- A breast imaging diagnostic center
- A multi-specialty clinic for medical oncology
- An outpatient infusion center
- Specialty pharmacies
- Medical massage
- Dedicated cancer social workers, dieticians and nutritionists, nurse navigators, and financial navigators
- Support groups
- Clinical research trials
- A boutique offering specific products for cancer patients
- A café with menu items tailored to cancer patients’ nutritional needs



Artist Rendering

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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BLACK HILLS HEALTH AND EDUCATION CENTER staff openings: plant operations manager, food service director and physician. Details and applications at bhhec.org or call (605) 255-4101.

THE NAD'S ADVENTIST LEARNING COMMUNITY in Berrien Springs, Mich., is seeking an IT manager. Requirements include either a BA/BS in computer science or related field or equivalent work experience, as well as software development and technical skills. If interested, contact Johanna Prestol-Dominguez, PHR, at johanna.prestol@nad.adventist.org.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS A VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:

The applicant must possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education and successful record of academic administration. Candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and be committed to the values, principles and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Classroom experience, preferably at the college level. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcript and three professional letters of reference to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit auc.edu.

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ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS LIBRARIAN:

The successful applicant should have at least an MLS degree (Preference will be given to candidates with a second graduate degree.); administrative experience in college or university library; broad knowledge of electronic information systems and library operations. A minimum of five years of experience in libraries or related field is required. Must have excellent knowledge of computer applications for library. The applicant must fully support Atlantic Union College's global Community Engagement Mission and candidate must be a member in good and

regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and be committed to the values, principles and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, copy of transcript and three professional letters of reference to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details visit auc.edu. Part-time transitioning into increasing hours, leading to a full-time salaried position.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT:

Master's degree (MA) or equivalent with four to 10 years of related experience and/or training. Candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and be committed to the values, principles and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, copy of transcript and three professional letters of reference to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit auc.edu.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Associate's degree (AA) or equivalents from two-year college or technical school; five years of increasingly responsible secretarial and clerical experience are required. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, copy of transcript and three professional letters of reference to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit auc.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

WILLIAM H. GREEN, GEORGE E. PETERS, AND JESSE N.

CAUTION: I am doing research on these three black Adventist leaders. 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.

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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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Cincinnati	9:08	9:06	9:03	8:58	8:52
Cleveland	9:04	9:02	8:58	8:53	8:46
Columbus	9:05	9:03	8:59	8:54	8:48
Jersey City	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:14
Norfolk	8:28	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:14
Parkersburg	8:56	8:55	8:51	8:47	8:40
Philadelphia	8:33	8:31	8:28	8:23	8:17
Pittsburgh	8:54	8:52	8:49	8:44	8:37
Reading	8:37	8:36	8:32	8:27	8:21
Richmond	8:35	8:33	8:30	8:26	8:20
Roanoke	8:44	8:43	8:40	8:35	8:29
Toledo	9:12	9:10	9:07	9:01	8:55
Trenton	8:32	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:16
Wash., D.C.	8:37	8:36	8:32	8:28	8:22

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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 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 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*
Karen L. Senecal, *Secretary*

POTOMAC CONFERENCE CORPORATION SECOND QUINQUENNIAL MEETING

Legal notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial meeting of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, September 27, 2015, at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7700 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the corporation's 2010-2014 report, elect executive officers, vice presidents and members of the Executive Committee and other board and committee members; consider recommendations for amendments and revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists as well as Board of Education, Shenandoah Valley Academy and Takoma Academy bylaws; and to transact such other business as may come before the delegates.

The Organizing Committee will meet Sunday, August 23, 2015, at 10 a.m. at the Richmond Evangelistic Center located at 5300 Walmsley Blvd, Richmond, VA 23224. The Nominating Committee will meet Sunday, September 13, 2015, at 10 a.m. at the Potomac Conference Corporation office located at 606 Greenville Ave, Staunton, VA 24401.

William K. Miller, *President*
Jorge A. Ramirez, *Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREATER NEW YORK ACADEMY 95TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION POSTPONED: The new date is October 7-9, 2016. More information will be sent closer to the event. Contact: alumni@gnyacademy.org.

WASHINGTON (PA) CHURCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION will be held Friday, August 14, with a vespers service at 7 p.m.; Sabbath, August 15, worship service at 11 a.m., followed by lunch, remembrances and rededication. The church is located at 901 N. Main Street, Washington, PA 15301. For further information or to RSVP for the Sabbath luncheon, contact Wilma Cale at (863) 632-0299.

OBITUARIES

BARBOUR, Kenneth Eugene, born December 11, 1929, in Hampton, Va.; died November 28, 2014. He was a member of the Calvary church in Newport News, Va. He is survived by his wife, Olethia "Ernestine" Barbour of Hampton, and his daughters, Carol F. Barbour of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Ann McCloud of Randallstown, Md.



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