

# VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

AUGUST 2015 • VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 8

## **Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming!**

A photo journey of the 60th  
General Conference Session

Plus: One employee shares  
an emotional farewell to MVA

# Contents



PHOTO BY STEVEN NORMAN

## 4 | Newline

## 6 | Noticias

## 8 | Features

### Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming!

Take a photo journey of the 60th General Conference Session, where more than 65,000 Seventh-day Adventists from around the world gathered in San Antonio, Texas, to worship together, conduct business and focus more on mission.

### Hard to Say Goodbye

*Shari Bellchambers*

As Mount Vernon Academy shuts its doors, a 30-year staff member shares the sorrow and joy many felt during the school's final graduation weekend.

## 17 | Newsletters

## 45 | Bulletin Board

**About the Cover:** The Tower Life Building, a landmark and historic building in downtown San Antonio, Texas, is photographed by Steven Norman on the first day of the 60th General Conference Session.

## ON THE WEB

### ALL THINGS SESSION

Want more of the details, stories and photos we gathered at the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio? Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/gcsession](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/gcsession) for full coverage of the 12-day gathering of our worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family.

### WISH YA'LL HAD BEEN THERE

Although we ran out of our popular, commemorative session magnets, we saved a few for a special cause. Be among the first five to share our August feature article from [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](http://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor) and we'll send you one.



### SYMPOSIUM REVIEW

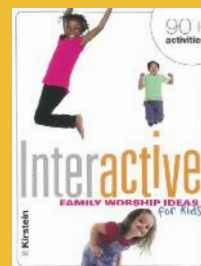
Did you miss "Navigating the Road to San Antonio," a day of prayer and preparation for GC Session coordinated by staff from the Columbia Union and Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.? Watch the symposium, which includes a panel discussion on women's ordination, at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/watchsymposium](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/watchsymposium).

### EXPERIENCE WAU LIFE

What is the "WAU Experience?" Through a new series of two-minute videos, faculty and students at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., share about life, education and the benefits of being a part of campus. Watch them at <https://vimeo.com/album/3459162>.

### KID-FRIENDLY WORSHIP

Bill Kirstein, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Williamsport (Md.) church, recently wrote *Interactive Family Worship Ideas for Kids*. The book provides fun and educational activities for family worship time. Read our interview with Kirstein at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/interactiveworship](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/interactiveworship).



# VISITOR

Beth Michaels ■ Editor

V. Michelle Bernard ■ Assistant Editor, Digital Media Coord.

Kelly Butler Coe ■ Art Director, Designer

Sandra Jones ■ Advertising, Circulation Manager

The *Visitor* is a monthly publication reaching approximately 60,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area.

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

**CONTACT** ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiunionvisitor.com  
 visitor@columbiunion.net ■ To subscribe, change address or discontinue *Visitor* mailings, call your local conference as listed below. Ask for the membership clerk. Free to members. All others, \$21 annually. Email sjones@columbiunion.net.

## PUBLISHING

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Publisher

**Board:** Dave Weigley (chair), Beth Michaels (secretary), Seth Bardu, Celeste Ryan Blyden, Larry Boggess, José H. Cortés, William T. Cox, Henry Fordham, Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ray Hartwell, Bill Miller, Rick Remmers, Rob Vandeman

The *Visitor* is printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

## COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE

5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045  
 (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiunion.org

Dave Weigley ■ President

Rob Vandeman ■ Executive Secretary

Seth Bardu ■ Treasurer

Frank Bondurant ■ Vice President, Ministries Development  
 Hamlet Canosa ■ Vice President, Education

Walter Carson ■ Vice President, General Counsel, PARL

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Vice President, Communication and PR

Rubén Ramos ■ Vice President, Multilingual Ministries

Harold Greene ■ Director, Information Technology

Curtis Boore ■ Director, Plant Services

Emmanuel Asiedu ■ Secretary-Treasurer, Revolving Fund

Carol Wright ■ Undertreasurer

## CONFERENCES

**ALLEGHENY EAST:** Henry J. Fordham, President; LaTasha Hewitt, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ visitaec.com

**ALLEGHENY WEST:** William T. Cox Sr., President; Bryant Smith, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org

**CHESAPEAKE:** Rick Remmers, President; Samantha Young, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org

**MOUNTAIN VIEW:** Larry Boggess, President; Valerie Morikone, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org

**NEW JERSEY:** José H. Cortés, President; Paulo Macena, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org

**OHIO:** Ron Halvorsen Jr., President; Heidi Shoemaker, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Ray Hartwell, President; Tamara Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ paconference.org

**POTOMAC:** Bill Miller, President; Tiffany Doss, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**KETTERING COLLEGE:** Nate Brandstater, President; Jessica Beans, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kc.edu

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY:** Weymouth Spence, President; Angie Crews, *Visitor* Correspondent  
 Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

## HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

**ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE:** Terry Forde, President & CEO; Thomas Grant, *Visitor* Correspondent  
 Tel. (301) 315-3030 ■ adventisthealthcare.com

**KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE:** Fred Manchur, CEO; Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent  
 Tel. (937) 395-8167 ■ khnetwork.org

*Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.*

Volume 120 ■ Issue 8

## It's All in the Details

As I write this article, I am aware that by the time you read it, the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, has passed into the archives of our church history. The massive group of attendees has sung the last rendition of “We Have This Hope.” The international flags from the March on Mission have been packed away. The last of the delegates have returned home. Newly elected church workers have assumed their roles. The exhibit halls are quiet. The colorful sights along the River Walk are a memory. And, the Session Planning Committee is taking a brief hiatus before beginning work on the 61st session, which will be held in Indianapolis the summer of 2020.

Attendees won't realize all the preparation that went into creating a productive, enjoyable and memorable experience. This prep includes site visits, finalizing details—from lodging to meals to city welcome crews (pictured) and everything in between—pulling permits, arranging contracts, securing technical staff,



addressing security concerns, attending committee meetings and communicating through thousands of phone calls and emails.

Session guests won't know about the preparations made by the host city to notify local restaurants of our unique dietary requirements or that we don't purchase alcoholic beverages, or of the requests made of the local hotels that extra coat hangers be placed in the rooms for our guests who come from far distances, with their families, for a 10-night stay. Attendees won't be aware of the 16-hour workdays of the technical staff during the event. It is the Session Planning Committee's hope that, instead, guests left San Antonio with fond memories of an unforgettable experience communing together as one body of Christ.

## PLANNING A HEAVENLY EVENT

At this very moment, another event is being planned and lodging accommodations are being made. This event will exceed in every way our own quinquennia, and will be held in a faraway land with a river that flows from the thrones of God and the Lamb. It will include a reunion with friends and loved ones we may not have seen for some time. There will be no night there and no need for light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be our light. There we will be face to face with the Master Planner.

Planning for *this* event has been underway for centuries, since the beginning of our world when the Creator offered to make the ultimate sacrifice. Many thousands of people have worked alongside Him to share the invitation. They have sacrificed time, careers and other things counted valuable to the human race. Some have even given their lives for this cause.

What will be the reward for those who have co-labored with the Master Planner? It will be the words we all want to hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Luke 25:23).

*Sheri Clemmer, a daughter of the Columbia Union who attends Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church, is associate session manager for the General Conference in Silver Spring, Md.*

# Newsline

BETH MICHAELS



## GOOD NEIGHBOR HOUSE FEEDS UNDERSERVED

Good Neighbor House staff Emily Foster, accountant and a member of Ohio Conference’s Stillwater church in Vandalia, and Ashlyn Young, a patient care specialist, work in the center’s community garden. During its first harvest last year, the garden yielded 1,000 pounds of produce, helping nourish as many 7,000 underserved Dayton families.

## TORNADO DESTROYS PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL

On the evening of July 10, a powerful storm struck Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School (BME) in Hamburg, Pa., taking off the roof, destroying the gym and knocking down several walls. Pennsylvania Conference leadership is grateful for God’s protection over principal Rachel Wardecke, who was alone in the building but not seriously injured. Community members, area churches and local businesses have joined the school family in their recovery efforts, offering support and donating supplies. Wardecke reports the school will reopen this month.—*Tamyra Horst*



## PHILADELPHIA CHURCHES PLAN FOR PAPAL VISIT

Adventists plan to blanket Philadelphia with prayer and literature September 22-25 during the Roman Catholic Church’s World Meeting of Families Congress, which will include a visit from Pope Francis. Among the efforts, Allegheny East constituents will distribute 30,000 copies of a special family issue of *Message* magazine. Pennsylvania Conference leaders and members will distribute door hangers that offer Bible studies and information about growing stronger families.

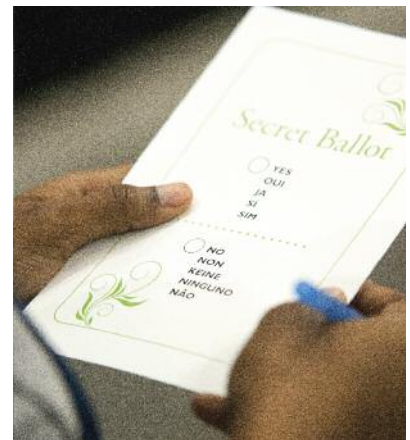
“This event is a great opportunity for to be a witness,” says Henry J. Fordham, AEC president. To assist in these organized efforts, read more on pages 18 and 32.

## DELEGATES VOTE “NO” TO DIVISION ORDINATION

After less than three hours of deliberation, the nearly 2,500 GC Session delegates last month voted “no” to the multifaceted question carried from the 2014 Annual

Council that conclusively asked if world divisions should be able to choose if women can be ordained in their territories.

The impassioned discussion, which included 20 speeches for and 20 against, along with 38 points of order and inquiries, concluded by secret ballot with 1,381 votes against, 977 in favor and five abstentions. Although many more delegates in line were left without voice, it was obvious the church remains divided on the issue. However, it’s the largest support (41 percent) garnered on the discussion of women’s ordination since it was first brought to a worldwide level at the 1990 session.



What the vote did not change is the work being accomplished by called women across the globe. In subsequent statements by the General Conference and North American Division, they clarified that the church maintains the current policy; the vote does not disallow women from serving as commissioned church pastors, ordained elders or ordained deaconesses in the local church.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, says the union will continue to affirm women in ministry and appropriately recognize their giftedness at sharing the gospel as modeled by Christ in the New Testament. He states, “We unite with our worldwide church to proclaim the good news of God’s love and hope. As we anticipate Christ’s soon return, we encourage all to experience the mission in their lives, to be true to the call He alone gives.”

PHOTOS THIS PAGE: TIFFANY COLLIE; PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE AND BRYANT TAYLOR

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE “NO” VOTE?**



There was so much politics going on and the points of order that we missed the opportunity to hear what others had to say, and I was very disheartened by that. However, I do believe that God is still in control of our church ... I do pray that we will gather around our pastors, our female pastors and particularly our young people ... and [help them] understand that some things take a process.—*Union delegate Corrine Rawlins, from Potomac Conference’s New River Valley church in Christiansburg, Va.*



As a pastor who represents the worldwide Adventist Church, it is my belief that this issue was bathed in a lot of prayer. I accept the final decision of the vote of the GC counsel. It is my belief that we should put this issue to rest permanently and focus on being about the Father’s business in winning souls to Christ.—*Jim Buchanan, pastor of Mountain View Conference’s Williamson and Logan (W.Va.) churches*

Read more responses at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/voterresponse](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/voterresponse).

**UNION DONATES \$215K TO HOMELAND PROJECTS**

The Columbia Union partners with local conferences to fund community outreach projects annually. This year the union distributed \$215,000 to the following 17 local outreach programs:

**Allegheny East Conference:** the Collegiate Summer Outreach Project in West Philadelphia.

**Allegheny West Conference:** a second and third generation Hispanic church plant and Driven church plant on the Ohio State University Campus, both in Columbus, Ohio; Hispanic church plants in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, Pa.; and multicultural church plant in Lorain, Ohio.

**Chesapeake Conference:** the Connection Community church plant in Laurel, Md., and Baltimore Central Hispanic church plant in Baltimore.

**New Jersey Conference:** the Multicultural Youth and Young Adult Center in Vineland.

**Ohio Conference:** the East Side



Cleveland Hispanic and Clark-Fulton Hispanic church plants in Cleveland.

**Pennsylvania Conference:** the REACH Philadelphia church plant in Philadelphia and Simplicity Urban Outreach church plant in Allentown.

**Potomac Conference:** house church plants in New Market, Va.; the Northern Virginia Center for Evangelism in Haymarket, Va.; the Arise Development in Silver Spring, Md. (left); and Virginia Beach Center of Influence in Virginia Beach, Va.

For details on each project, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/home-landmissions](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/home-landmissions).—*Carolina Ramos*



**AWC PASTORS WIN BIG AT CONVENTION**

MyRon Edmonds, pastor of the Glenville church in Cleveland, and John T. Boston, pastor of the Central church in Columbus, Ohio, flank a proud William T. Cox, Allegheny West Conference president, each holding the \$20,000 they earned in June at the CALLED Ministerial Convention in Austin, Texas. Read more on page 20 about the *Shark Tank*-type competition and these pastors’ winning outreach programs.

## SE REALIZARON REVISIONES HISTÓRICAS A LAS CREENCIAS FUNDAMENTALES

Los delegados ante el 60° Congreso de la Asociación General (AG) en San Antonio, Texas, aprobaron una actualización memorable de 21 de las 28 Creencias Fundamentales de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día que, entre otras cosas, resalta las enseñanzas de la iglesia acerca de la semana de la creación literal y reciente.

Las declaraciones centrales de las Creencias Fundamentales de la iglesia no se habían modificado desde que se adoptaron en 1980, con la excepción de una creencia que se añadió en 2005. Ted Wilson, presidente reelecto de la iglesia mundial, afirmó que estos cambios solo mejoran las creencias y “las hacen más comprensibles”.

—Andrew McChesney

## LOS DELEGADOS VOTAN POR EL “NO” EN CUANTO A LA ORDENACIÓN AUTORIZADA POR LAS DIVISIONES

Después de menos de tres horas de debate, los casi 2.500 delegados ante el Congreso de la AG votaron el mes pasado por el “no” a la multifacética pregunta acordada en el Concilio Anual de 2014 que preguntaba concretamente si las divisiones mundiales deberían ser capaces de elegir si se pueden ordenar mujeres en sus territorios.

El vehemente debate, que incluyó 20 discursos a favor de la moción y 20 en contra, junto con 38 cuestiones de orden y preguntas, finalizó con un voto secreto con 1381 votos en contra, 977 a favor y cinco abstenciones. Aunque muchos delegados en línea no pudieron hacer oír su voz, quedó en evidencia que la iglesia permanece dividida en este asunto. Sin embargo, este fue el mayor apoyo (41 por ciento) obtenido en cuanto a la discusión sobre la ordenación de la mujer desde que se presentó a nivel mundial en el congreso de 1990.

Lo que el voto no cambió es el trabajo logrado por las mujeres que reciben el llamado en todo el mundo. En declaraciones subsiguientes de la Asociación General y la División Norteamericana, aclararon que la iglesia mantiene su política actual; el voto no impide a las mujeres servir como pastoras de iglesia comisionadas, ancianas ordenadas o diaconisas ordenadas en las iglesias locales.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Columbia Union Conference, dice que la unión continuará confirmando mujeres en el ministerio y reconociendo apropiadamente sus dones para compartir el evangelio como lo enseñó Cristo en el Nuevo Testamento. Afirma que: “Nos unimos con nuestra iglesia mundial para proclamar las buenas nuevas del amor de Dios y esperanza. Como esperamos el pronto regreso de Cristo, animamos a todos a que vivan la misión en sus vidas, que sean fieles al llamado que solo Él da.”—Beth Michaels



## LA UNIÓN DONA 215 MIL DÓLARES TO PROYECTOS LOCALES

La Columbia Union se une a las asociaciones locales para financiar anualmente proyectos de ayuda comunitaria. Este año la unión distribuyó 215 mil dólares entre 17 programas de ayuda locales, entre ellos:

**Allegheny West Conference:** una iglesia hispana de segunda y tercera generación en Columbus, Ohio; iglesias hispanas establecidas en Cincinnati y Pittsburgh, Pa. (en la foto de arriba); y una iglesia multicultural creada en Lorain, Ohio.

**Chesapeake Conference:** la iglesia Baltimore Central Hispanic establecida en Baltimore.

**New Jersey Conference:** el centro multicultural para jóvenes y adultos jóvenes en Vineland.

**Ohio Conference:** las iglesias East Side Cleveland Hispanic y Clark-Fulton Hispanic creadas en Cleveland.

**Potomac Conference:** una casa de culto establecida en New Market, Va.; y el proyecto Arise Development en Silver Spring, Md.

Para ver detalles de este proyecto, visita [columbiaunionvisitor.com/homelandmissions](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/homelandmissions).—Carolina Ramos

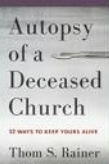
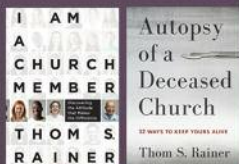
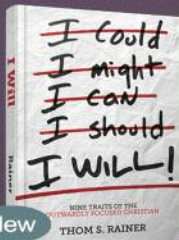




LivingWellABC.com

## How to Love Your Church

Many Adventist churches and members have found that Thom Rainer understands us. He sees our church clearly, and he sees Jesus even more clearly. Thom Rainer has written three books that can help connect the church with Christ. Buy any one, or all three. Get excited about your church – and your Savior.



## Gluten-Free. Great Taste.

This is the gluten-free food you'll eat, whether or not you're allergic to wheat. It's all organic. Chose from organic soybean spaghetti, edamame and mung bean fettuccine, black bean spaghetti, and adzuki bean spaghetti.

It's pasta an Italian would love!

This coupon good for \$5 off any purchase of \$50 or more at LivingWell. Expires Aug 31 Code: VAUG



## LivingWell

12004 Cherry Hill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904  
301-572-0700 • LivingWellABC.com

Find more information about our name change at: livingwellabc.org

LivingWell is as easy as ABC

# System Includes New HD Receiver

Official Distribution Partner for all Adventist Broadcasters

## High Definition and DVR

Connect to any TV • Record your favorite shows\*

Complete Satellite System Includes 36 in. Satellite Dish

Only \$199 Plus shipping

\*optional USB memory required for recording



Please ask us about INTERNET options

No Monthly Fees  
No Subscriptions  
No Credit Checks  
FREE Install Kit

Bulk orders get discount!

21 Adventist Channels Plus more than 80 other FREE Christian Channels and News Channels



866-552-6882

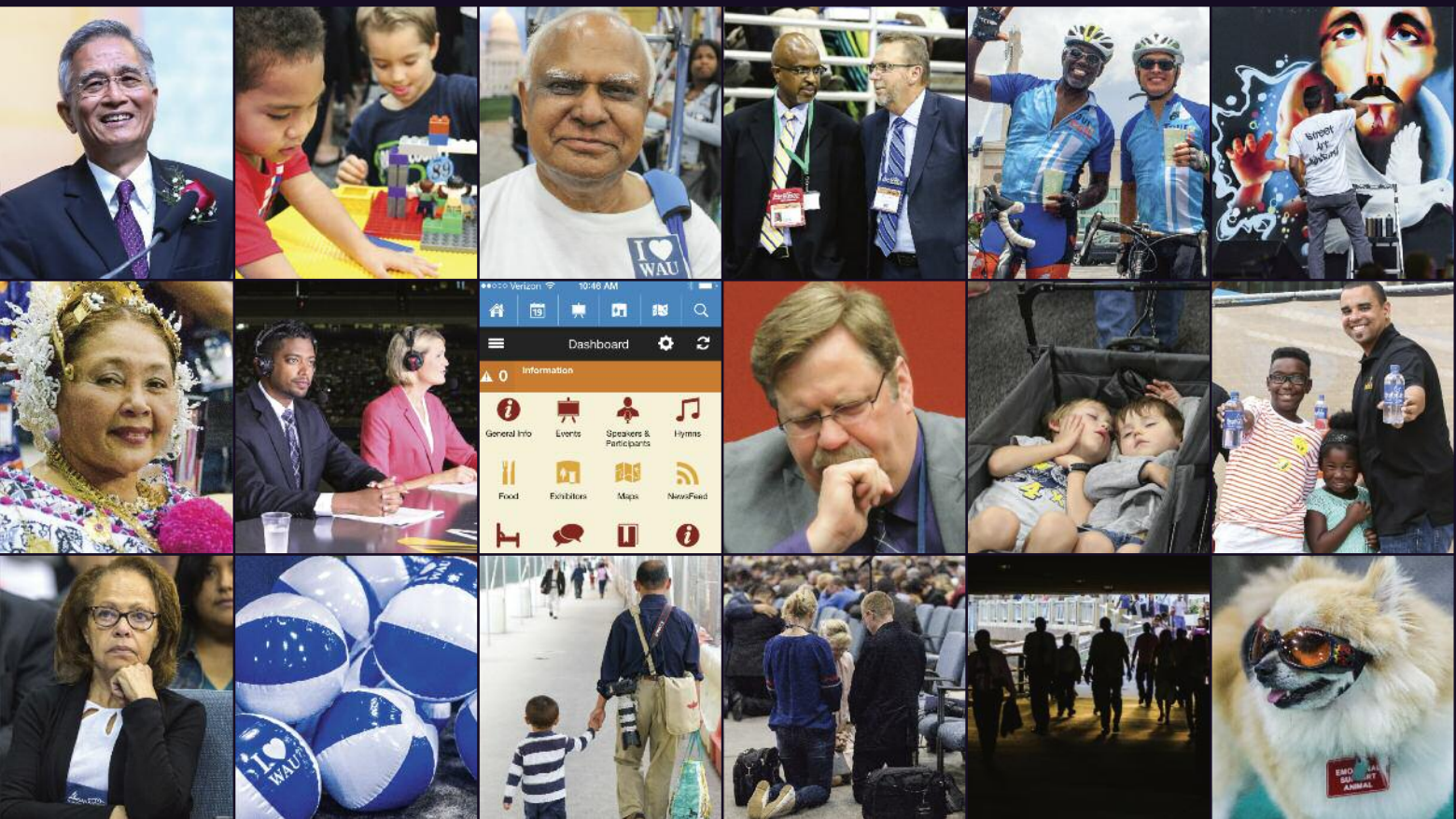
Glorystar • 8801 Washington Blvd, Suite 101 • Roseville, CA 95678

The #1 choice for Adventist satellite programming for more than 10 Years!

www.adventistsat.com



# ARISE! SHINE!







**Top:** Judy Chiles-Dent and her daughter, Shayla-René Little, who both attend Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., address the southern heat with relaxed summer hats.

**Right:** Chad Stuart, senior pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., poses with members of his congregation's Adventist Children's Chorus before their performance on the main stage.



# JESUS IS COMING!

60TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION ★ SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



An estimated 65,000 people from around the globe converged in San Antonio to worship and pray together as a united family, attend meetings and seminars, and peruse the exhibit hall.



featured on facebook

**Below:** Larry Boggess, Mountain View Conference president, addresses an issue with the new electronic voting system. After repeated attempts to use the gadgets failed to produce accurate results, delegates voted to return to voting cards. There was better success with the badges, which when scanned, allowed delegates to enter the queue to speak on a particular issue. ■ **Center:** Kimberly Palmer-Washington, a member of Allegheny West Conference's Fruit of the Spirit church in Columbus, Ohio, sings "Midnight Cry" for the closing ceremony. Watch her performance at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/midnightcry](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/midnightcry). ■ **Bottom:** Jonathan Brauer, a member of Chesapeake's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., prepares to join 2,500 session attendees in the "InStep for Life" 5K Fun Run sponsored by the Health Ministries departments of the General Conference (GC) and North American Division (NAD).



### Columbia Union Visitor

Michael Kulakov, Bible Translation Institute director and editor-in-chief of the interdenominational Bible for Russian-speaking people and professor at Washington Adventist University, presents the a newly translated Russian Bible to Ted Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. #GCSA15



**Above:** Henry J. Fordham, Allegheny East Conference president—seated with his wife, Sharon—was among the 28 delegates representing the Columbia Union, and 240 representing the NAD. ■ **Center:** Dan Jackson, newly re-elected president for the North American Division, leads the NAD Caucas, where they elect those from their territory who will serve on the nominating committee. ■ **Left:** Adrian Hamblin, a member of Chesapeake's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., chats with a construction worker on his daily trip to the Alamodome.



Top: Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, is first in line to address the session chairman. In addition to the much anticipated discussion on women's ordination, delegates also deliberated over and approved historic updates to 21 of the Adventist Church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs, that among other things, underscores the church's teaching of a recent, literal creation week. Ted Wilson, world president, assured the changes were simply to enhance the beliefs and "make them more understandable." ■ Left: At the HaystackTV attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the biggest potluck haystack, Denise Braswell, a member of Allegheny East Conference's North Philadelphia church in Philadelphia, gets ready to dig in. Although 1,100 people contributed chips, salsa, beans, tomatoes, olives and other fixings, they missed the record by 176.



Impact San Antonio, sponsored by GC and NAD Youth Ministries departments, allowed young adults opportunities for inspiration, community service and training.



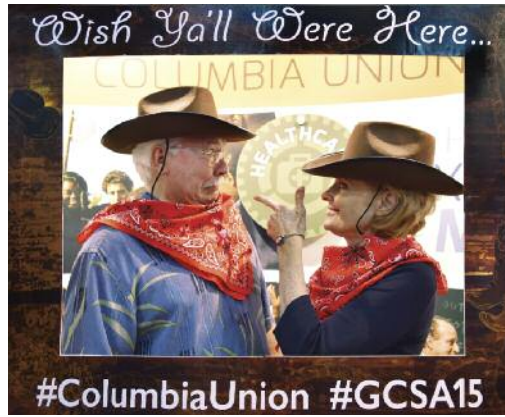
**Columbia Union Visitor**

"If your future is uncertain and you don't know what to do, raise your hand toward the One who does."—Tara VinCross, director of REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School, at Impact San Antonio. #GCSA15 — with Tara VinCross.



A family listens to a business meeting through an FM radio receiver. The General Conference provided simultaneous translation of devotionals and business and evening meetings into 10 languages.

**Right:** At the Columbia Union Conference booth, visitors learn how members “Experience the Mission” through the union’s values, evangelism, education, healthcare and many ministries. There was also a LEGO play center for kids and a social media photo-tagging competition that was downright neighborly. In this photo, union executive secretary Rob Vandeman and his wife, Judy, take a break from their delegate duties.



Mavie Brown, a member of New Jersey Conference's Phillipsburg church, goes through security check at the Alamodome.



At a special reception, NAD members lay hands on and pray over dedicated female leaders across the division, like Tara VinCross (center). Dan Jackson, NAD president, asked members “to focus their energies on the one thing we can agree with, the mission of the church. God has called all of us to serve Him in ministry, whether we are recognized by the church or not.”



Jarrod McNaughton, vice president for missions and development at Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio, performs on the main stage.



Dave Weigley and Seth Bardu, union president and treasurer, respectively, confer over an issue being discussed on the floor. **Below:** Naudrey Jenkins, a member of Potomac Conference's Takoma Park (Md.) church, shares a testimony with David Franklin, pastor of AEC's Miracle Temple in Baltimore and host of HopeTV's “Let's Pray!” during a live filming.



**Above:** Some 600 exhibitors representing Adventist ministries and vendors from around the world host interactive booths, taking up 100,000 square feet of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center with products and services. Shown here are kids interacting with Martha Bath, financial planning project manager for Adventist HealthCare in Gaithersburg, Md.



**ColumbiaUnionVisitor** @VisitorNews • Jul 6  
 Many restaurants in **#SanAntonio** have special menus for **#gcsa15**. **@CasaRioSA** even has LomaLinda **#vegetarian** meat.



# COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

## MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

With a CURF loan, Ohio Conference's Good Neighbor House purchased and renovated an 11,105-sq-ft. facility in Dayton that houses a food pantry, a department of clothing and household items and a community healthcare center with dental, medical and eye care for underserved and underinsured people. In 2014 this Adventist Community Services center provided health and human services to more than 20,000 neighbors in need.

By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF is helping the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in South-west Ohio and all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more:

(866) 721-CURF | [columbiaunion.org/CURF](http://columbiaunion.org/CURF)



Since 1968 the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has been providing low-interest loans and financing for Seventh-day Adventist church and school building and renovating projects so as to facilitate growth. What started as a \$200,000 fund with investments from members has grown to a \$168 million resource that makes ministry possible.



This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy securities. Any offer to sell securities issued by CURF is made only through its Offering Circular. No one should consider any investment in CURF Notes other than by careful reference to the Offering Circular. Neither FDIC, SIPC nor any other government agency guarantees or insures repayment of CURF Notes.



# Hard to Say Goodbye

As one of the church's oldest academies shuts its doors, a longtime staff member shares an emotional farewell

Shari Bellchambers

A kaleidoscope of emotions slowly spun across the day. The faded blue of what would never be—another graduation blended with the royal pride for the accomplishments of the Class of 2015. And, in the midst of memories came the brilliant accents of an alumni gift: a [paid-in-full] diploma in every graduate's hand as they crossed the stage. Then, a water-colored landscape filled with smiles and hugs and tears, then stillness, a silence that etched the heart with longings for what once was." These are the reflective words of Dan Kittle, principal, describing the final graduation to take place on the grounds of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio, this summer.

MVA, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's oldest consecutively running boarding school\*, hosted their last degree ceremony amid sorrow and joy—a somber day in the history of Adventist education. The joy of graduation and future success danced awkwardly alongside defeat.

## Into the Fields

Throughout the weekend, we felt the hand of God lead us through the conflicting emotions. We saw it in the students as they snapped pictures, made future plans and exchanged emails and addresses. We heard it in the wisdom and advice given to us by the guest speakers.

Aaron Myers, the academy's IT director, told us to remember to keep our GPS (God's positioning system) with us at all times on our journey ahead, and pointed out that "every student who ever attended MVA was stationed here by God for a purpose." Cliff Wright, a Commonwealth Foundation liaison for the Columbian Union, instructed us to "commit our talents and skills to the Lord, pray about all things and put *nothing* in life ahead of God."

Jeff Morris, former MVA Spanish and physical education teacher now employed at Fletcher Academy (N.C.), closed the weekend by emboldening us with these words: "MVA has been our refuge and safe place for a long time, but it's time now to move into the world to be 'men who will not be bought or sold, men who ... are true and honest. ... men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall'" (*Education*, p. 57).

It's true. God used MVA to make a difference in the lives of thousands of students throughout the decades, and now He will use them in the fields into which He has sent them.



## Tragedy to Joy

The weekend was as beautiful as it was hard. Students and faculty shared how much they meant to each other, mended old wounds, shared prayers and spent extra time communing together. They passed around yearbooks to fill with warm and loving notes. This was our time; our last moments together and we knew it. No alumni gatherings wait expectedly in our futures.

Many students are taking away the blessing from the tragedy. “Saying goodbye to MVA was one of the hardest things I have ever done. Although it may be closed, the relationships and memories I have ... will still live on. Through all the tears and goodbyes, God has a plan,” says junior Taylor Scalzo.

Junior Joshua Morin says it beautifully: “MVA is a part of me, and not even a future without it can change that.”

Senior Alyssa Thompson adds, “Graduating from MVA was bittersweet, knowing it may be the last time I step foot on these sacred grounds. But, I know that MVA is less about the rooms and more about the people. MVA is my family and I will carry them with me wherever I go.”

## Holding to God’s Promises

My husband, Bruce, and I spent 30 wonderful years on MVA’s campus. It has been surreal waiting for the last weekend. Every activity we did this school year was for the last time: our last music tour, last acro performance, last picnic, last alumni weekend, last vespers—our last graduation.

Janesta Walker, echoes my own thoughts saying, “I feel as though we have been sitting by the bedside of a hospice patient, and now we are saying farewell to a beautiful piece of Adventist history. ... It is empty now forever. It is like a death.”

Far left: Mount Vernon Academy’s final graduating class listens as Jeff Morris, former Spanish teacher, gives the Commencement address. ■ Far right: Dan Kittle, MVA principal, kicks off the awards ceremony for the Class of 2015.

Many of our faculty, staff and students will spread out to other academies and institutions, some as far away as California. David Nino, music teacher, says, “I take with me wonderful memories of my time at MVA. The Lord has blessed our family in giving us the opportunity to work with amazing young people, and we look forward to continuing to serve Him in our new home at Shenandoah Valley Academy.”

Now after 122 God-positioned years, one of our denomination’s flagship academies is gone. On multiple levels, life will never be the same for many of us. But, the promises of God are still true, the instructions still stand and the marching orders remain the same: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15, NIV).

And, that is exactly what we are going to do. No one is done yet. What Satan meant for evil, God will use for good. In Isaiah, God promises “beauty for ashes,” and through the future years, as each student graduates from college, begins a career and starts their family, out of the “ashes” of each classroom and office of MVA will echo the speakers’ instructions to keep your eyes on Jesus, preach the gospel and be ready when He comes. For in the end, that is all that matters.

*\*MVA was forced to close after failing to reach benchmarks set by the Ohio Conference Executive Committee earlier this year in a final attempt to save the historic school, which opened in 1893.*



## BIBLE ENRICHMENT TOUR OF ISRAEL 2015

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

**November 15 – 23, 2015**  
\$3,295

from New York or Chicago,  
Los Angeles or Houston

With a post extension to  
*More of Israel*,  
November 23 – 25, 2015  
for \$395

**November 18 – 29, 2015**  
\$3,795

from New York or Chicago,  
Los Angeles or Houston

With a post extension to  
*7 Churches Turkey*,  
November 29 – December 4, 2015  
for \$995

Join Pastor Jim Gilley, Danny Shelton, the 3ABN Team,  
and special guest host, Lyle Albrecht



Danny Shelton Jim & Camille Gilley J.D. & Shelley Quinn C.A. & Irma Murray Lyle & Peggy Albrecht

For more information, call Jennifer at Maranatha at 602-788-8864  
or Jill at 3ABN at 618-627-4651 ext. 3013.

[www.3abntour.com](http://www.3abntour.com)

\*These trips are self-supporting, and no 3ABN contributions are used for this tour.\*



## Your Degree is Waiting for You



Call Us Today 410-884-9319

Launch an exciting new career in NATURAL HEALING

The only Online accredited school that showcases and emphasizes the  
Adventist Health Message

### Degree Programs:

Bachelor of Science in Original Medicine  
Master of Science in Original Medicine  
Doctor of Naturopathy in Original Medicine

### Certificate Programs:

Certified Medical Missionary  
Certified Herbalist in Original Medicine  
Certified Nutritional Counselor

In Business Since  
1996



An Online Natural Health College  
A Christian Natural Health Institute of Higher Education



American Naturopathic Medical Accreditation Board

[www.iionline.com](http://www.iionline.com)

Call Us Today 410-884-9319

# GET THE SCOOP ON ADVENTIST EDUCATION: ITS CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE

Come to Sligo by the Sea on **AUGUST 15.**

Discuss the current state of education in the N.A.D.

Win a \$500 scholarship for your Student\*

Learn more at [lasierra.edu/sligo-by-the-sea](http://lasierra.edu/sligo-by-the-sea)

## FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Elissa Kido  
EDUCATION RESEARCHER

Martin Doblmeier  
PBS FILMMAKER



\*SCHOLARSHIP GOES TOWARDS ANY K-12 ADVENTIST SCHOOL IN THE COLOMBIA UNION CONFERENCE



## Bay Area Women Support Homeless Families

At the beginning of the year, members of the Bay Area Women's Ministries team started collecting items on the "wish list" of The Shepherd Place, a 30-bed emergency facility for homeless families and women in Dover, Del.



At a recent Bay Area Women's Ministries prayer conference at the Bethuel church in Dover, participants dedicated 1,520 personal care items, including linens, cleaning supplies, toiletries, juice and bottled water. They then distributed the items to facility residents.

Cynthia Poole, Women's Ministries director, spoke at the event themed "Nothing Wasted." Shana Ellis, intensive residential counselor for Go Getters Incorporated in Salisbury, Md., presented a seminar on time management, and Chanai Delbridge, a nurse at Nurse-Family Partnership in Smyrna, Del., spoke about health.

"Jesus always went around blessing people, and we wanted to do the same. What greater group of people to help than homeless mothers and children," says Crystal Thompkins, Women's Ministries leader of the Bethuel church.

Nearly 100 women from the Chesapeake Bay area attended and enjoyed dinner after the program.—*Martha Hopkins*

## Prison Ministries Leaders Recharge at Retreat

Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Federation of Prison Ministries recently held a retreat at the Ladore Lodge Conference Center in Waymart, Pa. Prison Ministries officers, volunteers and friends experienced a weekend of high praise, worship and relaxation. Leaders encouraged attendees to continue working in the prisons to build characters fit for the kingdom.

Minnie McNeil, AEC's director of Adventist Community Services, presented a Sabbath morning message titled "Let Jesus be Seen in 2015." Later that evening, Charles Cheatham, former AEC president, led a special communion service.

Several Prison Ministries leaders presented seminars, including Colin Brathwaite (pictured), conference director and event planner; Ron Timpson, president; Fitz Wilson, general vice president of the AEC Federation of Prison Ministries; Parris Mitchell, chapter president, Baltimore Extended Area Federation; and Charles Golliday, federation vice president of the Delaware Valley chapter.—*Stephanie Hinds*



## Apparel Unites Members



As part of the "I am Allegheny East" branding initiative, an effort to unite members, Allegheny East Conference launched a line of apparel. Ramon Escalante, coordinator for the Council of Spanish Churches, sports the jacket.

"The apparel is designed for all constituents of Allegheny East. We want to remind each member that they are what makes up the conference," says LaTasha Hewitt, communication director.

## Delaware Valley Churches Host Unity Day



*Pastor Henry Wright leads the Unity Day attendees in prayer.*

Nearly 1,000 members recently gathered for the Delaware Valley area churches annual Unity Day at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa. Unity Day was the culmination of a weeklong revival series across the conference that focused on the seven churches of Revelation.

“For many, it was like a ‘mini camp meeting,’” says William Hall, area leader for the Delaware Valley.

Henry Wright, pastor of Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church, ended the series with a sermon on Laodicea titled “Revelation’s Hope for Today’s Despair.”

Attendees fellowshiped and then attended an evening program. That night players from the Delaware Valley Area Basketball League challenged players from the North New Jersey Youth Federation Basketball League in a game.

## Philadelphia Churches Prepare for Pope’s Visit

As soon as the Delaware Valley Ministerium (DVM) learned of the pope’s scheduled visit to Philadelphia in September, leaders started strategizing ways to reach the thousands who will congregate for his arrival.

To play off the pope’s World Meeting of Families theme, Philadelphia area pastors will focus their outreach efforts on the family. Rodney Grissom, associate publishing director, is leading the efforts and helped formed the initiative Project Family 2015, or PF15.

“This event is a great opportunity for us to be a witness. In a world where the definition of family has been modified, our members share with we believe as Christians,” says Henry J.

Fordham, AEC president.

September 26 and 27, church members will distribute 30,000 copies of a special family of *Message* magazine. In addition to articles on strengthening the family, the issue will be packaged with

information on programs at local Seventh-day Adventist churches. Readers will also find contact information to request Bible studies, receive more information about a service or simply ask for prayer.

For more information about participating, email [projectfamily15@gmail.com](mailto:projectfamily15@gmail.com) or call the communication department at (610) 326-4610, ext. 317.



## AEC Website Gets Update



*To find more resources, videos and content, visit the new Allegheny East Conference website at [visitaec.org](http://visitaec.org).*

### Update Your Visitor Mailing Address

Contact: Your church clerk or Jacqueline O’Bryant, Allegheny East Conference Membership Clerk, P.O. Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548, [jobryant@myalleghenyeast.com](mailto:jobryant@myalleghenyeast.com) (610) 326-4610, ext. 310

## Hispanic Women Find Healing at Retreat

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Multicultural Ministries department, together with local pastors and their wives, recently organized a spiritual retreat for the conference's Hispanic women. Nearly 100 ladies met for the three-day event at a hotel in Cincinnati to worship, share stories and reignite their passion for Jesus and the mission of the church.

Early each morning, attendees spent significant time in prayer as they sought to connect with Jesus in a more personal way. They also shed tears, mended hearts and were filled with the Holy Spirit, Who came down and filled the room, says Sergio Romero, Multicultural Ministries leader.

Presenters spoke on sanctity at home, personal finances and how to deal with low-self esteem. For the Sabbath morning divine service, Laura Ottati-Romero, administrative assistant for the Multicultural Ministries department, shared the story of the pearl of great price in Matthew 13. The sermon especially resonated with one attendee, who shared, "Today I have realized that I am important and that I have value before my God, I understand now that I'm a pearl even though my pearl



Several pastors' wives organize a spiritual retreat for the conference's Hispanic women.

was dirty and dull. Now I will shine for my Jesus."

Sabbath afternoon attendees got an opportunity to walk along a prayer path with stations that focused on object lessons, which gave the ladies yet another way to draw closer to God. "We could see their faces at the end of the path, faces of happiness, peace and renewed hope," says Romero.

Event planners made sure that attendees also got opportunities to interact during the weekend. During three small-group sessions, attendees shared personal stories and watched video presentations, one of which was about Tamar (see Gen. 38) that opened up many hidden wounds but allowed for healing. One attendee says, "I thought I was never going to be able to take this heavy load from my heart. I thank God because the whole group was very supportive. I'm free now, and I've been able to forgive and forget."

Sabbath evening every attendee participated in an Agape feast.



## Sheriff Speaks at Germantown Pathfinder Investiture

This summer Herbert Thornton, deputy sheriff from the Montgomery County Sherriff's Office, spoke at the Germantown Spartan Pathfinders' annual investiture service at the Germantown church in Dayton, Ohio. Thornton discussed the significance of developing positive relationships with the community and emphasized that "the people you hang out with influence the direction you take in life." He also described his personal efforts in mentoring the youth on the street, which is the primary reason he has served in his current capacity for the last 18 years. Many of the Pathfinders say they were impressed to know that the officer is also a faithful Christian.—Krista Mainess



## Central, Glenville Pastors Win Big at Ministerial Convention

During the recent CALLED Ministerial Convention in Austin, Texas, sponsored by the North American Division, there was a *Shark Tank*-type competition at the close of each day. More than 130 persons submitted their best innovative ideas for evangelism and church growth, but only 15 individuals were selected nightly for a chance to win one of five cash awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000. John T. Boston, pastor of the Central church in Columbus, Ohio, and MyRon Edmonds, pastor of the Glenville church in Cleveland, were among the chosen finalists.

Pastor Boston and one of his elders, Joseph Simmons, shared the Central church's ongoing efforts to disciple children by providing hot breakfast every Sabbath morning in their Kid Central ministry. The two went on to also highlight an unprecedented effort inside two state prisons, where 4,000 inmates will hear the Advent message through a live evangelistic meeting. The event will be streamed to every prison in the state of Ohio with a captive audience of more than 30,000. The Central church is preparing for the harvest by discipling and mentoring the inmates on the inside and their families on the outside simultaneously with two separate teams.

This concept won the Central congregation \$20,000 on CALLED's opening night. Additionally, while the prizes were being awarded, one of the finalists was so moved by this initiative that he gave his \$3,000 award to Pastor Boston for a total win of \$23,000. Pastor Boston reports he will use the funds to defray the



John Boston receives a check from Tara VinCross, one of the competition judges and director of the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School in Philadelphia.

expenses for this high-impact initiative that will reach thousands with the truth of God's love.

The final evening, Pastor Edmonds presented details on his working vision called the Go Church. This is a process of evangelism that combines elements of traditional tent meetings and contemporary Christian street festivals. The Glenville church is nearly fully engaged in their community by taking the church out of their physical building and into the city. The concept includes full throttle discipleship with Go University and high-level young adult participation. This approach was so well received that, at the end of the night, the Glenville congregation was also awarded a top prize of \$20,000.

William T. Cox, conference president, and William Joseph, Ministerial director, were both present to support these members of their pastoral team. When asked what this means to his field, Cox responded, "We have some of the most innovative pastors in the North American Division. Pastor Boston and Pastor Edmonds are two examples of our great ministry team, and we celebrate what God is doing in their ministries. These two have made the entire Allegheny West Conference family very proud, and I love them both very much."

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, was also present for the final night and evidently grateful that the union was the only one in the NAD to claim two of the top awards.

PHOTOS BY KARLA BOSTON



William Joseph, MyRon Edmonds, John Boston and William Cox celebrate winning \$43,000 for evangelistic initiatives at Edmond's and Boston's churches.

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

AUGUST 2015

## Curiosity and Wonder are Gifts From God

It's possible to take a good thing too far. Over the past decade of interacting with Outdoor School students, our staff has noticed that two well-intentioned mantras, "stranger danger" and "safety first," have caused our young people to be fearful. I've seen students afraid to walk through a meadow under the canopy of a thousand stars, afraid to try a fresh raspberry that they just picked, afraid to sleep on a top bunk or dip their toes into a mountain stream. It is such a sad way to live while surrounded by the glories of God's creation.

If you focus on the media, you would think we were in the middle of a major crime wave, but Department of Justice figures show crime rates are down 40 percent since the 1990s.

As Christians, we often add a third mantra, one that is somewhat contradictory to the others and an obvious misrepresentation of Scripture. We take a verse like, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them" (Ps. 34:7), and tell the children, "As long as you trust in God, nothing bad will ever happen to you."

At Outdoor School, we take safety seriously, but bumps and bruises are part of life and we shouldn't stop living for fear of them. With the intelligence and desire God has given us and the guidance He provides, we are empowered to explore the world and all His wonders. Fear and darkness can often interfere, but we can still say with confidence, "Follow the Lord and, in the end, you will be on the winning side."



**Glen Milam**  
*Director, Mt. Aetna Camp  
and Retreat Center*

## Connection Community Family Bikes to Camp Meeting

Troy and Anastasia Elliott packed a tent and gear and, with their children in tow, bicycled some 60 miles from their home in Takoma Park, Md., to camp meeting at Highland View Academy (HVA) in Hagerstown, Md.

The Elliotts, who are actively involved in the new Connection Community church in Laurel, Md., say they have been intentional during the past year about spending more time as a family biking and camping. When they learned that The Gathering, Chesapeake Conference's annual camp meeting, was shortened to Friday and Sabbath instead of the traditional Tuesday to Sabbath schedule, they hatched a plan to have a full camp meeting experience by departing home on



*The Elliott family visits the Antietam Battlefield in Hagerstown during their recent bike trip to camp meeting.*



*The Elliott family camped and biked all the way from Takoma Park to Hagerstown.*

PHOTOS BY ANASTASIA ELLIOTT AND TROY ELLIOTT

Tuesday and arriving at HVA on Friday.

"We followed the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal up the Potomac River to Antietam then took back roads to HVA," Troy says.

Seven-year-old Alexei pedaled his bike the whole way, while younger siblings Nikita (5) and Viktoria (3) rode behind their dad in a bicycle trailer and Ilya (1) enjoyed the trip from his infant seat. Along the way, they spotted deer, a red fox, turtles and an owl.

During the Friday primary division meeting, Troy says Alexei was disappointed he wasn't called on to answer when the leader asked the children, "How long did it take you to get to camp meeting?"

## Thousands Convene for The Gathering, Campestre Hispano

The Gathering, Chesapeake Conference's annual camp meeting, recently drew a crowd to Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. Under the theme "iConnect—Opening Our Hearts to God," keynote speaker Pavel Goia, pastor of the Lexington (Ky.) church, reminded congregants that encountering God is vital for salvation.

"Though our time together was quite brief this year, it was not less significant than a full length camp meeting, with regard to lives touched and hearts changed," says Jerry Lutz, conference secretary and camp meeting coordinator. "The Lord truly blessed us in so many ways, not the least of which was a safe and healthy encampment."

In a Facebook post, Williamsport (Md.) church member Edson Rubert called the event "spiritual" and "uplifting."

Conference leaders have already planned a five-day



Mercedes Hansell, from the Cornerstone, Pocomoke and Parksley Spanish district, teaches a children's lesson.



Attendees pause for a season of prayer.



Evangelist Julio Chazarreta challenges the congregation to share the gospel with others.



Laura Morena, international recording artist and Hagerstown (Md.) church member, sings an appeal Sabbath morning.

camp meeting for next year, June 14-18, featuring Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker and director, and David Griffiths, bass soloist and pianist from Silver Spring, Md.

Some 800 persons met one week earlier for the 13th annual Hispanic camp meeting (Campestre Hispano), which emphasized "Sharing Hope (Compartiendo Esperanza)" and featured speaker Julio Chazarreta, director of multilingual marketing and sales for the Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho). The weekend included a graduation for students in the conference's School of Theology and Discipleship and a baptism ceremony.

The conference team streamed live during several events. View archived recordings in English and Spanish at the conference's website, [ccosda.org](http://ccosda.org).

## Summer Workers Improve Campus, Community

The Highland View Academy (HVA) campus continues to be an active place, even during the summer as staff and students work on campus-improvement and service projects. Approximately 20 students are employed this summer, working in the administrative building, Adventist Book Center, cafeteria, maintenance department and for the ASSIST (Academy Student Service Initiative Stipend for Tuition) program.

The ASSIST program brings high school students and senior citizens together in an intergenerational service program. HVA students visit with the residents of seven assisted living homes and four residential homes in Hagerstown. During one-hour visits each week, the students help residents with light chores and yard work, and they socialize with the seniors while sharing stories and working on crafts.

Sharon Zeismer, ASSIST coordinator, says, “We know we are making a difference in the lives of people when we are greeted by smiles and [are] anxiously looked for each week.” She adds that Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) funds the program, which provides students with a work scholarship toward their HVA school tuition.

Some of the work occurring on campus is also related to HVA’s growing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program as the school works toward becoming a leading STEM school. This summer Lisa Norton, information technology director, and junior Caleb Atherly are implementing the first phase of technology advancements to make this possible. In



*Caleb Atherly ('17) assists with information technology upgrades taking place this summer.*

the new school year, students will have access to new Lenovo laptops during STEM-related classes.

The students will also notice an upgrade in some of the classrooms, as SMART boards are replaced with large-screen televisions. As Norton explains, “The new setup will enable teachers to remotely access the televisions with their new laptops, allowing them to teach from anywhere in the classroom.” Norton says these technological advancements tie in nicely with two new STEM classes, the LEGO robotics program and a pilot run of the new AP Computer Science Principles class.

## Leaders Anticipate Enrollment Increase

As Highland View Academy administrators, faculty and staff look forward to the 2015-16 school year, they anticipate an enrollment of 125 students from a variety of local communities, several states and multiple foreign countries, including Korea, China, Brazil and Colombia. In addition to starting classes, students will also enjoy a week full of “welcome” events. Administrators have planned orientation sessions, outreach opportunities, team-building exercises, class placement testing and games, all culminating in the annual commitment weekend.

Mick Hutchinson, principal, notes, “HVA is enjoying a renaissance in its program, mission and vision.” He attributes the revitalization to the HVA team’s commitment to daily living their stated mission “to inspire and mentor students to excel in all Christ calls them to do.” He says the end result is “bonds that enrich for life.”

*Students and faculty begin each school year by greeting each other at the handshake event.*



### New Registrar Joins Administrative Team

Shannon Brown joins the HVA team as registrar. She comes from a family of educators and says she has always felt at home in the school setting.

Brown is returning to Maryland since she is a graduate of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. She also earned a master's in school counseling and school psychology from La Sierra University (Calif.).

Brown comes with a wide array of educational and administrative experience, including registrar and teacher at San Diego Academy (Calif.); transition coordinator at Jefferson Hills, a school for at-risk children in Colorado; vice principal and registrar at the Holbrook Indian School (Ariz.); and, most recently, vice principal and teacher at Adventist Christian Academy of Texas in Conroe.

She is married to Darren and has two children, Abigail and Benjamin.



### Husband-Wife Team Join Staff

Newlyweds Omar and Austin Gomez are joining the Highland View Academy team to fill a variety of roles. Omar (below), new chaplain and assistant boys dean, hails from western Michigan. He graduated from



Andrews University (Mich.) in December 2014 with a bachelor's in religion and psychology. He served as a resident advisor at Andrews, a camp counselor and boys director at Camp Au Sable (Mich.) and community service coordinator at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy (Calif.). Omar says he is "passionate about today's youth and is excited to serve the students at Highland View Academy."

Austin, head girls dean, will also contribute to the English department. Coming from southern California, she graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor's

in English. She also has certifications in English education and secondary education.

Austin also served as a resident advisor at Andrews, a camp counselor and programs director at Camp Au Sable and a long-term substitute teacher in the Southeastern California Conference.

Omar and Austin were married in May and are happy to join the HVA deaning teams. They look forward to becoming part of the close-knit community.



### Construction on Solar Field Begins

Construction on a 1.06 kilowatt-hour solar field at HVA has begun. SolarCity, a publicly traded company, is installing the solar panels on three acres of HVA's campus. The 20-year contract to purchase solar energy from the field will save the school approximately \$30,000 each year.

The solar field is scheduled to go live in October. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will also take place October 25 as part of the second annual STEMfest activities.



ARTWORK BY JOHN ZERNE

### Calendar

<b>August 13</b>	Community Student Registration
<b>August 14-15</b>	New Dorm Student Weekend
<b>August 16</b>	Dorm Student Registration
<b>August 21-22</b>	Commitment Weekend
<b>September 20</b>	"Let's Move!" Day



# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

AUGUST 2015

## Logan Church Hosts Petting Zoo, Meets the Community

Rebecca Trent, a member of the Logan (W.Va.) church, visited a church petting zoo and thought it would be a good outreach event for her community. She wanted to raise awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the truths it professes.

After going door to door, Trent found that people have Adventists mixed up with other denominations. She once encountered the wife of a nondenominational church pastor that said Adventists didn't believe in Jesus. "We definitely want to make it our goal to raise community awareness of who we are and what we stand for and, of course, win some souls along the way," she adds.

To accomplish this goal, church members threw a "spring fling" two miles from the church at the Chief Logan State Park. The Future Farmers of America provided the main attraction, a mobile petting zoo with llamas, cows, sheep, rabbits, ducks and riding ponies. Unsure about the turnout since the park would not allow the church to post advertisements, Matthew Wood, a church member, created a Facebook event. Members also posted a sign in front of the spring fling area, showing it was the Logan Seventh-day Adventist Church that was sponsoring this free event.

Trent's 14-year-old daughter, Christa, says, "It was so much fun, and we met a lot of new people because the petting zoo really attracted [a crowd]. I couldn't



Chris Trent interacts with adults while children enjoy the petting zoo.



Children enjoy interacting with animals at the Logan church's "spring fling."

believe so many people showed up. Even after the animals were leaving, the people were still coming."

Members also distributed more than 100 copies of *Steps to Christ*. And, Chris Trent, the church's Bible worker, gave his business cards to people interested in Bible studies.

Elaine Buchanan, a church member of the nearby Williamson (W.Va.) church, shares that plans are underway for a similar event. "We weren't sure how many people would come, but we were certainly surprised to see the great turnout. With the positive response ... plans are to repeat the event this fall. This time there will also be a health station where people can get hand-outs on topics such as diabetes, heart disease and depression," she says.

"I'm pleased to see how my church members get involved with activities in our community," says Pastor James Buchanan.

# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Conference Establishes New Martinsville Company

A 2013 partnership between the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) and the Mountain View Conference (MVC) recently resulted in a new church company in West Virginia. One of the three mailings the partners sent to blanket the MVC was focused in the New Martinsville area. The Toll Gate church, located in nearby Pennsboro, accepted the return VOP Bible study interest cards that came from New Martinsville and surrounding areas.

Donald Waldron, a Toll Gate deacon, and Daniel Morikone, Toll Gate pastor, visited more than 50 homes of people who indicated interest in Bible studies following the mailings. Together, they visited the potential Bible students. Nearly a year later, a small core group started meeting periodically on Sabbath afternoons in Paden City, a town about 10 miles from New Martinsville.

As the students began to believe in the seventh-day



Members of the New Martinsville company are excited about their new adventure.

Sabbath and grew closer to Waldron, some expressed a desire to worship on Sabbath as a group. Recently the New Martinsville group officially became a company. Larry Boggess, conference president, attended the first official service. Now the group meets every Sabbath afternoon for two hours for Bible study and fellowship.

"I am very happy to [see] the direction the Lord is moving with the New Martinsville project," shares Waldron, who is acting as lay leader. "Doors are opening, and I'm walking through them [while] praying for increased faith in the promise that, as God's Word goes out, it will not return void" (see Isaiah 55:11).

## Parkersburg Couple Celebrates 60 Years of Marriage

Don and Edna Pepper's children, Stewart, Lori, Fred and Jeanne, recently honored them for their 60 years of marriage. The celebration took place at the Parkersburg Art Center in Parkersburg, W.Va., where more than 60 friends and family members gathered from as far away as California and Texas to congratulate the couple. As a special treat for their mother, a long-time member of the Parkersburg church, the four siblings sang "We Stand in Awe of You."

The couple was married in Boulder City, Nev., April 9, 1955, and have resided in Vienna, W.Va., for most of their 60 years together. Besides their four children and their spouses, the couple has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.—Kathy Pepper



## Calendar

- August 2-5** Teacher/Pastor Workshop and Retreat, *Valley Vista Adventist Center*
- August 9-21** Wellness Camp, *Valley Vista*
- September 7** Conference Office Closed
- September 18-20** Singles Retreat, *Valley Vista*
- September 22** Executive Committee Meeting, *Parkersburg, W.Va.*
- September 25-27** Pathfinder Camporee/Parade, *Valley Vista*
- September 28** Conference School Math/Science Field Day, *Valley Vista*
- October 2-4** Women's Retreat, *Valley Vista*
- October 16-18** Hispanic Camp Meeting, *Valley Vista*

# NEWS

## NEW JERSEY

AUGUST 2015

### Let Us Fight Together

Israel was at war with the Ammonites, who had a great army, including Aramean soldiers (see 2 Sam. 10). Joab, the wise and courageous general of David's army, selected some of the best troops and deployed them against the Arameans. Then, he put his brother, Abishai, in charge of the rest of the army and deployed them against the Ammonites.

Joab told Abishai, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you are to come to my rescue; but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come to rescue you. Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The Lord will do what is good in His sight" (2 Sam. 10:11-12, NIV).

There is a great lesson in unity to be learned from this story. Joab divided the soldiers to conquer the enemy. His message was clear: We are in this together. We don't need to feel that we are fighting alone. We have a common enemy.

The enemy, Satan, is attacking the church from all sides. This battle alone is more than enough. We don't need another battle among ourselves, wasting our time, resources and energy. We should learn from Joab's rallying cry, "Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The Lord will do what is good in His sight."

We are living in the last days, and it is time to protect each other from the attacks of the enemy. The battle is not ours. God will do "what is good in His sight," and this should be enough. We shouldn't try to control the battle. We have to trust that He is still in control of His church and our battles.



**Paulo Macena**  
Youth Ministries and  
Communication Director

### Colombian Pastors Preach Across State, Baptize 101

The New Jersey Conference (NJC), under the direction of José H. Cortés, president, and Jorge Agüero, Personal and Family ministries director, recently partnered with the South Colombian Union Mission (Asociación Alto Magdalena) to sponsor an evangelistic effort themed "There is Hope." Colombian pastors spoke at evangelistic meetings in 24 of the conference's Hispanic congregations. Paulo Macena, NJC Youth Ministries director, also preached at one of the meetings.

As a result of the effort, 101 people chose to be baptized. Several other individuals are also preparing for baptism. "We thank God for His guidance, and we are grateful to the pastors from Asociación Alto Magdalena who gave of their time to preach the Word of God. We know the Holy Spirit will continue to do great things here in New Jersey," says Agüero.—Raquel Guevara



Conference leaders welcome pastors and their families from the South Colombian Union Mission.

## 3,000 Members Gather for United Camp Meeting

Once every five years, during the year of General Conference Session, the New Jersey Conference holds a combined camp meeting. This summer all conference churches and language groups gathered for United Camp Meeting at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover. Together they focused on the theme “Proclaiming Hope in Jesus.” More than 3,000 people crowded into and around the tent to hear Dan R. Jackson, president of the North American Division (NAD), present his Sabbath morning sermon titled “How Far Will He Go?” He spoke about the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son parables in Luke 15.

In the afternoon, Jackson presented a second sermon titled “The Great Exchange,” and José H. Cortés Jr., NAD associate ministerial director for evangelism, gave a presentation on Compassion Ministry, an initiative Cortés started in the Atlantic Union Conference that encourages Christians to live a lifestyle of compassion with the same priorities of Jesus.

A unique feature of this year’s meeting was the morning Baccalaureate service for 40 graduating eighth-graders. Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent of schools, gave brief remarks and Jackson offered a special prayer of consecration for the upcoming freshmen.

This year the administration also decided to combine the youth and adult programs for the day. The conference youth led the praise and worship time and event programming.

To view video reports from the day, visit the conference’s website, njcsda.org.—James A. Greene



José H. Cortés Jr. translates Dan Jackson’s sermon into Spanish.



Eighth-grade graduates bow their heads during the Consecration prayer.



Members and friends of the New Jersey Conference surround Daniel Jackson.



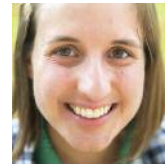
Parents assist children with crafts during the children’s meeting.

## I See God Move at Camp Mohaven



After recently walking through the Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center on a warm evening, watching toads hop out of my path and fireflies sparkle around me, I marveled at how magical camp is. It's a place filled with some of the kindest, funniest, most loving individuals I know. It's a place where God moves.

Camp is a place where there is tangible evidence of His love. I've seen young men and women pour all of their heart and soul—all of their energy, patience and strength—into the lives of children and this program for the sole purpose of introducing those children to the One who loves them unconditionally. Camp Mohaven in Danville is its own little world where



**Hollie Macomber**  
*Girls Director for  
Summer Camps,  
Camp Mohaven*

kids can escape the chaos and uncertainty of their everyday lives.

## Mysterious Benefactor Joins Bowling Green Church

In September 2012, *Mission Ohio* featured an article about a mysterious benefactor who gifted the Bowling Green church with a check for \$3,020. The church and their pastor, Patrick Mazani, were puzzled. "Who was this man?" many asked.

During the next few years, this enigmatic man occasionally brought checks to the church, only to disappear again. Members were grateful for the stranger's generosity and prayed to learn his identity. Finally, after praying and fasting, God answered the congregation's prayers and Pastor Mazani met the mysterious benefactor, Michael Burrows.

Burrows grew up in a family who accepted God. But, as he matured, he recognized that the church he was attending didn't adhere to biblical principles. After a personal study of Scripture, Burrows realized the importance of the seventh-day Sabbath and began attending a Church of God (7th Day). But, he found teachings that "were not adding up," he says. Unable to find a Christian church following the Bible completely, he began smoking and doing drugs.

In 1999 Burrows started a new job. Though not attending a church, he asked management for Saturdays off and enjoyed this time away from work. Believing he needed to give offerings to God, Burrows began putting money aside in a container every Saturday. He soon became aware of another church in town that met on Saturdays. Feeling impressed this was where he should take the money, Burrows went to the Bowling Green church with his first check for \$3,020.

Earlier this year, Pastor Mazani was near the exterior door when Burrows came hurriedly to drop off his envelope of money. Mazani would not let him go, and quickly ascertained this was the same mysterious benefactor who had been making regular donations to the

church. He invited Burrows inside and introduced him to church members attending potluck. Burrows quickly became active and faithful in attending church with his new church family.

Burrows recently joined the church through baptism. Several family members attended the celebration, including his mother, Eleanor, and sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and David Stout.

"Mike is on fire, and his hope is to reach out to many who are out there in the darkness," says Mazani.



*Mike Burrows (seated) enjoys the support of his mother, Eleanor, and sister and brother-in-law, David and Peggy Stout (back), on the day of his baptism.*

## Kettering Church Welcomes Pastor for Family, Women

It is my desire to be part of a team that seeks God's guidance in training and equipping our local church to make an impact in its local community," shares M. Alexandria Harter, the new Family and Women's ministries pastor at the Kettering church.



Born in Argentina, Harter attended Columbia Union schools before finishing her bachelor's in theology and business at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). She has taught at Atlanta Adventist Academy (Ga.), Forest Lake Academy (Fla.) and Loma Linda Academy (Calif.). She began her pastoral ministry at the Azure Hills church (Calif.), where she served for six years as an associate pastor before transitioning to the Collegedale Community church (Tenn.). There she served as children's and youth pastor for the past four years.

Harter is married to Kris and they have two children, Gisela (9) and Niko (7). She enjoys music, sports and activities involving youth and friends. When asked about her passions and goals for Kettering, she responded, "It is my desire for the children of the Kettering church to find that they are so deeply loved by God, their families and their church. ... My dream is to find ways to share Jesus with our children in such a way that they desire to share Jesus with everyone."

## Akron First Pathfinders Place Top at Bible Competition

The Akron First Crusader Pathfinder team began the year with uncertainty. Originally there were enough interested participants to field two teams; however, challenges arose as key members moved to new locations. Ultimately, the Pathfinders merged members from both teams into one full team plus an alternate, but combining teams meant there was duplication of some positions while others remained unfilled.

"These obstacles were no match for the Akron kids," says David Keyes, club director.

The Crusaders went on to represent the Northeast Ohio area then the entire Ohio Conference as the only team to advance to the Columbia Union level of the Pathfinder Bible Experience Competition (PBE). There they claimed first place, then traveled to Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) for the North American Division finals. One hundred and twenty-five teams from across the United States, Canada and United Kingdom competed.

At the competition, the team donned their "A class" uniforms and passed uniform inspection without incident. The team then fielded 90 questions in English, French and Spanish.

They handled the pressure of nationals with their usual poise, says Kimberly Settlemier, one of the team's coaches. After the testing concluded, the

team learned they scored a first-place win!

"By the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father, all arrived safely home, and our fearless Pathfinder Bible Bowl team is beginning preparation for next year's book of study: Exodus!" notes Keyes.



The Akron First Crusaders, flanked by PBE officials and coaches Kimberly and Tyrone Settlemier, celebrate their first-place ranking.

# Pennsylvania *Pen*

AUGUST 2015

## New Hispanic Ministries Director Joins Conference

The Pennsylvania Conference leadership team welcomes Pastor Gabriel Montalvo as the new conference Hispanic Ministries director. Juan Lopez, the previous director, retired this summer.

Montalvo is not new to ministry in Pennsylvania. Beginning as a lay pastor in 1996, he has pastored the Philadelphia Hispanic #4, Hispanic II, Lehigh Valley Hispanic, Bethlehem Hispanic and Easton El Camino churches and the El Faro mission group in the Lehigh Valley. He currently pastors the Grace Hispanic and Frazer Hispanic churches as well as the South Philly Hispanic, Kennett Square Hispanic and Philadelphia Youth Connect companies in the Philadelphia area.

Although he received an associate's degree in respiratory therapy, Montalvo says he felt God leading him to pastoral ministry. He later earned bachelor degrees in religion, personal ministry and theology from Atlantic Union College (Mass.), and is currently working on a master's in pastoral ministry from Andrews University (Mich.).

As a pastor, evangelist and church planter, Montalvo's vision for Hispanic ministry is "to engage children, youth and adults in hastening Jesus' second coming by revealing Jesus while making disciples."

Montalvo and his wife, Ana, have three children, Gabriel II, Aaron and Diana; a daughter-in-law, Emily; and a granddaughter, Madison. A second granddaughter, Isabel, is due in October.



## Wilkes Barre Church Revives Día del Niño

The Wilkes Barre Hispanic church's Día del Niño (Children's Day) event at Kirby Park in Kingston was full of activities, including face painting, piñatas, bounce houses and a water balloon battle. During the festivities, children also learned about dental hygiene and received new toothbrushes and bubble-gum-flavored toothpaste, learned about the Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist School in Mountain Top, enjoyed snacks and received balloons and invitations to the church's



Children enjoy breaking a piñata during the church's Día del Niño celebration.

Vacation Bible School.

Día del Niño, founded as a way to improve the welfare of the world's children, is a big holiday in many Latin American countries. Many church members have fond memories of the day from their childhoods, so when discussing how to connect with the community, they decided to relive the holiday.

"Día del Niño is a day everyone in our congregation looks forward to, not just the kids," says Sandy Mattison, event coordinator. "The young adults in our congregation play an active role in planning and pulling off the event. And, the adults in our congregation are incredibly supportive and generous with time, energy and supplies. ... We hope that by having fun in the park, we can draw people to ... our church that maybe otherwise would not have heard," she says.



Booth volunteers find a fun way to teach children how to brush their teeth correctly.

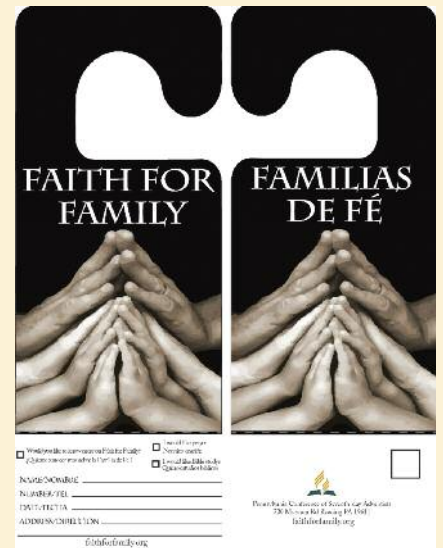
## Philadelphia Event Offers Alternative Focus on Family

September 12 an army of Seventh-day Adventists will walk through and pray for Philadelphia, going house to house leaving door hangers that offer Bible studies and information on growing stronger families. Pennsylvania Conference pastors from Philadelphia and surrounding areas, led by Tim Bailey, director of leadership and spiritual growth, and Jeanne Hartwell, associate ministerial and family life director, are planning this event to take advantage of the tremendous interest and publicity around faith and family sparked by the Roman Catholic Church's World Meeting of Families event in Philadelphia, September 22-25.

The Catholic Church's event will focus on strengthening family bonds and include a visit by Pope Francis. The Pennsylvania team wants to offer something that ties into this focus on family and have created a website, [faithforfamily.org](http://faithforfamily.org), while also planning family-related events at local churches.

"In anticipation of the pope's upcoming visit, the Pennsylvania Conference is eager to reach out to the residents of Philadelphia with a positive message of faith and family," says Ray Hartwell, president. "Rather than attack things the people of the community may not understand, we follow the counsel in *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 299: '(People) are to be turned from their false worship, not by hearing denunciation of their idols, but by beholding something better. God's goodness is to be made known.'"

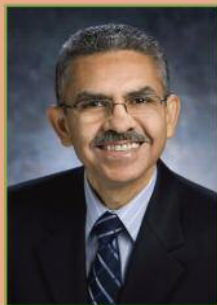
Area pastors and churches will follow up the one-day event by offering small groups and seminars on family topics. The campaign will culminate with Spanish and English evangelistic meetings November 13-15 in Philadelphia and Reading.



### Pennsylvania Conference Fall Camp Meeting 2015

*Loyally  
Living  
for the  
Lord*

September 18-19, 2015



Our speaker for the 2015 Fall Camp Meeting is Ron du Preez, former teacher at Southern Adventist University, ministry leader in the Michigan Conference and now a pastor in the Portland, Oregon area.



**Laurel Lake Camp**  
**76 Lodge Road**  
**Rosser, Pa.**

*Bring your family and enjoy worship,  
children's meetings and activities,  
fellowship and much more.*

For more information, call 610.374.8331 or go to [paconference.org/camp-meeting](http://paconference.org/camp-meeting).



# Potomac People

AUGUST 2015

## Three Schools Host Joint Spelling Bee

**P**rotein. P-r-o-t-e-i-n. Protein.” Eighth-grader Carina Ming from the John Nevins Andrews School (JNA) carefully spelled the word that ensured



JNA student Taylor Lawson takes second place, JNA student Carina Ming takes first, while TLC Prep student Mikaela Maloney gets third.

her spot as first-place winner of a Potomac tri-school spelling bee at JNA in Takoma Park, Md.

Fifteen students from JNA; Sligo Adventist School, also in Takoma Park; and the Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School (TLC Prep) in Fredericksburg, Va., followed Scripps National Spelling Bee rules and practiced words from the official list, then competed in nine rounds. “We wanted to embrace the true spirit of the event,” says Yolande Melbourne, a Sligo teacher and event coordinator. “At each school, teachers and parents worked with the students to memorize their words. In my classroom, we played games, wrote sentences and had ‘spell downs’ and pop quizzes.”

Melbourne hopes to make this an annual event and grow a wider range of participation each year. She says she saw students discover new strengths and connections during this process. “I hope the next time we do this, we see two or three representatives from each school. We want to create ways for students in our different schools to get to know each other and interact. This is a friendly, spirited and educational way to do that,” she adds.

## Silver Spring Members Find Purpose in Prison Outreach

**G**regory Glaude, Prison Ministries director at the Silver Spring (Md.) church, says he should be dead. While crossing the street at age 24, Glaude and two friends were hit by a car traveling 65 mph. One was killed and the other severely injured. Glaude, however, was thrown 50 feet, unharmed. Later at age 35, he was held at gunpoint, and at 47 was diagnosed with cancer. “The fact is, I know God did not spare my life all these times for nothing,” he says. “God doesn’t do anything by accident.”

In 2011 Glaude accepted an invitation from J.J. Moses, pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Calvary Southern Asian church in Burtonsville, Md., to give a sermon at the North Branch Correctional Institution in Cumberland, Md. “All the drugs and alcohol I did never gave me a high like that,” he recalls. “The prisoners were alive and vibrant!”

Since then he has become part of this ministry and witnessed the baptisms of 20 prisoners and seen four join the church through profession of faith. Glaude and his friends Paul Bright and Josephina Navedo, who often help in the ministry, say God is blessing them through this experience.

Through the ministry, the Silver Spring church

provides Sabbath School quarterlies to more than 40 inmates and conducts studies during monthly prison visits. This ministry is growing, as are the number of believers at North Branch. “I believe this ministry is one reason God kept me alive,” Glaude says.



Gregory Glaude, Josephina Navedo and Paul Bright, members of the Silver Spring church, regularly witness to men incarcerated at North Branch Correctional Institution.

# Potomac People

## Ethiopian Members Meet Community on 7-Mile Walk

On a Friday morning, starting at 9:30 a.m., 22 members of the Ethiopian church recently walked 7.5 miles from Washington, D.C.'s Forest Hills neighborhood to Takoma Park, Md., to celebrate a new beginning. The walk was part of the church's relocation from the Capital Memorial church, where they met for nearly 10 years, to the Sligo Adventist School.

As they walked up Georgia Avenue, members stopped by 13 Ethiopian businesses to greet people. They distributed flyers and invited passersby to church. Kumnegor Yeshaw, owner of the Qategna Café, was so excited by their visit that she offered everyone kolo, a favorite Ethiopian roasted barley snack. At Entoto Market, owner Ayalkebet Teshome, who also owns Radio Abisinia at 1390 AM, offered to advertise the church's upcoming events for free. "I am Orthodox, but I am open minded," he said with a warm smile.

At the Sligo church, Don McFarlane, pastor for administration and adult ministries, prayed for the group. When the group finally reached their destination at 2:30 p.m., Roo McKenzie, Sligo school principal, also prayed for the hungry participants before they started regaining their strength with a meal.

Lisane Ketete, a member, notes how wonderful it was to see generations come together. Egzi Tamrat, another member, adds, "This walk was a blessing. It helped me see that, when we church members reach out to people in our community, it actually brings us closer to each other as well!"

Marcel Pichot, the church's pastor, says the purpose of the walk was to get church members into the community. "If we don't get out and meet people around us, we will never be in a position to reach any of the 250,000



*Twenty-two members walk more than seven miles to their new worship spot and speak with local store owners and share materials on their way.*



*The Ethiopian church meets in their new home at the Sligo Adventist School.*



*Walkers meet Ayalkebet Teshome (back), who offered free event advertising on his radio station.*

Ethiopians who live in the D.C. area. Our biggest challenge is to become comfortable relating to people in their context and accepting them as they are," he says.

The next day, the church had a record attendance of more than 80 people for its inaugural service. During potluck, Pastor Pichot observed: "Do you hear all that noise? It's the sound of happy people! Now we have a place where we can all sit together for meals!"

Pichot encourages visitors to attend and meet fellow Adventists from Ethiopia. "You just might fall in love with injera and wat [bread and stew] after the service," he says.

# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

# HAPPENINGS



AUGUST 2015

[www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org](http://www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org)

## God Answered Our Prayer About Tuition Funds

**T**his summer I started the “SVA Parent Village” Facebook group to support and uplift our Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students, parents, faculty and staff, and recently shared the following experience of how God’s tender care and leading provided the way for my twin sons to attend SVA:

Our family regularly spends time remembering how God has answered our prayers and strengthened us to get through situations, shown us a way or helped us learn and grow. After our two boys, Joshua and Matthew, graduated from eighth grade, we spent a lot of family time in prayer deciding whether we could afford to send them to SVA. We wanted our boys to attend, but the expense was daunting.

One evening I asked my husband how much extra money it would take every year for our boys to attend. After crunching the numbers, he gave me a figure. In worship that night, I specifically shared the number with the whole family, and we continued to pray God would show us a way forward.

The next day, my husband called me, almost in shock, and said his boss had given him an unexpected raise. I asked him how much, and it was the exact amount, to the dollar, we needed to send the boys to SVA. We felt so overwhelmed and thankful in this immediate answer to prayer.



*Melissa, Joshua, Walter and Matthew Reinhoehl are thankful for God’s answers to prayer.*

Thinking about it still makes me go weak in the knees. We hear of God answering prayers for missionaries in times past, but somehow, many get the impression that God won’t work in the lives of ordinary Christians. But, He is still working and the impossible becomes possible when we ask God to work in our lives.

We feel humbled and amazed at how God worked out the details. God’s tender care and leading in this process is something our family will remember for the rest of our lives, a story my boys will likely relay one day to their own children. We serve an awesome God who is interested in every detail of our lives and provides the means for us to follow His will for our family.

If you are interested in your child attending Shenandoah Valley Academy, know that you can pray and ask for God’s leading. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7).—*Melissa Reinhoehl*



*Joshua participates in Gabrielle Griffin’s world history class.*

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844  
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ [shenandoahvalleyacademy.org](http://shenandoahvalleyacademy.org) ■ Principal, Dale Twomley ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

## 50 Students Give Lives to Christ

At the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, Chaplain Luis Camps challenged every faculty and staff member to choose one student to help develop a personal relationship with Christ. The staff took the challenge to heart, and the Lord answered their prayers during the spring semester. Representatives from “The Grace Tour,” a nationwide evangelistic campaign funded by Jeremy and Traci Anderson, joined forces with the staff to present a message at school to reach the youth. That day three presenters, including Jeremy Anderson, challenged the students to take a stand for Christ and live their lives as true Christians.

At the end of the program, 50 students gave their lives to Christ. Pastor Camps and Dunbar Henri, religion teacher, started giving Bible studies to the young disciples every Tuesday and Wednesday after school. Many of the students decided to be baptized at their local churches, but seven wanted to be baptized during a special vespers at the school before the end of the school year.



Seven Takoma Academy students prepare for baptism.

To help facilitate the baptisms, Nora Ramos, Spanish teacher, secured a portable baptistry from Potomac Conference’s Glenmont Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., and Henri secured baptismal robes from Potomac’s Takoma Park (Md.) church. Janaye Dowers, Sandra Murray, Chynna Smith, Jessica Guerrier, Amaris Bullard, Anna Cobb and Jarrett Miles celebrated their commitment to Christ through the watery display hosted in the school chapel.

“We praise our God for giving us the opportunity to minister to these students and be part of the work He is doing at Takoma Academy,” says Camps.

## Students Join Mentoring Program

This month Rachel Manuel ('16), Lyshall Prudente ('16) and Courtney Saunders ('17) will participate in the Achievement of the Mind Summit at Rosemont College (Pa.). The summit is considered by many to be the number-one conclave of its kind, where top-notch professionals mentor high school students. Mentors include Sheldon Glashow, a Nobel Prize winner; Rita Dove, former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner; and Herschel Walker, a Heisman Trophy winner.

Takoma Academy is the first Seventh-day Adventist high school to have students chosen to attend. Keith Wilkerson, senior program manager for the mid-Atlantic region of the A Better Chance Program, brought the opportunity to TA. (See July’s *TA Today* for more information about A Better Chance).

Saunders says, “I am so grateful for this opportunity. To be invited to Achievement of the Mind is very exciting. I will be exposed to many career choices, successful people and young individuals who aspire to achieve their dreams. I look forward to this awesome opportunity.”



Courtney Saunders attends a TA event.

# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

# CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

AUGUST 2015

### Our Pastors and Schools Make a Great Team

Over the past few years, I've had a few opportunities to participate in committees tasked with hatching ideas that breathe new life into our education system in North America. Invariably the conversation turns to the pastor/school relationship.

Too often these conversations focus on negative examples: A teacher feels the pastor doesn't see her work with students as an integral part of the church's mission. A pastor feels hamstrung by the church's heavy financial commitment to the school. Each feels unsupported by the other. Sometimes I want to stand up and shout, "Not at my school! Not at my church!" For a great example of the wonderful things that can

happen when this relationship is healthy, I give you Spring Valley Academy (SVA).

On any given day, I can't walk our halls without bumping into a pastor from one of our four constituent Ohio Conference churches. You might see Elliot Smith, pastor for young adults/college ministries at the Kettering church, giving guitar and ukulele lessons to young students. Jeremy Wong, youth pastor at the Centerville church, could be giving baptismal studies to middle school students. Kasper Houghton Jr., technical director and youth pastor for the Kettering church, might be rehearsing with the high school praise team. Bill Hrovat, pastor of evangelism at the Centerville church, could be conducting a lunchtime Bible study with third-graders. Karl Haffner, Kettering's senior pastor, meets with a group of students in the cafeteria every Thursday morning. Winston Baldwin, Centerville's senior pastor, even gave up a recent Sunday morning to help me interview a potential new teacher. Roy Nelson, pastor of the Beavercreek church, chairs an important committee. And, I'm just scratching the surface.

When it comes to pastoral support, nobody has it better than SVA. And, their congregations follow their lead in supporting the school, teachers and students. Their efforts yielded eternal benefits with 12 students choosing to be baptized just this school year. Kudos to our pastors! We make a great team.



Centerville church pastor Bill Hrovat baptizes Noah Hahn, a fourth-grade student.



Darren Wilkins  
Principal

### 24 Students Join National Honor Society

During a recent assembly, school leaders inducted 24 high school students into the Spring Valley Academy chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Students earn membership by the effective demonstration of the four qualities held in high esteem by this national society: scholarship, service, leadership and character.

These NHS members act as ambassador hosts for SVA's annual Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony held at the end of each school year. The event is an evening where parents, teachers and friends celebrate the success (mind, body and spirit) of SVA students with acknowledgments and award presentations. NHS sponsors Kathy Burns, registrar, and Ken Knudsen, guidance counselor/testing coordinator and senior Bible teacher, say they look forward to an exciting new year for the NHS members.



# CONNECTIONS

## Sophomore Represents SVA in Community Band

Spencer Briley, a sophomore, has been playing the tuba for six years and is a member of the Spring Valley Academy high school band, stage band and praise orchestra under Donald Huff, band director. He also takes tuba lessons from Sam Pomaes, a former SVA student and band member.

However, for the past four summers, Spencer has also represented SVA in the Carillon Park Band. The band consists of 150 members from 22 area schools and performs every Sunday from May to early July with two-hour practices twice a week. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Carillon Park Band, currently under the direction of Michael Berning, band director at nearby Fairmont High School. Spencer plays first chair in the tuba section for the Carillon Park and SVA bands.



Michael Berning and Spencer Briley get ready to practice.

## Programs Help Students Minister to Seniors

Over the past two years, through two outreach programs, 36 students have been able to minister to senior citizens while raising money for school tuition.

Partnering for Eternity (PFE) is a scholarship grant program run by Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) for Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools designed to encourage student involvement in service and in forming relationships with older adults. Student participants are required to visit a senior mentor once a week for at least one hour to help them do things like take walks, bake cookies, do puzzles, complete chores or just keep them company.

"I can't tell you how many residents mention how much they love seeing kids and young people sit and talk to them," says Tuta Ionescu, SVA parent.



Joseph and Sarah Ionescu, a freshman and seventh-grader, respectively, enjoy meeting with local senior citizens.

Vicki Briley, SVA's PFE coordinator, says that the school also runs the Academy Student Service Initiative Stipend for Tuition (ASSIST) program, where students work for a senior mentor from two to eight hours a week, and the money earned goes directly onto their school account.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for 36 students to become 'the hands and feet of Jesus' to witness to our community these past two years," says Briley.

## Calendar

- August 17** "Meet the Team" Welcome Back Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- August 19** First Day of School
- August 19-23** Senior Survival, Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center
- August 24-28** Week of Prayer
- August 25** School Picture Day
- August 28** Middle School Pool Party, 8:15 p.m.
- August 29** High School Welcome Back Party
- September 7** Labor Day Holiday—No School
- September 11** Senior Dedication Vespers, 7 p.m.
- September 14-18** ITBS Testing
- September 17-20** SALT Conference, Camp Blue Ridge
- September 27** Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Focusing on the Centrality of Jesus

On behalf of the learning community at Washington Adventist University (WAU), we congratulate Ted N.C. Wilson ('71) and all the new and re-elected officers of the General Conference. May the Lord grant our leaders the knowledge, wisdom and understanding to lead our church in the 21st century.

The prayer of Jesus in John 17:1-26 continues to be relevant for our leaders: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. ... Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know You, I know You, and they know that You have sent Me. I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for Me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (NIV). Amen.



**Weymouth Spence**  
*President*

## Peifer Takes New Role

Bruce Peifer has been well known at Washington Adventist University for his role as the athletic director, vice president for advancement and chair of the department of health, wellness and physical education. July 1 Peifer stepped into the role of vice president for student life. In his new role, Peifer will represent and assist WAU students by supervising services such as housing, health, dining and social activities. "After being in Adventist education for more than 30 years, taking this leadership position was appealing to me because it will allow me to more closely connect with students," he says.

Before coming to WAU, his previous experience as a teacher, coach and athletic director took place at the following educational institutions: Lynwood Academy (Calif.), Loma Linda University (Calif.), La Sierra University (Calif.) and Oakwood University (Ala.).

"I really believe in the student experience and want to help offer them a wholistic experience by tending to their academic, spiritual and social needs," he says.

Peifer and his wife, Edith Joy (Doggette), have two daughters, Masika and Michaela, a WAU senior this year.



## Third Visionaries Gala Honors Exemplary Leaders



Washington Adventist University will host its third Visionaries Gala September 20 in support of the university's "Vision 2020, Growing With Excellence" plan. The gala is an annual event that supports "Vision 2020" to encourage and expand interaction between the university and community. The emcee for this year's gala is Georgette "Gigi" Godwin, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce since 2007.

At each gala, four people are recognized for their exemplary leadership to the university, community, country and world while keeping with the institution's commitment to excellence and moral leadership. This year's honorees are:

Lars and Julie Houmann are honored for their excellence in healthcare leadership and innovation. Lars (pictured with Kimberly Pichot, chair of the business and communications department) graduated from WAU with a bachelor's in business administration in 1980 and is currently serving as president and CEO of Florida Hospital.

Mikhail Kulakov Jr., WAU professor of religion, is honored for his excellence in biblical scholarship. Kulakov led a team of biblical scholars in translating an antiquated version of the Bible, dating back 130 years, into modern Russian.

Esther Newman, CEO and founder of Leadership Montgomery, is honored for her excellence in leadership development and community service. Newman founded the organization 26 years ago and has served county and community through developing and educating its leaders.

## Theology Student Overcomes Odds to Graduate

My life is a testimony to God's blessings," says Fabian Taffe, a 2015 Washington Adventist University theology graduate. "Studying at WAU for two years has been a great experience and blessing in my journey to becoming a pastor. The connections I've made with faculty, staff and other students have been priceless. The teachers are always available to give you the time you need. I have also found many opportunities here to serve others—both locally and internationally."

Coming from the inner city area of Whitehall Avenue in Kingston, Jamaica, and surrounded by poverty and crime, Taffe's life could have been much different. Providentially, at the age of 15, while attending an evangelistic series at the Whitehall church, he chose to follow Christ. At his baptism, the evangelist, someone whom he had just met, prophesied, "You will be a pastor one day!"

With the support of the Whitehall church family and his mother, Taffe worked as a Bible worker during the day and shared his faith at evening evangelistic meetings. Fighting and shootings were common among gangs in the area, and rivalries and shootings caused people to fear leaving their homes and attend the meetings. Even he was fearful for his safety and questioned God, "Should I keep doing Your work?"

As the youngest of four sons, Taffe lived with his mother after his parents separated. Although he finished high school, he didn't complete the requirements for the Caribbean Secondary Examination Counsel to qualify for university admission, so he took a job pumping gas. But, he continued to feel God's calling on his life to become a pastor. He realized he needed to complete his education. But how? He was 22, uneducated, jobless and living with his mother. He implored God, "If You want me to serve, show me how."

A pastor friend urged Taffe to step out in faith and claim Psalm 24, which says, "God will give you everything you need; He will supply the resources." He stepped out in faith and a couple at his church offered to pay for his first year's tuition at Northern



Caribbean University in Jamaica.

He took a step of faith and applied. After qualifying, he attended the university for three years. It was during this time that he met Khadene (pictured with Fabian), who became his wife in May 2012. She had her master's in nursing and was teaching at the University of the West Indies nursing program in Jamaica. Shortly after their union, she took a job teaching nursing at WAU, and Taffe joined her after obtaining the necessary papers to move.

"My family and my church have been supportive and are proud of my accomplishments," he says. His future plans now include getting his master's and doctorate from Andrews University (Mich.) and working in the United States as a pastor.





# Profiles in Caring

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

WATCH US ON YOUTUBE

VISIT OUR BLOG ON WORDPRESS



## Where it Starts, How it Grows

It's the lesson we learn and relearn throughout our lives. Great things start with small things. The purpose of your life emerges from the things you learn and experience. And the mission of an organization like ours is always growing and must be persistently pursued.

You start with a seed, and it grows into a plant. You take a fledging interest in a hobby, start learning about it and it grows into a passion. You miss the ball on your first swing, but you begin to practice and eventually you can hit it out of the park.

Or you try an experiment, which leads to deepened explorations and it eventually leads to the information needed to make a commitment. Things that are small and insignificant can be nurtured to become large and powerful. The beginner can become the helper and eventually the leader. What is casual and random can grow to be purposeful and fateful.

The process applies to our understanding of mission as well.

- First, we sense or discern the mission of an organization. It may seem remote and abstract, but at least we know it is there.
- Then, if we think about it carefully and frequently, we begin to see how it relates to something important and valuable and even identify it as something we care about.
- Eventually, we might identify with and value an organizational mission so much that we use it to help define our lives, our own personal purpose. Ultimately we begin to understand that by engaging with an organization, we are also defining and clarifying its mission.

That's what I hope is happening throughout our organization—a steady growth in understanding the personal relevance and importance of our mission. An appreciation for its value. And a willingness to take that mission as our own—knowing that we not only support it in the way we do our jobs, but also define it through the way our own work impacts it.

Idealistic? Unlikely? Impossible?

No less likely than perfecting a recipe, or mastering the violin, or learning to throw a curve ball. Embracing a mission is the result of purposeful, intentional, and persistent commitments. And what we do every day.



**Terry Forde**

*President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare*

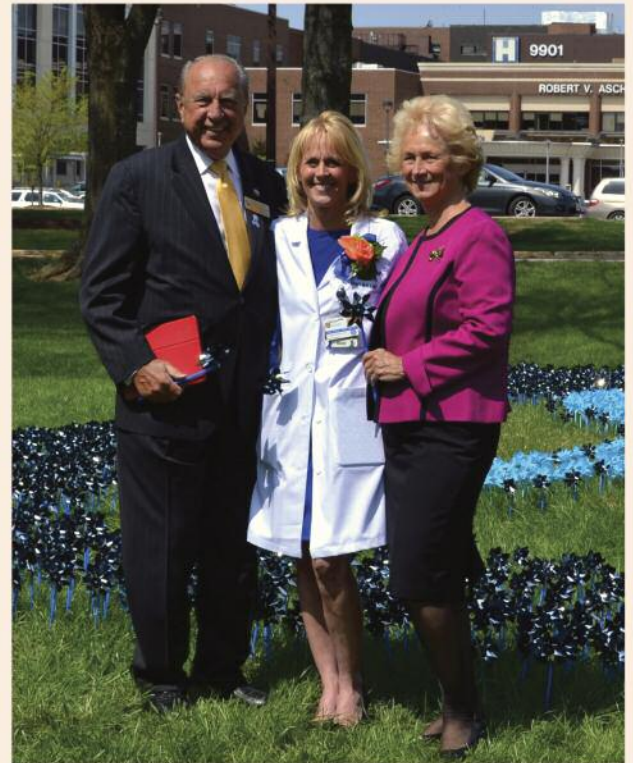
## Forensic Medical Unit's Pinwheel Garden Raises Awareness about Child Abuse

April marked National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a cause close to the hearts of nurses on Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center's Forensic Medical Unit. The unit, the only one of its kind in Montgomery County, specializes in treating crime victims and collecting medical evidence. The unit's 20 nurses joined a national movement that uses pinwheel gardens to draw attention to child abuse.

Heidi Breese, Forensic Medical Unit manager, and Katie Swift, a forensic nurse, led their compassionate fellow nurses in planting one pinwheel for each child-abuse case in the county – approximately 3,600 children, according to their contacts. Light blue pinwheels marked the 500 of these cases involving sexual abuse. On April 21, hospital leaders and those active in preventing and child abuse in our area, as well as those working to heal the effects of child abuse, gathered to dedicate the temporary garden near the driveway to the Emergency Department.

Debbie Feinstein, senior assistant state's attorney and chief of the county's Family Violence Division, spoke at the dedication. She said the garden represented society's need to bring abuse out of the shadows.

"We need to get the word out there that you don't need to be ashamed; you don't need to hide it. Parents, teachers, community members need to educate a child that if anything has happened to them, they need to come forward."



*Heidi Breese, RN, and Nurse Manager of the Forensic Medical Unit, along with her parents, Bud and Rose, who are members of the Columbia Union Conference and longtime leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*



*President John Sackett, Forensic Medical Unit Manager Heidi Breese and gathered nurses dedicate the Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center has the only specialized unit of its kind to treat crime victims and collect medical evidence.*

## Behavioral Health Partners with Peninsula Regional

In July, Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services and Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) began a partnership that expands access to high-quality mental health services for residents on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Behavioral Health & Wellness Services will now lead the behavioral health service line for the Salisbury-based Peninsula Regional Medical Center's behavioral health unit. The unit currently includes an adult inpatient unit, an adult outpatient service and a Partial Hospitalization Program, which is an outpatient day service for adults in need of extended behavioral health care. The agreement includes managing the child and adolescent outpatient program.

Behavioral Health & Wellness Services has provided quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services for children and adults throughout the D.C. region for more than 30 years. "We look forward to working in close collaboration with Peninsula Regional Medical Center's team to support

its behavioral health service line and develop strategies for future growth," said Kevin Young, President of Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services.

Peninsula Regional Medical Center is the Delmarva Peninsula's largest healthcare facility, serving more than 500,000 patients annually. The new agreement will combine Adventist HealthCare's expertise in providing behavioral health programs within a hospital care environment with PRMC's long-established history of providing quality medical care on the Delmarva Peninsula.

"PRMC is excited to welcome Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services to our campus and our community," said Karen Poisker, Vice President of Population Health at PRMC. "The knowledge and expertise they bring from years of being a leader in this specialized field of care will help us to enhance and expand our already outstanding behavioral health program."

## Athletic Training and Concussion Program in High Schools Continues

Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation will continue the community-based initiative to provide certified athletic trainers and concussion baseline testing in 13 of the 26 Montgomery County Public High Schools for the 2015-2016 school year. The county school board voted to continue the program at their May 12 meeting.

The 13 high schools covered by Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation for the 2015-2016 school year are: Albert Einstein, Clarksburg, John F. Kennedy, Paint Branch, Northwest, Poolesville, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Springbrook, Watkins Mill, Wheaton, Winston Churchill and Thomas S. Wootton.

Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation first began providing concussion baseline testing and athletic training services to

Montgomery County High Schools in 2013. Between August 2014 and February 2015, the team administered 2,302 baseline concussion tests and supported diagnosis and care for 143 documented concussions.

The baseline exams, which are administered to all high school athletes in Montgomery County, assess neurocognitive functions including learning, problem solving and memory skills, as well as concentration ability. In the event that an injury occurs, the exams are used to compare with post-injury tests. Athletic trainers work to keep athletes safe from the dangers of concussion and other sports injuries.

"Our team of athletic trainers and physicians is proud to work with Montgomery County Public Schools. Our athletic trainers will continue to provide sideline care and manage

the return-to-play protocol to keep young athletes healthy and safe," said Elizabeth Kotroba, Director of Outpatient Therapy.

Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation has a comprehensive concussion program that serves adolescents and adults ages 14 and older who have incurred a head injury. For more information, visit [www.AdventistHealthCare.com/ConcussionProgram](http://www.AdventistHealthCare.com/ConcussionProgram).



## Adventist HealthCare continuará a cargo del programa de conmoción cerebral en las escuelas

Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation (Salud Física y Rehabilitación de Adventist HealthCare) continuará proporcionando entrenadores deportivos certificados y pruebas de conmoción cerebral de referencia en 13 de las 26 escuelas secundarias públicas del condado de Montgomery para el año escolar 2015-2016.

Las 13 escuelas secundarias cubiertas por Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation para el año escolar 2015-2016 son: Albert Einstein, Clarksburg, John F. Kennedy, Paint Branch, Northwest, Poolesville, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Springbrook, Watkins Mill, Wheaton, Winston Churchill y Thomas S. Wootton.

Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation empezó a proporcionar servicios de pruebas de conmoción cerebral de referencia y entrenamiento atlético a las escuelas secundarias del condado de Montgomery en 2013. Entre agosto de 2014 y febrero 2015, el equipo administró 2,302 pruebas de conmoción cerebral de referencia y apoyó el diagnóstico y la atención de 143 casos de conmoción documentados. Los exámenes de referencia, que se administran a todos los atletas de la escuela secundaria en el condado de Montgomery, evalúan las funciones neurocognitivas incluyendo el aprendizaje, habilidades para la resolución de problemas y de memoria, así como la capacidad de concentración. En el caso de que se produzca una lesión, los exámenes se utilizan para comparar con las pruebas después de la lesión. El trabajo de los entrenadores atléticos consiste en mantener a los atletas a salvo de los peligros de la conmoción cerebral y otras lesiones deportivas.

"Nuestro equipo de entrenadores deportivos y médicos se enorgullece de trabajar con las escuelas públicas del condado de Montgomery. Nuestros entrenadores deportivos continuarán proporcionando atención del lado de la cancha y administrando el protocolo de retorno al juego para mantener a los jóvenes atletas saludables y a salvo", dijo Elizabeth Kotroba, directora de Terapia para pacientes ambulatorios.



Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation cuenta con un programa completo de conmoción cerebral para atender a adolescentes y adultos a partir de los 14 años que sufran una lesión en la cabeza. Al ingreso en el programa, se realiza una evaluación inicial por parte de un equipo interdisciplinario para determinar la presencia o nivel de la lesión.

Para más información, visite  
[www.AdventistHealthCare.com/  
 ConcussionProgram](http://www.AdventistHealthCare.com/ConcussionProgram)

Para más información sobre los servicios de Adventist HealthCare, visite [www.AdventistHealthCare.com](http://www.AdventistHealthCare.com)

## VISITOR ADVERTISING AND SERVICES

**Advertising** ■ The *Visitor* does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised and does not accept responsibility for typographical or categorical errors. For advertising guidelines and rates: [columbiaunionvisitor.com/advertising](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/advertising)

*Ad Submissions:* [sjones@columbiaunion.net](mailto:sjones@columbiaunion.net)

**Obituary Submission** ■ Obituaries are posted free of charge for members of the Columbia Union. To submit an obituary: [columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary)

**Subscriptions** ■ Nonmembers of the Columbia Union may subscribe to the *Visitor* for a fee. For more information: [columbiaunionvisitor.com/subscription](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/subscription)

### Contact Us

Columbia Union *Visitor*  
5427 Twin Knolls Rd  
Columbia, MD 21045  
(410) 997-3414  
[visitor@columbiaunion.net](mailto:visitor@columbiaunion.net)

## EMPLOYMENT

### ADVENTIST PODIATRIC SURGEON NEEDED IN

**MARYLAND**, near Adventist World Headquarters, rural areas and the Chesapeake Bay. Great area for families; excellent Adventist schools. Foot and ankle surgery performed at outstanding hospitals and surgery center. Immediate partnership leading to purchase of established practice within five years. Email CV to [podiatry11@yahoo.com](mailto:podiatry11@yahoo.com).

**UNION COLLEGE**, Lincoln, Neb., seeks mathematics professor. Doctorate or ABD required for tenure-track position. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and CV to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair, Division of Science and Mathematics, [cawolfe@ucollege.edu](mailto:cawolfe@ucollege.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education, and eligible for a Nebraska teaching certification, to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise elementary student teachers. Ten years of elementary teaching experience and multigrade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, [dewhite@ucollege.edu](mailto:dewhite@ucollege.edu). Effective summer 2016.

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

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** Advancement Office

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

**PACIFIC PRESS** seeks human resource (HR) director to direct all activities of the HR department, which includes safety, training and payroll/benefits. Duties include maintenance of personnel files and employee service records, assisting in hiring, compensation, policy formation, job descriptions and performance appraisals. Supervise staff of three. BA degree or equivalent degree with related on-the-job experience and SHRM certification preferred. Minimum five years of experience in HR administration or equivalent administrative leadership experience. To apply, contact Alix Mansker, HR director, [alix.mansker@pacificpress.com](mailto:alix.mansker@pacificpress.com).

**PACIFIC PRESS** seeks copy editor/proofreader who copy edits and proofreads all copy as assigned, checking for consistency of style, accuracy of grammar, spelling and content. A BA degree in English, communication or a related field or the equivalent in work experience is required, and a thorough knowledge of the English language, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Prior experience in copy preparation is desirable and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word. To apply, contact Alix Mansker, HR director, [alix.mansker@pacificpress.com](mailto:alix.mansker@pacificpress.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**DISCUSS ADVENTIST EDUCATION AND HOW IT**

**COMPARES.** Join education researcher Dr. Elissa Kido and PBS filmmaker Martin Doblmeier. Come to *Sligo by the Sea*, August 15. Doors open at 9:45 a.m. Location: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21843. Contact numbers: (301) 607-4275 or (301) 980-2000.

### VICTORIOUS LIVING LIFESTYLE 28-DAY PROGRAM

for individuals challenged with addiction issues: drugs, stress, alcohol, appetite, smoking and depression. Program dates are flexible. Cost: \$4,800. Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, Tenn. Register online or call: (931) 213-1329, [butlercreekhealth.org](http://butlercreekhealth.org).

### EARLITEEN AND YOUTH:

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

### THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER

can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many others. Invest in your health and call (800) 634-9355, for more information, or visit [wildwoodhealth.com](http://wildwoodhealth.com).

**GUIDE MAGAZINE** wants to reach readers aged 10-14 with your true, character-building stories. Visit [guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines](http://guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines) to read about our guidelines. Visit [guidemagazine.org/storysubmission](http://guidemagazine.org/storysubmission) to submit your story. Call (800) 447-7377 to subscribe.

### DOWNLOAD FREE SERMONS

from AudioVerse.org! Access thousands of free Seventh-day Adventist sermons, audio Bibles, Spirit of Prophecy audiobooks, and messages from your favorite annual conferences (ASI, GYC, etc.). Also available in other languages: Spanish, German, French and Chinese. Download the iOS and Android app today and listen to AudioVerse anywhere you'd like!

### DEMAND IS HIGH FOR AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE MANAGEMENT

with an expected job growth rate of 17% between 2010-2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree in automotive service, as well as a bachelor's in automotive service management. Both programs feature hands-on experience with ASE master

mechanics and a focus on incorporating Christ-centered values in the classroom as well as the workplace. Southern students have an 85% pass rate on ASE certification exams. Part-time work opportunities and internships are available in the auto shop on campus. Visit [southern.edu/tech](http://southern.edu/tech) for more information.

### THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT JOB OUTLOOK

is strong with an expected growth rate of 16% between 2012-2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree as well as a bachelor's in construction management. Students learn to unravel the complex components of commercial and residential construction projects and gain management techniques and leadership skills needed to supervise a job site. Southern's program features hands-on experience, while incorporating Christ-centered values into both learning and working environments. Visit [southern.edu/tech](http://southern.edu/tech) for more information.

## REAL ESTATE

**FOR SALE:** Large 193-acre campus, offices, classrooms, cafeteria, chapel and gym. Dormitories heated with free gas. Four-bay shop, homes, garden grounds and greenhouse. Well water system and sewage plant. Private, 20 acres of

### REAL ESTATE AGENT IN VIRGINIA

For Buyer and Seller

Call:

**Sarah Kwon, Realtor**  
ABR, CIPS, CNE, e-PRO  
United Real Estate, Reston, Va.  
(703) 887-8469

Email:

[dba.sarahkwon@gmail.com](mailto:dba.sarahkwon@gmail.com)

### BUYING? SELLING? RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN MARYLAND

Call:

**The MdSmartBuy Team**

**Phyllis Newman**  
(301) 922-5166  
and  
**Janice Valois**  
(301) 502-2103

Re/max Realty Center, Inc.  
(301) 774-5900  
(800) 586-4669

[mdsmartbuy.com](http://mdsmartbuy.com)

Email:

[phyllisnewman@realtor.com](mailto:phyllisnewman@realtor.com)  
[janice@janicevalois.com](mailto:janice@janicevalois.com)

# Bulletin Board

flat land, surrounded by beautiful, wooded hills. Great shopping nearby. \$885,000. (304) 782-3628/3630. Salem, W.Va.

## ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT AT FLETCHER PARK INN

on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, N.C. Spacious villa homes and limited rental apartments available now. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet on the day of your no-obligation tour. Call Loretta for details: (800) 249-2882; and visit [fletcherparkinn.com](http://fletcherparkinn.com).

## SERVICES

### MARYLAND ADVENTIST

**PODIATRIST:** Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, calluses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if it is needed, at Adventist hospitals. Laurel: (301) 317-6800, Greenbelt: (301) 345-5200, or Columbia: (410) 531-6350.

### MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAID

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 (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring and a new office located at 9256 Bendix Rd, Suite 202, Columbia, MD 21045. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

### MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY:

Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for your relocation needs. Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at [apexmoving.com/adventist](http://apexmoving.com/adventist).

**AUTHORS** of cookbooks, health books, children's chapter and picture books, call (800) 367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats and distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our new titles at your local ABC or [TEACHServices.com](http://TEACHServices.com). Used Adventist books at [LNFBooks.com](http://LNFBooks.com).

### PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR?

Have questions? Need *affordable*, professionally prepared handbills,

brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, (800) 274-0016, and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit [hope-source.com](http://hope-source.com). You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at HOPE-SOURCE deliver on time.

### RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER?

The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Seventh-day Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 14 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at (800) 248-8313, or visit us at [stevensworldwide.com/sda](http://stevensworldwide.com/sda).

### ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG:

Free 14-day trial! Join thousands of active, Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles and match notifications! Two-way compatibility match, photos and confidential online mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat and forums. Since 1993. Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches. Top ranked.

### ARE YOU MOVING SOON?

Before you rent a U-Haul and do it yourself, check our price and save yourself the hassle. Plan ahead now and reserve a time. Fast, direct, and economical. Contact Gary Erhard, Erhard Moving and Storage, 610 S. Mechanic, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; 8-11 p.m., E.T., (269) 471-7366 or cell (248) 890-5700.

## TRAVEL

### ADVENTIST ISRAEL TOUR:

Join Jim Gilley, Danny Shelton and the 3ABN team for an unforgettable Bible Enrichment Tour. Fantastic buffets, fellowship and guides. Affordable. Two departure dates: November 15-23 or November 18-29. Contact Jennifer at Maranatha Tours: (602) 788-8864, or Jill at 3ABN: (618) 627-4651.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### 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

# Sunset Calendar

	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sep 4
<b>Baltimore</b>	8:13	8:05	7:55	7:45	7:34
<b>Cincinnati</b>	8:45	8:36	8:27	8:17	8:06
<b>Cleveland</b>	8:38	8:29	8:19	8:08	7:57
<b>Columbus</b>	8:40	8:32	8:22	8:12	8:01
<b>Jersey City</b>	8:06	7:57	7:47	7:37	7:26
<b>Norfolk</b>	8:07	7:59	7:50	7:41	7:31
<b>Parkersburg</b>	8:33	8:24	8:15	8:05	7:54
<b>Philadelphia</b>	8:09	8:00	7:51	7:40	7:29
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	8:29	8:20	8:11	8:00	7:49
<b>Reading</b>	8:13	8:04	7:54	7:44	7:33
<b>Richmond</b>	8:13	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:36
<b>Roanoke</b>	8:22	8:14	8:06	7:56	7:46
<b>Toledo</b>	8:46	8:37	8:27	8:16	8:05
<b>Trenton</b>	8:08	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:28
<b>Wash., D.C.</b>	8:14	8:06	7:56	7:46	7:36

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

**USED ADVENTIST BOOK SALE,** Sunday, September 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Mountain View Christian School, 305 Fleming St., S. Williamsport, PA 17702. Over 1,000 used Adventist books with an assortment of books by Ellen G. White. For more information, call John Segar at (269) 781-6379. Part of the proceeds will go to Adventist education in Williamsport.

## MARYLAND MEN OF FAITH 2015 CONFERENCE

### "When Champions Are Few"

*Keynote Speaker*  
**Dwayne Lemon**

*Seminar Speakers*  
Phillip Collins  
Geoff Crowley  
Volodymyr Grinchenko  
Dan Jensen  
Dwayne Lemon  
Eli Rojas  
Tyler Trahan

**Sabbath, October 3**  
Mt. Aetna Camp and  
Retreat Center  
Hagerstown, Md,

*Early Registration  
by September 22:*  
**\$39/\$25 for adults & youth**  
(ages 14-19)  
(includes lunch and dinner)

*Online or mail-in registration  
details available at:*  
**[www.mmof.org](http://www.mmof.org)**

*Questions?*  
Email: [info@mmof.org](mailto:info@mmof.org)

**Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry!**

**A LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL CHURCH HEALTH MINISTRY LEADERS**

**October 2-4, 2015  
Pine Forge, Pa.**

*Presenters*

**Katia Reinert**

North American Division Health Ministries Director

**Fred Hardinge**

General Conference Health Ministries Assoc. Director

**Lily Tryon**

Southern Adventist University/Professor

**Don Hall**

Wellspring Director

For More Info and Registration  
**Visit [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org)**  
Click on "31 Events"

*Or Call*

**Carolina Ramos**  
**(410) 997-3414, ext. 561**

*Sponsored by*  
North American Division Health Ministries and the Columbia Union Conference Department of Ministries Development

**OBITUARIES**

**KOTANKO, Vera June**, 86, of Salisbury, Md., died September 5, 2014, in Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Born June 1928 in Auckland, New Zealand, she was the daughter of the late Cecil Roy and Hilda Pearl Matthews. She worked at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md. After being a stay-at-home mom, Vera worked and retired from the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., and later worked at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, the Pennsylvania Conference and Sentara Regional Medical Center. Vera loved crafts, working in her garden and taking care of her beloved pets, Lola and Kibo. In addition to her parents, her husband of 34 years, Walter Alexander Kotanko, and her brothers, Bernard and Warwick Matthews, preceded her in death. Vera is survived by her five children, Martha Jean (James) Wolfer, Wayne Kotanko, Darryl (Cindy) Kotanko, Kevin (Joan) Kotanko and Jerilyn Kotanko; 14 grandchildren: Matthew, Sandy, Nickilos, Adam, Joel, Amanda, Timothy, Levon, Lonnie, Sara, Nikole, Morgan, Ashley and Casey; and 11 great-grandchildren: Andrew, Alex, Elijah, Lina, Calla, Ryder, Mark, Alix, Liam, Lyla and Harper.

**RATLIFF, Fred F., Sr.**, born February 24, 1936; died September 8, 2014, having faithfully served in local church congregations for 56 years. He was first elder for 33 years at the Calvary church in Newport News, Va., and then in the New Life church in Hampton, Va. In addition to serving in other church capacities, he was a Sabbath School teacher and bass singer in church choirs for 40 years. Evangelism, Bible work and Bible history were of special interest to him, and he engaged in soul winning and serving the community. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Coley Ratliff; his daughter, Carolyn; and four sons: Frederick Tyrone, Fred Jr., Fernandus and Freeman Tod.

**REBICH, Mike**, of Euclid, Ohio, was born February 22, 1924, in Croatia; died December 12, 2014, after a lengthy illness. Mike came to this country at the age of 12 and as a young man proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II. His introduction to the church was through an ingathering tract handed to him in a tavern. After Bible studies, he was baptized into the Cleveland First church in 1953, along with his wife, Josephine. His conversion story can be found in the *Review* of October 26, 1961. Mike's passion was doing home missionary work and winning souls to Christ with his son, Michael.

Through the years he also served in various church positions, including elder, head elder, Sabbath School superintendent and Sabbath School teacher. He is survived by his wife; his son, Michael (Debra); and his sister, Mary Mardovin.

**VISITOR MAILING LIST CHANGES**

**Want to have your name added?**

**Deleted?**

**Your address changed?**

**Have multiple copies stopped?**

**Contact:**

Your conference membership clerk

**or**

Church clerk

**For Contact Information:**

Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com)

**Click on:**

Advertising and Subscription Information tab, then Subscription Information

**or**

Go to the *Visitor* magazine masthead on page 3 of every issue, under the "Conferences" subtitle

hopetv.org

**Christian:**

a person for whom

Jesus is the center

of EVERYTHING

**HopeChannel** TELEVISION THAT CHANGES LIVES

Educating students to make service a life calling and to view health as harmony with God in body, mind, and spirit.

**KETTERING COLLEGE**  
KETTERING MEDICAL CENTER

**KC.EDU**



## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION



The Department of Religion at Washington Adventist University continues the rich heritage of the institution by training its students for Christian mission, ministry and pastoral care. It seeks to equip students for the unique challenges of 21st century ministry, by preparing them to model and proclaim the relevance and power of scripture in contemporary culture and engage major theological ideas that have fundamentally challenged and changed Christian faith. In this endeavor, Scripture is central as students seek to understand the nature and fulfillment of Israel's hope for salvation through the message and mission of Jesus of Nazareth.

### *Programs Offered:*

#### **Bachelor of Arts (BA)**

- **Theology** with concentrations in pastoral ministry, metropolitan ministry, and pre-law emphasis
- **Religion** with concentrations in metropolitan ministry and philosophy & religion

#### **Master of Arts (MAR)**

- **Religion**  
**Minors:** Religion, Metropolitan Ministry, Philosophy

### *Professors:*

**Dr. Olive Hemmings, Professor of Religion**  
Phone: 301-891-4035  
Email: [ohemming@wau.edu](mailto:ohemming@wau.edu)

**Dr. Mikhail Kulakov, Professor of Religion**  
Phone: 301-891-0108  
Email: [mkulakov@wau.edu](mailto:mkulakov@wau.edu)

**Bogdan Scur, Associate Professor of Religion**  
Phone: 301-891-4039  
Email: [bscur@wau.edu](mailto:bscur@wau.edu)