

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

SEPTEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 9

Bringing up Boys

Meet Calvary members who are mentoring a new crop of spiritual young men

Plus: Does it matter if creation transpired in six literal days?

Contents

PHOTO BY HAYNE PHOTOGRAPHY



4 | Newline

6 | Noticias

8 | Underscore

10 | Feature

Bringing up Boys

Tompaul Wheeler

An increasing number of boys in the United States are lacking father figures. Meet some positive, Christian, male role models who are filling the gap.

15 | Newsletters

44 | Bulletin Board

About the Cover: Hayne Photography photographed CROP participant Carrington Black in Norfolk, Va.

ON THE WEB

BOYS TO MEN

Learn more about how mentors at Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Calvary church in Newport News, Va., (our cover story) do their part to inspire and uplift young men in their church and community. Watch an AEC video spotlight of the group at columbiaunionvisitor.com/bringingupboys.

CREATION QUERY

Do you believe in a literal, six-day creation? Why or why not? Read more about this topic in this month's Underscore article (p. 8), and go to columbiaunionvisitor.com/literalcreation to read responses from some of our Facebook followers—and add your own.

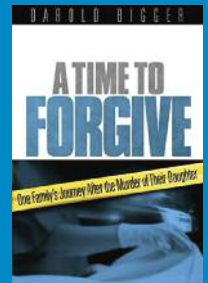
MISSION TO CUBA



Although Seventh-day Adventists were unable to worship freely in Cuba until recently, members from Potomac Conference's Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., have ministered there for more than three years. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/cuba and read about their efforts in the island nation.

TIME TO FORGIVE

Is it possible to forgive your child's murderer? In *A Time to Forgive*, Darold Bigger explores the closure only God could bring after the sleighing of his young adult daughter, Shannon Marie Bigger. Read our interview with Bigger at columbiaunionvisitor.com/timetoforgive.



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

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

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

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 9

There's no Plan B in Evangelism

A preacher friend of mine shared this allegory of Jesus:



Forty days after His resurrection and ascension to heaven, as Christ entered victorious through the gates of heaven, angels surrounded Him and asked, “Tell us, Lord, how will the good news of mankind’s salvation be carried to all of humanity on Earth?”

Jesus said, “I gave a Great Commission to my disciples: ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned’” (Mark 16:15, 16).

“But, Lord, how will that work in practice?” the angels asked. “Will they accept the message?”

Jesus answered, “I left them with an example of how to accomplish it. I looked at the multitudes and felt great compassion for them! In dealing with human beings, I knew that reaching them was both an art and a science, yet quite simple to understand and very effective if done correctly, following these steps:

1. Humans must be treated in such a manner that they understand that We mean them well.
2. We must show sympathy.
3. We must meet their needs.
4. We must win their trust.
5. And, only then say, ‘Follow Me.’”

In wonder the angels questioned with concern, “What will happen if that does not work? What is plan B?” Jesus replied with love and authority, “No! There is no plan B! This *is* the plan!”

CHRIST’S METHOD ALONE

I can imagine the deep sadness on Jesus’ face and His frustration at observing His disciples developing plan B’s for turning the work of evangelism—sharing the good news of salvation—into a complicated equation with many rigid and legalistic rules. Some have believed their plan was better than the way Jesus did it. I say we need to wake up and change our ways if we are to finish the mission and go to our heavenly home!

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. Our Savior mingled with men as One who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow me’” (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Our secularized and secularizing society needs the pressing and loving action that comes from a ministry of compassion. Compassion must precede the task of proclamation. When the world sees the actions of a compassionate church, they will see Jesus in us and will follow us toward the kingdom!

Unfortunately, many have replaced compassion with legalism, which keeps the church tied to a stake, stifling it and putting it in reverse. Compassion is the missing link if we desire to remain faithful to the mission!

My plea, dear brothers and sisters, is that we return to Jesus’ plan, *the* plan! Remember, there is no plan B!

José Cortés is president of the New Jersey Conference.



HARTWELLS EARN FAMILY LIFE AWARD

The North American Division awarded Jeanne Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference Family Ministries director, and her husband, Ray Hartwell, conference president (above), their Distinguished Service Award in Family Life during the Adventist Conference on Family Research & Practice.

“They stand out in their work to strengthen families,” states Pamela Consuegra, co-director for NAD Family Ministries.

Read more on page 29.
—Tamyra Horst

KC SERVES AT HOME, ABROAD

This summer Kettering College (KC) in Kettering, Ohio, launched the International Medical Missionary program, making it possible for students to spend a summer or full year as a medical missionary to remote medical clinics in places like Thailand, Africa or South America.



“It will truly provide hands-on learning on how to care for an individual’s mind, body and spirit,” says Steve Carlson, KC chaplain and program organizer.

KC also recently donated \$10,340 to the Good Neighbor House, an Adventist Community Services center of the Ohio Conference, which provides food pantry services, clothing and household items to underserved individuals and families in the Dayton area. Physician assistant students and other volunteers raised the funds during the seventh annual Spring into Health 5K.—KC Staff

POTOMAC CHURCHES PRAY FOR PEACE

Members from Potomac Conference’s Rockville (Md.) and Woodbridge (Va.) churches are helping a sister congregation, the College Hill church in Knoxville, Tenn., recover from recent fire damage. Although not ruled a hate crime, authorities did confirm an



arsonist set ablaze the College Hill church and six other congregations across the South this summer.

Rocky Twyman (above, left), a Rockville member, and Sam McLean (far right) from the Woodbridge church, use their booth at a local parade to pray with Mike May, candidate for Prince William (Virginia) County Commonwealth

PHOTO BY VONDA MCLEAN



SIX CHURCHES ADDRESS D.C. POVERTY

During a recent Sabbath afternoon, young adults from six Seventh-day Adventist churches, representing the Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac conferences in the greater Washington, D.C., area, hosted the third annual Park n’ Praise D.C. event to minister to the homeless and raise awareness about inner-city poverty. Participants provided food, clothing, toiletries, prayer and fellowship to 500 homeless individuals in Farragut Square Park in Northwest Washington, D.C. The day, which attracted 800 visitors, included a concert, inspirational message, prayer teams and health checkup station.

“Our goal is to include all those who are passionate about addressing poverty,” says Roland Blackman, event organizer. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/parknpraise.—Noelle Green

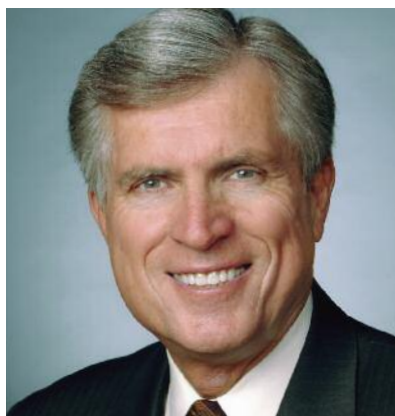
PHOTO BY SOLLY PHOTOGRAPHY

Attorney, about the College Hill church and racial tensions in the country. The two congregations will also hold a musical fundraiser to help the Knoxville church purchase a new van so they can continue community service activities in the area.

UNION HOSTS HEALTH MINISTRY TRAINING

The Columbia Union Conference will host “Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry” October 2-4 at the Allegheny East Conference Center in Pine Forge, Pa. The comprehensive training will cover the Adventist philosophy of health and health ministry, methodological approaches and basic health knowledge to be shared in congregations and communities. Get more details from the ad on page 14.—*Carolina Ramos*

BIBLE MUSICAL SHOWS AT NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



Evangelist Lonnie Melashenko (above) and a network of church leaders and high profile performers will lend their talents to present The “Love at Work” Ten Commandments Musical October 3 at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Several local churches will partner in this friendship outreach, personally inviting friends on Capitol Hill and other community leaders to see God’s Word come alive. Get more details at columbiaunionvisitor.com/loveatwork.

CHURCH TEAMS WITH WHO

The Seventh-day Adventist Church and the World Health Organization (WHO) are kicking off an unprecedented global partnership to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates. This is the first time the WHO, the public health agency of the United Nations, has partnered with a faith-based organization on a global scale.

WHO has identified the church’s global network of educators and hospitals as an agent to address the global lack of qualified midwives, which is a contributing factor in the deaths of mothers and babies. WHO officials, the General



Conference and the Loma Linda University School of Nursing (Calif.) designed the \$1 million project. —*Joanne Ratsara/ANN*

BY THE NUMBERS:

Columbia Union News

13,000

The number of business transactions LivingWell (formerly the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store) in Silver Spring, Md., processes each month

105

The number of Protestant pastors in the United States and South Korea studying the Bible due to efforts by Allegheny East Conference’s Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md. (Get more on p. 15.)

7

The number of early childhood educators in the Columbia Union piloting the new CreationKids curriculum developed by the North American Division and Florida Hospital (Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/creationkids.)

2

The number of baptisms at four Ohio Conference Hispanic congregations in the Cleveland area following a joint campaign (Read more on p. 27.)

108

The number of students studying education at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., which was recently ranked 17 among the “30 Great Small Colleges for a Teaching Degree” (More details are on p. 37.)

LA UNIÓN AUSPICIA CAPACITACIÓN DEL MINISTERIO DE SALUD

Columbia Union Conference será anfitriona de “Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry” [creando un ministerio de salud vibrante] del 2 al 4 de octubre en Allegheny East Conference Center en Pine Forge, Pa. La capacitación completa abarcará la filosofía adventista de la salud y su ministerio, enfoques metodológicos y conocimientos básicos de salud para ser compartidos en las congregaciones y comunidades. Obtenga más detalles del anuncio en la página 14.—*Carolina Ramos*

LAS IGLESIAS DE CLEVELAND SE UNEN EN CAMPAÑA

Pedro Simpson, director de ministerios hispanos de Ohio Conference y cuatro Iglesias hispanas en el área de Cleveland, propuso a sus líderes y miembros llevar a cabo campañas evangelísticas simultáneamente. Aunque al principio las congregaciones dudaron, al final la fe prevaleció.

Los feligreses distribuyeron cientos de estudios bíblicos con invitaciones a amigos y familiares. Cada grupo pequeño fue anfitrión de su propia pre-campaña, algunos de ellos divididos en parejas misioneras. Los líderes colocaron anuncios locales, y los feligreses promovieron la asistencia “mayormente por medio



del contacto a personas, cada uno trayendo uno”, dice Simpson.

Al terminar los pastores invitados de predicar en las cuatro iglesias, se unieron todos en celebración en la iglesia Ebenezer Spanish, donde 29 personas se decidieron por Cristo. A continuación Simpson impartió un programa de cinco semanas de capacitación para nuevos conversos y nos comparte que todos están involucrados en la misión.

AWC, ANFITRIÓN DEL RETIRO DE MUJERES

El departamento de ministerios multiculturales de Allegheny West Conference (AWC) juntamente con pastores locales y sus esposas (en la foto de arriba) organizó un retiro espiritual para las hispanas miembro. Alrededor de 100 damas

se reunieron por tres días para adorar, compartir historias y reavivar su pasión por Jesús y la misión de la iglesia.

Los oradores hablaron de la santidad en el hogar, finanzas personales y cómo lidiar con baja estima propia. El sábado de mañana en el culto divino, Laura Ottati-Romero, la asistente administrativa del departamento de los ministerios multiculturales, compartió la historia de la perla de gran precio en Mateo 13.

“Hoy me he dado cuenta que soy importante y que tengo valor ante mi Dios...ahora he de brillar por mi Jesús”, dijo una de las que asistió.

Las participantes caminaron a lo largo de una senda de oración con estaciones centradas en lecciones objetivas. “Podíamos ver sus rostros al final de la senda, caras de alegría, como paz y esperanza renovada”, dice Sergio Romero, director de los ministerios multiculturales.

LA IGLESIA DE WILKES BARRE REVIVE EL DÍA DEL NIÑO

El programa del Día del Niño organizado en el parque Kingston por la iglesia hispana Wilkes Barre de la Pennsylvania Conference estuvo lleno de rostros pintados, piñatas, castillos inflables y guerra de globos de agua. Los niños también aprendieron acerca de la higiene dental, recibieron cepillos de dientes y pasta dental con sabor a chicle globo y recibieron información acerca de la Wyoming Valley



Seventh-day Adventist School en Mountain Top. Además, disfrutaron de refrigerios y recibieron globos e invitaciones para asistir a la escuela bíblica de vacaciones de la iglesia.

El Día del Niño, creado para mejorar el bienestar de los niños en el mundo, es una gran fiesta en los países de Latinoamérica. Los



miembros decidieron revivir esta fiesta como una buena manera de conectarse con la comunidad.

“El Día del Niño es un evento que todos esperan en nuestra congregación, no solo los niños”, dice Sandy Mattison, coordinadora del programa. “Deseamos que al divertirse en el parque, podamos hacer que la gente se acerque...a nuestra iglesia”.—*Tamyra Horst*

PENNSYLVANIA EMPLEA A UN NUEVO DIRECTOR

Gabriel Montalvo (en la foto) es el nuevo director de los ministerios hispanos en Pennsylvania Conference, aunque no es nuevo en el ministerio en este estado. Comenzó como pastor laico en 1996, al frente de las iglesias Philadelphia Hispanic #4, Hispanic II, Lehigh Valley Hispanic, Bethlehem Hispanic e Easton El Camino y el grupo El Faro en Lehigh Valley. Actualmente

pastorea las iglesias Grace Hispanic y Frazer Hispanic y las compañías South Philly Hispanic, Kennett Square Hispanic y Philadelphia Youth Connect en el área de Philadelphia.

Como pastor, evangelista y plantador de Iglesias, su visión para el ministerio hispano es “involucrar a niños, jóvenes y adultos en apresurar el regreso de Cristo revelando a Jesús y haciendo a su vez discípulos”.—*Tamyra Horst*



ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR: Criando varones

En Newport News, Va., todo va de lo mejor—es decir, jóvenes enfocados, educados y espirituales, los estudiantes de Calvary Rites of Passage Program (CROP).

CROP surgió de la iglesia Calvary en Allegheny East Conference como una forma de los miembros varones dedicados demostrarle a los jovencitos el camino a un futuro exitoso. Trevor Kinlock, pastor de Calvary, y James Hiers, anciano, implementaron el programa en el 2007 y le ofrecen a los adolescentes comunicación informal, reuniones mensuales, excursiones a sitios históricos e incluso una gira misionera semestral a Tanzania para ayudar en un orfanatorio.

Cada año el equipo CROP asesora de 25 a 30 jóvenes entre 11 y 19 años de edad. Los participantes provienen de Calvary y otras iglesias adventistas cercanas, y cada vez más de la comunidad en general. De los aproximadamente 200 participantes desde el inicio del programa, todos se han graduado de escuela superior y muchos han ido a la universidad u otros programas vocacionales. Muchos también se han bautizado.

“Sabemos que hay muchos jóvenes en situaciones de indigencia, de hogares monoparentales o con problemas de la adolescencia, delincuencia y académicos. Varios de ellos no tienen un fundamento Cristo céntrico”, dice Hiers, director de CROP. “Quisimos organizar algo que cubriera la brecha entre ellos y Cristo. Nuestro objetivo es que se conviertan en un producto de excelencia académica, jóvenes espirituales que testimonien a otros jóvenes y los atraigan a la fe”.—*Tompaul Wheeler*



PHOTO BY HAYNE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Creation Debate: Why Does it Matter if it Happened in Six Literal Days?

A decades-old dispute within Seventh-day Adventism about when and how the Earth was developed may have been settled to the liking of the church's top officials and a majority of its worldwide delegates this summer at the 60th General Conference (GC) Session in San Antonio. However, the intra-denominational conflict doesn't look like it's about to cease.

Supporters of the official Adventist tenet—that creation was a literal, six-day event that occurred roughly 6,000 years ago—claim that evolutionary teachings have been seeping into some of our universities, and they fear that these theories being taught as fact could further expand into academies and elementary schools.

Critics of the church's view—those who side with the scientific community that believes Earth could be millions or billions of years old, and formed in time spans much longer than literal days—contend that the denomination's stance isn't backed by Scripture, isolates Adventism as an extremist religion and threatens to erode the confidence of young, intellectual church members.

The divide has reached the highest levels of the General Conference, most notably when Ted Wilson, world president, last year urged hundreds of Adventist-school



educators at the International Conference on Bible and Science to “be loyal to God’s biblical truth” by accepting the creation belief. If not, he said, they should reconsider having denominational jobs.

Most recently in July, GC Session delegates took two days to discuss and finally vote to modify the church’s creation statement known as Fundamental Belief #6. The edited section adopted words such as “recent,” meaning creation occurred not too long ago, and “literal,” to signify creation took place in six literal days.

Wilson prefaced the second day of discussion by saying a word could be interpreted in many ways, but “recent” was chosen because “we need to clarify that this process was not old.” He added that “recent” also acknowledges that Adventists are not uniform in their understanding of the exact age of the Earth.¹

The revision drew praise from supporters, such as Brandon Senior, a Bible worker in

Chambersburg and Waynesboro, Pa., who preaches sermons on creation and is disappointed that all Adventists are not on the same page. “God the Creator is being attacked,” he says. “What I see inside the church is absolutely heartbreaking to me. I’ve talked to Seventh-day Adventist ministers that don’t believe in the seven-day creation week.”

But others, namely vocal, evolution-minded Adventists, say modifying the Fundamental Belief was a mistake that will damage the church’s image because the Bible, they say, doesn’t provide evidence of a 6,000-year-old planet.

“We have aligned ourselves as a church with what I would call extreme fundamentalism,” says Ervin Taylor, professor emeritus in anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. He frets that that will hurt the credibility of the church and prompt “even more people, young scientifically literate people, to leave the church.”

To read in full Fundamental Belief #6 with the edits made during GC Session, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/belief6.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CONTROVERSY

The creation-evolution debate intensified at different points between about 2005 and 2009 when a few La Sierra University (Calif.) students and a larger group of influential outsiders took to the blogosphere to declare that some La Sierra biology professors were emphasizing Darwinism.

Not everyone was surprised. Supporters of the church's official position say PhD candidates who attain their advanced degrees in biology from secular institutions are apt to receive a heavy dose of evolutionary theory. And, when the newly minted biology professors accept teaching jobs at the denomination's campuses, some may struggle to reconcile their new views with biblical belief and introduce the evolution concepts into the Adventist classrooms.

"I think the constant bombardment from the scientific community is having an effect on our educators, unfortunately," says David Byrkit, who ministers in the Chesapeake Conference churches of Chestertown and Rock Hall, Md., and who presents evangelistic series on creation versus evolution from a scientific perspective.

Despite the newly revised Fundamental Belief, pro-literal creation adherents continue to express concern that church leadership lacks authority to censure professors who push an evolution agenda.

The North American Division Education Department, led by Larry Blackmer, seems to favor professors being allowed to teach evolution only so students understand both sides of the issue, but expects educators to strongly emphasize the church's own fundamental belief as fact.

And, it would also help if universities carefully screen job applicants, Blackmer says. "I truly believe with all my heart that we have every right to ask candidates what they believe about Adventist beliefs." That way, he adds, universities can root out candidates who favor evolution over creation.

THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE CHURCH

While Adventists can agree that the Bible doesn't provide a date of creation, church co-founder Ellen G. White stated in numerous writings her belief that Earth is about 6,000 years old, and that time frame has been widely accepted.

Among the reasons church leaders were compelled to revise Fundamental Belief #6 to more clearly state that creation was a literal, six-day event is because of its connection to the denomination's stance on the 24-hour Sabbath. If the creation belief erodes, they say, then the church's prominent view of the Sabbath doctrine—and a core component of the denomination's own identity—could be jeopardized.

Or, as Franke Zollman, pastor for Chesapeake's Williamsport (Md.) church, puts it: "If the days of creation are not literal days, then our emphasis on the seventh-day Sabbath is misguided." Zollman, who will give an evangelistic series on creation at his church this fall, adds, "The doctrine of the Sabbath and creation are bound up together."

Zollman says he understands some of the arguments propagated by evolutionists, but implores Adventists to accept the church's view of creation because the Spirit of Prophecy and authority of Scripture must outweigh science. "I am not anti-science, but we have to remember that all scientific data is based upon interpretation," he says.

If church members can't accept the literal creation week as fact, says Sean Pitman, a physician in California who runs the conservative Educate Truth website, which posts developments in the intra-denominational squabble, then the rest of the Bible is open to interpretation in a way that could oppose Adventist beliefs. The creation story, Pitman continues, gives validity to the rest of the scriptures, which is why the church supports it. "The Bible is very clear," he insists.

¹Source: July 07, 2015, Andrew McChesney, Adventist Review/ANN

7 Ways Science Points to Intelligent Design

Brandon Senior offers scientific evidence of a divine Creator:

1 Humans and many animals, insects and plants operate on a seven-day cycle, giving biological proof of a weeklong creation.

2 In 1861 Louis Pasteur disproved the theory of spontaneous generation. If life cannot arise from non-life, a living being must be at the origin of life.

3 Earth's position in the solar system is too perfect not to have been designed that way.

4 There are no transitional fossils, which proves animals were created intact.

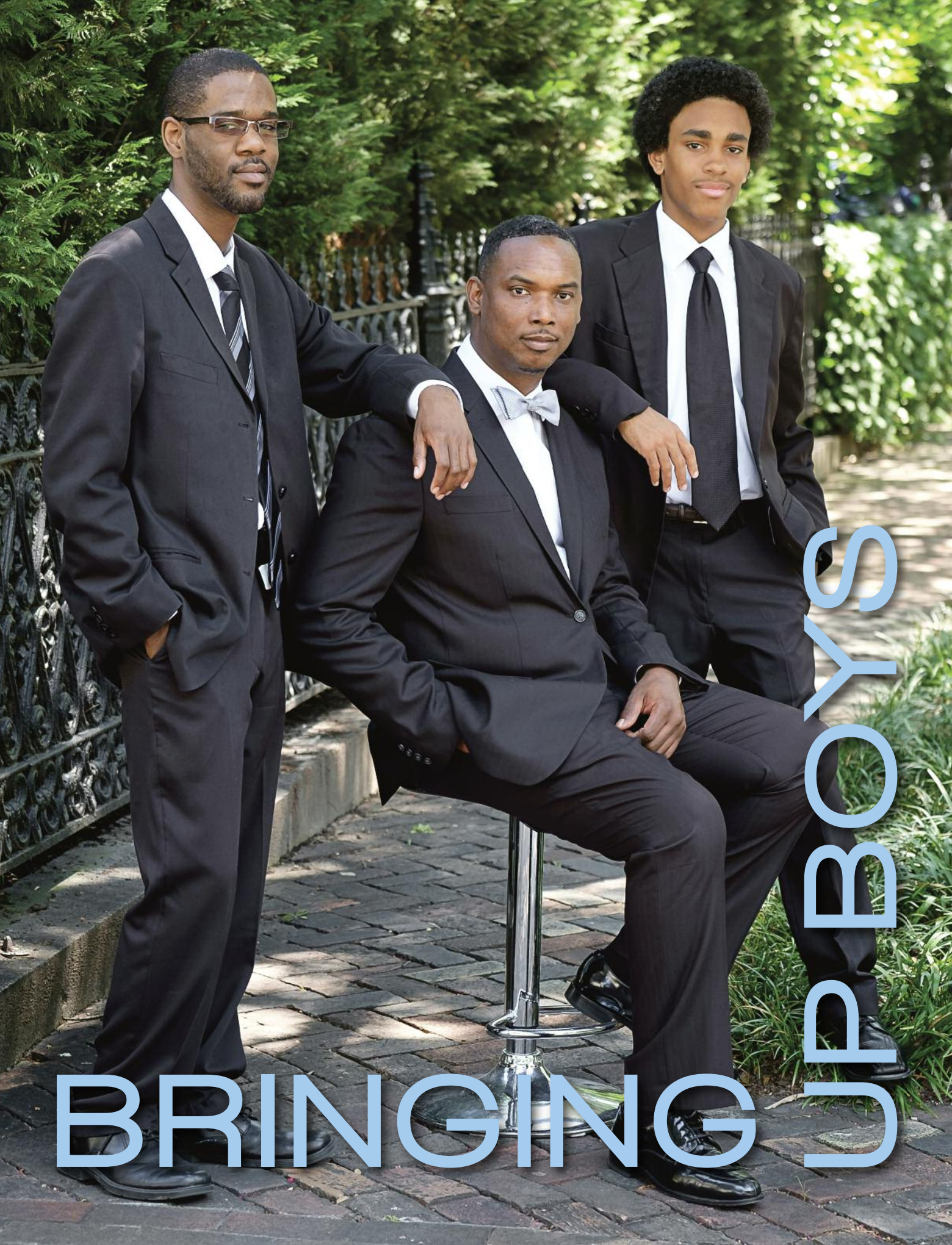
5 An explosion of life is seen in a single layer of the geological column, proving that almost all life appears at the same time.

6 Every element on the periodic table is represented in the human body.

7 The chance of life accidentally arising is 1 in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion.

Get greater detail at columbiavisionvisitor.com/intelligentdesign.





BRINGING BOYS TO THE TABLE

AS MANY AS 24 MILLION CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES LIVE IN A FATHERLESS HOME.* Without present or involved dads, boys especially are less likely to graduate high school and more likely to use drugs, be incarcerated and commit suicide, and generally struggle to succeed. Who can offer these youth a more promising future? Positive, Christian, male role models—and the Columbia Union has some you should meet:

In Newport News, Va., everything's coming up roses—that is, focused, educated and spiritual young men, students of the Calvary Rites of Passage Program (CROP).

CROP sprouted out of Allegheny East Conference's Calvary church as a way for dedicated male members to show young men the path to a successful future. Trevor Kinlock, Calvary pastor, and James Hiers, an elder, developed the program in 2007, and these two and their five-member CROP committee educate and invest in teenagers, from offering informal communication to monthly meetings, field trips to historical sites, and even a biannual mission trip to Tanzania to assist at an orphanage.

Each year the CROP team mentors between 25 and 30 young men aged 11-19. Participants are drawn from Calvary and other nearby Seventh-day Adventist churches, and, increasingly, the broader community. Of the approximately 200 participants since the program's inception, every one has graduated high school and many have gone on to college or other vocational programs. Many of them have also been baptized.

"Our name represents a young crop being watered and fertilized in Christ that grows into a strong tree," says Hiers, CROP director. "We're very active and we make Christ the center of our approach to young men. We realize there are a lot of young men in destitute situations, from single parent homes to adolescent problems, delinquency [and] academic problems. Several of them just don't have that Christ-centered foundation. We wanted to organize something that would stand in the gap between them and Christ. Our goal is that they become a product of academic excellence, spiritual young men who witness to other young people and draw them into the faith."

The CROP group meets monthly on Sunday afternoons to tackle issues. "We make a yearly agenda and come together and discuss a topic, from conflict resolution to sexuality to gentleman etiquette," adds Hiers. "We do Bible studies as well, in a relaxed setting. We have the boys go to the home of one of the men in the church and do an in-depth study and share views."

CROP leaders work to ensure that participants' thoughts and concerns are heard as well. "Rather than someone standing up and facilitating, we let them kind of own the program. It's self-directed," Hiers explains. "I'm 46, so for me to suggest what a 17-year-old needs, it may be very distant from what they really need."



Left: Curtis Herbert, James Hiers, Carrington Black; Below: Some leaders and members of the CROP program

START A MENTORING PROGRAM

Pastor Trevor Kinlock gives these tips to those who want to start a mentoring ministry:

1 Gauge the need within your church and community.

2 Pray for and seek committed leaders with a passion for youth.

They also bring in community professionals, like a representative from the local police gang unit. “We give [the professionals] the opportunity to share with us and hear their views,” says Hiers.

Travel is another important part of the CROP program. Leaders have taken the boys to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, college visits from New York to Alabama, as well as professional football and basketball games, even amusement and water parks.

“Some of our youth have never left the area, never left Newport News, and now they’re spending the night in Times Square and visiting historical [sites] like the Empire State Building,” says Hiers. “We just hope to form some mindsets to think more appropriately, [cultivating] more Spirit-driven, more purpose-driven lives.”

From Boys to Men

“I was one of the first to join the program,” remembers CROP graduate Curtis Herbert, now 21. “They wanted something that would teach young men, especially black men in our community, what it means to be a man—things like how to treat women with respect, how to manage your finances, the importance of education. We had a lot of in-depth discussions about education and we were able to ask questions about things like how to deal with young ladies and better ways to handle relationships.”

Herbert adds, “One of my favorite parts was the accountability. You could talk about things that maybe you couldn’t with your parents, and you wouldn’t be judged for it. You were able to get a lot of real answers, and a lot of the leadership staff would share their own personal stories with us. So, it was a lot more of a bonding experience.”

Herbert looks back fondly on his CROP trip to the “Big Apple,” particularly the New York Stock Exchange. He says the group prepared for the trip by discussing finances for several months. “We got to go on the floor there and talk to some of the brokers, and see where a lot of the money was handled and flowed through for our

country,” he recalls. “Some of the people there talked to us about managing money. And, even though it was educational, they still made time for us to see [New York City] and have some fun too.”

A social work major in college now, Herbert credits CROP for helping him mature in his thinking, knowledge and faith. “We had talks about drugs and sex and what certain diseases are and what they look like, and what they do to you. They were very candid. No

matter how serious the topic, they never tried to get us do things or change out of fear,” he says. “A lot of people I know think the church just tries to use scare tactics to get people to change or make better decisions, but they never approached the subjects that way.”

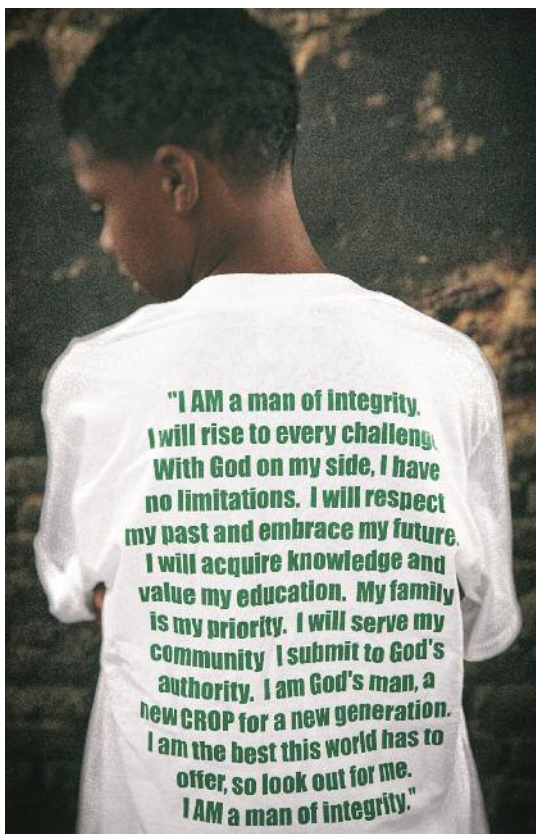
Herbert says the CROP leaders see a need for this type of program in many more churches. “Several of our guys don’t necessarily have fathers or their dads aren’t consistent in their lives. Or, even if they are, some of this information you don’t necessarily get out of a conversation with your parents. They may not know how to go about it,” he explains. “I think our church wants us to grow up and be a lot wiser in our decisions, and come closer to Christ and each other. One of the biggest goals they had was to create a sense of brotherhood, with

each other and with them as well. They wanted us to support each other. As men, we’re not always forthcoming with our struggles, and they wanted us to talk to each other and just lift each other up.”

Passing it On

Herbert also credits CROP for fostering a desire to give back, and he now volunteers for the program. He’s shared his experiences in higher education with the younger participants and loves seeing a new batch of kids develop and mature, like 15-year-old Carrington Black.

Black has been a part of CROP since he was 12. “It helps us prepare for life,” Black says, referring to the professionals who visit and do presentations on life



3 Organize a curriculum that ministers to the social, spiritual, cultural and educational enrichment of teens.

4 Plan trips and activities that broaden the mentees' worldview.

5 Provide vision and the resources will come.

6 Identify your target group and launch the ministry.

issues. "I can apply everything I've learned to my daily life and continue to trust in God. I'll remember everything I was taught and it'll help bring me through."

Black especially enjoyed traveling to New York City. "We saw a whole bunch of businesses there, and I didn't know they have a really old train museum about transportation," he says. "I want to be an engineer, and I've been surprised that there are a lot of opportunities out there that we can take."

While the Calvary church solely funds the CROP program, it has received Columbia Union Homeland Missions funds for the past two years. And now, city officials have taken note and are trying to find ways to provide financial support, says Pastor Kinlock. "Our local city councilwoman has her children in our program because she learned about it and has seen benefit for her boys," he adds.

Everything CROP does is built around its motto taken from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." But, when young men enter the program, they're also required to learn the group's pledge: "I am a man of integrity. I will rise to every challenge. With God on my side, I have no limitations. I will respect my past and embrace my future. I will acquire knowledge and value my education. My family is my priority. I will serve my community. I will submit to God's authority. I am God's man, a new crop for a new generation. I am the best that this world has to offer, so look out for me. I am a man of integrity."

Tompaul Wheeler writes from Nashville, Tenn.

*U.S. Census Bureau

TEACHING BOYS TO TRUST AGAIN

Pennsylvania Conference's Grace Outlet church has taken on its own challenge—fostering connections with the male residents of the Children's Home of Reading. Grace Outlet chose the center as a way to meet one of their main missions, to "connect the disconnected." Church volunteers have a very simple goal, to spend quality time with teens that have lost their ability to trust and interact in healthy ways with adults.

"These teen boys have always been in relationships where they're being used, and their stories are atrocious," says Pastor Kris Eckenroth. "For our people to come in and want nothing from them and expect nothing from them, other than to be with them, is monumental for them."

Though spending an hour-and-a-half each month playing Battleship or Monopoly with them may just sound like killing time, the church members have found it teaches intangible skills of fairness and grace. And, though the children's home residents are teens, their emotional maturity is several years younger.

"What we've found out is we're teaching these kids to play by the rules, how to win, how to lose and how to trust adults," says Joe Saadi, ministry director. "Their experience is that anyone who wanted to interact with them had strings attached. They're learning to re-trust adults that they're close to."

Grace Outlet's ministry at the center has grown to include a monthly outing. "It kind of felt as if going there 90 minutes a month wasn't enough," Saadi says. "We really started to build some relationships with the kids."

Saadi met with the home staff and they put together a list of safe excursions. "Earlier this year, we took them to a demolition derby. That was a riot. You can imagine a bunch of boys—they had the time of their lives," he says. "We're together for three or four hours at a time, we get to know each other, and that's when they start to open up. There's a mutual learning going on and relationship-building."

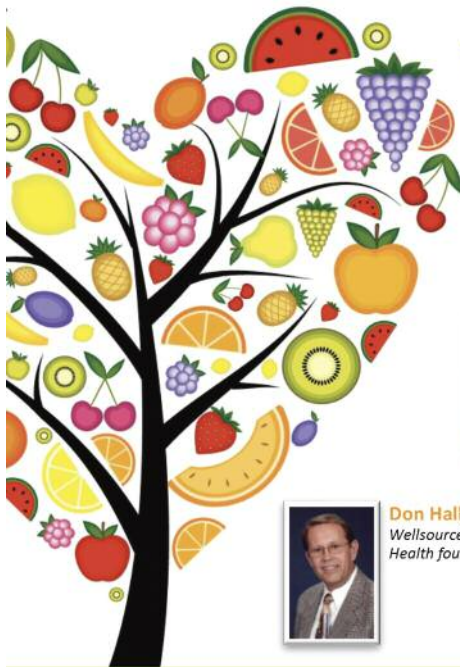
Saadi says another goal of the program is to help them reestablish into society. A recent glimpse out of an upper-story window reminded him what makes their effort worth it. "I saw one of the kids who had graduated from the program walking in the street with a buddy of his. He was carrying a briefcase, going to work. It was the coolest thing to see. He was just like anybody else," he shares.



Making Mentoring Fun: Kim Saadi, Tim Horst, Joe Saadi, Lori Landa, Stephen Penkala and Lauren Penkala

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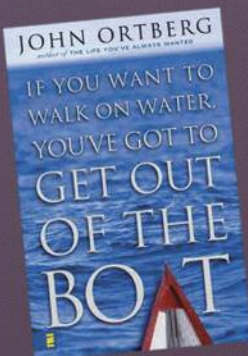
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Maryland Korean Church Sparks Sabbath Movement

The Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg sparked a Sabbath movement that now reaches all the way to South Korea. The Return to the Bible Movement, a mission project to spread the Sabbath message to local Protestant pastors and elders through advertising, started in November 2011.

The project began when Pastor Namyong Kim and Jaeog Kom, an elder, met and started working with Sung-ho Han, a pastor from a local Holiness Church. Pastor Han was already studying the Sabbath and determined to spread the truth to other Protestant pastors.

In January 2012, Han placed advertisements in two local Korean newspapers, which stated that worshipping on Sunday was not biblical. Many Protestant pastors, elders and believers inquired about the message. The movement quickly spread to other states. Thirty pastors have since contacted Han and Kim for Bible study materials.

In April 2012, Elder Hangjin Jo Cho, an Adventist in South Korea, heard about the project and started advertising in all of the country's newspapers. Many Protestant ministers soon responded and several



Maryland Central Korean church members work together to spread the Sabbath message by distributing literature on the three angels' message door to door.

have already accepted the Sabbath. More than 150 Protestant pastors in the U.S. and South Korea are now actively studying the Bible.

"This movement will continue to grow as part of our lay activities movement," says Guynam Bak, associate pastor.

NEWS

20 Kids Get Free Week at Camp Danny Davis

This summer 20 children from single parent homes got a free week at Camp Daniel L. Davis, aka "Camp Danny Davis," in Pine Forge, Pa., thanks to the generosity of Kevin Agulair.

Agulair, a Seventh-day Adventist from Brooklyn, N.Y., says he wanted to "pay it forward" in the name of Nelson Gonzalez, a man who sponsored his trip to camp nearly 30 years ago.



"The success of youth ministry is largely due to the giving nature of individuals like Agulair and Gonzalez, who value the spiritual development of young people," says Patrick Graham, Youth and Children's Ministries director.

To learn more about the camp, email pgraham@myalleghenyeast.com.

PFA Coursework Goes Digital

This school year, Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., launched the one-to-one technology program. Each student now receives a tablet equipped with e-books for their coursework.



"The device-driven classroom allows the teacher to engage with the 21st century learner and meet each student where they are," says Nicole Falconer, principal. "The one-to-one technology program will also allow for teachers to better assess the needs of the students," she adds.

Maranatha Retreat Helps Strengthen Families

Maranatha Adventist Fellowship (MAF) in Bowie, Md., kicked off their summer with a four-day family retreat in Denton, Md. “Behold the Lamb” was the theme.

“The goal for the retreat was to relax awhile and reflect on the importance of family,” says Pastor Uzooma Erundu.



“The red team—Chioma Wosu, Chichi Erundu, Georgery Muma, Monday Jonas-Mbagwu, Uche Ogbuokiri and Uzooma Erundu—win the first-place trophy at the Maranatha Adventist Fellowship Olympics.

Attendees enjoyed fun activities and powerful sessions focused on learning about end-time prophetic codes and religious liberty, and on how to strengthen marriages, build family finances, pray for their children, and navigate and address encounters with police.

Attendees also enjoyed Nigerian food, sports, a musical concert and field trip to Ocean City. The retreat ended with a banquet and tribute to fathers.

Elders Gather for Weekend of Rejuvenation

More than 140 participants recently gathered for the Ministerial Department’s annual elder’s retreat. Leaders hosted the weekend of training and rejuvenation at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa. “Trust in God, Not in Ourselves,” based on Proverbs 3:5-6, was the theme.

William E. Joseph, Allegheny West Conference ministerial director, presented several sessions during the weekend. He spoke about “The Aaron Affect and the



Presenter William Joseph addresses elders at their annual retreat.

Hur Principle” of Exodus 17:12, encouraging attendees to uplift their pastors when they become weak.

“Our local elders received great insight, inspiration and training from Joseph. The feedback has been tremendous,” says Stephen Richardson, director.

Richardson and Melvyn Hayden, III, pastor of the Pine Forge Academy church, also led attendees in worship, fellowship and spiritual enrichment activities.

Attendees Break Bad Habits at Fit4You

This year 48 campers from all regions of the United States, Bermuda and Haiti attended Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Fit4You Retreat to experience a new style of living. Retreat leaders encouraged campers to break the chains of bad habits based on misinformation they have accumulated over a lifetime.

In addition to informative lectures, the campers experienced renewal from regular physical activity. Each day began with a three-mile walk followed by nourishing food prepared by experienced chefs and nutritionists.

Inspirational speakers then nourished campers with spiritual food. After lectures and a noon meal, campers again participated in physical activities, such as balance



More than 100 campers and staff gather at the Fit4You Retreat to improve their health.

and coordination, strength training, swimming, circuit training and hiking. Leaders encouraged each one to “walk, walk, walk and to hydrate continuously.”

Barbara Williams, a camper from Wayne, Pa., says, “I liked the activities, lectures and the overall program. Fit4You Retreat covers everything: the mind, body, soul. ... I came for spiritual renewal and it is working!”

Leah Scott, executive director for the camp, and AEC Health Ministries leader and coordinator for the Columbia Union Conference, was also pleased with the impact of this year’s retreat. “The message is clear and the results are real! I encourage everyone to use God’s principles and improve their lives.”—*Indra D. Osi*

Hillcrest Task Force Tackles Stagnant Youth Ministry

Church leaders at the Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh say there is a need for a Christ-centered model of discipleship for their young people. Keeping children, youth and young adults in the pews, entertained and involved is not enough. With this in mind, Hillcrest leaders organized the Youth Ministry and Discipleship Task Force (YMDTF) to build strategies and revive youth and young adult ministry. Their goal is to help young people consistently grow in Christ.

The YMDTF team engaged in several initiatives. First, the team revamped the children's story time during divine worship with new, Christ-centered anecdotes to involve and engage children. Also, the task force implemented a family emphasis Sabbath to help launch a new vision for family-focused youth ministries. They also developed a young adult summer Bible study series to encourage spiritual growth.

In addition to Friday night Bible study, young adults regularly eat together on Tuesday nights and go bowling or hold another social event on Thursday.

"We believe that Jesus demonstrated for his disciples a balanced, wholistic approach to spiritual life and [a] relationship with God," says Christopher Thompson, pastor. "We want to do the same thing for our young people."—*Kris Hicks*



Lawrence James, a young adult member, enjoys some of the church's new approaches to worship.

Temple Emmanuel Takes Ministry Beyond Their Walls

The Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, is truly embracing the conference's 2015 mission to take "Ministry Beyond the Walls."



The crowd listens to Pastor Bryant Smith speak during the "I Quit" outreach series.

This summer Pastor Bryant Smith led the church out of their building to meet with people in the community. For eight nights, Pastor Smith preached a series themed "I Quit" under a tent. The church leaders also invited community organizers throughout Youngstown to attend and distribute gifts to attendees. Volunteers provided free food, gifts and activities for the children and, most importantly, the Word of God. "The most amazing night was when someone was in their car at a stop light, heard the preaching, pulled off the road and into the lot, and answered the altar call," shares Smith.

As Pastor Smith was preaching, church members also distributed bottles of water and prayed for the homeless at the rescue mission in downtown Youngstown. As a result of these efforts, one attendee made their stand to be baptized, and a family has decided to begin studies to be baptized. Many others say they "heard the Word of God and felt His love through His people," shares Smith.

Tapestry Fellowship's Health Club Gets Results

Since 2009 the Tapestry Fellowship church's NEWSTART Better Living Club (NBLC) has provided the Cincinnati community with impactful health programming. NBLC partnered with the popular CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) initiative and developed a 30-day lifestyle transformation program aimed to improve the lives of individuals suffering from hypertension, diabetes, obesity, depression, elevated cholesterol and heart disease.

Sixteen people have participated in the program, which includes two health screenings, lectures, cooking demonstrations and dinners, progress tracking, exercise and plenty of encouragement from NBLC volunteers.

Volunteers tested participants' glucose levels, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, blood pressure and body mass index at the beginning and end of the program. At the end of the 30-day seminar, participants experienced an average drop in cholesterol of 33 points; in HDL of 7 points; in LDL of 14 points; blood pressure of 10 points; and weight of nine pounds. Participants say they've developed healthier habits and reported drinking more water, sleeping better, increasing physical activity levels, having more energy, fitting

into clothes and feeling better, say NBLC organizers. One participant shared, "Well, a *big* shout out first to God and then the NEWSTART program. I just got the results of my latest labs. My kidney function has improved significantly. My HDL and LDL cholesterol levels have both decreased. God is so good!"

NBLC also recently launched NEWSTART Kids. The program targets school-aged children to help prevent and reverse childhood obesity.



NEWSTART Kids classes teach children how to prepare healthy food.

Alpha & Omega Church Hosts Health Event

Reidland and Sherry-Lynne Bredy recently hosted "From Sickness to Health" at the Alpha & Omega church in Warren, Ohio. The Bredy's, community health advocates with 3ABN's The Beehive, discussed



several lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, hypertension, stress and cancer. The main focus of the weekend was to identify the prevalent disease causes in the Warren community and give attendees solutions to combat those diseases.

The Bredy's encouraged attendees to embrace "The New Life" principles of healthy, natural eating and to recognize the connection between physical and spiritual health. Many diseases can be reversed or controlled with a committed lifestyle change, says Sherry-Lynne. "All community attendees love the fact that Scripture was given to support 'God's original diet.'"

The Bredy's also shared natural remedy options for many of the diseases.

Sherry-Lynne and Reidland Bredy present a health seminar at the Alpha & Omega church.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER 2015

Staff, Alumni Celebrate 60 Years of Ministry

In 1952 a real estate agent was tasked with finding the right property for the future Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). When he found it, he immediately called the president of what was then the East Pennsylvania Conference to share the news. However, he left out one vital piece of information: the land wasn't for sale. Two conference employees toured the 683-acre grounds in Hamburg, Pa., that held six farms, a dairy, 169 head of cattle, nine buildings, seven barns and machinery to operate the entire plant. It also included a summer camp with five buildings, a swimming pool and summer vacation cottage.

But, owner J. Lee Bausher wasn't interested in selling. Undaunted, the search committee voted to purchase the property as soon as it was available.

Bausher's heart softened when he learned Seventh-day Adventists were the potential buyers. His grandmother had been an Adventist. Conference leaders and Bausher signed an agreement January 1, 1953.

When BMA opened in the fall of 1955, there was no heat or hot water in the dormitories and no glass in the classroom windows. Students wore winter coats, boots and earmuffs to class. But, by the end of the school year, the classrooms, dorms, cafeteria and gymnasium were finished and heated.

Through the 60 years of BMA's educational ministry, students, their families and staff have found it to be a place that facilitates life-changing journeys with God. "My dad had not worked for seven years when BMA



BMA's first students get a taste of pioneering as they attend classes in unfurnished, unheated buildings.

opened," remembers Elaine Miller Ferguson ('56), former academy business manager. She thought attending BMA was impossible, but her dad didn't. "You are going!" he told her. "Somehow the money was always there," she says.

John and Nancy Edison began their faith adventure as faculty in 1959. For 43 years, Nancy taught piano and organ, and John taught band, choir, orchestra and geometry. Their greatest personal growth came from the students. "The kids changed us," they share.

During Celica Galeano's ('14) junior year, her faith and trust in God became real. A divorce shattered her family and BMA was no longer affordable. Friends and staff supported her with prayer. And, God did the impossible and allowed her to continue attending. "Sometimes I wondered if He was too busy for me, if He really cared," she says. "[But], God was providing through people in my life. He is always listening."

David Morgan ('82), principal, adds, "During its 60 years, BMA's journey continues to be built on faith and the God-ordained adventure continues. The mission remains the same: '... to provide a Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist, Christian education that leads students into lives of service for God.'"



Jacqueline Rowand and Robert Albridge, of the Class of 1956, are the first students to receive diplomas from Blue Mountain Academy.

PHOTOS: SEPTEMBER 9, 1958 THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR, DON ROTH PHOTOGRAPHER

Alumni Join Academy Staff



Alex Larracuente, Class of 2010, joins the staff as head boys dean. “This is what God called me to do,” he says. As a former dorm student and assistant dean for the past four summers, he brings firsthand knowledge and experience to the job.

Concerned about the negative impact of society’s values and norms, Larracuente wants to mentor “his” young men. He says his years at BMA positively impacted him and he wants to do the same for others. “BMA has a family atmosphere. ... You always knew that there were people on campus who wanted us to succeed in life,” he says.

Trained and mentored by Cory Enochs, former dean, and excited to be working in his dream job, Larracuente acknowledges there will be challenges. Two of his biggest are “living up to the expectations of the guys, and Dean Cory’s big shoes to fill,” he says.

Brianna McAuliffe, Class of 2007, is the new director of advancement. “It has always been clear to me how important an Adventist, Christian education was,” she says.

When she first started attending BMA, she lived about 45 minutes away, and her parents drove to and

from school every day. But, by her second semester, with younger siblings following close behind her, the family moved to Hamburg to be near the school.

A four-year senior, she lists her top life-changing BMA experiences as mission trips, where she learned what Christian service is all about; joining Bel Canto, the touring choir; and being baptized her senior year. “I really felt called to truly give my life to Jesus,” she shares.

At Andrews University (Mich.), she majored in business administration with an emphasis in marketing. After graduating, she worked as a recruiter and enrollment coordinator in the School of Health Professionals at Andrews.

McAuliffe wanted to move home to Pennsylvania. When called to be the director of advancement, she knew “this was where God wanted me. My time at BMA shaped me from the beginning and grew me into the person I am,” she says.

God also had another plan in mind. During a visit to BMA, she met Alex Bolanos, physical education and Bible teacher and gymnastics coach. They are getting married in September.



Going Green Will Earn School \$20K a Year

Visitors to Blue Mountain Academy may have noticed 20 acres of unmowed grass on campus. The acres will soon be cultivated for crops, which will generate yearly income instead of costing operational dollars.

Staff plan to let these fields grow until early fall and harvest it as lower quality hay before planting the actual hay crop.

“This is a wise use of resources,” says Aaron Weber, vocation education director and farm manager. “Not only does this contribute to the environment and reduce operating expenses, once established, it can earn BMA up to \$1,000 an acre with four cuttings a season. That would potentially translate into \$20,000 each year!”



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2015

The Gospel Unites People of All Backgrounds

This summer Charleston, S.C., has been in the news because of the racially motivated massacre of nine African-Americans attending a Bible study and prayer service at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. A young, white man entered the house of worship and, after an hour, pulled out a gun and began his murderous rampage.

Words seem to fail in describing and condemning the horror of such racist and violent actions. While news outlets have covered many aspects of this disturbing story, there is a perspective from the Bible that needs to be considered.

The first angel's message reads, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6).

We cannot miss the global appeal being given. Every race, culture and language is included. There is no people group excluded from the grace and call of God. If we are going to be followers of Jesus, we need to take this appeal seriously. But, it can only happen when we have experienced, accepted and internalized the everlasting gospel for ourselves. This was a message given at a time when society was deeply divided over politics, economic opportunity, ethnic groups and religions. Actually, it was a lot like today.

The power of the gospel, however, is able to transform our hearts and bring together people of different races and backgrounds. When that is our experience, our congregations will be a joyful place of acceptance and fellowship for all people. Let's begin to experience this bit of heaven here on Earth.



Rick Remmers
President

17 Teachers Tour Industrial Development Sites

Seventeen teachers recently embarked on an educational tour of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Most were from the Chesapeake Conference, but the group also included two teachers from the Pennsylvania and Oklahoma conferences, and one public school teacher. Themed "Inventors and Industrial Development," Mark Walker, associate superintendent of education, and Glen Milam, director of the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., led the tour.

PHOTO BY GLEN MILAM



Educators visited points of interest, including the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, N.Y., and the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York City. In Pennsylvania, they explored the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, the Hopewell Iron Furnace National Historic Site in Elverson and the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Factory in York. In New Jersey, they toured the Paterson National Historic Park in Paterson, the Thomas Edison Museum in West Orange and the Roebing Museum in Roebing.

The trip was designed to give teachers onsite experiences related to the development and functions of industry from the year 1770 to present day. The late 1800s—peak years for American industrial development—also fostered a large upsurge in inventors whose contributions often paralleled and complemented the growth of American industry, says Walker. "Both Glen and I have conducted educational tours for students for many years. We decided to pool our talents and develop a similar tour for teachers."

Plans are underway for a 2016 summer tour focused on American poets and authors.

Wendy Benton and Jan Yakush, teachers at the Rocky Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School in Martinsburg, W.Va., tour the Corning Museum of Glass.

THE CHALLENGE

Baltimore First Church Launches KIDZFEST

There was excitement at the Baltimore First church on a recent Sabbath morning as members treated arriving children to smiley face pancakes for breakfast. Next they formed multiage groups led by older kids and moved through various stations designed around the day's Bible point, "Even though you're different, Jesus loves you!"

KIDZFEST happens on the first Saturday of each month at the church in Ellicott City, Md., and features a day of programming just for kids. It's designed to make Sabbath special for the young people who participate, says Shirlene McClendon, associate pastor.

After breakfast and stations, children attended the Kingdom Kidz worship service, then enjoyed a lunch of pasta, pizza and veggies. Afternoon activities included making giant bubbles, decorating T-shirts, making ice cube boats to float down tinfoil rivers and participating in Bible sword challenges. The kids also played "Bible Jeopardy," human tic-tac-toe and charades. Somewhere in between, they managed to create watermelon popsicles.

PHOTO BY SHIRLENE MCCLENDON



Natalia Gonzalez-Feezer, Chris Samlal, Victoria Gonzalez-Feezer and Ryan Samlal become friends during KIDZFEST.

"What I love about KIDZFEST is that everyone has a friend," says Samuel Rivera, 13, a group leader. "No one is alone—everyone is having fun."

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MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

SEPTEMBER 2015

Conference Mourns Passing of Longtime Worker



We have lost a most caring, thoughtful, dedicated and very positive Christian lady,” shares Larry Boggess, Mountain View Conference (MVC) president. “Feryl Harris’ inspirational, think outside-of-the-box attitude will be missed by those who knew her.”

Feryl E. Moorhouse Harris was a Bible instructor, singer, poet and composer who served the conference as director of Sabbath School, Children’s and Women’s ministries, and the Trust Services Department for many years. She last resided in Honolulu, where she was director of Children’s Ministries and Trust Services in that conference.

She was a talented musician, and had the distinction of being the youngest student at the New England Music Conservatory (Mass.). Her love of music and willingness to sing for Christ took many forms and took her many places. In the early 1970s, she and her husband of 55 years, Mahlon, accepted a mission call to Taiwan. While there, she was the vocalist for the South China Island Union Mission’s Voice of Prophecy and learned to sing in Mandarin Chinese. She also performed for thousands of people during one of Billy Graham’s evangelistic series in Taipei.

Randall Murphy, retired MVC president, says, “She had a wonderful singing voice and added to musical programs at camp meeting and other functions. She, along with Kingsley Whitsett, former conference president, Bunny Abbot Peterson, my former secretary, and I helped celebrate the opening of the new church in Vladimir, Russia—a church built largely by funds collected at Mountain View Camp Meeting.”

Most of Harris’ music was written for Children’s Ministries needs. She wrote the theme song for the Adventist Children’s Ministries Association, for a Vacation Bible School program produced by the now defunct Review and Herald Publishing Association, and the song for the *Multi-Generational Children’s Church* resource. Harris also contributed to *99 New Songs*, a songbook edited by Evelyn Pursley Kopitzke released in 2003.

Both Feryl and Mahlon worked at the Doddridge County and Pennsboro medical centers in West Virginia in the late 1970s. She was also very active in various roles and church offices at the Toll Gate (W.Va.) church, and donated her time ministering to the students and staff at the Miracle Meadows School in Salem, W.Va.

Feryl died from injuries sustained in an automobile crash June 15 in Riverside, Calif., where she and her husband were visiting family. Recently retired, they were in the process of moving back to West Virginia.

Feryl is survived by Mahlon; daughters, Liesl Clark and Sherylin Jackson; five grandchildren; sister, Audray Johnson; and three brothers, Walter, John and Kenneth Moorhouse.

“We were all looking forward to the day [the Harris] would move back from Hawaii and settle again here in West Virginia and the Mountain View Conference,” says Murphy. “Now we must wait [for the resurrection morning to see Feryl].”



Feryl Harris and Judi Rogers, retreat speaker, enjoy the 2007 MVC Women’s Retreat.



Into His Image

*“YOU ARE THE POTTER -
I AM THE CLAY” ISAIAH 64:8*

Mountain View Conference

Women's Retreat

Valley Vista Adventist Center
Huttonsville, WV

October 2 - 4, 2015

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Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will.
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

~ Mission Project ~

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Lessons on Worship From GC Session

There is an overwhelming need for every individual to hear God and respond to Him in their native tongue and style. This need was honored during the recent General Conference Session in San Antonio. Each morning and evening, musicians from various divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church performed. They often led us into worship the way they would in their homeland, utilizing varied music styles and musical instruments. We rejoice in this, knowing they shared their own heartfelt, culturally reverent worship.

Does the Lord show concern for cultural relevance during worship? Oh yes, as this was clearly demonstrated on the day of Pentecost, when God went to great lengths to speak to each individual in their own language.

“And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying ... we hear, each in our own language in which we were born” (Acts 2:5-8, NKJV).

Our congregations represent a wide variety of cultural, racial and generational diversity. All need to hear God speak in their “heart language” and be encouraged to worship in ways that express personal, heartfelt love to the Savior without undue restraint or control. Only then will the Word of the Lord be fulfilled; “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people” (Isa. 56:7, NIV).



Mike Gill
Executive Secretary

Toms River Church Meets Physical, Spiritual Needs

The Toms River church recently hosted seminars to help community members improve their physical and spiritual health.

Tim Riesenberger, MD, a presenter for Amazing Health, kicked off the series of meetings with seminars on health and evangelism at a local hospital and hotel. Many of the attendees at those sessions wanted to learn how to implement the health ideas he taught and registered for the church’s follow-up, four-day cooking class.

Carin Roa, the church’s Adventist Community Services director, taught the healthy cooking class, where she demonstrated how to prepare healthy, plant-based recipes. Attendees sampled breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert items during each of the four nights. She also lectured about nutrients, medicinal herbs, remedies and substitutions, the importance of plant-based food in a healthy lifestyle, and discussed statistics on longevity, disease and other items of interest to attendees. She even facilitated a question and answer session.

Many who enjoyed the cooking class also attended the advanced Bible study lessons Roa gave later in the summer. Church leaders hope many of the attendees will

also attend the church’s evangelism seminar in October.

“These healthy lifestyle cooking classes for the community are a bridging event by our church—not only helping people with our health message, but attendees are registering for Bible studies. Praise God, all honor and glory to Him,” shares Roa.—Lucy Greene



Attendees review healthy lifestyle materials during a cooking class.

Cherry Hill Pastor Teaches Women About “Modern Men”

Frank E. Legette III, pastor at Allegheny East Conference’s Grace Tabernacle church in Norristown, Pa., and founder and co-director of The Academy for the Empowerment of Women in Douglassville, Pa., conducted a workshop for women at the Cherry Hill church. Fifteen women, both married and single, attended. Pastor Legette titled the worship “Four Costly Mistakes Married and Single Women are Making That Adversely Affects Their Relationships, Happiness and Health.”



Danielle Gallon (left), a member of the Glassboro church, says, “It was very insightful, and it left me wanting more! You either find out if you were doing things the right way or wrong way. Definitely brings on a self-assessment.”

Legette explained that many singles are entering relationships with “old school expectations” from “new school” men, and quite often the end result is disastrous. Why? “Because no one is teaching women how to be in a relationship with a man and get what she needs to be happy,” he said.

Legette also introduced the women to his Fully Magnetized Woman Boot Camp, where he teaches ladies 20 techniques that empower them to deal with



Frank and Angela Legette are the founders and directors of The Academy for the Empowerment of Women.

today’s modern man and provide them with “the tools they need to experience relational and marital bliss.”

For more information about the academy, visit empoweringwomenacademy.org.—Stefan Burton-Schnull

Mount Holly Church Raises Sexual Assault Awareness

The Mount Holly church recently hosted an educational and awareness day on sexual assault and human trafficking. Major Christina Lee, a church member and military victim advocate, organized the event and presented on sexual assault.

The event educated attendees about the prevalence of sexual assault and how society has affected how they respond. “It helped them to realize how our culture can often impede proper response, discourage victims and ultimately minimize the crime and its attribution to the perpetrator,” shares Lee.

Attendees learned that “every 107 seconds, another American is sexually assaulted. Chances are you or someone you know has been assaulted. It’s time to take the blame off the victim and place it on who truly is at

fault, the perpetrator!” says member Andrew Oswari.

Lee also trained attendees what to do when encountering a sexual assault victim and shared how to access Burlington County resources.

Denise Hollingsworth, another church member, represented the New Jersey Attorney General’s office, and brought awareness to human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery. “It is a huge problem in the United States, and, in New Jersey alone, it is second only to drug trafficking in terms of revenue. Unfortunately, only one percent of these slaves are ever rescued; most of them die at the hands of their captors,” she shared.

Hollingsworth urged anyone witnessing suspicious behavior to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at (888) 373-7888.

Cleveland Hispanic Churches Host Four Campaigns

Who thought this up?" asked one member. "It's never been done before," said another. "This is a bad idea," expressed a third. What was Pedro Simpson, Hispanic Ministries director for the Ohio Conference and pastor of several Cleveland area Hispanic churches, proposing to cause members such concern? He wanted to hold evangelistic campaigns in four congregations at the same time!

Fearing a disaster, members and leaders of his churches viewed Simpson's plan with considerable skepticism. However, after prayer and more explanation, the congregations stepped out in faith. Members distributed hundreds of Bible study lessons with invitations to friends and relatives of church members. Each small group had their own campaign prior to the main event, with some small groups divided into missionary couples. Leaders placed advertisements in local papers and flyers. But, members encouraged attendance "primarily through the person-to-person contact, each one bringing another," says Simpson.

During the main event, four guest pastors presented at the four Cleveland-area congregations. Then, the



Pastor Pedro Simpson embraces Javier Cruz, a new member of the First Cleveland Hispanic church, while Javier Morales (in green robe) and Pastor Edwing Monterroza wait their turn.



Pastor Pedro Simpson presents newly baptized members with certificates and Bibles.

Ebenezer Spanish church hosted a memorable celebration where 29 people made decisions for Christ. This number was so unexpected that many had to wear choir robes since area churches did not have enough baptismal robes for the candidates to wear.

Simpson was not surprised, as he conducted series like this when he pastored in Central America before coming to Ohio. "It's common to do simultaneous campaigns in an area where you have several churches [in close proximity], and finish all of them in one celebration. ... Believe me, it's exciting to see the wonderful results!"

Today all new members are engaged in some sort of mission. After the conclusion of the series, Simpson provided a special, five-week training program for new members to "re-study the basic doctrine and to train them to do more missionary work," he shares. "It was amazing to hear from them the new life they are experiencing. ... They are excited and working."

Conference Hosts Hispanic Camp Meeting

Hispanic church leaders in Ohio invite all Spanish-speaking members to Hispanic Camp Meeting, September 18-20, at the Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville. "The best preachers, music, spiritual programs and fellowship will all be in one place on one unique weekend," says Pedro Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator. For more information, contact Simpson at prsimpsonh@msn.com.

New Superintendent of Education Joins Team

I am humbled to be asked to lead our education family here in Ohio,” says Ken Knudsen, newly appointed superintendent of education. “The number-one goal of Adventist education is to share the love of Jesus with our children.”

Knudsen joins the Ohio Conference team after their exhaustive search for a permanent superintendent. He brings a variety of experiences to the position, including teacher, assistant mens dean, chaplain, vice principal and principal. Prior to this appointment, Knudsen served at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) in Centerville as their guidance counselor and senior Bible instructor. “I look forward to getting acquainted with all the teachers and staff throughout Ohio, and putting together a plan using their ideas to make Ohio the best place to educate our children,” he says.

“Those that know him and his work tell me he’s very good with both students and administration,” says Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president. “He sees education as evangelism and discipleship.”

Knudsen started his new role before the new school year began. Many may know his wife of nearly 25 years, Lisa, a nursing professional development specialist at

Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s Sycamore Medical Center in Dayton. His daughter, Kate, is an incoming SVA fifth-grader. Her biggest interest in her dad’s new job is “if he will be in charge of setting snow days.”

Knudsen replaces Carole Smith, who successfully served as interim superintendent since last September.



Westlake Pathfinders Witness to Navajo Nation

Earlier this summer, 19 Pathfinders and staff from the Westlake Witnesses Pathfinder Club from the Westlake church experienced a change in their perspective on missions as they ministered to the people of the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Ariz.

The team held a math camp and bug-themed Vacation Bible School for around 100 children at the

Seventh-day Adventist mission campus. Some of the Pathfinders also assisted with building projects and repairs around the campus for the church, school and small family who lives there.

The Pathfinders say they were amazed and humbled by the everyday conditions in which the locals lived, particularly after learning of their comparatively low standard of living and the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse among many Navajo families. The Navajo children especially looked up to the Pathfinders as role models.

“The part that impacted me the most was how appreciative the kids were for everything that we did for them,” says Ben Sestak, associate Pathfinder director. “This trip has made me want to do this again.”

Other Pathfinders agree. Some aspects were challenging, but “it was worth it,” says Carla Sinka, a Pathfinder team member.—*Amanda Bange*



The Westlake Witnesses Pathfinder Club spends time with Navajo Nation members in Chinle, Ariz.

Pennsylvania Pen

SEPTEMBER 2015

Tornado-Ravaged BME Reopens

Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School (BME) staff in Hamburg weren't sure if BME would open as scheduled this year after an EF-1 tornado destroyed the building this summer. The twister removed most of the classrooms' roof, completely removed the gym roof and knocked down several walls.

The tornado destroyed the building, but it did not destroy the future of Seventh-day Adventist elementary education in Hamburg. BME has served families in Hamburg and the surrounding areas since 1954, and its staff is committed to continuing to provide an Adventist,



Rachel Wardecke, principal and fifth- through eighth-grade teacher, welcomes 12 students to her classroom.

Christian education that includes academic excellence, social development and spiritual growth. The school board and task force created to work with the school and community in the aftermath of the storm quickly worked to establish a new location.

"One of our first priorities after the tornado was to do what was best for the students and staff," states Jeff Bovee, conference vice president of education. "It was important to be able to open on time and provide them with all the resources they needed."

August 18 more than two dozen students began the school year as scheduled thanks, in part, to Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) and the Blue Mountain Academy church, who offered the temporary use of their facilities. Within a week of the storm, salvaged materials were put into place in the church's Sabbath School rooms. Volunteers and BMA students went through hundreds of books one by one, salvaging about 40 percent. Volunteers donated other needed items and staff purchased supplies, set up and decorated rooms and hosted an open house before the first day, giving students and their families an opportunity to see the new classrooms.

"It was amazing to see the outpouring of support from the community at large," says Merle Whitney, chairman of the BME school board and task force. "Nearby residents and TV camera crew members joined volunteers from the school and church families. Wal-Mart, Dunkin' Donuts, Lowe's and Pizza Hut donated water, tarps and food."

Hartwells Receive Distinguished Service Award

The North American Division (NAD) recently awarded Jeanne Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference Family Ministries director, and Ray Hartwell, president, the Distinguished Service Award in Family Life during the Adventist Conference on Family Research & Practice (ACFRP) at Andrews University in Michigan.

Claudio Consuegra, NAD Family Ministries co-director, presented the award (pictured). "We were delighted to present the award to two deserving recipients. They stand out in their work to strengthen families," says Pamela Consuegra, co-director.

The Hartwells are deeply committed to strengthening families. Jeanne plans a life-impacting marriage retreat each February and plans every detail of family worship, one of the most popular events of camp meeting. Both speak to churches across Pennsylvania and beyond on family topics, including marriage and parenting.



Members “Arise and Build” a New Church in Pottsville

September 20, Pennsylvania Conference members will “arise and build” in partnership with Maranatha Volunteers International to build a new facility for the church that inspired the Arise and Build program—the Pottsville church.

The Arise and Build program helps congregations that are seeking to expand God’s kingdom and serve their community but cannot afford a new church facility. Volunteers from across Pennsylvania and beyond have helped build four new churches: Shenango Valley, Honesdale, Washington Heights and Everett.

“The Arise and Build project at Everett was necessary for a growing congregation that had run out of seating space and desired to minister to a wider segment of the surrounding communities,” shares Bob Synder, pastor of the Everett church. “Since 2007 the new church facility has adequate facilities to accommodate evangelistic endeavors and various ministries to the needs of the Bedford County area.”

The building site for the new Pottsville church is at the corner of Mill Creek Road and Industrial Park Road



in Saint Claire. Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m., with worship at 7:30 a.m., and the build begins at 8 a.m.

Registration is required for individuals on the work site. To register and secure lodging, visit paconference.org/arise-and-build, or contact Elizabeth Nivar at enivar@paconference.org or (610) 374-8331, ext. 200. To secure lodging, contact Lori Koch at PottsSDA@ptd.net or (570) 668-3176.—Will Peterson

Adventist City Ministries Conference

October 8-10, 2015

Blue Mountain Academy
2363 Mountain Road
Hamburg, PA 19562

Register at adventistcityministries.com

Breakout Sessions include:

- Advanced Placement Teams
- Leadership Teams
- The 3 Agencies
- Centers of Influence
- Church Planting
- Discipleship/Mentoring
- Database software for urban ministry

This conference will examine The Ephesus Model as an approach to urban ministry developed from a Biblical study of the apostle Paul’s method used to develop a new church in the ancient city of Ephesus. We carefully examine each step he used along the way to develop a healthy vibrant church in the heart of one of the most challenging environments of his day. From the initial two-person team to the formation of functioning body of believers each component of the model will be examined in a series of breakout sessions during this two-day conference. Our goal is that every participant will leave with the understanding of a viable, Biblical approach, supported by extensive research from the Spirit of Prophecy for taking the gospel of Jesus into the mission fields in our own backyards.

Sponsored by Adventist City Ministries and the Pennsylvania Conference

Potomac People

SEPTEMBER 2015

Your Kingdom Come

The Potomac Conference will host its second quinquennial constituency meeting themed “Your Kingdom Come,” September 27 at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

The New Testament is clear, “Your kingdom come” refers to the hope we have in the Second Coming and also to the activity of God through His movement of people here and now. As a part of God’s church, we are, right now, His kingdom. God chooses us to be His kingdom to our neighbors, His kingdom to our communities and His kingdom to our towns and cities.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been called to bring His kingdom into the midst of a diverse and complex world. It is my prayer that when each elected delegate leaves this meeting, there will be greater clarity of what it means to be an active, productive participant in His kingdom.

The evidence of the coming of His kingdom is that we choose to engage in the works of Jesus and His activity. Jesus was involved with the outcasts and marginalized; He healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, blessed children and fulfilled many other needs.

Ellen White wrote, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

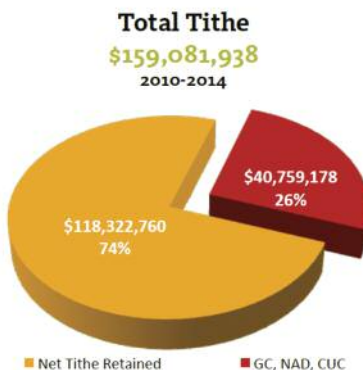
To prepare for His kingdom, Jesus tells us to “repent and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15) and cautions that we do not know the day the Lord is coming. “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. ... Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives” (Matt. 24:42, 44, 46).

What a privilege and challenge for each of us to minister to needs and win confidences. Let us move forward as the Lord’s disciples and, with His guidance, pray, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:9-10).



Bill Miller
President

Finance Report: We Seek to Remain Faithful



We praise God for the faithfulness of the church members who have returned more than \$159 million of God’s tithe during the last five years. God has kept His word as we have “tested” Him, as outlined in Malachi 3:10. He has poured out abundant blessings on us.

Twenty-six percent of tithe the conference received is shared with higher organizations, while 74 percent remains at the conference level to accomplish the mission God has given us: to grow healthy, disciple-making churches and schools. Treasury’s goal is to increase both operating and plant reserves so that, with our “margin for mission,” we can take advantage of kingdom advancement opportunities as they arise.

Please pray for us as we seek to remain faithful to the mission of Jesus Christ and continue to reach out to our communities through the leadership of pastors, educators and dedicated lay people. Together we are building God’s church.



David Vandevere
Vice President for Finance

Potomac People

Administrative Report: Looking Back, We Celebrate

In the last five years, we have seen the Spirit move in so many ways and confirm the Lord's will is being done:

- 5,919 people joined the church by baptism and profession of faith.
- Leaders planted 14 new churches.
- An average of 1,695 students enrolled in our schools each year.
- 8,473 students attended our School of Discipleship; 606 graduated through our Hispanic training, and more than 300 house groups started.
- Young adults at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., trained to be leaders for the church, and through their work, 1,239 young people, plus user groups, were touched with the gospel of Jesus and challenged to renew their walk with Him.
- Our Prison Ministries efforts, lead by lay people, continue to reach hundreds of inmates and their families. Over the last five years, volunteers gave nearly 4,000 Bible studies, resulting in 375 baptisms and professions of faith and, in 2013, launched a videoconference visitation program.
- LivingWell, formerly known as the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store, in Silver Spring, Md., processed nearly 13,000 transactions every month. Leadership became more intentional about reaching the 70 percent of the store's clientele not affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They offered Bible studies and classes, and distributed free literature.



From 2010 to 2014, nearly 6,000 people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism and profession of faith.



PHOTO BY AARON CHENEY

During a prayer walk at Richmond Academy in Richmond, Va., attendees pray in each classroom and over teachers like Brody Wiedemann.

Another blessing we can celebrate is the ongoing effort to educate and protect our children. Through our Office of Education, Potomac continues to provide quality, Christian education to thousands of students each year. In the last five years:

- Nearly 400 students chose to be baptized.
- Members donated more than \$410,000 for tuition assistance, facility and technology grants.
- More than 300 children from the community enrolled in our schools and are being introduced to the gospel message.

This commitment to invest in our children is no doubt being translated into a solid, spiritual foundation for young people. One of our top priorities is to keep our children safe, which is why we partnered with Adventist Risk Management to implement a child abuse protection program called Shield the Vulnerable in all of our churches, schools and ministries that work with children.

We are privileged to be a part of winning souls for the kingdom and are blessed to see the working of the Holy Spirit in the Potomac Conference. We look forward to continuing our journey and moving forward together as a body of Christ.



Jorge Ramirez
Vice President for
Administration

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



SEPTEMBER 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Training the Next Generation of Jesus' Disciples

Never before has the Christ-centered education that Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) offers young people contrasted more distinctly with the values of the world. Ellen White wrote about the rapidly approaching final crisis and the importance of understanding the educational advantages of Seventh-day Adventist schools. She wrote that our schools should be different from those of the world. The "education given in our schools ... should present clearly the great work to be accomplished" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 56).

SVA parents who work hard and sacrifice to provide an Adventist boarding school experience for their children recognize teenagers need a respite from the distractions of the world. Christ's presence is real here in the quiet, natural setting of the Shenandoah Valley. Our campus offers young people the opportunity to develop in their walk with Jesus while receiving an excellent academic and spiritual education to prepare for His service. There is no greater investment than to nurture and educate young people who are prepared to express the love and mercy of Jesus to a sin-sick and hurting world.

It is my prayer that, as we begin this new school year, God honors the sacrifice and commitment of parents and all who make it possible for our precious students to experience a life-transforming Adventist, boarding school education here at Shenandoah. May we reflect Him in every way as an excellent educational ministry worthy of the preparation of the next generation of Jesus' disciples.



Dale Twomley
Principal

Core Objectives Inform Every Aspect of School Program

The 2015-16 school year is off to a great start at Shenandoah Valley Academy, with students, administrators, teachers, deans and chaplains working together toward the goal of infusing seven core objectives into every aspect of the school program and the lives of the entire school body: spirituality, relationships, academics, work ethics, character development, health and wellness, and fun.

"At SVA, students and staff support each other as a family in worshipping and learning about God. Jesus



Classes are well under way on campus.



Classmates are gleeful to unite after summer break.

says to "love one another as I have loved you" (see John 13:34), says Dorenda Dodge, vice principal. "The depths of Christ's love for us provides the foundation for building Christian friendships, and His example sets the standard for personal conduct. Students are encouraged to pursue excellence and joy in the classroom, at play, at work and on the sports field to prepare well to attain SVA's vision for each student: 'to serve God, value knowledge, accept a life of service.'"

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

Students Put Sabbath Ahead of Prestige



When Takoma Academy students Courtney Saunders ('17), Lyshll Prudente ('16) and Rachel Manuel ('16) were notified that they had been selected to attend the 2015 Achievement of the Mind Program, it seemed like the opportunity of a lifetime. The prestigious summit features mentoring opportunities with

Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, famous athletes and other individuals of influence.

However, the students' anticipation changed when they learned their request to observe God's Sabbath would not be granted.

"I had to choose whether or not I was going to attend this

program or choose to honor the Sabbath day," says Saunders (far left). "If I decided to go, I would have blatantly gone against my principles. I'm glad I took a stand for my God and would do it all over again if I had to."

Prudente (left) adds, "It would have been such a great program to participate in, but keeping the Sabbath is more important to me. Maybe this will just lead to another, better opportunity to witness to others."

Carla Thrower, principal, is proud of the students' demonstration of faith. "Some say that the Millennials have no direction, no backbone and inability to focus, but these actions can restore confidence in the generation as we meditate on the stand taken by our students. ... May we all take courage and honor God in our time of testing as have Courtney, Lyshll and Rachel."



Alumni Return as Staff

Takoma Academy recently hired Kimberly Terry ('91) to teach the Computer Applications 1 and 2 and Web design classes. Terry is a graduate of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she received a Master of Science in Technology for educators.

She previously worked at the nearby John Nevins Andrews School, where she coached the girls basketball team and led them to several championship titles.



Terry says she is proud to return to her alma mater. "As I build upon the work of the newly retired and legendary Virginia Mathis, who taught me keyboarding and word processing many years ago, I look forward to learning alongside my

students as we strive to better understand and utilize the current and future technologies of the hi-tech society in which we now live," she adds.

Carey L. Holness ('89) also joined the staff as the world history and Advanced Placement government teacher. He says he is "excited about teaching at Takoma Academy." He adds, "I want to teach the students to be seekers of knowledge and truth and to be thinkers."



Holness has cultivated his educational pedagogy through 13 years of classroom experience. His varied career includes teaching general and special needs students. Holness is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

SEPTEMBER 2015
Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

New School Year Brings Staff Changes

The 2015-16 school year brought a number of changes for the Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) staff.

Amber Mayer, pre-K teacher for the past six years, is the new fourth-grade teacher. Mayer has a bachelor's in social sciences with an emphasis in elementary education from Ashford University (Calif.). "One of my goals this school year is to pass along this enthusiasm for STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] to the next generation of learners," she says.



manner will enhance the educational experience of students as they use our media center," says Brian Kittleson, principal.

Greg Macalinao joins SAA full-time as the physical education (PE) teacher. Macalinao graduated from SAA in 2005 and served as the PE teacher at Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md., for the past four years. He also served as SAA's assistant gymnastics coach for the past eight years.



He received a bachelor's in physical education from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., in 2010. "I'm honored and privileged to have the opportunity to return to SAA to teach. It's something I've been wanting to do for a long time," says Macalinao.



Donna Calderon is filling the vacancy left in pre-K. Calderon has a bachelor's in early childhood studies from the University of Bristol (England) and a postgraduate certificate of education from the University of the West of England. Calderon says, "Pre-K is where we build a

foundation for learning, which should encompass every aspect of growth—a love for school, each other and God!"



Tyler Mathis is filling the high school math teaching position. Mathis graduated from Southern Adventist University (SAU) (Tenn.) in May with a bachelor's in mathematics. "I am really excited about coming to Spencerville Adventist Academy. Not only do I get to share my love of

math with my students, but, more importantly, I get to teach my students about Christ," he says.

Amu Mullikin is moving to the fifth-grade classroom from middle school, where she taught for the past seven years. "I am looking forward to ... helping the students prepare for their middle school experiences," says Mullikin.



Brittany (Jacobson) Thorp joins the SAA business office as associate business manager. A graduate of SAA in 2007, Thorp attended SAU where she earned a bachelor's in business administration.



After graduating, she worked at the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School in the Northern Mariana Islands where she focused on fundraising projects, billing and student accounts. Most recently she worked at the North American Division Treasury Department as an implementation and training specialist.



During the past year, **Myrna Edwards** has been building the SAA library. She has a bachelor's in elementary and special education from Hood College in Maryland. "Her attention to detail and kind and caring

Adventist Children's Chorus Performs at the GC Session

This past July, 35 members of Spencerville Adventist Academy's Adventist Children's Chorus (ACC), along with many of their family members, traveled to San Antonio, where the ACC performed for the 60th General Conference Session. Due to the summer holiday and family vacations, the group was not able to practice until two hours before they performed. Following the familiar choral warmups, members of the 5-year-old choir soon recognized the expected sound and quickly blended as a single voice.

Robert Martinez, high school choir director, performed a heartfelt solo and then the choir joined and sang "I'm Goin' Up a Yonder." Their performance received overwhelming applause. The words of this old spiritual



Members of SAA's Adventist Children's Chorus and director Jane Lanning walk through San Antonio.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT TAYLOR

Members of the Adventist Children's Chorus sing during a General Conference Session meeting.

resonated well with the General Conference president, Ted Wilson's, Sabbath message, "Jesus is Coming Again!"

"My favorite part was when we walked onto the stage and the crowd really enjoyed our singing," says sixth-grader Benson Mwangachuchu.

Kiersten Zinke, a ninth-grader who will no longer be a member of the elementary/middle school choir, says, "It was awesome! I would do it again in a heartbeat!"

Jet Orjuela, an eighth-grade student, says, "I liked how we were able to share our talents with the audience."

"The ACC is dedicated to singing sacred music to the glory of God. There couldn't have been a more perfect venue for doing so than at the GC Session," says Jane Lanning, director.

New School Logo Receives Design Award

Spencerville Adventist Academy's new logo recently won an American Graphic Design & Advertising (AGDA) Award of Distinction in the Logos and Trademarks category. AGDA is known as the premier showcase

for the best graphic design and advertising in America. The



Award of Distinction means that the work exceeds industry standard in both concept and execution.

"We are grateful to Dever Designs for guiding us through the lengthy and thorough process to create a logo that speaks to the mission and vision of Spencerville Adventist Academy," says Brian Kittleson, principal.

Calendar

September 14	Prospective Student Open House, 9:30 a.m.
September 17-20	SALT
September 20	"Let's Move!" Day
October 3	Senior Dedication
October 14	PSAT
October 19	Prospective Student Open House, 9:30 a.m.
October 23	Grandparents Day
October 25	ACTs at SAA Fall Festival
November 5	North American Division College Fair at SAA
November 8	National Honor Society Induction
November 16	Prospective Student Open House, 9:30 a.m.

“Greater”

At the beginning of each academic year, the Washington Adventist University (WAU) Campus Ministries department identifies a theme. This year’s theme is “Greater.” It brings to mind the developmental process of Jesus, how He grew “greater” in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

There are many examples of Jesus’ development that we can adopt in our own growth process. As a child, He was subject to His parents; He was about His Father’s business at an early age; He was interested in spiritual things; He lived for others, not selfishly; and He accomplished God’s will in His life.

At WAU, our vision for each student is for them to grow intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually. They will leave from the Gateway to Service having the wisdom to make right choices, the social skills to relate and care for others and the spiritual development that recognizes Jesus as the Creator, sustainer and source for every good thing. This is what makes Christian education distinctive—the daily focus of blending faith and learning in all that we do—in the classrooms, in the residence halls, in the dining hall, on the ball field, at our weekly convocations, on our mission trips and during our service days.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him” (2 Chron. 32:7, NIV).



Weymouth Spence
President

Education Program Receives High Ranking

Washington Adventist University recently ranked number 17 among the Best Degree Programs’ “30 Great Small Colleges for a Teaching Degree” in the United States.

Best Degree Programs is an online resource guide for finding degrees that fit career goals and reports the top 30 schools that are “the most selective small colleges and universities offering teaching and education degrees at the undergraduate level.” The article notes that the best education programs are on campuses with fewer than 4,000 students. They are also accredited, four-year, public or private nonprofit institutions that offer undergraduate teaching degrees.

In addition, the report notes that WAU offers an intimate setting that is conducive to learning and relationship building.

Students are close and the campus promotes a family-type atmosphere.

“This past year, 41 students graduated from WAU’s education program,” says Jeanette Bryson (pictured), chair of the education department. “We [now] have a total of 108 students in our



department, making us the sixth largest department on campus in terms of enrollment.”

In addition to offering a number of four-year bachelor degrees in education, such as elementary math, music and physical education, WAU is the only private university in Maryland to offer a full load of evening classes that allow students with associate degrees to complete classwork for a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in two years.

WAU also runs a Summer Teaching Institute for teachers seeking to fulfill their continuing education requirements. In 2015, 19 teachers took part in the program, says Bryson.



Community Leaders Recognize Business Students

Peter Franchot, comptroller of Maryland, and a representative from Sam's Club's Step Up for Small Business program recently recognized Washington Adventist University business students for their hard work and creative solutions that helped a local, small business succeed. The ceremony was held at the Rainbow Coin Laundry in Silver Spring, Md.

Thirty-eight business students volunteered more than 3,700 hours during the 2014-15 school year on projects ranging from offering local, small businesses a symposium on branding, strategic marketing and social media; to helping the struggling Rainbow Coin Laundry become profitable by rebranding the business, painting and cleaning the store, and developing an after-school tutoring program for customers' children, which further boosted its success. A \$1,500 grant from Sam's Club helped fund the student-initiated small business improvements at the laundromat and other projects in the Long Branch area of Takoma Park.

The students also earned third place for the project in the national Enactus Competition, which awards teams for the most creative solutions to resolving community issues.



Brian Rising, a Sam's Club representative; Weymouth Spence; Peter Franchot; and Nok Kim, Rainbow Coin Laundry owner, celebrate the students' accomplishments.

PHOTO BY ROSS PATTERSON

Psychology Graduate Finds Fit in Radio Outreach

Jitesh Ram ('15) studied nursing for two years but became uncertain of his career path as time went on. When he enrolled at WAU in 2012, he talked with professors in the psychology program and discovered a new avenue that fit him perfectly.

"When I made the decision to take psychology, I realized I had finally found my home," says Ram. "I love to approach people in a genuine way, to connect with them and to listen to them with compassion and caring."

Grant Leitma, chair of the psychology department, says Ram was an excellent student and represents the spirit of WAU's mission to produce moral leaders who excel in academics and service. "He has the compassion, maturity and caring attitude that is highly prized by our profession," he adds.

During this time, Ram also started a practical work experience at WGTS 91.9, the university's Christian radio station. He assisted with PrayerWorks, an online prayer request forum, and with Gateway Fellowship, a Sabbath afternoon worship service at nearby Takoma Academy.

Ram was recently hired full-time as the director for the Service Gateway, the front desk where listeners call, text or email questions and sometimes difficult-to-share prayer requests. "I've found customer service is my thing," says Ram. "Jesus took time for people, really listening to them. ... That is what I want to convey to our radio listeners."

He continues, "I believe God brought me here, to WAU, to WGTS. When I was trying to choose a major, I looked for what I was passionate about. When I found what worked for me, it all came together. God took care of the rest."

This fall Jitesh began master level counseling psychology classes at WAU.



Jitesh Ram provides customer service and support to WGTS 91.9 listeners.

PHOTO BY EUGENE SIMONOV



A Happy Re-birthday

When I moved from Kentucky to Ohio in 2009, I didn't expect that the healthcare network I was joining would become my greatest network of support.

Because my husband Jack had Alzheimer's disease, he was more comfortable in a familiar setting. So Jack and I spent most of our time together in the comfort of our own home, limiting excursions to doctor visits and occasionally church.

After Jack passed away in 2013, I sought out a deeper sense of spiritual community. As a Christian, I already appreciated the faith-based culture at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

I love the mission and spiritual nature of the network. We share worship thoughts at meetings, host mission conferences, and treat our employees to weeks of spiritual renewal. I wanted to go to the church that is the foundation of our network's culture, so I accepted a friend's invitation to attend Kettering Adventist Church.

Everyone was so kind and welcoming. I started attending the pastor's bible study, and learned more about the Bible and Jesus than I ever knew before.

In September 2013, I celebrated an exceptionally special birthday. On the same day I was born, I was reborn through baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This September, I am celebrating my journey with Jesus Christ by going on a mission trip to Kenya with Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

The joy of walking with Jesus warms my soul and reconnects me to this sacred calling in health care. I'm blessed not only to work at a faith-based organization, but to have found this faith-based family.



Rebecca Lewis RN, MSN

Rebecca Lewis, RN, MSN
 Administrator
 Southview Medical Center

*Member of Kettering
 Seventh-day Adventist Church*



your healing MINISTRY

Sharing God's Love Through Health Care

By Christina Keresoma



Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Kettering College were among the throngs that descended on Austin, Texas for the North American Division Ministerial Convention and General Conference session in San Antonio, Texas.

During the three-day event in Austin, the network and college teamed up to showcase their mission by sharing devotional DVDs, devotional booklets, and college information to pastors and their families. Photos of the college, hospitals, and awards were placed prominently throughout the booth design. More than 5,000 people attended the conference.



The crew packed up the booth and headed to the General Conference session in San Antonio, where 65,000 attendees were anticipated. The Kettering Adventist HealthCare team kept busy working at the college booth and health care booth.



“Sharing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ while reuniting with old friends and making new ones while at the convention and conference was a true blessing,” says Judy Leach, director of Marketing and Communication for Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

Kettering College transformed their booth into a college recruitment center. Potential students gave their information, which was entered into a

daily raffle. The daily prizes were an iPad mini, Apple Watch, and Fitbit. Crowds gathered with excitement each day in hopes to hear or see their names on the screen.

The healthcare booth consisted of a partnership of the four North American Adventist Healthcare systems. Hospital members helped guests maneuver through three touch screens to take a health quiz, learn the history of Adventist healthcare, and browse the map of Adventist hospitals in North America. Daily health cards and hand sanitizers were given out as well.

“Collaborating and working with our sister hospitals allowed us to show the world our outreach ministry and how God has blessed our facilities across the United States,” says Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2015

Network Breaks Ground for New Health Center

On July 21, Kettering Adventist HealthCare broke ground in Springboro, Ohio for the Springboro Health Center.



Network executives as well as state and local officials attended and celebrated the growth of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. The new facility will house Kettering Physician Network practices as well as network ancillary services.

Convenient Care at Virtual Healthcare Kiosks

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has partnered with HealthSpot, the first free-standing virtual healthcare kiosk of its kind that brings you face-to-face with a healthcare professional via video screen. This brings revolutionary medical care to our community.



Participants can receive a wide variety of remote treatments without an appointment. From allergies to influenza, it's easier than ever for our community to receive high-quality, affordable care when they need it. Located at select Rite Aid pharmacies in the Dayton area, the community can access Kettering Adventist HealthCare physicians close to home.

People can visit HealthSpot for:

- Allergies
- Sore throats
- Sinus infections/congestion
- Cough
- Cold and flu
- Bronchitis
- Earaches/ear infections
- Skin conditions (poison ivy, sunburn, insect bites)
- Mild vomiting, nausea and diarrhea
- Eye conditions (pink eye, sty)
- Rashes
- Fever

HealthSpot can provide care for adults 18 and older and children ages 3-17 with a parent or guardian. The stations accept walk-ups and prescheduled appointments. Self-pay visits are \$49.

Ribbon Cutting for New Emergency Center

Kettering Adventist HealthCare opened its third free-standing emergency center in Preble County, located in western Ohio. Leadership saw a need and the surrounding residents are excited to have such quality care in their area. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on August 11, and the facility started accepting patients on August 24.





BIBLE ENRICHMENT TOUR OF ISRAEL 2015

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

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



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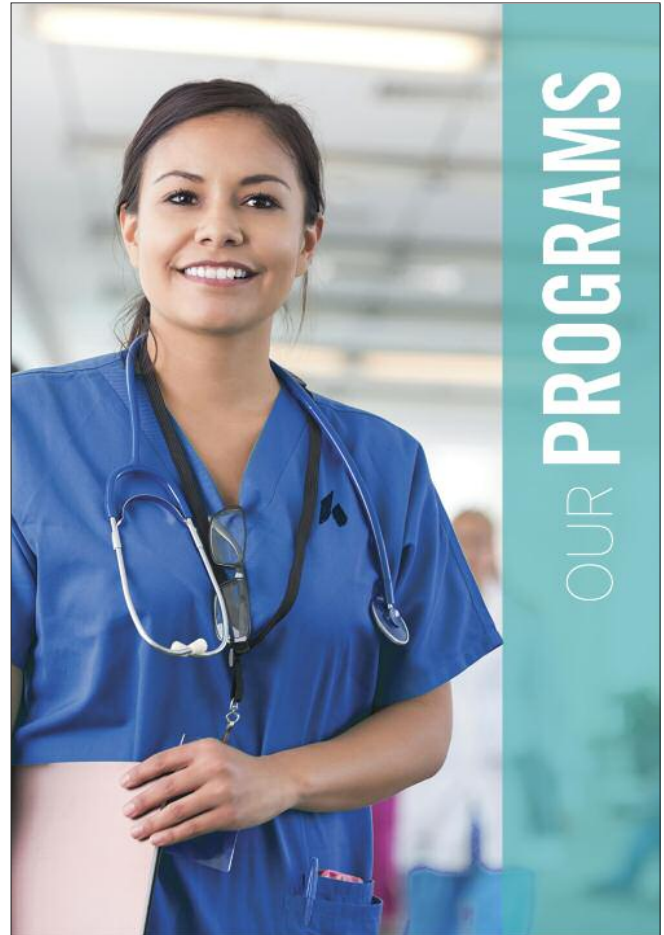
Lyle & Peggy Albrecht

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

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EMPLOYMENT

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Neb., seeks mathematics professor. Doctorate or ABD required for tenure-track position. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship is essential. Submit cover letter and CV to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, Chair, Division of Science and Mathematics, 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. Effective: summer 2016.

BINDERY WORKERS WANTED: Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks Seventh-day Adventist bindery workers for full-time positions. Applicants should have two to four years of experience, showing mechanical aptitude and the proven ability to set up and run difficult bindery machines. Must also be able to stand for a complete shift and lift loads of up to 40 lbs. in weight. Hourly rate based on experience. Contact Ms. Alix Mansker, HR Director, POB 5353, Nampa ID 83653; phone (208) 465-2567; fax (208) 465-2531; email aliman@pacificpress.com.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department seeks finance faculty to begin spring or fall term 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching

experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

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, butlercreekhealth.org, or call (931) 213-1329.

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

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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's 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 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 for more information.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: Large 193-acre campus, offices, classrooms, cafeteria, chapel, gym, dormitories (heated with free gas), 4-bay shop, homes, garden grounds and greenhouse. Well water system and sewage plant. Private, 20 acres of flat land, surrounded by beautiful, wooded hills. Great shopping nearby. \$885,000. (304) 782-3628/3630. Salem, W.Va.

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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, callouses, 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, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott

City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (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!

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LEGAL NOTICE

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE TRIENNIAL SESSION

The triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 8, 2015, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before this full conference in session at that time.

The Organizing Committee to select the Nominating Committee and nominate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will meet at 10 a.m., Sunday, September 13, 2015, at the Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrisburg, Pa.

Raymond C. Hartwell, *President*
William J. Peterson, *Executive Secretary*

ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRIES TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Adventist Health Ministries Constituency will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 8, 2015, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

This meeting is called for the election of trustees and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Every delegate to the Pennsylvania triennial constituency is a member of this session.

Raymond C. Hartwell, *President*
William J. Peterson, *Executive Secretary*

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 8, 2015, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and transact any other

Sunset Calendar					
	Sep 4	Sep 11	Sep 18	Sep 25	Oct 2
Baltimore	7:34	7:23	7:12	7:01	6:49
Cincinnati	8:06	7:55	7:44	7:32	7:21
Cleveland	7:57	7:45	7:33	7:21	7:09
Columbus	8:01	7:49	7:38	7:26	7:15
Jersey City	7:26	7:14	7:02	6:50	6:39
Norfolk	7:31	7:20	7:10	6:59	6:49
Parkersburg	7:54	7:43	7:32	7:20	7:09
Philadelphia	7:29	7:18	7:06	6:55	6:43
Pittsburgh	7:49	7:38	7:26	7:14	7:02
Reading	7:33	7:21	7:10	6:58	6:46
Richmond	7:36	7:26	7:15	7:04	6:53
Roanoke	7:46	7:35	7:25	7:14	7:03
Toledo	8:05	7:53	7:41	7:28	7:16
Trenton	7:28	7:17	7:05	6:53	6:42
Wash., D.C.	7:36	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51

business that may come before the association at that time. Delegates to the Pennsylvania Conference session are recognized as delegates to the association meeting.

Raymond C. Hartwell, *President*
William J. Peterson, *Executive 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.

HAGERSTOWN (MD) CHURCH SABBATH SUNDOWN SERENADES: Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m., our special young organist, Jermaine Cain; Sept. 26 at 6 p.m., Victor Clairmont, an exceptional baritone who performed at the recent General Conference Session; Oct. 3 at 6 p.m., Rodrigo Paiva, classical guitarist, assisted by Elizabeth Appleton, violinist—truly a concert for music lovers; Oct. 10 at 11 a.m.,

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
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(includes lunch and dinner)

Online or mail-in registration details available at:
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Questions?
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Bulletin Board

world-class violinist Jaime Jorge will be presenting the morning worship service. Inspiring! All programs will be held at the Hagerstown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 11507 Robinwood Drive. For additional info: (301) 733-4411.

NEW MARKET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

celebrates "Welcome Home Sabbath" October 3. Come join current members for a day of worship and visiting around the dinner table. Dr. Calvin Taylor will present a special worship program, "Holy Scripture—Alive With Sounds of Music." Lunch is on the house, including conversation with charming Adventists. Dr. Taylor will also perform a full piano concert at 5:30 p.m. Call (540) 335-8220 for a preview.

OBITUARIES

JACKSON, Bessie L. "Nan," born July 22, 1926, in Morgantown, W.Va., to the late William and Isabelle Robins Sweitzer; died December 10, 2014, at the Jameson Memorial Hospital in New Castle, Pa. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. Bessie was retired from her longtime position as office manager for Westgate Furniture. Her family meant everything to her, and her greatest joy came from spending

time with them. In addition to her husband of 70 years, Charles L. Jackson, whom she married in 1944, she is survived by her children: Kathy (Douglas) Dickson of Chattanooga, Tenn., Karen (David) Simo of New Castle, and William E. (Rejane) Jackson of Hagerstown, Md.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

KESSLER, John M. Sr., "Sonny," born December 27, 1934, in Chambersville, Pa.; died December 31, 2014, in Home, Pa. He was a member of the Indiana (Pa.) church. John joined the U.S. Army and served in Korea, returning home as a disabled veteran. He was baptized into the Adventist Church in 1991. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Helen Keith Kessler, of Home; his three daughters: Donna (Gary) Kanouff of Marion Center, Pa., Wanda (Lewis) Slade of Home, and Tammy (Mark) Frain of Home; his son, John M. (Kristin) Kessler, II, of Home; his sisters, Elinor (Toot) Henry of Indiana, and Marjorie (Lawrence) Wood of Creekside, Pa.; his brother, Paul (Gloria) Kessler of Marion Center; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. John was preceded in death by his parents, P. Bert and Gladys (Carnahan) Kessler; sisters, Nellie Han Kinson and Thelma Graham; and his brother, Daniel Kessler.

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