

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Taking it to the Streets

New REACH union evangelism school students are changing lives through boots-on-the-ground ministry



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PHOTO BY KRISTAL IRRGANG



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Taking it to the Streets

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About the Cover: Krystal Irgang photographed REACH students Leland Pittman, Joshua Benito and Kiersten Reed in Philadelphia.

ON THE WEB

EVANGELISM MYTHS DEBUNKED

“Evangelism is all about preaching.” Young adult students of the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School’s first classes this summer quickly debunked this evangelism myth. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/evangelismmyths to learn about other myths.

SUMMER REACH TESTIMONIES

Think God only worked in tangible ways in times past, or that his best modern work happens overseas? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/reachvideos to watch the testimonies of several REACH Columbia Union School students who witnessed God work in their daily lives this summer in Ohio.



SHOULD ADVENTISTS SUE?

Is it okay for Seventh-day Adventists to sue others?

Participate in our Facebook poll on facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor to let us know what you think.

IS IT RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION?

Was Kim Davis, the Kentucky County clerk jailed for refusing to issue a marriage license to a same-sex marriage couple, a victim of religious persecution? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/kimdavis to read our interview with Walter Carson, Columbia Union vice president and general counsel, to read what religious persecution is and is not.



FIND STRENGTH IN STRUGGLE

H. Jean Wright II, from Pennsylvania Conference’s

Chestnut Hill church in Philly, recently published *Find Strength in Your Struggle: Discover the Miracle in You*. Wright, a former state penitentiary psychologist, shares spiritual insights on how believers can gain strength during difficult times full of stress, anxiety and depression. Read our interview with Wright at columbiaunionvisitor.com/strength.



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

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 10

Listen, Feel Love, Be Changed

I spend a significant amount of my time listening.

A look at my phone bill reveals just how many hours I spend on the phone! Some of these are everyday calls working out the details of ministry and life. Other calls are spent hearing incredible, vulnerable stories. I sit as a silent and prayerful witness as someone shares their heart and, often, their tears.

I listen in pews and around tables, in restaurants and cars. I hear stories of young adults who express their joys and pains in their relationship with the church and her members:



“They said they wanted to keep me in the church, but they didn’t seem to have a reason why they wanted me to stay.”

“She talked to me about what I was wearing and I didn’t even know who she was!”

“I’m wondering if I even belong here ...”

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

Though much of my time is spent with young adults, it strikes me that the human need transpires all stages of life. Many adults say they don’t reach out to young adults because they don’t understand them and feel disconnected. Yet, our shared human need is to hear God give us the deeper truth about who we are. Only as we hear how God sees us can we offer this love to others.

Let me remind all of you, you are loved so completely. God loves you just as you are. He loves you with all your failings, faults and frustrations. Not only that, if you have asked Jesus to enter your life and heal your heart, you stand as one who is completely forgiven, even as the transformation is still in process.

You are not defined by what you’ve done or failed to do. You are defined by the love of the Almighty God who claimed you. The challenge is to see yourself as God sees you. To see one another as God sees us. How does this happen?

We must spend time listening to the One who redeemed us. As Ellen White, one of my favorite authors, says, “When every other voice is hushed, when every earthly interest is turned aside, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. Here rest is found in Him. The peace, the joy, the life of the soul, is God” (*Special Testimonies on Education*, p. 163).

Only when we see how God views us are we able to offer others the love and grace we have received. As you listen at the tables in your life, what would it change if you saw yourself as God sees you? In what ways can you show this love to the ones who came before you—and now the ones who come after you?

Tara J. VinCross is director for the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School and lead pastor at the REACH Philadelphia church in Philadelphia.

Newsline

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

MISSION SCHOOL OPENS IN ALLENTOWN

This fall the Pennsylvania Conference opened a new learning center in Allentown. The Simplicity Christian Academy (SCA) welcomed a class of third- through sixth-graders for its first year.

“SCA is more than just a new school,” shares Karin Lebo, principal and teacher (pictured with her students). “It’s a new approach to mission and evangelism. Students are all from the community.”



SCA was designed to educate children in their own neighborhood as a center of influence. It is one of the first mission schools in the North American Division committed to reaching children who aren’t growing up in a Seventh-day Adventist home or family. It grew out of the conference’s Simplicity Outreach program, which has worked in the Allentown community for several years, meeting physical needs and building relationships within the surrounding neighborhoods. Read more on page 29.—*Pennsylvania Conference Staff*

CARAVAN OF HOPE TO TOUR UNION

This fall Alejandro Bullón, an international evangelist, and the Caravan of Hope 2015, or Caravana de la Esperanza 2015: “Jesus, La Gran Esperanza,” will make 16 stops across the Columbia Union. The union is sponsoring the evangelistic effort, which will start November 5 in Elizabeth, N.J., and end at

144,207

The number of members in the Columbia Union Conference, as of June 30

During the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting this September, Rob Vandeman, executive secretary of the Columbia Union, reported that membership increased .76 percent from March 31. Vandeman also shared that there are 822 churches and companies in the union. Allegheny East Conference showed the most growth with a membership increase of 1.39 percent. They now have 38,958 members and 150 churches and companies on the books.

To see members and churches by conference, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/members.

Chesapeake Conference’s Atholton church in Columbia, Md.

Church members and leaders are currently giving Bible studies and working with Spanish-speakers in their areas in hopes of baptizing 500 people during the effort. Rubén Ramón (pictured below), union vice president for Multilingual Ministries, expects 50 to 60 baptisms at some of the locations. “To have a baptism



of that size gives [members] the opportunity to have a unique experience—it not only gives them joy but gives them pride to see that their church is doing great things for the Lord,” says Ramón.

For dates and locations, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/caravanofhope.

CONSTITUENTS VOTE TO SELL MVA

Nearly one year since Ohio Conference leaders learned of the dire financial situation facing their

“My prayer for us in the Columbia Union and our church is that we will hang on to the only motivation God uses. ... That we will be motivated only by the grace of God.”

—*Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, at the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting in September*

beloved Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, conference constituents voted to ratify the recommendations put forth by the Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees and Ohio Conference Executive Committee to authorize the sale of assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation. Though emotionally difficult, constituents at a special constituency meeting earlier this year understood the severity of the financial situation and voted 293 in favor of the motion and 17 opposed.

Read more on page 28.

—*Heidi Shoemaker*

UNION TO FUND BALTIMORE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Following the aftermath of the Baltimore riots this spring, Columbia Union Conference leaders felt a desire to do something impactful for the people of Baltimore. During the Columbia Union Executive Committee meeting last month, members voted to donate \$65,000 to help the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) create three afterschool programs for young people.

“I’d like to commend this union for their strong indivisible support during the crisis,” says Henry J. Fordham, AEC president. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/helpingbaltimore.

WAU STUDENTS SERVE IN BALTIMORE

In June Washington Adventist University (WAU) leaders met with Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City mayor (pictured with WAU president Weymouth Spence), to discuss specific ways that WAU can make a difference.

Last month more than 400 WAU volunteers, along with university faculty and staff, headed to Baltimore for a day to participate in



at least one dozen service projects and to continue building a long-term relationship that WAU leaders hope will strengthen its Baltimore neighbors. Read more on page 38.

—Lisa Krueger

PERUVIAN MISSIONARIES WORK IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

This summer 11 missionaries from the Peruvian Union University’s (PUU) School of Theology arrived at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., for training and orientation to serve as missionaries in Mountain View Conference (MVC) areas with a large Spanish-speaking population.

“This newest initiative is an answer to prayer,” says Larry Boggess, MVC president. “Many in this conference have had a growing burden to see the Hispanic work strengthened. [We are thankful that] the Peruvian Union University has entrusted us with these very gifted students.” Read more on page 23.

—Mountain View Conference Staff

FACEBOOK POLL

Creation

We asked Columbia Union members to answer the following question:

Do you believe in a literal, seven-day creation week?

Here is how 43 respondents answered:

Yes: 89 percent
No: 5.5 percent
Other: 5.5 percent

WOMEN PASTORS GATHER AT RETREAT

This summer 44 women from across the Columbia Union and beyond, who are active in ministry or interested in becoming pastors, gathered at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., to encourage each other and debrief about the recent General Conference vote that prevents divisions from choosing whether or not to ordain women within their territories.

Several Columbia Union and North American Division administrators were on hand to answer questions about the impact of the vote and to affirm the women. William “Bill” Miller, Potomac president, started the day with a much-needed devotional of assurance. “The yes of God is louder than the no of the church,” he said.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, added his affirmation. “I always told the brethren that if a person is called, they have to work in that gift. I have not met a woman pastor who doesn’t give her all. Most of them give 110 percent.”

Lori Farr, a pastor in the Ohio Conference, talks with Keisha McKenzie, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md.



LA CARAVANA DE LA ESPERANZA SE PREPARA

Este otoño Alejandro Bullón, un evangelista internacional, y la Caravana de la Esperanza 2015 “Jesús, la gran Esperanza” hará 16 paradas en el territorio de Columbia Union Conference. Columbia Union está patrocinando el esfuerzo evangelizador que comenzará el 5 de noviembre en el Elizabeth, N.J., y culminará en la iglesia de Atholton en Chesapeake Conference en Columbia, Md.

Rubén Ramón, el vicepresidente de los Ministerios multilingües en la unión y organizador del evento, dice que las iglesias participantes ya han estado orando y trabajando intensamente para prepararse para el evento. Él espera ver una cosecha de 500 bautismos.

“Caravana de la Esperanza le da a la iglesia, las congregaciones, la posibilidad de celebrar de manera más amplia y disfrutar de la cosecha de lo que han sembrado preparando a las personas—dando estudios bíblicos, impartiendo el conocimiento de nuestras creencias”, dice Ramón. Vea la lista completa de fechas y lugares en columbiaunionvisitor.com/caravanofhope.—V. Michelle Bernard

MISIONEROS PERUANOS TRABAJAN EN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Este verano 11 misioneros (en la foto) de la escuela de teología de la Universidad de la Unión peruana llegaron a Valley Vista Adventist Center en Huttonsville, W.Va., para ser capacitados y orientados en servir como misioneros en las áreas de Mountain View Conference (MVC) donde hay gran población de hispanohablantes.

“Esta nueva iniciativa es una respuesta a las oraciones”, dice Larry Boggess, presidente de MVC. “Muchos en esta asociación han tenido una creciente preocupación por ver el trabajo de los hispanos fortalecido. [Estamos



agradecidos que] La Universidad de la Unión Peruana nos ha confiado estos estudiantes dotados”. Lea más en la pág. 23.

MUJERES EN EL MINISTERIO SE JUNTAN EN EL RETIRO

Este verano 44 mujeres de toda Columbia Union y Estados Unidos se juntaron “A los pies del Maestro: un momento de afirmación, conexión y educación”, un retiro para mujeres interesadas o activas en el ministerio que



Heather Crews, pastora de la iglesia Williamsburg (Va.), orando con Debbie Eisele, pastora de mucho tiempo.

tomó lugar en la iglesia Sligo de Potomac Conference, en Takoma Park, Md. Durante el retiro de un día, las asistentes se animaron y aconsejaron entre ellas y se informaron sobre la votación en julio de la Asociación General, donde los delegados votaron que las divisiones no pueden escoger si las mujeres son ordenadas o no dentro de sus territorio.

Varios administradores de

Columbia Union y la División Norteamericana asistieron para contestar preguntas sobre el impacto del voto y reafirmar a las mujeres que ya están sirviendo en el ministerio. Sonia Pérez, pastora de jóvenes en la iglesia Beltsville (Md.), de Potomac, y coorganizadora del evento, animó a las que asistieron a “pasarle [el ánimo] donde quiera que estén”. Lea más sobre este evento en columbiaunionvisitor.com/womeninministry.—V. Michelle Bernard

500 ASISTEN A LA REUNIÓN JUVENIL

Más de 500 jóvenes, adultos jóvenes, patrocinadores de iglesia y pastores asistieron recientemente a la reunión de jóvenes hispanos de Pennsylvania Conference en Lancaster. Los asistentes disfrutaron viendo representaciones actuadas de los caracteres de historias bíblicas como David, relatada por Rafael Rodríguez, miembro de la Primera Iglesia Hispana de Philadelphia.



FOTO POR RAY HARTWELL



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Sam Belony

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Union administrators team with Pastor Tara VinCross to start the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School, where young adults are not only staying in the church, they are transforming it—as well as the many lives they touch through boots-on-the-ground ministry.

The unprecedented venture was born like so many God-inspired projects—thoughts planted in the minds of those seeking to be used by the Lord in ministry. This particular idea started developing in 2010 when Tara VinCross, then pastor of Pennsylvania Conference's Chestnut Hill church, wrote a ministry development plan as part of her doctorate in ministry. She hoped it would result in an urban evangelism school in Philadelphia.

Unbeknownst to her, Columbia Union Conference leaders had hatched a similar idea and were also planning to launch an evangelism school. Eventually, the plans coalesced. "After completing my doctoral program, I thought, 'Well, that's the only piece that hasn't been completed,'" VinCross recalls. Then one day, the union called to discuss a collaboration, and together in 2013 they formed a task force.

After much prayer, planning and seeking the Lord's guidance, the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School opened June 7 this past summer in Philadelphia. Now its first group of diverse young adults is gaining boots-on-the-ground, immersive experience in urban ministry and earning usable university credits.

Implementing Core Values

Restoration. Empowerment. Action. Community. Hope. These are the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School's five core values. During the 12-month program, young adults aged 18 to 35 receive hands-on experience in the areas of discipleship, community development and various other aspects of evangelism. The school has a formal partnership with Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., where REACH students can earn up to 12 university credits for the classes.

REACH aims to imbue young people with the knowledge and experience they need to be effective, passionate, faithful leaders in their local churches. "My greatest desire is for young adults to experience transformation in their own lives, understand the gospel by experience, and learn how to be in a relationship with God and join Him in His work in the world," says VinCross, who leads the program. By engaging students in canvassing, she hopes to teach them persistence, patience, professionalism, leadership and the skills to help others make godly decisions.

The program launched in June, when REACH students spent their first summer semester in the Columbus, Ohio, area doing evangelism work in partnership with Ohio Conference's Eastwood church and Allegheny West Conference's Central church. Dubbed "Mission Columbus," students spent 10 weeks canvassing with local church members, knocking on more than 50,000 doors and distributing 6,978 books.

"The only way to have true success in reaching people is by drawing close to them and having a personal relationship," says Justin Khoe, REACH evangelism coordinator. "In this program, [students] are going to get their hands dirty in the sense that they're going to be out there doing the work rather than learning about *how* to do the work." In the process, they reach people who would not be reached by other means of evangelism, and benefit local churches, conferences and the union.

Locating Young Evangelists

As of August, REACH had 13 students enrolled for the first school year, which runs June to May with the goal of increasing enrollment to 16. To land new students, REACH recruiters attend conference events where they set up booths and chat with potential students. They connect with young adults in public high schools, private academies and students at Seventh-day Adventist and public universities through social networking, speaking engagements, on-campus recruitment and one-on-one contacts.

With a fairly small staff of five, VinCross relies on her contacts throughout the Columbia Union to land new students. She receives a lot of support from pastors, youth directors and other conference leaders. She adds, "Because this is a union program, we're relying heavily on the conferences to connect us with their constituencies."

Acceptance into REACH requires students to be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma, and they must maintain a GPA of 2.8 or above to remain in the program. The application process is extensive. Wellness questions, self-evaluation, essay questions,

two references and evaluation by the REACH advisory committee are required for admission.

A Boots-on-the-Ground Approach

There are 18 classes in the REACH curriculum, five of which offer three credits each, and cover a wide range of topics. "Jesus and the Gospels" offers an introductory study of the life and teachings of Christ through a close reading of the four canonical gospels and Ellen G. White's *The Desire of Ages*. Other accredited courses include "Ministry in the City," "Knowing and Sharing Christ" and "Theory & Practice of Urban Ministry."

Non college-credited courses include "Adventist Beliefs," which focuses on the centrality of Jesus in the Adventist Church; "Cycle of Transformational Evangelism," which helps students understand biblical evangelism through the study of the agricultural cycle; "Communication, Relationship & Sexuality" and others.

Khoe promises that REACH students are not a bunch of textbook whiz kids who talk theories all day long. The school partners with churches in four of the Columbia Union's eight conferences: Allegheny West, Ohio, Mountain View and Potomac.

In this program, [students] are going to get their hands dirty in the sense that they're going to be out there doing the work rather than learning about how to do the work.—Justin Khoe





“We try to make it a very hands-on curriculum,” Khoe adds. “It’s pretty much year-round laboring to make it a point that, whenever someone learns a concept in the classroom, they are also given the opportunity to apply it in the field, whether that’s through ministering by giving Bible study, by preaching, by reaching out to people in their homes or in a variety of different ways.”

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, adds, “I believe this is a Godsend to have this school where young adults can experience sharing the gospel for two reasons: first, be drawn closer to Christ and, secondly, experience it where adults learn most effectively.”

A typical day at REACH includes, among other activities, meals, worship, two classes, Bible study, community service and urban evangelism. The professors are some of the most seasoned ministers in the church.

Learn more about the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School and their upcoming programs—like outreach in the Mountain View Conference this fall and Potomac next spring—by visiting reachcolumbiaunion.squarespace.com.

A typical day for REACH students includes classwork, Bible study and worship, with plenty of time for interaction and discussion. Professors for the select classes are some of the most seasoned ministers in the church, including REACH school director Tara VinCross (shown, bottom right).

Opposite page: Jose Miguel Alvarado, from the New Jersey Conference, shares a warm smile while canvassing in Columbus, Ohio, as part of the REACH Columbia Union’s summer program.

Changing the World

REACH leaders expect big things from students at the end of the program. Not only do they want to see the young adults impact their communities and transform lives for Christ, they expect to see changes in the students themselves.

VinCross expects students to transform into “young professionals who very much know who they are and are committed to Christ and to making a difference in their community.” And, she expects this to happen on an individual level. “It starts with one young adult having their heart and life changed by their own encounter with God—not just a fan for Jesus, where they come and sit and spectate every week, but someone who is a follower, who is completely committed,” she explains.



Khoe wants “to see youths that are more engaged in local churches, young adults that have a great understanding of the church’s purpose, especially in the times that we live in.” He adds, “I want to see a commitment to the mission of the church, being an active part of that, both at their local church and at their jobs.”

A mere few months into the program, VinCross is already seeing transformations in her students. “I’ve already seen really tremendous formation of their character development,” she says. “What I saw this summer, just the excitement on their faces. ... They’ve been already ... having encounters with God that are pretty amazing!”

Sam Belony writes from Philadelphia.

From **NIGHT SPOT** to **BRIGHT SPOT**

While young adults seek to become trained evangelists for the Adventist Church through the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School, the building where they gain their biblical knowledge, of all things, used to be a bar/nightclub.

The REACH school rents its space from REACH Philadelphia, a young adult church plant that has been serving the community since 2011. The church found a new location, which it purchased in March 2014 and has been remodeling the bar into a ministry center.

“I remember during the fall of last year, we had a meeting with the city council about the zoning permits, and when they learned what address we were seeking to build this ministry center [on], to have the school, all around the table there were glances shared among the boards; they were laughing to themselves because they all knew the history of the building,” recalls student Joshua Benito.

The building’s transformation into a ministry center illustrates God’s restorative power. “A building where there was once darkness and hopelessness, now will be a ministry center full of light and hope and healing,” says Tara VinCross, REACH School director. “God, who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light, also does that in our neighbors and neighborhoods, as God takes over the space and renews it.”



Students in ACTION



Here are three REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School students taking classwork to heart and into the community:



JOSHUA BENITO was born and raised in Mexico City, the second of three children, and came to the United States on his 10th birthday. Benito says he joined the REACH School because he felt it would give him more exposure to ministry.

“I’m in the phase where I’m narrowing down where I want to be and [want to] do in life, and ministry is one of them,” he shares.

In his short time in the program, he has gained three key takeaways:

- **Attitude matters.** “That time you spend talking to yourself will weigh on your attitude,” so he makes the decision to have “a positive perspective about everything that I do.”
- **Endurance.** “God’s calling is a very sensitive thing and only those who endure ‘til the end will be victorious.”
- **Surrender.** Benito realized that, to succeed in ministry, he must surrender himself completely to God’s care. “When we give ourselves to

God in our darkest moments in life, though we are poor in spirit, God is able to flow His life through us that we are able to give spiritual riches to others.”

For Benito, the main reason young people are leaving the church is a lack of acceptance. He feels the church is too judgmental, which caused his two sisters to leave. “That’s basically what I’ve been seeing visiting all of the churches, that kind of lack of culture of just accepting the teenagers, understanding them,” he shares. He also believes it’s due to a lack of engagement in ministry, which he says creates a sense of purpose.

Benito says his relationship with God is what keeps him connected. “Some of the young people in the church tend to base God’s character on how the church treats them. But, the church has nothing to do with your personal relationship with God,” he says. “Whatever anybody does to you, whether they did you wrong or not, that does not change who God is; that

only changes your perspective about the person, or the program or the system, but not God. I feel like we need to teach that to a lot of the youth.”

KIERSTEN REED grew up in the Adventist Church, but after becoming a victim of bullying, turned to drugs. She came back to the church through a youth challenge led by Pastor Tara VinCross and was baptized at 16.

Reed believes it was God who brought her into the REACH program. “I wanted to reach out to others, especially my non-Christian friends, but I had run out of ideas and I felt inadequate,” she explains. “I was struggling greatly not to go back to old habits. I prayed to God one morning for help. That afternoon Pastor Tara called. It wasn’t the answer I expected, but I recognized the calling and the need.”

Reed says her time with REACH has taught her at least three things:

- **Trust God more.** “There are a lot of circumstances this summer that required a lot of trust that I previously did not have. ... What kept me going was constantly trusting that God would not put me in a situation He could not get me out of.”
- **Stand on God’s promises.** “For me it was ... trust in the promise that God would protect me from any situation that would arise, promises that He would provide a harvest.”
- **Appreciate community.** “Without that community ... there’s no support, no encouragement along the way. And, for somebody like me, it’s hugely powerful. Without ... those people, I wouldn’t have made it through the first week.”

Reed believes that young people are leaving the Adventist Church due to a lack of authenticity. One of the reasons she believes she’s different is her ministry, “helping the churches grow and bringing in young adults back to church,” she says. “I wanted to see others healed as God has been healing me.”

She adds, “If there is any doubt that God exists, one summer is all it takes—if that long. God has revealed Himself in so many ways through REACH. It is the strongest community/family I have ever experienced.”

Although **LELAND PITTMAN’S** father was once an Adventist, Pittman did not grow up in the church. However, in 2011, at age 19, he decided to join, unbeknownst to his father. Interestingly, his father returned to his Adventist roots around the same time.

When Pittman first heard Tara VinCross give a presentation on the REACH School at Washington Adventist University, he dismissed the idea because the program conflicted with his plan to go on a missionary trip in Kenya. Even Pittman’s father encouraged him to join. He remained unconvinced. He planned

to work at his school and complete his MBA. It was a conversation with Justin Khoe that finally convinced Pittman to join the REACH School.

Pittman has taken away two things from his experience at REACH:

- **Perseverance.** “You really have to be all in. If there is any part of you reserving anything, you’re not going to get the full blessing; you’re not going to be the most effectively used for God. ... If you don’t completely commit, you’re going to look at it as a job, and you’re going to miss the blessing.”
- **Faith.** “Canvassing makes me trust God more. When Ellen White says it’s frontline work, it is truly frontline work! You see the great controversy, the war, right before your very eyes. Nothing is more draining physically, spiritually and mentally than canvassing.”

The first reason Pittman believes young adults are leaving the church is “because they’re not being properly trained to work in ministry; their affection does not lie in ministry.” The second reason, he says, is “because there’s a strong gravitational force that the world has that they are attracted to.” The final reason is a lack of intimacy with God. “They know all of the doctrine, they know all of the church lingo, but they haven’t experienced what they’re talking about,” he adds.

Pittman believes his passion for ministry keeps him grounded in the church. “I didn’t grow up wanting to do this. ... However, I have never experienced a more satisfying work than doing ministry for other people, because when you’re ministering for other people, you’re also helping yourself.”



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NEWS

Mt. Olivet Church Celebrates Generations

During their recent family life weekend, the Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J., honored the various generations represented in their congregation.

On Friday night, more than 100 participants joined John Trusty, Allegheny East Conference (AEC) relationship ministries director, on a conference call about relationships. During Sabbath School, Trusty met with and encouraged the men of the church. During the divine worship, he spoke about being connected and shared that “once we are aligned with Christ, everything else will fall into place.”

Church leaders also recognized all the generations on stage, from the GI generation, those born 1901-1924, to Generation Z, those born 1990-present. Pastor Colby Matlock and Trusty prayed over all of those honored.



The Mt. Olivet congregation honors their two oldest members, Louis Ritchards and James Gallon.

Following a fellowship dinner, married couples joined Matlock in the sanctuary for a discussion, while Trusty addressed the singles in another area.

During the evening program, the church honored their oldest member, Louis Ritchards, who is 94, and James Gallon, 92. Members also shared words of appreciation then enjoyed a dessert reception.

“We look forward to the real celebration, when our Lord and Savior returns to get all of His people in all generations,” says Lorene Brown-Watkins, family life leader.

Educators Recharge for New School Year

Staff from the Allegheny East Conference Office of Education and more than 70 administrators and educators recently visited NorthBay Adventure Camp in North East, Md., for their annual teacher convention.



John Alberty, principal at the George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., and staff celebrate their victory in The Amazing Race challenge.

They gathered to learn new concepts and review old ones through a variety of seminars. Mary Helen Spiri, executive director of the Chesapeake Coalition of Essential Schools (Md.), presented a session on standards-based learning; Evelyn Sullivan and Donovan Ross, Columbia Union Conference Office of Education representatives, presented on the accreditation process; and Judy B. Chiles-Dent, conference education superintendent, presented a session on administrative review.

Educators also worked on their team-building skills during AEC’s version of the TV show *The Amazing Race*. The three-day convention culminated with a consecration service. Richard Martin, assistant pastor of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., led a foot washing and communion service.

“What a humble, yet sweet experience to see the staff unite as one and pray for one another,” says Dent.—*Shayla-Rene Little*

Telugu Indians Gather for Camp Meeting

More than 65 Telugu Indian members from around the Allegheny East territory recently gathered for their 17th annual camp meeting at the AEC campgrounds in Pine Forge, Pa. “I Stand at the Door and Knock” was the theme for the weekend, which included morning and evening worships, health and nature talks, as well as swimming, nature walks and games.

Israel Kalapala, pastor of the United Telugu church in Silver Spring, Md., says, “This is our opportunity to come together to spend time in nature with God.” The group also welcomed Telugu members from India and Canada.

Pathfinders Participate in an “Amazing” Camporee

Allegheny East Conference Pathfinder Club Association leaders opted to ditch their traditional honors camporee this year. Instead they hosted the “AEC Amazing Race: Pathfinder Edition” camporee. The qualifying rounds for the race began when Pathfinders participated in five required survival relays: knot tying, first aid and CPR, camping skills, orienteering and swimming.

The top five teams advanced to the “Amazing Race: Pathfinder Edition Challenge,” facilitated by Terri Buchanan, Virginia area coordinator. Clubs were judged on their ability to survive one night of camping in the woods. They also gathered edible wild plants to cook and eat. On another night, clubs built their own shelter in the woods.

During the camping experience, campers were not allowed to have cell phones. The weekend also included archery competitions, a rock climbing wall challenge, an obstacle course, a written quiz and an orienteering challenge. The Shiloh Goldenairs Pathfinder Club from Petersburg, Va., won the competition, but organizers commended all the participants.

While the five teams were competing, the other Pathfinders earned new honors such as archery, bridges, camping skills 3, Christian grooming and manners, digital photography, LEGO design, maple sugar, mountains, orienteering, seeds, shells, trees and weather.

PHOTO BY PATRICK GRAHAM



The Pathfinders gleaned the spiritual application of all the physical challenges. Fade Kolawole, a member of the Maranatha Adventist Fellowship Warriors from Bowie, Md., says, “The ‘river’

Pathfinders line up to enter the drill competition.



The Royal Doves Pathfinder Club from the Bethuel church in Dover, Del., participate in the camping skills portion of the “AEC Amazing Race: Pathfinder Edition.”

was so peaceful, and I realized that with Jesus you have nothing to hide.”

During the evening program, Pathfinders performed in their first stage play titled “I am Chosen,” which dealt with friendship and influence. Ayo Oyelana, a member of the Maranatha Adventist Fellowship in Bowie, Md., wrote the play. Doris DeGuzman, a member of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church, directed.

On Sabbath the Pathfinders took their drums and musical talents to the Pottstown, Pa., Wal-Mart parking lot, where they led a praise and worship session and distributed literature.

The Ephesus Rams from the Ephesus church in Richmond won both rounds of the evening drill down. After vespers the Pathfinders participated in a carnival full of games, prizes, food and a photo booth.

“We hope it was not only a week full of fun and new memories for the Pathfinders, but they [will] reflect on the lessons learned,” says Genny Moore, Pathfinder Association executive coordinator. Throughout the weekend, Patrick Graham, youth director, reminded Pathfinders that although the “Amazing Race Camporee” was an enjoyable experience, most importantly, “God is a-m-a-z-i-n-g.”

Youngstown Pastor to Lead Conference Communication

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) administration recently selected Bryant L. Smith, pastor of Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, to serve as the new conference communication director.

Smith says he is excited and optimistic about his new role. A firm believer in churches having an attractive, updated, online presence, he says he has seen the results of effective mobile and online ministry.

Smith has bold plans for the communication department and believes that AWC can lead churches

in using communication and technology to enhance their ministries. Smith's new motto for the department is "How Can We Make It Better?" He wants to help churches create attractive websites, produce videos, and connect with other departments and church leaders throughout the conference.

"Church leaders realize that, in order to meet the needs of the members, they need to keep up with the newest technology trends," says William T. Cox, conference president. "We want to offer the tools so they can create a strong online community among our constituents. We are really excited and encouraged about what has happened and what can happen as God continues to lead [Bryant]."

Smith has served in the Allegheny West Conference for seven years. He ministered in the Bethel church in Staunton, Va., and the Miracle of Faith church in Waynesboro, Va., for six years before transferring to Temple Emmanuel. During his time in Virginia, Smith led Miracle of Faith through a building renovation and mortgage burning. He was featured on the local news when his church was the only faith-based group helping at the annual garden festival and for the church's cleanup initiative on their adopted street.

In his year in Youngstown, the city mayor awarded Smith the key to the city for his efforts in revitalizing his church building and the surrounding community.



PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR

Temple Emmanuel Starts Community Mens Bible Study

The Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, has taken ministry beyond the walls of their church by starting a mens Bible study group at the nearby Arlington Gardens Apartment complex.

Herbert Tinsely, a church member, had the vision to start the group, which now meets every Monday evening in a recreation room at the apartment complex. The small group that reads the Word of God and shares encouragement with each other has steadily grown into a great spiritual support for men from all walks of life.

"Such a simple formula is yielding such powerful results," says Bryant Smith, pastor of the Temple Emmanuel church. "Please continue to pray for these men as they band together, [infuse] their homes and change their community for the better."



Herbert Tinsley (back, right) leads a Bible study with residents of the Arlington Gardens Apartment complex.



Hilltop Community Church “Rocks the Block”

Ministering to the community’s needs took on a new form as the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, Ohio, abandoned their church building for the parking lot during the church’s first Rock the Block Weekend.

On a recent Sabbath, the congregation and visitors clapped their hands, stamped their feet and testified, hoping the messages presented through songs, a suicide prevention play and personal testimonies would reach those sitting on porches, walking by or listening from their windows.

On Sunday the parking lot was transformed into a hub of events, with a prayer corner, a game truck full of video games and a dunk tank. Several community-based organizations also joined the festivities to promote their programs. The Mid-Ohio Food Bank donated about 2,000 pounds of food to community members, and after registering to vote, nearly 50



Community members wait in line to receive food from the Ohio Food Bank.



Lindsay Hughes, a church member, distributes gifts to community children.

people received new box fans donated by The Home Depot. In addition, the church signed up several families from the community for its upcoming professional portrait day. Each participating family will receive one free 8x10 photo.

Jason Ridley, Hilltop Community Worship Center pastor, estimates that more than 500 people joined the weekend festivities. Organizers say no one left on an empty stomach, thanks to a plethora of food donated from eateries, grocery stores and church members. “Our Rock the Block Weekend was a simple way in which our Hilltop family could demonstrate the love of Christ to our community by mingling with them and meeting their needs, both physically and spiritually,” he says.—*Tamaria L. Kulemeka*

Temple of Praise Helps Community “Cope” With Life



Rhonda Drake, a member of the Glenville church in Cleveland, listens during an evangelistic meeting at the Temple of Praise church.

Collin Parkinson, pastor of the Temple of Praise church in Cleveland, wanted to offer hope to many of the local community members who said they were struggling to cope in these troubling times.

Parkinson led the church in organizing a two-week evangelistic effort with speaker Jack McCrary, Allegheny West Conference stewardship director. McCrary titled the series “Urgency, Fervency, Emergency.”

“Each night but Thursday, he presented the Word of God in a timely and powerful manner that introduced saving grace to the visitors’ hearts,” says Parkinson.

Twenty visitors attended each night. Six of the visitors gave their lives to Christ, and many committed to study the Bible as a result of the event.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

OCTOBER 2015

Let's Plant Small Seeds for the Kingdom

We are attracted to things that are the largest, strongest and fastest. Every two years, the world turns its attention to the Olympics to determine who are the fastest and most skilled in numerous sports. Countries vie to boast the tallest building in the world, currently recognized as the Burj Khalifa in Dubai at 829.8 meters. Mountain climbers risk their lives to climb Mount Everest, the tallest mountain. The Guinness World Records organization exists to certify who should be recognized for a wide variety of feats.

At times we may be tempted to apply this in a spiritual context and be impressed by those churches and ministries that are the largest. But, as usual, Jesus turns our worldly perspective on its head. When describing the kingdom of God, He says, "It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on Earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade" (Mark 4:31-32, NKJV).

Jesus specializes in starting with something very small. The things we are inclined to discount can be used by God to accomplish great things. "So the work of grace in the heart is small in its beginning. A word is spoken, a ray of light is shed into the soul, an influence is exerted that is the beginning of the new life; and who can measure its results?" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 78).

So, what small seeds can you plant for the kingdom of God? What word can you speak? What act of kindness can you perform? What seemingly little influence for good can you have in the lives around you? Be willing to plant the seeds and let God grow them.



Rick Remmers
President

Reisterstown, Spencerville Host Successful VBS Programs

The Reisterstown and Spencerville churches in Maryland were among several congregations conferencewide to recently host Vacation Bible School (VBS) programs in their local communities.

Some 200 children and 100 volunteers participated in Spencerville's program based on the life of Jesus. Children perused the Nazareth marketplace—held in the retrofitted fellowship hall of the Silver Spring-based church—where they learned about weaving, carpentry and farming. They visited Mary, played by Marilyn Scott, associate pastor, at her "house" and heard stories about Jesus.



Kids huddle close to Pastor Marilyn Scott during the Spencerville church's VBS.



A young boy enjoys an outdoor activity at the Reisterstown church VBS.

"It was wonderful to see the children interact with Pastor Scott as if she truly was Mary, Jesus' mother," says Ann Reynolds, conference Children's Ministries director.

Reisterstown leaders themed their church's five-day evening program "Everest: Conquering Challenges With God's Great Power."

"We had about 15 volunteers and 45 kids in all for the week, 20 of whom were from the community," says Andre Hastick, pastor of the 131-member church. "They are already looking forward to next year!"

PHOTOS BY ANDRE HASTICK AND ROBERT MENCH

THE CHALLENGE

New Welcome Ministry Brightens Spencerville

The Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., recently launched a new ministry. Born from a need to utilize more members in ministry, as well as to create a friendlier atmosphere, HIS teams offer *help, information* and *support* to members and guests each Sabbath morning.

There are five teams of about 60 members each. Each Sabbath one team helps visitors and members find parking, offers umbrellas, assists parents, opens doors and answers questions about the service or church. Each team brings its own creativity, making Sabbath a delightful surprise each week, says Merle Poirier, originator of the HIS team concept.

Kari Wangsness, a HIS team leader, says, “The HIS team ministry provides a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our church family and community. It’s a great way for my family and I to ensure that our visitors and church members feel welcomed and valued!”

In just the first month, members have enthusiastically talked about how this ministry has changed the church as well as each other. Guests have commented about the friendliness, and more than one has made a decision to join because “it is such a friendly church!”



HIS team members share enthusiasm for making Spencerville church a friendly place to worship.

Poirier expresses amazement at how God has blessed a simple idea. “More than 300 people signed up for a HIS team in two Sabbaths—now one of our largest ministries,” she says. “The four hours at Spencerville on a Sabbath morning are quickly becoming the most special time of the week.”

Dover First Students Experience Hands-On Science

Last month the Dover First Christian School in Dover launched a Monarch Butterfly STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service in Washington, D.C., visited the Delaware-based school to provide an educational experience about insects.



“Mr. Joe” from the USDA Agricultural Research Service teaches students about various insects.

The professionals shared fun facts, insect specimen displays, and gave each student an insect activity book and their own monarch caterpillar to start the program. “In the spring, they have agreed to help our school plant a butterfly garden,” reports Jennifer Miller, principal. “It’s things like this, the special things, that make Adventist education amazing.”



Students learn how their caterpillars will become butterflies.

PHOTOS BY MARK NOBLE AND JENNIFER MILLER

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School Year Kicks Off With a “Wow”

This school year, Highland View Academy (HVA) staff welcomed 60 local, day students from Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and 65 boarding students from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Brazil, China, Kenya, South Korea and other points on the map.

Mixing 125 students together for the first time from so many places and backgrounds is no small challenge. To do so successfully, the administration worked closely with Lisa Norton, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teacher and information technology director, and other faculty and staff to develop Week of Welcome (WOW). The University of Alabama designed the program, and our school adapted it to ensure that, from day one, staff and students become a working team.

Norton, who came to HVA from The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore in 2014, possesses expertise in group dynamics and team building. She led a group at HVA that organized a successful and dynamic experience that ended in a special commitment service at the Highland View church.

Having highly qualified faculty and staff whose skills blend across all aspects of the program adds value to the whole-life learning experience of HVA. This can be seen in the friendships and positive student-to-student and student-to-adult relationships across campus.

Please keep HVA in your prayers and plans.



Mick Hutchinson
Principal

Academics Expand Through STEM, Dual Credits

Highland View Academy’s STEM certificate program launched this year with approximately 30 students enrolled. These students benefit from an intensive but well-rounded education that especially prepares them to pursue STEM-related college majors. New STEM classes include integrated STEM, anatomy and physiology, project-based learning, robotics, iOS app development and a pilot of Maryland’s new advanced placement Computer Science Principles course.

Another way HVA is expanding academic opportunities for students is through dual-credit courses. Students can earn college credit for courses taken as part of the regular curriculum from HVA teachers, who are qualified with master’s degrees or higher in their subject areas. Currently HVA offers dual-credit classes through partnerships with Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and the nearby Hagerstown Community College (HCC). Staff offers more than six courses in English, history, Bible, math and science, including a biotechnology STEM internship through HCC.

HVA, HCC and Inova Health System (Va.) collaborated to develop the internship. Participating students will earn STEM internship credits as well as three college credits in biotechnology. They will also learn specialized biotechnology laboratory techniques in

biotechnology and engage in research.

Dual-credit courses are especially beneficial to students because they cost less than the usual college tuition and fees, and they give students a jump-start on earning their college degrees. “HVA continues to look for ways to expand its academic excellence,” says Mick Hutchinson, principal.



Senior Kayla Miller discusses her dual-credit options with Jairo Flores, a recruiter from Hagerstown Community College.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN LEE

New Staff Grow Educational Program

Juliana Savoy recently joined Highland View Academy as the new English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish teacher. She earned the equivalent of bachelor's and master's degrees in English language education from River Plate Adventist University in Argentina. She has worked as an ESL teacher at several schools in Argentina, as a Spanish composition teacher for the Adventist Colleges Abroad program at



River Plate, as a literature evangelist in Texas and California, and most recently in customer service at the now defunct Review and Herald Publishing Association. She and her husband, Paulo Acosta, have two daughters, Brianna and Emma.

John Ward joins Highland View Academy's expanding STEM program with many

years of experience teaching in junior and senior academies. He earned an associate of science degree in construction technology and a bachelor's in math with minors in Bible and history from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). Ward then completed a master's in interdisciplinary studies from Virginia Commonwealth University with an emphasis in administration, counseling and English. He has endorsements to teach math, Bible, history, industrial arts, English, biology and music.



Ward is also a gospel magician who has shared the gospel through the use of magic in 15 states and seven countries. He shares his love of outreach with his students by leading mission trips to South and Central America and the Caribbean.

Second Annual STEMfest to Expand Student Education

As part of its STEM program, Highland View Academy will host its second annual STEMfest October 25. Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for advancement and STEM director, notes that, like last year, they will have a wide variety of exhibit booths. This year the event will also include new participants, such as Pennsylvania State University, Johns Hopkins University (Md.), and City University of New York, which will all exhibit cutting-edge multidisciplinary engineering projects and conduct special breakout sessions.

The event will also include a ribbon-cutting ceremony for HVA's new solar field, which will provide all

of the school's electricity needs and save the institution \$30,000 each year for the next 20 years.



Nathanael Byrkit ('16) and teacher Ophelia Barizo, Matthew Rada ('16), Danny Yonkers ('17), Nathan Hurst ('16) and Jared Nelson ('16) exhibit a K'Nex bridge at the 2014 STEMfest.



Highland View Academy's solar panels will supply electricity to the school.

CALENDAR

October

- 17** Senior Dedication
- 24** Spelling Bee
- 25** STEMfest
- 25-26** Academy Days

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

OCTOBER 2015

Peruvian Missionaries Help Conference Reach Hispanics

This summer the Mountain View Conference (MVC) kicked off a mission project that connected Seventh-day Adventists on two continents.

The project was born in early 2015, when the staff and student body of the Peruvian Union University (PUU) in Lima, Peru, challenged students to serve as missionaries around the world. Many members of the student body accepted and committed to serve. School leaders say their motivation was founded on the blessings that came from the missionaries who brought the three angels' messages to their homeland. In turn, they wanted to bless others across the globe through what they deemed the "I Will Go" call.

Meanwhile in the United States, Art Jeronimo, an MVC pastor, shared with PUU faculty the MVC's need for more workers to follow up on the Voice of Prophecy Bible study request cards the conference sent out. Jeronimo also told them about the conference administration's new initiative to expand the work to reach the growing Hispanic demographic in MVC.

Because of the two entities' conversations, Maximina Contreras Castro, PUU president, invited Larry Boggess, MVC president, and Pastor Jeronimo to visit PUU and discuss the possibility of the two organizations partnering so both their mission goals could be realized. During that visit, the leaders made plans for senior Peruvian Union University student missionaries to work in the Mountain View Conference territory. This spring Jeronimo and Boggess returned to PUU to make the final selection of students to spend 12 months helping evangelize Mountain View areas with a large Spanish-speaking population.

Eleven missionaries from the PUU's School of



Mountain View Conference pastors work with 11 student missionaries from Peru Union University.

Theology arrived in July and will return home in July 2016. The 11 men started their mission by visiting Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., for training and orientation.

"This newest initiative is an answer to prayer," says Boggess. "Many in this conference have had a growing burden to see the Hispanic work strengthened."



Larry Boggess instructs the Peruvian missionaries at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.

Three Pastors Ordained in Ministry



James Volpe, Walter Cardenas and Jim Buchanan—pictured with their wives, Priska, Yasmi and Elaine—are recognized in their ministry through ordination during camp meeting at the Valley Vista Adventist Center.

Wife's Prayers Bring Husband to Weirton Church

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," (James 5:16) is a passage many use to encourage both hope and faith. Many members claimed this promise this summer when family and friends gathered to watch Gerald "Jerry" Long make his public decision to live for Christ and be baptized as the newest member of the Weirton (W.Va.) church. With tears of joy, Long's wife, Mary Jo, said she has prayed every day for 38 years that this day would come.

Robert "Doc" Michael, former Weirton pastor, who made a special trip to perform the baptism, says he has known Long for some time and that "a friendship was created between the two from the beginning." Before Pastor Michael's retirement, approximately two years ago, he told Long "when he made the decision to get baptized, to let him know and he would be there for it."

Long took Pastor Michael up on that promise recently. "About a month and a half ago, I got a call from Jerry asking me if I remembered what I told him," said Michael on the day of Long's baptism. "He said he wanted to be baptized and told me the date and here we are. I have watched him grow closer to the Lord, and I'm honored to be here [today]."

The day of Long's baptism, small miracles happened for other Weirton members. Several weeks earlier, after years of not attending a Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ora Hissam and Edna Cooper, sisters to Weirton member Arlene Smith, chose to return "home" following a series of meetings at the church led by Ben Boggess, a retired pastor from Carrollton, Ohio. Smith had been praying for her sisters and invited them to attend the meetings, even though she didn't expect them to accept. Smith was overjoyed to have both sisters



Robert and Yonnie Michael and Mary Jo Long celebrate the baptism of Gerald Long.



Michelle Yanek celebrates her baptism with Edna Cooper, Ora Hissam and Pastor Larry Murphy.

attend, but to also witness their baptisms.

Member Michelle Yanek also chose to be re-baptized at the conclusion of the meetings. She shares, "[Boggess] made it so clear for me to learn new things about [the] church and Bible prophecy. It made me reaffirm my faith."—Angelina Dickson and Linda Jones

Conference Workers Retreat at Valley Vista



Mountain View Conference teachers, pastors, Bible workers and missionaries enjoy several days of practical training and spiritual encouragement with their families at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.

The Presence-Based Worship Experience

God the Father is seeking worshipers. Yet, among those attending today's churches are always some who, in all probability, are not Spirit-filled or wholly committed to biblical truth. Joining with the faithful each week is a mixed multitude of seekers, returning prodigals, reluctant youth and hurting humanity—all with varied needs. While recognizing that these individuals may not be Spirit-filled worshipers, the church should assume, by virtue of their presence in the worship gathering, that they are Spirit-drawn.

As we pray over and plan for the weekly church service, it is important that we have an eye for those God is leading. Let us echo the words of James: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8, ESV). There is a second part of this verse that the worship leader must leave to the work of the Holy Spirit. "Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." The call to worship does not include this challenge to purity; rather the call to worship is an invitation to enter the presence of God. The conviction, surrender and cleansing desperately needed by the sinner can only take place within God's life-changing presence, never as a prerequisite to entrance.

In 1 Chronicles 16:27 we read, "Glory and honor are in His presence; strength and gladness are in His place." Strength is imparted in the presence of Jesus.

Worship leaders must continually invite all assembled into the refreshing presence of Jesus. For nowhere but in the presence of Jesus do we experience brokenness, forgiveness, cleansing, healing, power and a commission. Yes, in the presence of Jesus, wonderful things happen!



Mike Gill
Executive Secretary

Couple Builds Laurelwood Youth, Pathfinder Experience

When John and Janelle Rivera decided to again work with the youth of the Laurelwood church in Deptford, they only planned to revive the Pathfinder club. However, they ended up leading a group of young people of varying ages, from juniors to young adults, many of whom did not grow up in Seventh-day Adventist homes or didn't take their faith seriously.

The Laurelwood Lions Pathfinder Club sometimes functions more like a youth group, combining aspects of Pathfinders and Adventist Youth (AY) mixed with a dose of practical life lessons. Recently the Riveras challenged members to create a \$1,800 monthly budget for living on their own.

During the session, the Riveras helped the young people estimate their expenses. They then reviewed the lists with the group. John jokingly said to a participant, "I guess you're going to eat your Xbox controller because you didn't list down food."

At the end of the exercise, one young adult, with a thoughtfully sober expression, said, "This was a lot harder than I thought it'd be." This type of activity is helping the Riveras build relationships with the group.

"Until our kids learn to walk with Jesus on their own, we represent Him and are Jesus to them," says

Janelle. "Jesus' example makes it very clear that, through simply being someone's friend and mentor, the seed of faith can be planted. We recognize that their willingness to participate and follow our lead lies in loving each as Jesus loves them and empowering them to become leaders."



John Rivera teaches the Pathfinders drill and marching steps last winter.

Pathfinders Put “Faith in Action” at Camporee

The Youth Ministries Department recently hosted its annual Pathfinder camporee at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover. More than 650 people registered for the event. Vandeon Griffin, youth director for the South Central Conference, spoke during the meetings and challenged the Pathfinders to put their “Faith in Action.”

Many Pathfinders responded to Pastor Griffin’s call during the nightly worships and rededicated their lives to Jesus. Rosibel Bonilla, a Pathfinder from the Pine Hill Spanish church in Pine Hill, says, “During the Pathfinder camporee, I learned new ways to get closer to God and that we should always have faith in God. I felt very happy and close to God during [the] camporee.”



Attendees prepare to watch the baptisms of six Pathfinders.



Pastor Vandeon Griffin encourages the Pathfinders to give their lives to Christ.



Members of the Mahanaim Pathfinder Club from the Flemington Spanish church in Flemington prepare to participate in the triathlon.

Organizers planned a full day with physical challenges for Friday, including a triathlon, a knot-tying competition, first aid drills, tent setting, a Roman chariot race and many other challenges. On Friday night, attendees highlighted the group’s diversity by participating in a parade of nations, which featured Pathfinders from more than 30 nations. Saturday was a full day of worship, fellowship and spiritual events. The day ended with six baptisms, followed by games and a movie.

Leaders provided more excitement on Sunday morning when they announced the winners of the Friday competitions during an award ceremony. Pathfinders cheered and jumped as leaders called the winners, reminding many volunteers of Tranquil Valley’s rich heritage.

“I came here to Tranquil Valley Retreat Center when I was young,” says Odette Mejias-Campos, Pathfinder director from the Union Pathfinder City Club. “Now I see my son making his own memories, and it fills me with joy.”

Paulo Macena, conference Youth Ministries director, expressed thankfulness for the number of attendees. “We are thankful for each person who attended this great event. So many made great efforts and sacrifices to be there, and we all left with a sense of community, [being] spiritually recharged and ready to put our ‘Faith in Action.’”—Raquel Guevara

Canton, Worthington Churches Minister Through Health

This summer two churches in Ohio found unique ways to use health to connect with their local communities.

“When was the last time you saw your church parking lot full and your sanctuary with standing room only?” asked Ken Ferguson, retired pastor and outreach coordinator for the Canton church. Members of the Canton church experienced this at their second annual health and wellness event. Co-sponsored by the nearby Aultman Hospital, this year the health fair grew from 11 hospital partners and 75 visitors, to 34 community exhibitors and 200 visitors.

Canton’s unique approach combined traditional wellness checks and seminars, and health-related activities for children. A church member’s dulcimer group provided entertainment, and volunteers treated attendees to a free, ethnically diverse, vegetarian lunch.

One exhibitor stated, “I’ve worked many health fairs in my career, and this is the first health fair I’ve ever participated in that offered a healthy lunch!”

Another exhibitor asked Ferguson about the Sabbath, which led to a one-hour discussion and possible future Bible studies. Others appreciated the



Dan Thorward gives last-minute instructions to the Adventist Health Ministries team before the opening of the expo.

vegetarian lunch and inquired if all the members were vegetarian. Ferguson’s wife, Cindy, says, “They were impressed that, as a faith, we cared about people holistically, stating this is just the kind of church we are looking for.”

Church leaders have planned several other health events for the year and have started planning a health fair for June 2016.

Dan Thorward, Ohio Conference Health Ministries coordinator, directed a partnership between the conference and the Worthington church for the WBNS-10TV Commit to be Fit Expo at the Columbus Convention Center. More than 100 volunteers from across the state and nurses from The Ohio State University in Columbus staffed the event. Harding Heritage Foundation in Worthington also provided a grant to supplement contributions.

During the two-day event, staff and volunteers screened 580 people. They offered cholesterol, blood glucose, blood pressure, pulmonary function, exercise tolerance and BMI testing. Thorward shares, “It is wonderful to see so many working together in service to our community. We have volunteers from all around Ohio. Some, with no direct affiliation with the Adventist Church, came together under the name Adventist Health Ministries. For most of the participants, this was their first contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I hope they take away that we care about them as people, just as Christ does.”



Greg Staniszewski, a Worthington church Health Ministries team member and ER nurse manager, administers a blood glucose test to a community expo visitor.

Constituents Approve Recommendation to Sell MVA

Nearly one year since Ohio Conference leaders learned of the dire financial situation facing their beloved Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, conference constituents voted to ratify the recommendations put forth by the Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees and conference Executive Committee to authorize the sale of assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation. Though emotionally difficult, constituents at a special constituency meeting earlier this year understood the severity of the financial situation and voted 293 in favor of the motion and 17 opposed.

The motion: To permit the “sale of all assets (real and personal properties) of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation (MVAC), as well as consideration of disposition of conference lands and properties adjacent to and around MVAC properties, should such inclusion enhance desirability of said sale to prospective buyer(s).”

Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president, recapped the series of events leading to this point. He also apprised attendees of the final \$1.474 million total debt MVA owed to the conference, and reminded all that this figure would only continue to climb. After addressing concerns raised by delegates about where and how the monies from the sale of academy properties would be used, he repeatedly assured constituents that the funds would go into secondary Seventh-day Adventist education in Ohio once the debt had been reduced.

“Every bit of monies that defrays debt will ultimately mean more dollars for our young people,” said Halvorsen.

Halvorsen commended constituents who helped support MVA in the past with a \$407,000 annual subsidy, which went to help only 38 Ohio Conference students last school year. “Do you realize what \$407,000



Above: Constituents vote to sell the Mount Vernon Academy property. Right: Brian Christenson, a member of the Kettering church, speaks in favor of the motion, reminding people that these funds are members' offerings.



could do for Adventist education in this state?” he asked. He then went on to expound upon the vision he has for Ohio in the coming years.

Halvorsen assured constituents he will continue to update them as decisions are reached, allowing them to remain part of this journey. “I’m really proud of our church family here in Ohio. We’ve been through some hard times, but we’re going through them together,” he said.

For regular updates on the process, visit ohioadventist.org.

New Assistant Treasurer Joins Conference Team



After a lengthy search for a new assistant treasurer, the Ohio Conference hired Roy Simpson. Simpson, son of a pastor, lived in five different countries while growing up in Central America. He opted to study accounting because he “wanted to work for the church, and numbers have always been my strongest area in school,” he shares. Simpson has a bachelor’s in business administration, and expects to complete an MBA in finance in about a year.

While living in Cleveland, Simpson was very active in the Ebenezer Spanish church. He continues to work with the youth in the area and is helping coordinate a Hispanic youth festival. “I hope to give my best [to] the Ohio Conference because I consider serving God and this church a big privilege and responsibility. ... Serving this church has always been my dream, and I’ll put all my heart to give the best of me,” he says.

Simpson replaces Nancy Barnett, who served as associate treasurer for more than four years.

Pennsylvania Pen

OCTOBER 2015

First Mission School Opens in Allentown

As children headed back to school in August, the Pennsylvania Conference opened a new learning center in Allentown. The Simplicity Christian Academy (SCA) welcomed a class of third- through sixth-graders for its first year.

“SCA is more than just a new school,” shares Karin Lebo, principal and teacher. “It’s a new approach to mission and evangelism. Students are all from the community.”

The Simplicity Outreach team of young adult missionaries has worked in the Allentown neighborhood for several years, meeting physical needs and building relationships within the community. Their Kidz Church program, a special service for children, and other activities, has connected them with more than 100 kids. Program leaders thought a Seventh-day Adventist school was the next step in leading the youngsters to Christ.

Simplicity Christian Academy was designed to be a mission school, educating children right in their own neighborhood as a center of influence. It is one of the first mission schools in the North American Division committed to reaching children who aren’t growing up in an Adventist home or family.

“The Lord has used the wonderful team at



Karin Lebo instructs her students.

Simplicity Outreach to create a framework for the first urban mission school in Pennsylvania,” shares Lebo. “This school will have the same quality education found in our traditional Adventist schools, but will [serve local] children who live in academically underserved, urban Allentown. We have described Pennsylvania as a mission field, and Pennsylvania Conference has entered uncharted waters by opening the first urban mission school in Pennsylvania.”

Liberian Church Joins Conference

A small group of members interested in reaching the more than 15,000 Liberians living in the Philadelphia area reached out to Pastor Matthew Kamara, who was completing a doctorate of ministry at Andrews University



Members line up to sign the charter for the Pilgrim church.

(Mich.). Kamara previously served as the treasurer of the Liberian Conference in Africa and planted several churches there and in South Bend, Ind.

Kamara agreed to help and started the journey to opening the Pilgrim church. In 2013 Kamara started commuting to Philadelphia on weekends. In 2014 he moved there and started working more intensely in the area. Now, after only two years, about 60 people attend each Sabbath.

This spring the fledgling group in Collingdale asked to join the conference. Upon further investigation by administration, it was recommended to, and voted by the conference executive committee, that the Pilgrim church join the Pennsylvania Conference.

“Under the leadership of Pastor Kamara and his capable elders and ministry leaders, we hope to see the church grow and prosper and start more African churches in the Philadelphia metro area,” says William Peterson, vice president of mission and administration.

Young Participant Joins Simplicity Outreach Efforts

Ten-year-old Kat Lugo is an active participant in Kidz Church and other activities offered by Simplicity Outreach, an Adventist urban ministry in Allentown. When she learned that one of the young adult Simplicity missionaries was headed out to give a Bible study, she enthusiastically asked if she could go along. She went and enjoyed it so much that she asked to go again. Inspired by what she was learning, she decided to be a missionary too. Taking an Amazing Facts Bible study lesson to school, Lugo approached her teacher and asked, "Teacher, would you like to see what I am learning in church?"

Her teacher took the lesson, paged through it, found a list of additional lessons available and asked Lugo for the one on marriage. Since then Lugo has delivered five Bible study lessons and given a Bible to her



Kat Lugo enjoys sharing with her school teacher what she is learning at Simplicity's Kidz Church.



Simplicity volunteers share Jesus with more than 100 children in their neighborhood.



Kat Lugo participates in the Simplicity Kidz Choir Resurrection Cantata.

public school teacher. She also recently found YouTube videos of some of the songs she learned at Simplicity. After receiving permission from her teacher, she sang the words to "All and All" in front of her class.

Two-dozen children attend Kidz Church each Sabbath afternoon, and more than 100 have been reached through one of the various outreach activities. Simplicity offers exercise classes, conversational English classes, health seminars and classes, along with job placement and résumé creation services. They have connected with more than 700 people and are currently studying the Bible with 32.

Four young adult missionaries and 84 volunteers are co-laboring with Christ at Simplicity to influence people by working in their neighborhoods and meeting their mental, physical and emotional needs. "It is an incarnational work that inspires trust and creates openings for these young people to share the Gospel to people who are responding," says Jeff McAuliffe, Simplicity director.

This fall Simplicity will host "Adventist City Ministries," October 8-10, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Planners invite those interested in or already working in city ministries to attend and learn more about how to reach those living in the cities. There will be a variety of speakers and breakout sessions intentioned to those specific purposes. Special concentration and sessions will be dedicated to prayer, testimonies, brainstorming and planning for taking the gospel of Jesus into the mission fields in our own backyards. Spaces are limited. For more information or to register, visit adventistcityministries.com.

Potomac People

OCTOBER 2015

Church, School Collaboration Increases Enrollment

Several schools in the Potomac Conference have discovered the secret to increasing enrollment—church participation.

“We’re starting to reap the benefits of the collaboration between pastor and principal, church and school,” says Keith Hallam, vice president for education. “We’ve seen a noticeable increase in school enrollment at several of our schools in Potomac where a partnership of ministry is developing. We’ve also seen a growth in baptisms of youth and families.”

When a relationship between the church and school ministries is strong, both entities are stronger because of it, says John Cress, vice president for pastoral ministries, who has witnessed this impact in the Lynchburg, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Takoma Park and New Market communities.

Cress and Hallam say a healthy bond is often displayed by pastors visiting schools each week, faithfully attending school board meetings, visiting parents, participating in worships and planning education Sabbaths, and teachers participating in small groups, teaching Sabbath School classes and being active in other areas where they can model ministry to children and families.

“This partnership of ministry is built on a common vision to develop healthy, disciple-making schools and churches,” says Cress. “It is fostered by relationships



Gerry Lopez, children's pastor for the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., talks to students at one of Sligo Adventist School's weekly chapels.

that are developed on trust and mutual respect.”

In *Education*, Ellen White wrote, “To restore in men and women the image of their Maker ... was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life. ... The work of education and the work of redemption are one” (p. 20, 31).

Schools and churches have a common mission and vision where they can unite, collaborate and work as a team for the salvation and character building of youth, Cress and Hallam say. “It is our prayer that we continue to see growth in these partnerships in the 2015-16 school year,” adds Hallam.

Four Potomac Pastors Ordained



Potomac Conference administration had the privilege of recently affirming four pastors in the gospel ministry through ordination: Jonas Baca, pastor of the Burke, Fairfax, Lorton and Mount Vernon Spanish churches in Virginia; Fismed Omar, pastor of the Gaithersburg, Germantown, Leesburg and Damascus Spanish churches in Maryland and Virginia; Luis Mancebo, pastor of the Aspen, Glenmont and Montgomery Village Spanish churches in Maryland; and Federico Revollo, pastor of the Peninsula, Virginia Beach and Norfolk Spanish churches in Virginia.

Columbia Union Conference and Potomac administration surround Fismed Omar and his wife, Junieth, during his ordination service.

Potomac People

Camp Blue Ridge Increases Meeting Space

To promote growth and increase opportunities for ministry, Camp Blue Ridge staff recently installed a new meeting space, which allows the camp to host two groups during the same weekend.

“Town Hall [building] has been the only structural meeting place for the past few years,” says Jennifer Gabel, associate director of the camp in Montebello, Va. “This has limited us in how many groups we could minister to at one time.”

The new structure is a large tent that can accommodate around 500 people. Radiant heat from the floor, which is generated by hot water from a gasification boiler, will keep the fully enclosed tent warm enough for groups to meet well into the cool fall months.

Gabel and her husband, Jerrod, camp director, prayerfully asked God for the opportunity to host 350 attendees within the six weeks of summer and family



camp this year, a number beyond their usual attendance. They reached their goal with 355 attendees.

“The camp hasn’t seen this number of summer campers in years,” says Jerrod. The Gabels credit the increase not only to making camp improvements, but also to building relationships and to the power of the Holy Spirit moving in the ministry.

SVAE Places Third in National Robotics Competition

Seventh- and eighth-graders from Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School (SVAE) in New Market, Va., have qualified for nationals in the Adventist Robotics League’s National Tournament seven out of

the past eight years, including this year, when they placed third overall.

“We take this very seriously,” says Gordon Miller, seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at SVAE. “It involves real life skills and is preparing students for the future on a lot of levels. They need to learn to work together as a team for five months, think outside the box and solve problems.”

Each year the robotics league develops and sends out a new course to participating schools. Students then begin testing different ideas to find the most efficient design for their robot and best programming solutions. Each year participants engage in a research project that coincides with the theme.

Miller first heard about the robotics program in 2001, but admits he did not investigate further until 2007. “I didn’t know anything about it [at the time], but thought we’d just figure it out through trial and error,” he says.

The school purchased a software packet and Miller and the students began learning together, with the help of retired engineer Bill Dodge, member of the New Market (Va.) church.

Students admit that it’s hard work, but say they enjoy the challenge. “I would love to see this become part of the curriculum in our schools,” says Miller.



The Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School robotics team—including Joseph Lim, Kelvin Feitosa, Sierra Anderson, Gabby Patrick, Kiera Griffin, Katie Seeders, Brendan Genus, Danny Palacios and coach Gordon Miller—visit the Golden Gate Bridge while in San Francisco for a competition.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Largest Freshman Class in 15 Years Enrolls

The largest freshman class in 15 years—54 of them—recently enrolled at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) for the 2015-16 school year. The Class of 2019 is comprised of 32 girls and 22 boys. Eight are children of 10 loyal SVA alumni.

Recruiter Gail Romeo testifies, “Throughout the recruiting season, I was amazed to witness God lead the families of this impressive class. It seems each freshman family has a testimony of God’s leading to share.”

Steve Retz, parent of a freshman, shares, “SVA is my son’s choice for high school. He wants to be here. Our decision to send Tommy is the result of many prayers. As my wife and I prayed, each obstacle to enrolling our son fell away.”

Many of the new families will also benefit from the commitment SVA administration has made to provide scholarships to better enable outstanding students to attend the academy. “A quarter of the freshmen test in the 80th percentile or above on the Iowa Test of Basic Standards and come to us with a grade point average of 3.75 or above, which qualifies them for the Zirkle academic scholarship,” reports Wendy Dean, registrar.

Recipients of the Zirkle scholarship who reside in the dorm receive \$5,000 per year for all four years they attend SVA. Dale Twomley, principal, shares, “Zirkle provides an incredible opportunity to recognize incoming freshmen for academic achievement. ... The depth and breadth of spiritual, social, academic, work and life experiences at SVA is well-suited to students who are



Freshmen ladies meet the seniors at the Student Association Handshake.

seeking to gain more from high school than the typical core class work.”

Twomley adds, “Incoming students must be prepared to go above and beyond to master the curriculum, and to meet the challenges of holding a job and participating in a school culture where spiritual and social growth and development is highly valued and expected.”

Preparations to support this large class in their transition to Seventh-day Adventist boarding school culture have been well considered. Donald Short, principal-in-transition, says, “SVA student leaders are committed to mentoring and nurturing the freshmen students. We seek to solidify our school culture as a direct reflection of the SVA mission, to provide an education worthy of the next generation of Christ’s disciples. ... We want to partner with freshmen and their families, not only to advance the school mission of making disciples for Jesus, but also to reach more young people and families who share SVA values and objectives.”

Before students arrived for registration, residence hall deans encouraged and prepared the resident assistants to intentionally extend friendship to new students and support them in their walk with Jesus. Kelly Menhardt, girls dean, says, “Most importantly, we are studying the Bible and praying for all our new students [while] focused on this year’s theme of ‘Friendship.’ We are committed to helping the young people grow in their relationships with each other and with Jesus.”



Freshmen gentlemen enjoy their first social event at Shenandoah Valley Academy.

www.ta.edu TATO DAY OCTOBER 2015

News you can use from Takoma Academy

School Year Starts With Strong Enrollment

The halls are bursting with students at Takoma Academy (TA) this fall with the freshmen and junior classes at full capacity. The senior class is close behind, with only four student slots left.

“God has bestowed tremendous blessings upon the start of the 2015-16 school year,” says Carla Thrower, TA principal. “We thank the Lord for entrusting these wonderful students in our care. [We are] praying that this will be the best year yet at Takoma Academy!”

David Hooker, who teaches science and math, says the number of physics students has dramatically increased from five last year to 17 this year. “I am thankful for the grant from the Medical Group Foundation, which allowed us to buy the appropriate amount of scientific equipment for the physics class,” Hooker says.

During the first week, staff members had to bring in more chairs and supplies to accommodate the flood of students. Even before the school year started, TA staff and faculty busily prepared for what they say is the best school year in the history of the school.

In August the TA Foundation Committee, which helps raise money for TA, held an organizational



Freshmen Miya Jeon Marshall and Katherine Wycliffe, sophomore Joshua Sebastian and senior Geoffrey Ramsay enjoy making new friends at Takoma Academy.

retreat for members of the TA Foundation Committee and selected guests. Ted Probert, assistant headmaster for advancement at the Westminster School in Connecticut, who helped raise \$352 million for his former school, Phillips Exeter Academy (N.H.), was the keynote speaker. TA faculty and staff also attended a training retreat in August.

3-D Printer Helps Enhance STEM Program

Takoma Academy’s desire to have a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program that rivals those of the top tier schools in the nation took a huge leap forward with its recent acquisition of a 3-D printer.

Shaun Robinson, science teacher and robotics club



Members of Takoma Academy’s robotics club and Shaun Robinson, science teacher and robotics club advisor, surround the new 3-D printer.

advisor, says, “3-D printing is one of the areas that we are focusing on for the 2015-16 school year. It is a rapidly advancing technology that crosses many disciplines. Students in the best institutions are increasing their design and engineering skills with curriculum built around 3-D printing.”

A 3-D printer is an industrial robot that can print in plastic, metal, nylon and various other material. It can print manufacturing prototypes, end user products, aircraft engine parts and even human organs using a person’s own cells. 3-D printers use a variety of very different types of additive manufacturing technologies, but they all share one thing in common, they create a three-dimensional object.

Takoma Academy obtained the printer through a Versacare grant that the Office of Advancement obtained for the school. TA’s STEM department’s overall goal is to have a state-of-the-art 3-D printing lab with multiple printers and workstations.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

OCTOBER 2015

He Makes All Things New

The human brain, especially the youthful brain, loves novelty. New experiences and perspectives give a sense of movement and vitality. I believe that students should walk in on the first day of school each year and experience something new. It can be as simple as new carpet and paint, an innovative change to the learning environment or the effective adoption of a new technology is even better.

Spring Valley Academy (SVA) leaders are taking a big leap forward this year with “Journey to Excellence,”



Fifth- and six-grade students use their new iPad minis and ball chairs.

offering some exciting new initiatives to enhance the education of each child’s whole person. Here are just a couple of the new things at SVA:

This year each student received an iPad mini, which are much more than just an e-book. They are interactive responder day planners and multi-media project devices. SVA teachers are forging ahead with a more engaging and interactive teaching approach thanks to the new capabilities of this technology.

SVA is piloting the use of exercise balls in place of student chairs in the fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms. Sitting on balls results in constant micro-movements that promote better core strength and brain function.

Research indicates there are optimal benefits for the mind and body when a person elevates his/her heart rate to 85 percent of their maximum rate for at least 20 minutes. This can only be measured by monitoring the heart rate. Accordingly, SVA purchased heart rate monitors to help students hit their target rates and reap maximum benefit from their exercise time in physical education class.

These are just a few of the exciting new things at SVA this year that will take us a few more steps down the road in our “Journey to Excellence.”



Darren Wilkins
Principal

Guest Speaker Helps Students With Reading Skills

Spring Valley Academy Home & School parents recently set out to find ways to help their students become more efficient learners. To help reach this goal, Darren Wilkins, principal, invited Shirani de Alwis-Chand, “Dr. Shirani,” speaker for Above the Bar, an educational consulting company in California, to spend three days at SVA.

Alwis-Chand spent a day presenting to 60 Ohio Conference educators. She also taught students different speed-reading techniques and ways to improve reading comprehension.

“Most impressive was the fact that she demonstrated the techniques and allowed all to see the results of some of the methods,” says Joyce Hahn, co-president of the Home & School Association. “Her language was always positive. In her interaction with the students, there was a genuine desire to teach and for them to learn. She modeled what an exceptional

teacher should look like. All agreed that their time with Dr. Shirani was well worth it.”



“Dr. Shirani” instructs students how to learn techniques for academic success.

CONNECTIONS

New Hires Add to Teaching Staff

Spring Valley Academy administration hired four new teaching faculty this year:

Michelle Coy, the new fourth-grade teacher, believes learning should be an adventure. “That adventure starts with worship,” she says, and begins each day with a new style of worship.

Darren Wilkins, principal, observed Coy’s class at Loma Linda Academy (Calif.) before hiring her in the spring. “I was spellbound,” he says. “Her class was fun, focused and rigorous. Most importantly, her heart for children and for Jesus is palpable.”

Coy graduated from Andrews University (Mich.) with a degree in elementary education. For the last three years, she taught at Loma Linda Academy while her husband, Steven, completed medical school. She is currently working on a master’s in administration and leadership from La Sierra University (Calif.).

A heart for Jesus also defines the new choir teacher, Cristy Doria. She has a passion for helping others learn to praise God through music.

Doria has a master’s degree in music from Andrews University, and is originally from Colombia, where she received an undergraduate degree in music education at Universidad Adventista.

“Music is a universal language,” Doria says when asked why she felt music education was important. She says she believes in the power of music to transform lives, and previously worked with a program in Colombia that created music programs within dangerous areas to give kids something positive on which to focus their energy.

Ernie Stevens, the new guidance counselor, comes to Spring Valley Academy with a breadth of experience. He has degrees in religion, education counseling, and a doctorate in education and counseling psychology from Andrews University.

“Dr. Stevens has boundless, positive energy,” Wilkins says. “He has a wealth of knowledge and a personal magnetism that keep his office buzzing with kids much of the time.”

For Brahiana Chingo, the new sixth- through eighth-grade math teacher, the opportunity to teach at SVA was providential. “God put all the pieces together for us to be here,” she says of she and husband, Alfredo.

Chingo taught in a multi-grade class at the Warren Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Massachusetts for the past six years, but wanted to be able to use her master’s degree in math education and also have time to spend with her two young sons. The position at SVA gave her that opportunity. “It was the perfect thing for our family,” she says.



Ernie Stevens, Cristy Doria, Brahiana Chingo and Michelle Coy join the Spring Valley Academy teaching staff this year.

“God knew before we did why we moved to Ohio.”

Wilkins shares, “She is a teacher who elevates students in their math achievement and in their walk with Jesus. I know she will be a tremendous blessing to our school.”

Kate Baldwin, vice principal, adds, “Spring Valley Academy is pleased to welcome these four new teachers to the team. They join a group of dedicated staff and faculty who value Christian education and the importance of teaching students to know, follow and share Jesus.”—Angela Peach

Calendar

October 6	OAA Testing
October 9–10	Stage Band Tour
October 12	Columbus Day— <i>No School</i>
October 12	Professional Development Day— <i>No School</i>
October 23	End of First Quarter
October 23	Blood Drive and High School Service Day
October 26–30	OGT Testing
October 29	Parent/Teacher Conferences— <i>No School</i>

Praise for Our University Musicians

In a recent conversation I had with James Bingham, chair of our music department, he shared that the combined choir and orchestra had their best ever performances during the recent summer 2015 tour. He based his assessment largely on the outstanding ovation and feedback from audiences on their Australian tour and their performance at the 60th General Conference (GC) Session in San Antonio.

Among the many Washington Adventist University (WAU) alumni and supporters who expressed their pride at hearing WAU musicians during the Sabbath morning GC worship service was Ted Wilson, General Conference president. An alumnus himself, Wilson expressed his appreciation to the choir and orchestra following the service and challenged the performers to continue with their glorious ministry of music, thus demonstrating to the world of Adventist youth what dedicated, young musicians are capable of giving in honor of God and their church. Congratulations to our directors, faculty, students and supporters of WAU music!

I would also like to extend an invitation to you all to hear these exceptional groups later this year. They will be performing their annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m., December 4, at the Sligo church in Takoma, Park, Md.



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

Music Students Perform in Australia, Texas

Fifty-three musicians traveled with the New England Youth Ensemble and the Columbia Collegiate Chorale of Washington Adventist University this past June to Australia and Texas. While in Australia, the group presented 14 concerts during their 14-day stay, including concerts in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and at Avondale College. The group then traveled to San Antonio to perform at the 60th General Conference (GC)

Session. Their busy schedule included rehearsals, performances and even sightseeing.

"Tour is always a blast; memories are made on the bus, during concerts and on our vacation days. But, the reason we go on tour is to bring people together, and by doing that, to bring glory to God," says Vanessa Baioni, a junior and violinist. "Ending our tour [at] GC Session reminded me of that mission in a very visual way. We performed alongside people of all nationalities, in front of a crowd of thousands from literally all over the globe, [with] all our voices and instruments raised in the same song. It was beautiful to see evidence, once again, of how music is truly the universal language that can bring people together—where even words may fail us, music speaks."



PHOTO BY STEVEN DEBULGADO

Members of the New England Youth Ensemble and the Columbia Collegiate Chorale gather at St. John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane, Queensland.

University Hosts First Homecoming Weekend

The alumni relations office has planned the first homecoming weekend November 6-8 at Washington Adventist University. Events include homecoming basketball games against Oakwood University (Ala.) on Saturday night and an athletic reunion brunch.

"This event is in addition to our spring alumni weekend events, and we hope that all alumni can join us," says Ellie Barker, director of alumni relations.

For more information, contact alumni relations at (301) 891-4151.

Students Dedicate Day of Service to Baltimore

Following the unrest in Baltimore in April, Washington Adventist University leaders felt a need to go and serve there, a city that many WAU students call home. Administrators and others on campus started planning how they could help, short- and long-term.

In June Weymouth Spence, president; Angie Crews, director for corporate communication; and Kaneil Williams, Campus Ministries chaplain, met with Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City mayor, to discuss specific ways that WAU can make a difference.

Spence says, “We wanted to find a way to show community support and give back through service.” Williams echoed that sentiment saying, “We saw an opportunity to serve, a way to establish a long-term relationship that would strengthen our neighbors.”

Last month more than 400 WAU student volunteers, along with WAU faculty and staff, headed to Baltimore for a day to participate in at least one dozen service projects. Their efforts included assisting at a food kitchen, planting trees and other greenery where needed and helping at the Chesapeake Center for Youth. They also pulled weeds and disposed of debris at the Duncan Street Miracle Garden, Willie Mae Davis Park, Hamilton EMS Little Sprouts Garden, Filbert Street Garden and Lakeland EMS Orchard and Garden.

In past years, WAU students participated in a fall and spring service day. “What makes this service day



Angie Crews, Baltimore mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Weymouth Spence and Kaneil Williams meet to discuss ways WAU can assist Baltimore.

unique is that we [concentrated] our efforts throughout one entire city. We also used this focused time that we have with Baltimore as a launching pad for developing long-term service partnerships there,” says Williams.

Spence adds, “While a service day such as this one will bring hope and peace to a place like Baltimore through practical service, we also find that these opportunities to serve have a lasting effect on our students, developing a culture of service and helping them grow into moral leaders who will continue to be of service in their local communities and throughout the world.”

PHOTOS BY ROSS PATTERSON

University Earns Presidential Service Award



WAU students volunteer during a community service event.

United States President Barack Obama recently recognized Washington Adventist University for “the extraordinary and exemplary community service contributions of its students, faculty and staff in meeting critical community and national needs.” That recognition has earned the university a place on the President’s 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

“We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition that our programs and activities are making a significant contribution to the community,” says Weymouth Spence, WAU president. “We continuously strive to engage minds and transform lives, and to be acknowledged with a place on the Presidential Community Service Honor Roll is extraordinary.”

With its mission of being a “gateway to service,” the university regularly provides community service opportunities and sponsors several mission trips each year.



Profiles in Caring

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People, Communities and Mission

In the heart of Adventist HealthCare's Mission Statement is a commitment to improve the health of "people and communities." This phrase is one that I've come to regard as critical to our mission and success.

People are what we are all about. The health of individuals – whether they are old or young, male or female, or any of those myriad other ways we use to describe one another – is our core task and our calling.

But I don't think we'd be truly doing our job if the phrase didn't say people AND communities. Because, ultimately, the communities we serve make us who we are. The most obvious kind of community is a shared location. We live here. We work here. We raise our families, live our lives, and cherish the memories created in this specific place. The communities of Montgomery, Prince George's, and Frederick counties in Maryland, and Warren, Morris and Sussex counties in New Jersey, are more than zip codes or places on a map. These places are home. That is perhaps the most basic meaning of community.

But community is not interchangeable with locality. Community can also mean a group of people who value other characteristics that they share. Cultural, ethnic, and religious qualities come into play. As a faith-based organization, the relationships we have with various faith communities are important to us: people of all faiths are welcomed and treated equally in our facilities, and we do everything we can to make sure that cultural customs and religious beliefs are honored and served.

Because we strive to be effective in providing healthcare to everyone within our region, we become vitally interested in the communities differentiated by language or nationality. We are enriched and blessed by the different cultures that are represented in our Adventist HealthCare team. This is vital to our ability to serve the diverse population of our geographical community.

There is (at least) one more kind of community that is vital to our work. Perhaps we can call it the community of "shared significant history." When the home team wins, we share it. When there is a crisis in the world, we share it. When the weather turns deadly or a tragedy unfolds, we share it. When summer rolls around and thousands of tourists descend on our region, we share it. When elections are imminent and the contests dominate the airwaves, we share it. In the best times and the worst, we are proud to be a part of our communities.

We take seriously our calling to improve the health of the people and communities that we are blessed to serve. And our goal is to pursue this calling even better every single day.



Terry Forde

President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare

Adventist HealthCare Takes Part in Seventh-day Adventist World Conference in Texas

Employees from Adventist HealthCare joined with staff from other Adventist health systems across the country in July to take part in the 2015 Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Adventists from across the globe gather every five years to discuss issues important to the church. As part of this gathering, Adventist organizations set up exhibits to show how they are furthering the church's mission and helping the communities they serve.

Adventist HealthCare took part in an exhibit for the 10-day conference along with Adventist Health System of Florida, Adventist Health of California and Kettering Health Network from Ohio. The exhibit highlighted three areas:

- The number of Adventist hospitals and health services, which includes nearly 120,000 employees caring for about 10 million people a year in more than 79 hospitals, urgent-care clinics, home health agencies, long-term care facilities, and hospices.
- The history of how healthcare has grown from its start in Battle Creek, Michigan, serving now a dozen states. In addition to outstanding medical care provided by Adventist hospitals, our healthcare organizations have stayed true to the original mission of focusing on health prevention and wellness.
- A health quiz where conference attendees could learn about how to improve their health on topics such as bone strength, eye health, exercise, diabetes and more.

Booth volunteers were happy to answer any questions attendees had about their health or our hospitals. "It was incredible to network with our sister health systems who share our mission and values," said Martha Bath, manager of Financial Planning with Adventist HealthCare. "But, more importantly, it was great to meet and speak with the visitors from around the world. Although our health systems occupy just a corner of the globe, the reach of our Adventist healthcare is worldwide. It was an amazing opportunity to demonstrate God's care through our ministry of healing."



Cinnamon Pettijohn from Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and Kathy Coleman from Adventist HealthCare's Community Ministry program pose in front of the healthcare booth that Adventist HealthCare supported, along with other Adventist health systems from across the country, in the General Conference exhibit hall.



Martha Bath from Adventist HealthCare helps explain some health survey answers to three youngsters who stopped by the Adventist hospital exhibit during the 2015 Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Adventist HealthCare's Home Health Agency Receives Highest Quality National Rating

Adventist Home Health, a division of Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services, is one of only three agencies in Maryland to receive the highest quality rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The five-star rating places the division in the top 3% of agencies in the U.S.

"With more than 40 years of experience providing care in homes throughout the region, we are honored to be one of the top-performing home health agencies in the U.S.," said Keith Ballenger, vice president of Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services. "This rating recognizes our commitment to providing the highest quality care in the homes of our patients."

This is the first time CMS has released ratings for home care agencies to help consumers more quickly identify differences in quality when selecting a healthcare provider.

"The five-star rating from CMS truly demonstrates the dedication of the Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services team to delivering our mission of improving the health of people and communities into the homes of our patients each day," said Terry Forde, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare.

"These measures help the home care team track the progress of our patients as they recover and move forward," said Lynette Godhard, RN, MGA, director of Clinical Operations, Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services. "These measures are not only a measure of quality, but they are a measure of progress for our patients."

Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services includes a variety of programs and services that assist the patient while they recuperate from an illness,



Occupational Therapist Diane Messer helps patient Bruce Feinberg with his grip strength as they practice kitchen duties in his home as part of Adventist HealthCare's mission to demonstrate God's care by bringing services to where they are needed in the community.

injury or surgical procedure. In addition to providing skilled services, it offers a full range of supportive services to assist with personal care or daily activities.

In 2014, Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services received the Home Care Elite Award from The National Research Corporation for the third year in a row. That award also recognizes the top-performing home health agencies in the United States.

To learn more about the quality care provided by Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services, visit www.AdventistHomeCare.com including rating explanations under About Us/Patient Outcomes.

Adventist HealthCare Cardiac Care Goes Platinum

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center have each received a national award for the high-quality cardiac care they provide to the region.

The 2015 Platinum Performance Achievement Award from the American College of Cardiology's NCDR ACTION Registry-GWTG recognizes the hospitals' commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients. Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center are among only 319 hospitals nationwide to

receive the Platinum honor. The registry engages hospitals in a robust process using data to drive improvements and overall quality of care provided to heart attack patients.

To receive the Platinum award, Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center consistently followed the treatment guidelines in the ACTION Registry-GWTG Premier for eight consecutive quarters and met a performance standard of 90 percent for specific performance measures. To learn more about Adventist HealthCare's award-winning cardiac care, visit www.TrustedHeartCare.com.

Adventist HealthCare participó en la Conferencia Mundial de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en Texas

Los empleados de Adventist HealthCare se reunieron con el personal de otros sistemas Adventistas de salud de todo el país a principios de julio para participar en la Sesión de la Conferencia General de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día de 2015 celebrada en San Antonio, Texas.

Adventistas de todo el mundo se reúnen cada cinco años a fin de tratar temas importantes para la iglesia. Como parte de este encuentro, las organizaciones Adventistas realizan exposiciones para demostrar cómo promueven la misión de la iglesia y ayudan a las comunidades en las que prestan servicios.

Adventist HealthCare participó en una exposición de la conferencia de 10 días junto con Adventist Health System de Florida, Adventist Health de California y Kettering Health Network de Ohio. En la exposición se destacaron tres áreas:



Empleados Adventista HealthCare se unieron con colegas de otros sistemas de salud Adventista en los EE.UU. para responder preguntas de la salud en la Conferencia General de este año en San Antonio.



Marcos Pesquera está ayudando a dos participantes interesados con unas preguntas sobre la salud.

- La cantidad de hospitales y servicios de salud Adventistas, que abarcan a aproximadamente 120,000 empleados que atienden a alrededor de 10 millones de personas por año en más de 79 hospitales, clínicas de atención urgente, agencias de salud domiciliaria, instalaciones de atención prolongada y hospitales de cuidados paliativos.
- La historia de cómo la atención de la salud se ha expandido desde sus comienzos en Battle Creek, Michigan, y ahora presta servicios a una docena de estados. Además de la extraordinaria atención médica que se brinda en los hospitales Adventistas, nuestras organizaciones de atención de la salud han cumplido la misión original de centrarse en la prevención de las enfermedades y el bienestar.
- Un cuestionario sobre salud por el cual los asistentes a la conferencia pudieron aprender cómo mejorar su salud respecto de temas como fuerza ósea, salud ocular, ejercicios, diabetes y más.

Los voluntarios de los stands luego pudieron responder a todas las preguntas que los asistentes planteaban sobre su salud o nuestros hospitales. "Fue increíble relacionarnos con nuestros sistemas de salud hermanos que comparten nuestra misión y nuestros valores", señaló Martha Bath, gerente de Planificación Financiera de Adventist HealthCare. "Aunque, más importante aún, fue grandioso reunirse y hablar con los visitantes de todo el mundo. Pese a que nuestros sistemas de salud ocupan apenas un rincón del planeta, el alcance de nuestros sistemas de salud Adventistas es a nivel mundial. Tuvimos una oportunidad increíble de demostrar la atención de Dios a través de nuestro ministerio de sanación".

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



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by V. Eric & Bonnie Kotter



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2015 | ANNUAL MISSION CONFERENCE

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Church Service • November 14 at 10:30 a.m.
Evening Concert • November 14 at 7:00 p.m.

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November 13



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November 14

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EVENING CONCERT November 14

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Bulletin Board

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NEEDED for Adventist health ministry/free community clinic in Wyomissing, Pa. Full-time position with benefits. Salary based on community wage and experience. Please send résumés to AHollingshead@AWHN.org or Alysha Hollingshead, 1025 Berkshire Blvd, #700, Wyomissing, PA 19610, or call (610) 685-9900, ext. 24, for more information.

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.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks administrative assistant for Public Health/Wins. Responsibilities: provide administrative and office support for the department chair by handling and managing a variety of tasks required in helping the office to function at a high level of efficiency and professionalism; manage a variety of general office activities by performing various duties described in the full position description. Qualifications: BA degree or its equivalent; office and/or classroom equivalent experience; ability to supervise student assistants; exercise responsible financial management knowledge; and efficiently use Microsoft software applications. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist in good and regular standing. For more information and to apply visit: andrews.edu/admres/jobs/876.

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seeks a faculty member for the Department of Music. This individual is responsible for teaching full-time undergraduate and graduate courses in music history, musicology and research in music. A preferred qualified person should have a PhD in Musicology/Music History. Evidence of excellence in teaching and potential for scholarly activity is essential. Commitment to teamwork and collegiality. Excellent interpersonal skills. Ability to work with students and colleagues with a wide range of national, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/838.

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seeks faculty member in psychology department. Qualified person should have earned doctorate in psychology (ABD will be considered) and undergraduate teaching experience. For more information and to apply, visit puc.edu/hr.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

seeks faculty member in nursing department. Qualified person should have earned master's degree in nursing; doctorate in nursing or related field preferred. For more information and to apply, visit puc.edu/hr.

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School of Education and Psychology is seeking applications for a tenure-track, faculty position in psychology to begin September 2016. We are seeking an enthusiastic person who will lead and direct WWU's master's program in counseling psychology. An earned doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology or counselor education is required. Applicants should be license-eligible in the state of Washington. For more information and to apply, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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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.

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (301) 649-5001. Office 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 NOTICES

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

Sunset Calendar

	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30
Baltimore	6:49	6:38	6:28	6:18	6:09
Cincinnati	7:21	7:10	7:00	6:50	6:41
Cleveland	7:09	6:57	6:46	6:35	6:26
Columbus	7:15	7:03	6:53	6:43	6:33
Jersey City	6:39	6:27	6:16	6:06	5:57
Norfolk	6:49	6:38	6:29	6:19	6:11
Parkersburg	7:09	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:29
Philadelphia	6:43	6:32	6:21	6:11	6:02
Pittsburgh	7:02	6:51	6:40	6:30	6:21
Reading	6:46	6:35	6:24	6:14	6:05
Richmond	6:53	6:43	6:33	6:24	6:15
Roanoke	7:03	6:53	6:43	6:34	6:25
Toledo	7:16	7:05	6:53	6:43	6:33
Trenton	6:42	6:30	6:20	6:09	6:00
Wash., D.C.	6:51	6:40	6:30	6:20	6:11

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 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

A FESTIVE HOLIDAY CONCERT, featuring "Brother Heinrich's Christmas" by John Rutter. Presented by the New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University. Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church, 6437 Jefferson Pike, Frederick Md., Saturday, December 12, 4:30 p.m. For further details, call (301) 662-5254 or visit ariseforgod.org.

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