

VISITOR

A photograph of two young girls, likely flower girls, sitting together. They are both wearing white, sleeveless dresses with ruffles and tiaras. The girl on the left is sitting on a pink upholstered chair and holding a white umbrella. The girl on the right is holding a pink umbrella. The background is a soft, pinkish-white color.

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Guiding Girls to God

Women help girls and teens find Spirit-inspired self-esteem

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Guiding Girls to God

Tamaria L. Kulemeke

On any given day, girls are bombarded with images and messages portraying how they should look, walk, talk, act and think. Thankfully, several churches and conferences within the Columbia Union Conference are seeking innovative ways to interact with girls, hoping to ward off the negative self-image and self-esteem issues and other problems plaguing this generation.

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Above: During Pennsylvania Conference's Princess Teas, mothers and grandmothers are invited to participate alongside their daughters. Here, Amy Nims works on decorating her picture frame with daughter, Megan. **About the Cover:** Autumn Stankay photographed Sarah and Megan Fedrick in her studio in Greensburg, Pa.

ON THE WEB

PFA PRINTS COMMEMORATIVE YEARBOOK

As part of Pine Forge Academy's 70th anniversary celebration, students from the Class of 2016 published a limited edition 70th Anniversary commemorative yearbook (pictured) with memories of the year, academy history, remembrances of alumni and more. A special edition with legendary alumni signatures is also available. Visit pineforgeacademy.org for more information.



KETTERING NAMED MOST WIRED HOSPITAL

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has been named one of the nation's Most Wired Hospitals by the American Hospital Association's Health Forum. Read more

about why they received the honor at columbiaunionvisitor.com/wiredhospital.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S WEEKENDS

Want the women (young or old) in your life to have an empowering experience? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/girlconferences for information on upcoming girls and women's events across the Columbia Union Conference.

THROW A PRINCESS TEA PARTY

Tamyra Horst, Pennsylvania Conference Women's Ministries director and founder of the Princess Tea, offers quick tips for planning a princess tea at your church or school. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/princesstea for details.



LEAD THEM TO THE LORD

Saylis Fuentes, a member of the Potomac Conference's Fairfax (Va.) church has introduced more than 800

people to God and made soul-winning her purpose in life. Read more about her inspiring story at columbiaunionvisitor.com/fuentes.

MEMBER IN THE MILITARY

Help us celebrate your beloved member of the military. Send visitor@columbiaunion.net a photo and short summary of Columbia Union members serving so we can honor them in November.

VISITOR

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The *Visitor* is a monthly publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 61,900 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Volume 121 ■ Issue 7

Down Through Generations

There is a “new science” that should cause the Christian world, especially Seventh-day Adventists, to take notice. Epigenetic research has been around for 16 years, and it has revealed that the phrase in the second commandment in Exodus 20:5 that reads, “visiting the iniquities of the fathers unto the children unto the third and fourth generation,” is a fact of science.



Through his research in epigenetics at Ressler’s Laboratory at Emory University in Atlanta, a man named Brian Dias discovered that things we experience, choices we make, what we think and the way we think are mysteriously passed on to our children through DNA.

Dias also discovered that those character traits are passed on to the third and fourth generation. He realized that every choice, every thought

process he and his wife made would affect their unborn children; their life choices would affect their posterity long past their existence.

Reading carefully what he and others have written, one discovers that children’s characters are not only molded by what they see their parents and others doing, but also by what is passed down to them through parental epigenetics.



LIFT OUR THOUGHTS TOWARD HEAVEN

This research also reveals that the spiritual choices we make—such as going to church, being there on time, faithfulness in Sabbath keeping and tithing—are

somehow passed down to our children and beyond. The question for each of us to answer is: What am I passing on to my posterity?

Adventist Church co-founder Ellen White writes, “During the first three years of the life of Samuel ... his mother carefully taught him to distinguish between good and evil. By every familiar object surrounding him, she sought to lead his thoughts up to the Creator” (*Child Guidance*, p. 197). Paul wrote, “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (2 Tim. 1:5).

White says of some children, “They have *inherited* the defective characters of their parents, and the discipline of the home has been no help in the formation of right character” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 192).

But the good news is that we aren’t stuck with our epigenetic inheritance. If we love God enough to trust Him, and trust Him enough to be obedient to Him, we can claim His Bible promises that tell us God is “able to sanctify us wholly” (1 Thess. 5:23-24); that God is “able to present us faultless” (Jude 24) before His throne. Truly, God is great and gracious to us.

Wallace Frost shepherds Potomac Conference’s Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md., and was recently recognized as one of Potomac’s outstanding pastors.



ADVENTISTS DENOUNCE VIOLENCE

Following the recent deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and five Dallas police officers, Seventh-day Adventists from around the Columbia Union Conference gathered to denounce these acts of violence and call for action. More than one thousand Seventh-day Adventists (pictured) gathered in Washington, D.C., to pray, mourn and acknowledge the killings. Pastors in the Allegheny West Conference and Ohio Conference met with local law enforcement and community leaders to talk about preventing the loss of life through “deadly force.” Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., held “Prayer for Peace,” an event where community and church

members gathered and prayed for healing. Chesapeake Conference’s Living Word church in Glen Burnie, Md., offered a service of support for Anne Arundel County Police.

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union, says that he wants our church to promote healing in a time when so many communities are hurting. “I’m encouraged to see so many of our local conference leaders, pastors and members desiring to be part of the solution,” he says.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED

The Columbia Union Conference Office of Education recently recognized two outstanding educators. Carla Thrower (pictured), principal of Potomac Conference’s Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.,



received the administrator of the year award. Thrower holds three master’s degrees in administration and education and has 10 years of administrative experience, and also teaches math and science.

Keith Hallam, Potomac vice president for education, praises Thrower for engaging with every student and family on campus. “Thrower is very purposeful in the strategic planning and follow-through for the school development of student learning,” he says. “Thrower empowers students to work in the mission field, become disciples and plan campus-wide spiritual development.”

Vail Bigelow Mason, first- and second-grade teacher at Chesapeake Conference’s

Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Md., received the educator of the year award. Mason has taught in Adventist schools for more than 36 years and has made a huge impact on the lives of her students, say Chesapeake Conference administrators.

Rod Kerbs II, Mt. Aetna principal, says he applauds Mason on how she engages her classroom in a fun, creative way and connects with the students on an emotional level. “She has made a big influence in the culture of the local Adventist community by her kindness and steadfast efforts in the classroom.”

Read more about Mason in the October Chesapeake Conference newsletter.—*Ricardo Bacchus*

MEMBERS HELP W.VA. FLOOD VICTIMS

Following recent floods in West Virginia, in which 23 people were killed and thousands were left homeless, staff from Mountain View Conference’s Adventist Community Services (ACS) and the Columbia Union Conference coordinated relief efforts. The team organized and funded a warehouse (pictured) in Belle, W.Va., just south of Charleston, and distributed necessary items. Disaster relief teams from across the country, including one from the Chesapeake Conference, also worked at the warehouse. The Columbia Union also sent six chaplains, who provided spiritual and emotional care in the White Sulphur Springs area.

“Between our flood relief efforts and also the Pathway to Health that



Save the Date



Young adults from across the Columbia Union Conference will gather next spring with the purpose of empowering young adult leaders to engage in life-changing ministry. Plan now to attend.

Date: March 31 – April 2, 2017
Location: Hilton in Arlington, Va.
Website: youngadultsummit.org

we supported in Beckley, W.Va., our church has the opportunity to make a significant impact upon the state of West Virginia,” says Frank Bondurant, vice president for ministries development at the Columbia Union Conference and who helped the Mountain View Conference in their disaster relief efforts.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

TARA VINCROSS TO LEAVE REACH

Tara VinCross, director of the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School in Philadelphia, has accepted a call to be senior pastor of the Azure Hills church in Grand Terrace, Calif.



“Tara has made a valuable contribution in engaging young adults to experience the mission,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. “Being the founding director of REACH, she has provided excellent leadership in creating a place where young adults can participate in experiential learning—a valuable method to engage young adults.”

—*V. Michelle Bernard*

MVA ASSETS AUCTIONED

On Wednesday June 22, the Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees and Ohio Conference Executive Committee voted to accept bids for the purchase of Mount Vernon Academy properties from multiple bidders. Auction bids totaled \$1,595,000.

“The money will be used to reduce the debt owed by the former Mount Vernon Academy and



TEACHERS GEAR UP FOR NEW YEAR

This summer Pennsylvania Conference teachers Trudy Koeffler and Franklin Stahl (pictured), and 67 other teachers from across the Columbia Union Conference, gathered at union headquarters in Columbia Md., for a two-day workshop on differentiated instruction, a teaching practice that emphasizes viewing students as individuals and factors in their various learning levels, interests and styles.

to further Adventist Christian education within the Ohio Conference. We are developing a new scholarship plan, ideally making it possible for many

Adventist youth to receive the education they need and want,” says Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president.—*Heidi Shoemaker*

Are you getting all the news?



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Newsline

VALERIE MORIKONE

Mega Clinic Volunteers Provide Health, Help and Hope to 1,700

Carla, Mary and Tashawana spent the night sitting in chairs outside the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center in Beckley, W.Va., drinking coffee, playing cards and reading books while waiting in the dental line. When the doors opened Wednesday, July 13, at 6:20 a.m., they were the first in a line that wrapped around the large circular building that had been temporarily transformed into a mobile health clinic called Your best Pathway To Health (YbPTH).

Despite the early start, volunteers from across the United States, and as far away as Bermuda, Colombia, Mexico and Poland, warmly welcomed and began serving the eager crowds who gathered to take advantage of this free event, the sixth in the last two years, but the first in a



rural setting. Carla said she worked 11 days straight in order to get Wednesday off. Others, like Frank, who learned about the clinic from a flyer and said he's had the same pair of glasses for 15 years, came for the eye clinic. Diana said it had been six years since she visited the dentist. "I cannot afford dental care," she admitted. "I'm not afraid of the drill; I'm afraid of the bill."

It was 2014 when Lela Lewis, MD, MPH, the CEO of Your best Pathway To Health (YbPTH), responded to an appeal for Seventh-day Adventists to make a difference for others using health, "the right arm of the gospel." Since then, she and an army of volunteers have visited five cities—Oakland, San Francisco, San Antonio, Spokane and Los Angeles, to provide dental, medical, optical, and mental health care—free of charge—to people who are not insured, underinsured and willing to wait in line.

The idea to come to rural West Virginia to help the people of Appalachia was born in the Acceptance Sabbath School Class in Collegedale, Tenn., more than a year ago. Larry Boggess, president of the Mountain View Conference (pictured above praying with an attendee), welcomed them with open arms. "I cannot adequately express what it means to the Mountain View Conference to see

so many volunteers come to West Virginia to help us minister to the people of Appalachia with love and compassion," he said. "The people here face many health challenges and economic issues, and it is awesome to think that our Seventh-day Adventist Church family would come together to help us minister to them. It has made such a tangible difference and will go a long way in helping us to broaden our impact here."

One who benefited was Leah, who says two of the youth volunteers participating in ASI's Youth for Jesus summer ministry program, came to her door selling magabooks. She bought several books and received a flyer advertising the Pathway clinic. "I just want some glasses," she said, holding her broken glasses with one badly scratched lens in the palm of her hand.

Diklar Makola, MD, a gastroenterologist from Ohio, and one of the 734 volunteers who came to Beckley, is part of the Kettering Adventist HealthCare network. "I had heard about the San Antonio and Los Angeles events, and since I live less than four hours away, there was no excuse," he said. One of the patients he helped came because of abdominal pain. "We were able to spend time together, not only



talking about his physical distress, but sharing about God.” During the conversation, Makola learned that his patient had traveled from Hawaii to visit his dying brother in Beckley. “I invited him to stay for the evening meal and thought he might like to attend the Sabbath meeting,” he says. “The patient’s ears perked up as he exclaimed, ‘I believe that Saturday is the Sabbath.’ “Before he left, the team working with me gathered with my patient to pray.”

Two brothers, Matthew, 15, and



Joseph Dye, 17, (pictured, above), came from the Wytheville (Va.), church to serve with the communication team. They heard about the previous mega clinics from friends who volunteered in San Antonio and Los Angeles, and were amazed by the extraordinary accomplishments. When they learned a clinic would be held an hour from their home, their immediate thought was, *Why not?*

“I am impacted in that you don’t have to have a medical degree or a PhD to touch people’s lives,” said Matthew. “One word of hope, one touch of faith, can change a life forever.”

During the two-and-a-half-day Pathway clinic in Beckley, 1,722 people received \$6.5 million in free services that included dental procedures, eye exams and medical services such as cardiology, radiology, pediatrics, podiatry, HIV tests and minor surgical procedures, etc. Patients were also offered healthy lifestyle counseling, massages,

haircuts and styles, spiritual literature, a vegan lunch and supper, the opportunity to visit the clothing distribution center and prayer with a chaplain.

Virginia (pictured, right) was in the dental line when a chaplain came by asking if he could pray with her. “My family and I took in a one-and-a-half-week-old baby girl,” she shared. “We are desperate to adopt her but it’s been months since we’ve heard anything [from the lawyer].”

The chaplain prayed and then Virginia took advantage of a free haircut before heading to the dental clinic. One hour later, her phone rang and it was the lawyer saying that in September, the adoption for the now 14-month-old girl would be final. Virginia was ecstatic and so grateful for the prayer that she wanted to thank the chaplain. That chaplain was James Volpe, Mountain View’s pastor for the Central Hills, Fairmont, Grafton district. They later learned that another pastor prayed with Virginia’s husband who was waiting for her outside in their truck.

Donna benefitted from the first two days and was planning to return on the third day. “This is

amazing!” she exclaimed. “I can *feel* the love of God here!”

Naomi Tricomi, a Bible worker for Mountain View Conference who served as the coordinator for the Beckley clinic, began to pray and plan for the event in September 2015. When she walked in the convention center on the first day of the clinic and saw that it was actually happening, she was overwhelmed. “I just sat down and cried,” she says. “Everything was a miracle. God is so good.”

Each evening during the event there were free seminars on heart health, how to manage hypertension and anxiety, etc., and in the weeks afterward, organizers teamed up with Mountain View Conference to host a series of free health education seminars at the Beckley church, followed by evangelistic meetings with Richard Halversen.



Shirley Ruth of the Eastwood church in Westerville, Ohio, and her sister, Sheryl Dunn, who attends the Stuart (Va.) church, chose to volunteer by helping in the clothing distribution department. “Volunteering is helping me to be more compassionate,” Sheryl said.

TARA VINCROSS DEJARÁ REACH

Tara VinCross, directora de la Escuela Urbana de Evangelismo REACH de la Unión de Columbia ubicada en Philadelphia, ha aceptado el llamado a ser la pastora principal de la iglesia Azure Hills en Grand Terrace, California.

“Tara ha hecho una contribución valiosa al involucrar a los adultos jóvenes en experimentar la misión”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia. “Al ser la fundadora y directora de REACH, ella ha demostrado un excelente



liderazgo porque creó un espacio donde los jóvenes adultos pueden experimentar un aprendizaje experiencial—un método valioso para involucrar a los jóvenes adultos”.—V. Michelle Bernard

MIEMBROS OFRECEN SU AYUDA TRAS LAS INUNDACIONES EN WEST VIRGINIA

Tras las recientes inundaciones en West Virginia, en donde 23 personas perdieron la vida y miles quedaron despojados de sus casas, el personal de los Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas de la Asociación Mountain View y de la Unión de Columbia coordinaron los esfuerzos de asistencia. El equipo organizó y financió una bodega en Belle, West Virginia, al sur de Charleston, donde las víctimas recibieron los artículos necesarios. Los equipos de respuestas a desastres llegaron de otras partes del país para trabajar en la bodega. La Unión de Columbia también envió a seis capellanes quienes



brindaron apoyo espiritual y emocional a los residentes en el área de White Sulfur Springs.

“Entre los esfuerzos de asistencia como también el Camino a la Salud (Pathway to Health, en inglés) que patrocinamos en Beckley, West Virginia, nuestra iglesia tuvo la oportunidad de hacer un impacto significativo sobre el estado de West Virginia”, dice Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente para el desarrollo de ministerios de la Unión de Columbia y que también está ayudando a la Asociación Mountain View en los esfuerzos de respuestas a desastres.—V. Michelle Bernard

LOS ADVENTISTAS CONDENAN LA VIOLENCIA

Tras las muertes recientes de Alton Sterling, Philando Castile y cinco agentes de policía en Dallas, más de mil Adventistas del Séptimo Día de alrededor de la Unión de Columbia se reunieron en Washington, DC, para repudiar estos actos de violencia y hacer un llamado a la acción. Oraron, lloraron y honraron las muertes. Algunos pastores de la Asociación



Allegheny West (Pastor Román López Domínguez en la foto) y de la Asociación de Ohio se reunieron con agentes policiales de la localidad y con líderes de la comunidad para entablar un diálogo sobre la prevención de vidas por “fuerza mortal.” Una de las iglesias de la Asociación Chesapeake, Living Word, en Glen Burnie, Maryland, también realizó un servicio para expresar su apoyo a los agentes policiales del condado de Anne Arundel.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, quiere que nuestra iglesia sea parte de la solución para la curación en un momento donde hay tantas comunidades sufriendo. “Me da ánimo ver a tantos líderes, pastores y miembros de nuestras asociaciones deseando ser parte de la solución”.—V. Michelle Bernard

3,300 PERSONAS ASISTEN AL CAMPESTRE HISPANO DE POTOMAC



Más de 3,300 personas asistieron al Campestre Hispano anual de la Asociación Potomac bajo el lema “Vida en abundancia” este verano en la capilla Hylton Memorial Chapel en Woodbridge, Virginia.

Entre los oradores invitados estuvo el Pastor Elmer Alférez, presidente de la Asociación Central Salvadoreña y el Pastor Carlos Gill, presidente de la Unión Argentina.

Cientos de voluntarios oraron con las personas en las comunidades vecinas y distribuyeron ejemplares del *Camino a Cristo*. Al concluir el evento, siete personas

decidieron ser bautizadas. Los líderes de la asociación también presentaron dos nuevos grupos misioneros—uno en Chesapeake, Virginia, con 14 miembros y dirigido por el Pastor Federico Revollo y el otro en Seneca, Maryland, con 35 miembros y dirigido por el Pastor Fismed Omar.

“El sábado fue poderoso”, comparte José Esposito, director de ministerios hispanos. “El Espíritu Santo se manifestó y cientos de personas aceptaron a Jesús en sus corazones”.—*Tiffany Doss*

VOLUNTARIOS DE UNA MEGA CLÍNICA BRINDAN SALUD, AYUDA Y ESPERANZA A 1,700 PERSONAS

Voluntarios de diferentes partes de los Estados Unidos, y de tan lejos como las islas Bermudas, Colombia, Méjico y Polonia recibieron y sirvieron a una multitud de personas ansiosas que acudieron a la clínica móvil de salud llamada Your Best Pathway to Health (Su Mejor Camino a la Salud, en español) en el Centro de Convenciones del Condado Beckley-Raleigh en Beckley, West Virginia. Fue la sexta en los últimos dos años, pero la primera en una zona rural.

Durante dos días y medio, 1,722 personas recibieron 6.5 millones

de dólares en servicios gratuitos que incluyeron procedimientos dentales, exámenes oculares y servicios médicos cardiológicos, radiológicos, pediátricos, pediátricos, exámenes de VIH y procedimientos quirúrgicos menores. También se le ofreció a los pacientes consejería sobre cómo adoptar un estilo de vida saludable, masajes, cortes de pelo y peinado, literatura espiritual, comida vegana y la oportunidad de visitar el centro de distribución de ropa y orar con un capellán.

—*Valerie Morikone*

LA ACADEMIA MOUNT VERNON SUBASTA SUS BIENES INMUEBLES

El miércoles, 22 de junio, el Consejo Administrativo de la Academia Mount Vernon, y el Comité Ejecutivo de la Asociación de Ohio votó aceptar las ofertas para la compra de las propiedades de la Academia Mount Vernon realizadas por múltiples postores. El total de las ofertas recibidas fue \$1.595.000.

“Se utilizará el dinero para reducir la deuda de la ex Academia Mount Vernon y para promover la educación adventista cristiana en [el territorio] de la Asociación de Ohio. Estamos desarrollando un nuevo plan de becas que hará posible que muchos jóvenes adventistas reciban la educación

que desean y necesitan”, dice Ron Halvorsen Jr., presidente de la Asociación de Ohio.

—*Heidi Shoemaker*

Fechas para tener en cuenta

Tenga en cuenta las fechas de estos próximos eventos.

Campestre Hispano de la Asociación de Ohio

Fecha: 9–11 de septiembre

Tema: Pentecostés, Tiempo de Cosecha

Lugar: Camp Mohaven, 18744 Turkey Ridge Road Danville, Ohio 43014

Sitio Web: ohioadventist.org

El Pastor Julio Chazarretta, evangelista de *El Centinela*, compartirá poderosos mensajes para tu vida. También estará con nosotros el cantante internacional Felipe Garibo. ¡Habrá un concierto especial totalmente gratis! Venga a escuchar la música del saxofonista Roberto Brown y el pianista Josías De Trinidad.

Cumbre de Jóvenes Adultos de la Unión de Columbia

Fecha: 31 de marzo a 2 de abril de 2017

Lugar: Hilton en Arlington, Virginia

Sitio Web: youngadultsummit.org

Los jóvenes adultos de la Unión de Columbia se reunirán el año que viene con el propósito de recibir fortalecimiento y recursos para realizar ministerios que transforman vidas.





On any given day, girls are bombarded with images and messages portraying how they should look, walk, talk, act and think. Dove's 2008 report titled *Real Girls, Real Pressure: A National Report on the State of Self-Esteem*, uncovers the self-esteem crisis among America's girls. According to the report, this crisis "pervades every aspect of a girl's life, including her looks, performance in school and relationships with family and friends." One statistic highlights that 78 percent of girls with low self-esteem have a difficult time feeling good at school because they already think so poorly of themselves.

Several churches and conferences within the Columbia Union Conference are seeking innovative ways to interact with girls in and outside their walls, hoping to ward off the negative self-image and self-esteem issues and other problems plaguing girls in this present generation.

God's Princesses

Move over Cinderella, Snow White and the rest of the fanciful bunch! Anecdotes and questions about biblical princesses grace the pages of colorful devotional booklets designed for girls ages 12 and younger handed out at the Pennsylvania Conference's Princess Tea events. Several teas are held annually in the conference as girls receive the royal treatment: eating

dainty treats, making crafts with their mothers, grandmothers, and even fathers who choose to attend with their little girls, all while learning about great women in the Bible such as Esther and Ruth who are regarded as God's princesses whether or not they wore a crown. The girls are taught that they, too, are princesses of the Most High God.

For Tamyra Horst, Pennsylvania Conference Women's Ministries director and founder of the Princess Tea, this mission of empowering little girls started with taking a hard look at the state of adult women and reaching back. These programs have helped hundreds of girls build confidence in the God who created them to thrive and flourish, she says.

"I really believe what little girls and teens need most are godly women who walk beside them, care about them, show an interest, point them to God and help them grow in Him," says Horst, a wife and mother of two sons, whose own insecurities led her on a personal journey with God that sparked this platform.



GUIDING GIRLS TO GOD



Several Seventh-day Adventists help girls and teens find Spirit-inspired self-esteem through special programs and ministries.

By Tamaría L. Kulemeká

Horst started organizing teen conferences 15 years ago, tackling relevant teen topics that pointed them to God. Since that time, Horst has written numerous resources for teen ministries, including *Real Love, Real Beauty, Real Friends* and *Real Me*.

“As I began to work with the teen girls, I saw how the enemy attempts to take out a girl’s heart,” Horst says. “I realized that we needed to go younger, lay a foundation in teaching them who they are in God, how He sees them—and just maybe that foundation would help as they grew into teens, then women.”

REACH Phenomenal Girls

When Audreyanna Loguerre first read Maya Angelou’s poem “Phenomenal Woman” in middle school, it became her mantra. When the 22-year-old University of Florida graduate embarked on ways to help teen girls living in Philadelphia, she knew only one name would suit the outreach program. The REACH Phenomenal Girls program served several girls in grades 8 to 10 living in and around the Pennsylvania Conference’s REACH Philadelphia church in Philadelphia.

“We wanted them to see their worth in the world and help them know they are enough,” Loguerre says. “Having a sense of self-worth translates into your academics, your career and your faith—all aspects of your life.”

The girls met every Sunday for five weeks at the church. Influential women from the church and area churches presented enrichment classes on academic confidence, sexual health, body consciousness and so on; the girls even got some training in boxing and other self-defense skills so they can better protect themselves.



Philadelphia Princesses: Friends Amber, Cyneilla, and Antonella enjoy attending the princess tea together.



The program was part of the compassion project sponsored through the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School, where Loguerre and other students spent one year learning how to do outreach and evangelism.

Loguerre, who is now in Washington, D.C., working for a public relations agency, hopes others will continue what she and her REACH team started

in Philadelphia—and that the successful program will ignite a passion in others to follow suit in their own communities.

Spreading Their WINGS

Vernee Stoddart began WINGS (Worth, Inspire, Nurture, Grooming and Success) Belleza about 10 years ago after witnessing the state of girls in her own con-

gregation where her husband, Errol T. Stoddart, was pastoring. She said teen pregnancy rates were climbing at that time, and one pilot program was readily distributing birth control. After talking to several girls, Stoddart realized she needed to provide programming that would set them on the right track.

Stoddart started holding workshops and says, “We incorporated topics of social media, sex, dating, violence, and whatever God places in me to help these girls.”

Stoddart began working with 9- to 18-year-old girls in the church and from the community, and has continued to do this wherever she and her husband pastor. They are currently at the Allegheny East Conference’s Church of the Oranges in New Jersey.

WINGS Belleza sponsors several girl-focused programs throughout the year, including an eight-week prep school helping girls build self-esteem and communication skills. Stoddart prides herself on equipping the girls in the program with information that will make them better informed and help them make better choices.

Another program Stoddart offers is titled Girls in Real Life Situations, or G.I.R.L.S., a 5-week program that deals with real life situations such as

SOURCE: “5 STEPS TO BOOSTING YOUR DAUGHTER’S SELF-ESTEEM”/SHEKNOWS.COM

How to Build a Girl’s Self-Esteem From a Practical Perspective



- ✔ **Have confidence in yourself:** Mothers are the first line of defense against unrealistic images and suggestive advertising.
- ✔ **Choose your words:** Negative comments about a person’s appearance could invite young girls to create an unhealthy sense of beauty.
- ✔ **Be a fanatic:** You are her biggest cheerleader; recognize her beauty and help her discover her gifts and talents.
- ✔ **Empower:** Encourage her individual interests and recognize when she excels.
- ✔ **Interject realism:** It’s important girls know the world is presenting a one-sided story. Talk to her about the images she sees and help her understand what is real.



suicide, drugs, alcohol, and other times in which girls have to make choices. And My Body, My Treasure is an 8-week early intervention fitness and nutrition program patterned after NEWSTART.

“I made mistakes as a young girl,” she says. “I was almost trafficked and raped being with the wrong crowds. That’s part of the motivation God has placed in my heart.”

As the youngest of five and the only girl in her family, Stoddart was a tomboy much of her youth—at least until her mom sent her to charm school and enrolled her in ballet. “Who would have thought years later God would be using what He gave me then with these girls,” Stoddart says. “God has a wonderful sense of humor.”

The Church’s Niche

The church has a niche to fill that secular groups cannot, Loguerre says. “We have a powerful message of being a child of God and being loved, and it’s something we should be able to share practically.”

Unlike secular programs geared toward empowering girls, the church is trying to build God-confidence, not self-confidence, Horst says. “Instead of trying to help them feel good about themselves, which focuses on self, we attempt to help them focus on God. His love for them. That He created them with specific gifts and talents that are needed,” Horst adds. “Then on the days they feel bad about themselves, they can still have confidence because they know God is bigger.”

Stoddart says that the programming the church provides is not always enough because there are so many evils to contend with in the world. She comes across girls who still struggle to make good choices. But running into those girls whose lives have dramatically improved has helped her stay the course.

“You have to plant that seed,” Stoddart says. “We have seen success—academics getting better, choosing positive friends, and looking to where they want to be when they get older.”

Horst adds, “I believe the media and our culture speak loudly and constantly to our girls, and the church

Blindfolded teens lead each other through an obstacle course. • Tenth grader Jaimirah Dunbar, takes self-defense lessons from local boxing trainer Sean Morgan. • Eighth grader Daeja Newman gets her hair styled for the REACH Phenomenal Girls celebration banquet. • WINGS Belleza’s Stop the Traffick Fashion Show brings awareness to sex trafficking.

remains mostly silent or critical. Sometimes we think we need to do big programs to impact lives. But all we really need to do is care and show it.”

**For more stories of church programs for girls, resources and tips, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/empoweringwomen.*

Tamaria L. Kulemeka writes from Columbus, Ohio.



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Columbia Community Center Celebrates 20 Years

The Columbia Community Center (CCC) recently commemorated 20 years of ministry in Columbia, Md., with a celebration weekend.

Friday evening included a praise and worship service with a homily from former CCC pastor, Patrick Graham. Sabbath included a special message from another former CCC pastor, DuWayne Privette and a concert by Selah and recording artist Duawne Starling. The celebration culminated Sunday with a community fair.

During the weekend, CCC also launched The William C. Scales, Sr, Visionary Leadership and Service Award. Church leaders will award this honor annually to a Columbia community resident who exemplifies effective leadership firmly rooted in love, compassion and effectual service that lifts, builds and strengthens diverse communities.

CCC was birthed in April 1996, by a small group led by Pastor William C. Scales, Sr., his wife, Myra, and Ralph and Joy Peterson. The group had a bold vision to start a new congregation. Scales, a pastor and evangelist, shepherded the group, leading to an initial membership of 38 individuals. Today, CCC continues to be a vibrant congregation with more than 92 members.



Visitors attend the Columbia Community Center's 20th anniversary community fair.

"Our mandate," says Gary L. Wimbish, current pastor, "is to provide a spiritual base, build coalitions and partnerships, meet needs to create and maintain optimum quality of life, and design and execute programs that will impact, change and save lives for God's kingdom."

Group Hosts Women's Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

Motivated by a desire to reach each woman in her church, Johnnie Jones Tucker, the Women's Ministries leader at the Berean church in Newark, N.J.,



Attendees of Berean church's women's prayer breakfast participate in an icebreaker activity reflecting God's strength.

started the Woman to Woman (W2W) program that includes quarterly prayer breakfasts.

The most recent session, themed "Who Are My Brethren?" began with an icebreaker. Each woman shared one word about the ball they were holding and then tossed it to the another woman in the circle, all while maintaining her hold on the string attached to the ball. "What a sight it was to see that string stretched, yet unbroken, as it was held in each woman's hand, representing the strength of God to save," says Tucker.

Participants then enjoyed a vegan breakfast and two 30-minute prayer sessions where the ladies divided into small groups to discuss two attributes of God—holiness and wisdom.

Each woman shared a prayer request that her small group immediately prayed over. After the prayer sessions, the small groups reassembled into a large circle for sharing, testimonies and closing remarks.

"[The prayer breakfast] helped to rekindle my relationship and spiritual connection with God," says guest LaToya McCoy.

NEWS

Macedonia Church Welcomes New Pastor

The Macedonia church in Chester, Pa., recently welcomed new pastor Ronald Williams and his wife, Janene. Williams comes to the Allegheny East Conference from the Central States Conference where he served as the director of Men’s Ministries and a local church pastor. Williams has a strong commitment to community ministry and engagement, and earned a doctorate in Urban Ministry from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).

“We are excited to be part of the Macedonia church family,” says Williams.



William Hall, Delaware Valley Area Ministerium leader, welcomes the Williams to the Macedonia church.

Camp Meeting Takes a Different Spin

Instead of attending afternoon seminars at the 2016 Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Camp Meeting, campers participated in local service opportunities.

Service activities included: sponsoring a community kids’ health fair, volunteering at a community garden, distributing flowers in a nursing home, writing letters to



AEC sponsored a senior prom at a local nursing home during camp meeting, presenting each attendee with a corsage or boutonniere.

prisoners and distributing balloons with words of encouragement. AEC even sponsored a “senior prom,” with boutonnieres and corsages at another nursing home.

The outreach activities modeled activities participants can do in their own communities when they return home, says J. Fordham, III., AEC president.

Over the course of the 10-day encampment, camp meeting attendees and staff interacted with nearly 700 people. More than 100 camp meeting attendees volunteered, including participants from the teen tent.

“Our goal was to go into our communities to tell them about the love of Jesus,” Fordham says.

Pine Forge Academy Celebrates 70 Years

To celebrate 70 years in Seventh-day Adventist Education this year, Pine Forge Academy (PFA) Alumni leaders planned several commemorative events for their alumni festivities held graduation weekend, including a Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony, a reunion choir concert and launched the “Reignite70” fundraising campaign raising money to remodel the school’s two dormitories.

PFA’s 2016 graduation also marked another notable 70th milestone. PFA’s first graduate, Mauguerite



Mauguerite Dixon congratulates her granddaughter, Taylor Roper, who graduated from Pine Forge Academy 70 years after her.

(Anderson) Dixon ('46), witnessed the graduation of her granddaughter, Taylor Roper ('16). Both served as valedictorian of their respective classes.

“Pine Forge has always held a special place in my grandmother’s heart, so to be able to experience and matriculate through a place that holds so much meaning to my grandmother was an honor and privilege,” says Roper.

For additional information on other anniversary events, visit pineforgeacademyalumni.com.

Never Underestimate the Influence of a Godly Grandmother

Derrick Thomas, pastor of the Westside church in Cleveland, met Annie Horton while knocking on doors and inviting people to church. Horton welcomed him into her house because “I recognized Pastor Thomas to be a man of God,” she says.

After her encounter with Thomas, Horton, began taking Bible studies with him and realized there were many things she had not learned despite attending her former church regularly for years. After attending Cleveland Westside for a while and two evangelistic series, Horton felt the need to be re-baptized. In March Thomas baptized Horton and her grandson, Kenneth Aldridge, who was also studying with Thomas.

Since her baptism, Annie Horton has been a missionary to her seven children and more than 30 grandchildren, and more of her grandchildren have started attending Westside.

“There are many godly grandmothers at the Westside church who have let their light radiantly shine in their homes and communities,” says Thomas. “How far the influence of a godly grandmother will go will only be known when Christ comes. Remember how Lois influenced her grandson Timothy in the Book of Acts? Annie Horton is a shining example in modern times of such a grandmother.”—*Toni Doswell*



Derrick Thomas embraces Annie Horton before her baptism.

Conference Appoints New Young Adult Ministry Director

In January Allegheny West Conference (AWC) leaders appointed Charde’Je’Rie Hurst Young Adult Ministries director. The AWC native matriculated through Camp Adena, Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland, Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., and Oakwood University (Ala.). After graduating from

Oakwood with a bachelor’s degree in social work and Spanish, she returned to Cleveland to pursue a master’s in social work and noticed a need for fellowship and spiritual growth within the young adult community. In 2013 she initiated what is now the AWC annual Young Adult Retreat.

This year Hurst organized several young adult meetings throughout the territory. She traveled with William Cox, AWC president, and Pastor Jack McCrary, Stewardship director, to Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Lynchburg, Va., to meet young adults. In each city, young adults gathered at area churches to learn about the role young adults can play in fulfilling the vision of conference leaders. They also shared ideas about what they would like to see take place within the conference and the young adult ministry.

Young adults who attended the meetings received a 50 percent discount toward this year’s young adult retreat September 30-October 1 at Camp Adena in Thornville, Ohio. For more information and to register for the young adult retreat, visit awcyoungadultretreat.eventbrite.com.



Charde’ Je’Rie Hurst talks to young adults at the Smyrna church.

Members Celebrate Baptisms at Camp Meeting

Allegheny West Conference Camp Meeting attendees witnessed five baptisms and heard testimonies of God’s miracles in their territory over the last year.



Miranda Jackson, a new member of the Westside church, prepares for her baptism during camp meeting.

Attendees at the event held at Camp Adena in Thornville, Ohio, heard the story of Dorothy Park, a new member of the Westside church in Cleveland.

“One day the Lord led her to the doors of our church,” Pastor Derrick Thomas says. “No one sent her an invitation, email, text message, or sent her a home Bible study. She started taking Bible studies and then was baptized.” Park’s daughter is also planning to be baptized.

Teijah Scott, a new member of the New Hope church in Canton, Ohio, also shared her testimony. When she was ward of the Canton Court System, Scott joined the New Hope church’s praise dance ministry and later gave her heart fully to God and became a part of the New Hope family.

“The AWC camp meeting experience was unforgettable because of what was witnessed. As we strive to take “Ministry Beyond The Walls,” we continue to see God do great things within our territory,” says William T. Cox, president.

Columbus Central Church Hosts “Taco Revival”

Columbus Central church leaders and Sergio Romero, director of Multicultural Ministries for AWC, recently coordinated an event with the owners of a local Mexican food truck. Their goal was simple—to feed people and share the message of Jesus in English and Spanish.



Guests enjoy Columbus Central church’s first “taco revival.”

On the night of the taco revival, church members filled a Columbus shopping center parking lot with tables and chairs set up to share food and the message of God’s love. To ensure that all visitors could communicate with someone, a Spanish and an English speaking church member, or a bi-lingual member, sat at each table. All guests received a flyer and handout requesting their contact information and asking, “Would you like to learn more about the Bible?”

Guests from all walks of life attended and ate freshly made tacos. One attendee commented, “This was a wonderful experience for me and my family. When I got the flyer for this event, I couldn’t believe people would do something like this in this part of the city, so I had to come and see for myself. I’m glad I did.”

John Boston, senior pastor of the Columbus-based church, and Román Lopez, Central’s pastor for Hispanic Ministries, delivered messages about God’s love and His promise to return soon. When the night was over, many people made a decision to receive Bible studies and one of the guests indicated he would like to be baptized.

Toward the end of the meeting, Lopez said, “If people do not come to the church, then we must take the church to the people.”

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

The Time is Right!

These are unsettling times. Racial tensions are boiling over in cities across the country. Mass murders are frequently taking place. Two United States presidential candidates face historically low approval ratings. Immigration policies and practices are creating division at home and abroad. West Virginia residents recently experienced a once-in-a-thousand-year flood, while those in the western United States battle drought and fires. World economies fluctuate wildly as the European Union fractures.

Our personal lives reveal chronic and terminal illnesses, broken relationships, divorce, death of loved ones, unemployment and financial crises.

It is not surprising that people are looking for answers—trying to make sense of a world that defies logic. There is a hunger for inner peace, for hope that is secure, for reasons to be optimistic in the midst of all of the chaos.

Individually we must speak and act with integrity, justice and compassion. As Christians, we are duty-bound to be the voice and hands of Jesus, ministering to the hurts and ills of this world.

Ultimately, the only answer is in Jesus. He is the only one who can solve the problems of sin in the world and in human hearts.

This fall more than 60 churches throughout the Chesapeake Conference will host events inviting their communities to discover the soul-satisfying answers that come from a relationship with Jesus as described in the prophecies of the Bible.

I invite you to *intercede in prayer* for these events that the Holy Spirit will be poured out and lives will be touched for eternity. *Plan to attend* these meetings so that you can be spiritually fed and refocused on the precious promises from God's Word. And, *invite others* to join you.

Jesus tells us the harvest is great. We can trust Him.



Rick Remmers
President

Couples Visit Dominican Republic for Retreat

Twelve couples participated in Chesapeake Conference's fourth Hispanic Ministry Couples Retreat held recently in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Chesapeake Conference staff facilitated the program. Eli Rojas, ministerial and Family Ministries director, was the keynote speaker. Ramón Croussett, pastor of the Baltimore Hispanic church, and Francisco Julca, pastor of the Eastern Shore Hispanic district, hosted workshops and a communion service. Orlando Rosales, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, led a renewal of wedding vows.

The retreat was an opportunity for couples to renew their marriage commitments and minister to fellow Adventists in the Dominican Republic. On Sabbath the group visited a small church in Boca De Yuma, where they worshipped and donated funds to replace the roof and renovate the building.

Many of the couples who attended shared their appreciation for the trip. "The experience at the retreat was amazing," says Yolanda Flores, a member of the



Couples reaffirm their commitment during a marriage retreat.

Baltimore Spanish church and Chesapeake Conference executive committee.

A trip to Roatán, Honduras, is planned for 2018.
—Orlando Rosales

Camp Meetings Draw Mission-Focused Believers

Praise, picnics, prayer and playtime are just a few of the highlights of The Gathering, the annual Chesapeake Conference camp meeting, and Campestre Hispano (Hispanic Camp Meeting). These summertime events took place on the campuses of Highland View Academy and Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., where Seventh-day Adventists and guests gathered to worship together.



More than 100 young adults worship at The Gathering.



Campestre Hispanos attendees listen to a Sabbath sermon.

General evening meetings and Sabbath services were streamed live online so those who could not attend camp meeting in person could watch from home.

“This year expanded programming drew more than 100 young adults to The Gathering,” says Carl Rodriguez, Young Adult Ministries director.

View photos from both camp meetings on Facebook, and sermons online at ccosda.org.



2016 Chesapeake Conference
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Speakers and Musical Guest



Diane Sedgwick
Featured Speaker (English)
 Diane Sedgwick, RN, MHA, is a retired pastor's wife and former hospital director.



Evelyn Omaña
Featured Speaker (Español)
 Former director Inter-American Division Children's Ministry, Antilles Venezuelan Union Women's Ministry.

Musical Guest

Laura Morena is a popular international recording artist, passionate to share her love for Christ through music. A native of Brazil, she has been singing since age six.



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To register visit www.ccosda.org/wmregister or call **(410) 995-1910**

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

SEPTEMBER 2016

I'm on the Ride of My Life

I grew up in a Christian family, attended church regularly and visited churches from multiple denominations. All through life there were times when I felt like being baptized but never followed through. Then I met my friend, Ruth Upton.

When I invited Upton to go to a nearby church I didn't know what I was getting myself into. It didn't take her very long to start pointing out the differences between her church and this particular one we visited. Then she invited me to visit her church on a Saturday. I had never even thought about going to church on Saturday because I had many activities on that day and I didn't know much about the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

After going once, I liked the Seventh-day Adventist pastor at Upton's church. I liked that he wasn't afraid to share his testimony openly, including the fact that he had served time. But after just a few months of attending, the pastor told me he was moving south. I thought, "Okay, here is my excuse to go to a Sunday church, but first let me hear the new pastor before I jump ship."

And then I met Bill Hunt, the new pastor. After seeing his hair, beard and motorcycle, I immediately knew



The 3 Angels Messengers rode their bikes many miles to attend Richard Smith's baptism.

we were kindred spirits. I found I could relate to this guy who came from Texas via California. The icing on the cake was that Hunt and I both love motorcycles.

After becoming friends and riding many, many miles together, he won my confidence. As he talked to me about baptism, it was as if a voice whispered, "Now is the time—you've waited and waited and now what are you waiting for? Is the time right?" "Yes!" I responded.

It was a wonderful Sabbath when Pastor Hunt later baptized me and re-baptized Upton at the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va. The 3 Angels Messengers, an organization started by Pastor Hunt, even rode in from Texas and California to show their support.

It has been a fun ride thus far and the best is yet to come. I'm so happy I actually have a hard time believing the peace I now have is even possible. My kids have told me, "Dad, you've changed. Your temper is gone, and you are really patient now." I tell them, "God did this."

I absolutely love my church family. I never thought that at nearly 71 years of age, I would enjoy life this much. But God made it all possible! God has really blessed me, and I am so thankful for the way He has led in my life.—Richard "Cowboy" Smith



Richard Smith (far right) and Ruth Upton rejoice with Pastor Hunt after their baptisms.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Bridge Building Saves a Life

Last year flooding in the southwest counties of West Virginia destroyed more than 300 small, privately-owned bridges linking rural homes to public roads. Those floods swept away the bridge in front of Mr. and Mrs. Cart's home in Hamblin, W.Va. Though the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides public assistance for disaster relief, it does not offer individuals financial help, leaving people on their own to try and rebuild their access bridges.

Adventist Community Services (ACS) helped install a new bridge for the family that includes Mrs. Cart's father. Only two days after ACS completed the bridge, he had a medical emergency that required an emergency vehicle to pick him up. "The medical staff told us that if the bridge had not been there, my father would not have survived," she says.

Situations like these are what inspire Mountain View Conference (MVC) ACS leaders to participate in the Bridge Project headed by Jenny Gannaway, state chair of West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

"ACS in the Mountain View Conference is committed to helping as we can with this amazing humanitarian



Mountain View Conference's Adventist Community Services donates money to help build bridges in southwest West Virginia.

effort. Twenty-eight thousand dollars of Campaign for Community dollars have been donated so far to meet this great need," says Larry Murphy, MVC ACS director. "Only the first 15 bridges have been completed. There are hundreds more to build and lives are still in danger."

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No Bullies Allowed

I recently met a young man who decided not to attend church anymore because, as he told me, there was a brother who thought he owned the church, tried to control the lives of members and insisted they follow his rules. This overbearing man told the young man there was no place for the young man in that church.

I spoke with the pastor and an elder of this church, and both complained about the same problem. The elder said the man was a “bully.” We are now dealing with a crisis in that church because of a leader who was being a bully. I prayed for him, and I pray for many other leaders who are bullies in their churches. There is no place for bullies in God’s church!

Chapter 37 of Genesis recounts the traumatic and truly amazing experience of Joseph in Egypt and ends on a note of seemingly inescapable disgrace. What happened to Joseph was a huge injustice. The teenager was overcome, brutally subdued and physically man-handled by his own brothers. Deprived of his liberty, he was sentenced to slavery.

God does not approve of the abusive, despicable actions of bullies. Those who try to forcefully control the lives of others and deprive them of their rights will have to give account for that before inexorable justice as well as before the court of their own conscience. But more terrible yet will be that day when the evil-doers come before the judgment throne of the universe, where the Almighty Judge cannot be deceived or misled with false evidence. While God’s love is immeasurable, His justice is also unavoidable. Our churches must be houses of mercy and compassion.

No bullies allowed!



José H. Cortés
President

Camp Meetings Bring Members Together

New Jersey Conference (NJC) staff continued promoting their 2016 theme, “Get Involved!” at the NJC camp meetings this year. This summer thousands of members and visitors gathered at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover to praise the Lord in celebration for so many blessings He has poured on New Jersey.

Participants spent time with God, with one another and enjoyed sermons and music and time in nature. Conference staff also commissioned Ferdinand Lagos, former teacher at the Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School in Waldwick, Dulce Gabriel Morales, principal at the Vine Haven Adventist School in Vineland, and volunteer lay pastors who will open new churches and Mission Caleb church plants.

“We hope this new lay leadership training will provide means to those who are called to leadership positions to develop their skills for service in different roles of ministries in the church,” said Pastor Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, director for the non-Hispanic lay pastors.



Thousands gather in worship at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover, N.J.

Waldwick Teacher Passes Away

Ferdinand Lagos, a teacher at Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School in Waldwick, passed away June 12. He taught mathematics, technology and robotics. Lagos died in a kayaking accident near Hammonasset Beach State Park in Connecticut. “The news has deeply shocked our community and is a tragic loss for all,” says Ruth Nino, principal of the Waldwick Adventist School.

Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent of schools, shares, “Ferdinand Lagos was one of our finest teachers. His commitment to superior education while using 21st century tools for his students cannot be overemphasized.”

Lagos’ excitement for teaching can be seen in a recent e-mail to Saint-Ulysse, where he wrote, “Seeing the excitement and curiosity for technology in our students, the interaction with each other, and sharing their knowledge and experiences through Google Apps was truly rewarding.”

In his two years in the New Jersey Conference, Lagos found his rewards through his students’ joy of learning and successes. Fellow teachers say he willingly shared his expertise with other teachers so that every student can experience the same joy, curiosity and creativity of technology and discovery.

“While we are saddened by his early departure, we know that the Lord has a better and greater reward for Mr. Lagos that Jesus Himself will give Him on that day. He has touched our lives with his Christian spirit, commitment to teaching and professionalism,” says Saint-Ulysse.



PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

Fellow teachers place hands on Ferdinand Lagos during his commissioning during New Jersey Conference Camp Meeting.

“I pray that every student who has been taught by Mr. Lagos will commit to embrace technology the way that Mr. Lagos did. I also pray that each student commits to use technology responsibly to make God proud and also to the memory of a great teacher, Mr. Lagos, one of the finest teachers.

I look forward to the great reunion when there will be no more separation. Come Lord Jesus!”

Lagos is survived by two daughters, three brothers, one sister and his parents, Rogelio and Alejandrina.

Adventuree Teaches Families about Creation, Salvation

Hundreds of families recently drove to Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover for a weekend of fun, worship and learning. Forty-five Adventurer Clubs participated in the New Jersey Conference’s annual Adventuree, a family-oriented camping weekend.

Organizers themed the event “God’s Amazing Creation” and planned all the activities to teach the children and their families about creation, sin and salvation. Around 1,800 people crowded the gym on Saturday morning for worship. On Saturday afternoon, children had the opportunity to visit seven different stations that showed what was created on each day of the creation week.

“It was an awesome weekend!” says Paulo Macena, Youth Ministries director. “We had an intergenerational event where young and old came together to praise

God and to learn that God not only is our amazing Creator, but He is also our Savior who has a plan to take us to Heaven.”



Women's Workshops Tackle Difficult Subjects

When asked about the purpose of Women's Ministries, many people will reference the popular retreats and teas sponsored by local churches or conferences. A more global view from the Adventist world church includes empowering and nurturing women to "fulfill their God-given potential." Difficult to deal with issues, such as pornography and domestic violence, can sometimes stop women from reaching that potential, says Heidi Shoemaker, Ohio Conference Women's Ministries director.

Recognizing that Seventh-day Adventist Christian resources are often in short supply to women in churches today, Shoemaker started planning one-day workshops to tackle these difficult subjects.

For the past few years, Celeste Holbrook, a sexual health educator and former elder at the Worthington church, has presented several workshops and seminars for women. Topics included "Reclaiming Healthy Intimacy After Abuse," "Inspired Intimacy," and, most recently, "The Problem with Porn." More than 100 women, and a few men, attended these workshops. "We need to have these guilt-free, shame-free, important conversations in a safe space," Holbrook says.

Holbrook shares sobering statistics along with counsel directly from Scripture. Her confident and calming style quickly eases the anxiety of attendees, and her compassionate, non-judgmental responses to questions allow women to learn what constitutes a healthy, intimate relationship, says Shoemaker.



Celeste Holbrook encourages workshop attendees through open and honest discussions.



Pastor Lori Farr discusses emotionally abusive relationships and how victims can begin the road to healing.

Regardless of the topic, Holbrook says her goal is the same—for women (and men) "to make better, more informed decisions about their intimate lives and for married couples to work toward healthy relationships."

Earlier this spring, Lori Farr, pastor of the Miamisburg church in Miamisburg, addressed the difficult topic of surviving an abusive marriage. Her seminar, "Life After Abuse: Who Am I?" focused on how to heal wounds from emotionally abusive relationships. "Emotional abuse leaves few physical scars. Its victims suffer no broken bones, torn flesh or spilled blood. Still, those wounded might describe it as the most painful and destructive form of domestic violence," said Farr.

Sharing experiences from her own abusive marriage, Farr said she prayed for the healing of her marriage, but, unable to stay in an unsafe relationship, she could not remain married. "Healing is one year at a time," said Farr, who encouraged both victims and abusers to seek professional help and get healthy.

"As you reach out to God and others, you can experience God's redemptive purposes in your life and become a channel of healing in the lives of others," said Farr. "Make Jeremiah 29:11 your mantra: 'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Learn more about upcoming Women's Ministries programming at ohioadventist.org.

45 Baptized in “120 Days of Power” Campaign

Forty-five people decided to surrender their lives to Jesus in a baptismal ceremony held at the conclusion of what Pastor Pedro Simpson calls a revolutionary campaign named 120 Days of Power.

Simpson, district pastor and Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Ohio Conference, and Spanish District of Cleveland leaders led members on a spiritual and missionary journey which included 40 days of prayer, followed by 40 days of witnessing and another 40 days of preaching intended to gain 40 new souls for the kingdom of Heaven.

The entire district committed to spend 120 days under the influence of the Holy Spirit, says Simpson. The first action was prayer, 40 days praying at home and in district churches and groups in the First Cleveland Spanish, Ebenezer Spanish, Monte de Sion, Roca Eterna and Akron Hispanic Mission churches. Leaders asked every member to fast and pray on a specific day to ensure “all 40 days were covered and completely dedicated in seeking the power from on high.”

During the next 40 days, district members contacted their friends, neighbors and relatives, inviting them to small groups and to area churches. They also gave Bible studies and served as witnesses to the sweetest love of Jesus.

Then, ready to enter into the third phase of preaching, small group leaders preached in their territory in preparation for four full and simultaneous campaigns led by four experienced evangelists: Pastors Julio Chazarreta, Andres Downs, Fernando Ramirez and Oneal Howard.

“The mercy of God was exceedingly abundant, more than we could have imagined,” says Simpson. The campaign concluded recently with an event at the



Pastor Pedro Simpson baptizes the Martinez family with help from evangelist Julio Chazarreta.

First Cleveland Spanish church. More than 300 people, including members and visitors from the district filled the building. “Every church [brought] their candidates to be baptized to enlarge the Adventist family in Ohio and the world Adventist family as well,” says Simpson. Thirty-nine people were baptized that afternoon. Six more chose baptism during the 120-day event.

Simpson says he overheard members describe the event as “unbelievable,” and heard a mixture of music, tears, hosannas and shouts of hallelujah everywhere.

“Let us be happy for this celebration, but please know that we haven’t yet met the expectations of God. We still need to do more. We can do more and we have to do more for His kingdom,” said Simpson at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Church members welcome 40 men and women into the Seventh-day Adventist Church family.

Pennsylvania Pen

SEPTEMBER 2016

Liberian Church Dedicates New Facility

Community leaders, pastors from several denominations and two local fire chiefs were among the more than 200 people attending the dedication service of the Pilgrim church's new building at 801 MacDade Boulevard in Collingdale.

During the morning worship service, Tim Bailey, Pennsylvania Conference director of leadership and spiritual growth, preached and recognized two members for having recently graduated from the Pennsylvania Conference Lay Pastor Training Program. After a fellowship meal, Seth Bardu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer; and Michael Harris, a former professor at Andrews University (Mich.), joined Ron Christman, Pennsylvania Conference treasurer; Will Peterson, vice president for mission and administration; and Jeanne Hartwell, associate ministerial director, for the festivities. Several local community pastors also shared greetings from their congregations and affirmed the ministry of the Pilgrim church. Conference President Ray Hartwell gave the dedication message and was honored with a Liberian tunic traditionally worn by high officials and chiefs.

Organized in 2015 under the leadership of Pastor Matthew Kamara, the church desires to reach the



Pastor Matthew Kamara greets two local fire chiefs who attended the Pilgrim church's dedication service.

more than 15,000 Liberians living in the Philadelphia area. Beginning with less than half a dozen people, the church now has between 60 and 75 people attending each Sabbath. The building is located just north of the Philadelphia International Airport.

Pastor Retires But Keeps Serving

John Peters left his Christian faith behind after starting a career in aerospace engineering. He says God got his attention 15 years later as he looked for solutions to personal issues. Within eight weeks after reading the entire book of John, Peters visited a Seventh-day Adventist church. He continued working in the aerospace

industry until 1991, when he started focusing more on the Bible, personal ministry and mission. Responding to God's call, Peters went into full-time ministry.

Pennsylvania Conference president, Ray Hartwell, and his wife, Jeanne, honored Pastor Peters and his wife, Elisabeth (pictured), at the recent Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting for their 20 years of pastoral ministry. Peters has served in the Sharpsville (now Shenango Valley), New Castle, New Brighton, Chestnut Hill, Berwork, Danville, Northumberland and Shamokin churches.

"I have seen the mighty working of God through the power of His Word repeatedly transform lives from slaves of sin to slaves of righteousness to God," says Peters.

When he retires in October, the Peters will divide their time between Florida, where he will work part-time in ministry in the Port Charlotte area, and at the Universidad Adventista del Plata in Argentina where Elisabeth, a doctor, hopes to teach part-time while John serves at the seminary.



President Ray Hartwell (right) and his wife, Jeanne (left), recognize Pastor John Peters and his wife, Elisabeth, during camp meeting.

Teacher Retires After 30 Years of Impact

After more than 30 years of teaching in Seventh-day Adventist classrooms across Pennsylvania, Kathleen Swackhamer has packed up her classroom and retired from a career she says she loves. "I felt God gave me a job that really didn't feel like a job most days. It was just something I really liked doing," Swackhamer says.

Swackhamer impacted the lives of students in classrooms at the West Chester Seventh-day Adventist School in West Chester, the Fairview Village Seventh-day Adventist School in Fairview Village and, most recently, at the Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist School in Mountain Top.

"Katie's impact went far beyond just the classroom," remembers Pastor Tom Grove, a Pennsylvania native now pastoring at the Arlington church in Texas. "Every morning she would take my brother and me to the church school in Johnstown, Pa. More than 30 years later, I still remember some of those conversations. I am very blessed to have had Katie influence my life."

Swackhamer and her husband, Gary, will retire near family in Sylvania, Ohio, and are already planning to be busy. "We plan on volunteering for mission trips once



VP of Education Jeff Bovee (center) and Dave Morgan, Blue Mountain Academy principal, (right) honor Kathleen Swackhamer for more than 30 years of educating young people in Pennsylvania with a presentation during camp meeting.

we get settled," she says. "We are also going to cook together, and I'm going to have more time to practice my piano because Gary wants me to give him lessons."

We Need Your Help!

The Mission:

- To share the love of Jesus Christ and the gospel with families throughout Pennsylvania
- To have every member in our churches involved in sharing the love of Jesus and the gospel



You can count on me!

- Pray for the churches, the Bible workers, and those who will be invited to attend the meetings
- Join us on October 1, 2016, and go door-to-door, making contacts, and handing out information
- Pray for the evangelistic meetings that will take place October 7-23, 2016, and ask that the Holy Spirit will move on hearts--to attend and to make a decision for Christ
- Give to our evangelism offering to help cover costs for Bible workers, training, materials and other expenses for this initiative

Everyone from across Pennsylvania is invited to join us in Western Pennsylvania for this year's Faith for Family. Contact us for more information.

Join the team!

For more information, contact Jeanne Hartwell at 610.374.8331 or email jhartwell@paconference.org.



Potomac People

SEPTEMBER 2016

Conference Welcomes New Administrators

Potomac Conference leadership recently welcomed two new administrators to the team: Rick Jordan, as vice president of pastoral ministries, and Eliasib Fajardo, as director at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va.

Jordan (below) has served as pastor of the Woodbridge (Va.) church for 13 years and, since 2007, as a LEAD group leader, where he helped coordinate several large outreach events, including *The ONE Event*, where members from approximately 30 churches gathered for worship, celebration, training and community outreach, and *Viva Vienna*, a community celebration in Vienna, Va., that draws nearly 50,000 people each year and helps encourage a Seventh-day Adventist presence.



Fajardo (right) began his ministry in the conference as a ministerial student. In 2004, he became Potomac's Hispanic youth coordinator, and led teen and young adult camps, church retreats and recreational activities. Fajardo has been the pastor of several Potomac churches. His most recent district included the Arlington Spanish, Metro NoVA Spanish and Sterling Spanish churches in Virginia.



"We are excited to have both of these individuals on our leadership team," says Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president. "Their unique skill sets make them well equipped to take on the task of moving God's kingdom forward in these different areas."

3,300 Attend Hispanic Camp Meeting

More than 3,300 adults and children recently attended Potomac Conference's annual Hispanic Camp Meeting. The theme of the event, and for Hispanic churches throughout the year, was "Life in Abundance," based on John 10:10.

Special guest speakers included Elmer Alferez, president of the Central Salvadorian Association, and Pastor Carlos Gill, president of the Argentinean Union. Four entities: the Jerusalem Choir and children's choir



More than 3,300 attended Potomac Conference's annual Hispanic Camp Meeting.

from Richmond Spanish Church in Richmond, Va., the Capital Spanish church choir from Silver Spring, Md., *Alabanza Pura*, the musical group that supports the Hispanic Ministries of the conference and Jose Ocampo, a Mexican professional singer, presented special music.

"All praised God by using their gift to touch the lives of others," said Jose Esposito, director of Hispanic Ministries.

Hundreds of volunteers helped distribute more than 2,000 copies of *Steps to Christ* and offered to pray with people in the surrounding communities. Many say the experience showed them how many people are in need of Jesus. At the conclusion of the event, seven people publicly expressed their love for Jesus through baptism and two new mission groups were presented, one led by Pastor Federico Revollo in Chesapeake, Va., with 14 charter members, and one led by Pastor Fismed Omar in Seneca Valley, Md., with 35 charter members.

"Sabbath was powerful," says Esposito. "The Father was praised, the Holy Spirit was manifested and Jesus was accepted in the hearts of hundreds of people."

Potomac People

RPCtv Makes Local Church Global

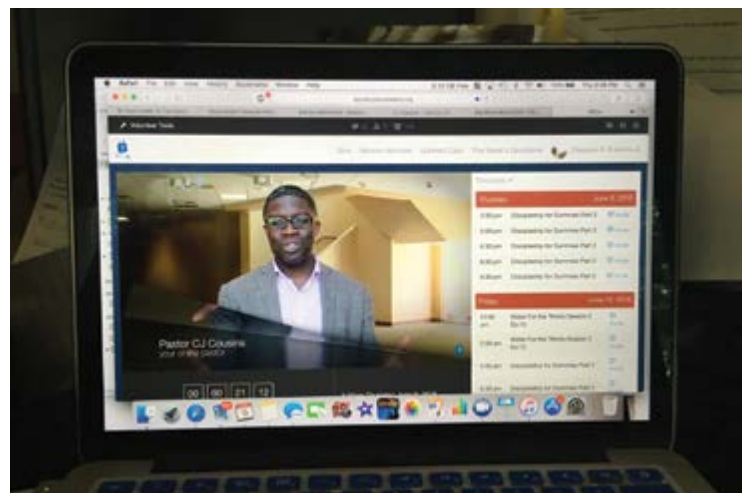
Imagine attending a church and participating in the service without stepping foot inside the physical building. In 2014 CJ Cousins, associate pastor at Restoration Praise Center (RPC) in Bowie, Md., began developing a program called RPCtv to stream RPC's services and provide ways for online viewers to interact.

"Today people are suspicious, turned-off and feel less favorable toward church," says Cousins. "RPCtv creates a gateway to our church life. It's designed to foster interactive community and as an evangelism tool for our members."

Each week RPCtv draws a viewership of more than 300 people, but had almost 3,000 viewers during a large winter storm. In addition to sermons, RPCtv offers online Bible studies, devotionals, testimonies and promotional videos. On Saturdays viewers can join a chat to interact with other viewers, make comments during the service and return tithe and offerings. Chat hosts engage viewers by praying with them, facilitating discussion and answering questions.

Though many churches today stream or record their services, most churches do not have a team of people who interact with viewers during a live-stream. "This makes a huge difference," says Cousins. "We can follow up with viewers and better meet their needs. That's what really sets us apart."

Cousins also conducts virtual Bible studies. Melissa Semchenko reached out for Bible studies via RPCtv, says Cousins. "She lives 90 minutes away, is not an Adventist, but believes our message. We've been



RPCtv allows viewers from around the world to join Restoration Praise Center's worship services.

studying together and she'll be getting baptized soon. She hasn't come to a service at RPC yet, but feels connected to the church because of RPCtv."

Semchenko feels God led her to RPCtv while browsing the Internet. She watched sermons and other RPCtv programs and kept coming back. Cousins contacted her within 48 hours of her filling out a connect card.

"RPCtv's reach is worldwide. This is how we're fulfilling the model Jesus gave," says Cousins. "We hope this can be a catalyst to plant churches around the globe. The messages we produce speak not just to who we are as a congregation, but also to the relevance of the Bible in context to where the world is today. No matter what we do and how we package and develop it, the content of the gospel will always be the same."

In the next five years Cousins hopes to stream RPC's evangelism meetings and hopes RPCtv will continue to grow as a tool for people in the District of Columbia/Maryland/Virginia area, and around the world, to connect to God and the church.

Watch *RPCtv* at rpcsda.org or rpectv.tv.
—Alexis A. Goring



PHOTO BY JAMES PARTLOW IV

School Competes for Invention Grant

Over the summer one of Blue Mountain Academy's (BMA) teachers participated in a multi-day invention celebration in order to compete for the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant of \$10,000 that would be used to expand BMA's invention education.

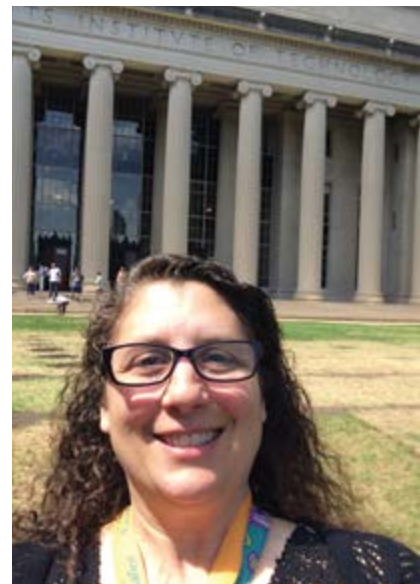
Rosemarie A. Bechtel, science instructor and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) advisor at BMA, recently helped the school place as finalists for the grant. As part of the application process, Bechtel participated in Lemelson-MIT Program's annual EurekaFest, a multi-day invention celebration at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"Invention education engages students and sparks innovation to problem solving," says Bechtel (pictured at MIT).

At EurekaFest, Bechtel met previous InvenTeam winners, groups comprised of high school students, teachers and mentors, and saw how they used their grant money to invent technological solutions to real-world problems.

"Educators who attend EurekaFest leave the event prepared to ignite an interest among high school students in science, math, engineering and invention," says Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer from the Lemelson-MIT Program.

Bechtel worked with students and mentors throughout the summer to finalize BMA's grant application. A panel of judges will assemble in the fall and select the final InvenTeam grantees. If the BMA team wins, the school will receive a \$10,000 grant to invent a new product.



Chapel Renovated

In 1983 under the leadership of then pastor Duane Ferguson ('59), Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) renovated the chapel and dedicated it as the sanctuary. Since then it has served students multiple times a week for worships and Pennsylvania Conference constituents through worship services, weddings, youth retreats, week of prayers, camp meetings and funerals.



After such heavy use for many years, the sanctuary began to show significant wear and tear and it was clear that a renovation was needed, says Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, who led the plan to fund the renovation of the sanctuary.

"The Pennsylvania Conference Association Board committed \$160,000 to make sure that the location for worship on the BMA campus rightly represents our commitment to glorify God in every part of our worship and experience at BMA," Hartwell says.

Renovations began in February 2016 and were completed by September. BMA Registrar Diana Engen organized work crews of students, faculty and community members to accomplish the renovation.

"It was nice to have all ages of helpers working together," says Engen, "Now the sanctuary has gone from one of most well-worn places on our campus to one that's appearance brings honor to God."

The renovation included a new pulpit constructed by Ever Perez, BMA religion department chair, a gift from the Class of 2016.

School Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

The Highland View Academy (HVA) family recently welcomed three new full-time faculty and staff members.

Before joining the HVA science department, Colleen Lay taught math and science at Indiana Academy (Ind.) for 19 years. Lay says she loves science because it allows her to see “how things work together and how much order God put into our world, from the orbits of the planets to the minutest subatomic particle.”

“My goal is to show students the Creator behind the science,” she says. “I also want to challenge my students to become critical thinkers and to prepare them for future careers involving science.”



Colleen’s husband, Andrew Lay, is the new HVA development director and music teacher. He most recently served as the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra box office’s senior customer care representative. Prior to that, Andrew worked as a patron services representative and development officer serving subscribers/donors with ticketing needs and annual fund contributions. He also spent 15 years teaching elementary and high school music in Indiana and California. As development director, Andrew says he aims to help donors and alumni work together with the school to create a positive, Christian environment in which students can learn and grow.



“I enjoy building relationships and working to bring out the best in people,” Andrew says. “Seeing students use their talents for God and involved in their churches and communities is a great blessing.”

Colleen and Andrew say they believe God called them to HVA and they are enjoying working with the staff and getting to know the students.

Joey Rouse, the new head men’s dean, says he felt God’s call to come to HVA and he and his family were eager to move to what he calls “such a beautiful location.” Rouse previously served as assistant dean at Union Springs Academy (N.Y.) and Bass Memorial Academy (Miss.). As a dean he aims to help students grow closer to Jesus, provide an atmosphere for optimal spiritual and academic growth and encourage the dormitory residents to feel as though they are at their home away from home.

“My favorite part of being a dean is getting to know the boys and allowing God to use me to help them navigate this potentially turbulent time in their lives,” Rouse says. Rouse and his wife, Danielle, have five children.

“These three additions to our campus are contributing to HVA’s continued growth,” says principal Erik Borges.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

SEPTEMBER 2016
Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

New School Year Brings Staffing Changes

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) recently experienced a number of staff changes.

Darlene Thompson, former elementary vice principal, decided to leave her administrative position and return to the classroom. She will now teach middle school math and Bible. Thompson has a broad teaching background in public and private schools, and has taught at the high school, middle school and elementary level. Thompson says she has a love for numbers and embraces working with middle school students.



Judie Rosa is filling the vacancy of elementary vice principal. Rosa comes to SAA with more than 20 years of educational experience in public school and Seventh-day Adventist education. She has taught high school English, Spanish and ESOL (English for Speakers of

Other Languages). She also taught Spanish at the elementary level and served as a vice principal of a K-8 school. Rosa holds a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, and will complete a Master of Science in Educational Leadership this fall.

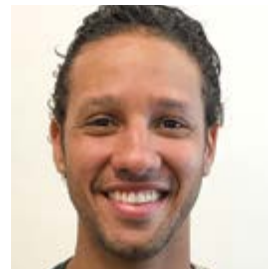
Kaitlyn Calhoun is the new high school Spanish teacher. Calhoun recently graduated from Andrews University (Mich.) with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish K-12 and a Bachelor of Science in communication arts. In addition to Spanish, Calhoun is passionate about leadership. "I'm so excited to be returning to



my alma mater to join the amazing faculty in holistically enriching the lives of young people. In addition to teaching Spanish and leadership, my greatest aspiration is that students form a deeper relationship with Christ," she says.

Also new to the high school faculty this year, is

Alfredo Fuentes II, who is teaching science. Fuentes recently worked at Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy (Ga.), where he taught physics, chemistry and physical science. Fuentes graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). He enjoys performing and coaching gymnastics and writing music.



Leisa Standish joins the elementary team as third-grade homeroom teacher. She most recently taught second grade in Sydney, Australia, where she also taught at the university level. She and her family are excited to return to this area, where they lived for 20 years before going to Australia. Standish previously taught kindergarten at Beltsville Adventist School in Beltsville, Md., and was assistant professor of education at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

Other changes in the administrative team include Brittany Thorp moving from the position of assistant business manager to business manager. Additionally, Cliff Wright, who served at SAA last year in a principal fellowship, took on the position of high school vice principal.

"We look forward to an exciting school year and feel privileged to welcome these staff members in their new responsibilities," says Principal Brian Kittleson.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

SEPTEMBER 2016

School Welcomes New Leaders to Team

Change is afoot in the leadership team at Spring Valley Academy (SVA). After four years of excellent leadership, Kate Baldwin, vice principal, is excited to return to the classroom where she will teach middle school math.

Alison Jobson will take Baldwin's place as the new vice principal. Jobson is a master teacher and a proven instructional leader. After beginning her career teaching in Ohio public schools, she came to SVA and won the community over with innovative teaching and a huge heart for students, says Darren Wilkins, principal. Ohio Conference leaders noticed her reputation for excellence, and asked her to serve as associate superintendent and then superintendent of education where she provided support and mentorship for teachers across Ohio.

In 2014 Jobson returned to SVA to teach a pilot multi-grade class. The success of this experiment led the school to transition all of its fifth- and sixth-grade classes to two-grade combo rooms.

"SVA is truly blessed to have such an accomplished educator stepping up to the leadership role of vice principal," says Darren Wilkins, principal.

Rounding out the leadership team is another familiar face. Ken Knudsen returns as guidance counselor and secondary program coordinator. Knudsen served six years at SVA in the roles of chaplain, Bible teacher and guidance counselor before serving as the Ohio Conference Superintendent, where, like Alison Jobson before him, he provided leadership to schools all over the conference. Knudsen previously served as principal of Potomac Conference's Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., and Skagit Academy (Wash.), as well as a



Colleen Hardy, business manager; Darren Wilkins, principal; Ken Knudsen, guidance counselor; and Alison Jobson, vice principal, make up the Spring Valley Academy leadership team.

Bible and history teacher and dormitory dean.

"Knudsen has an incredible sense of mission about his work," says Wilkins. "His passion for excellence and the salvation of students shines through in everything he does. Ken will be a key leader in our effort to develop a world class counseling/advisement program coupled with increased dual-credit opportunities to help our students make great strides toward their life goals while still in high school. We are incredibly blessed to have Alison and Ken join ... [us] to form a great leadership team for the benefit of Spring Valley Academy students," Wilkins says.

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

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER 2016

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

We Want to Produce Disciples of Jesus



Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) exists to provide a distinctly Seventh-day Adventist college preparatory program through experiences that produce disciples of Jesus who are compassionate citizens prepared for college and careers. This is our mission.

Young people choose our academy because they want to grow in their relationship with Jesus and commit to becoming His disciples. This is the purpose of true education, to “Acquaint now thyself with Him” (Job 22:21) (*Education*, p. 13, 14). Since arriving on campus last May, I’ve witnessed the Holy Spirit work powerfully among the precious young people on our campus.

Recent graduates and students share these thoughts about their Shenandoah experience:

- I have been to other schools and SVA is different. I prayed God would show me where He wanted me in school. What impressed me most when I first visited campus was I could tell this is a place where the Holy Spirit lives.
- This school has truly taught me how to be selfless and to see others the way Christ does.
- SVA has changed my life through friends. The friends I’ve made at SVA are so much closer than others I have had. They really care. I fit in here and I love it.
- One thing I love about SVA is the friends and faculty I interact with who create a positive school environment. I appreciate the effort the faculty puts into helping students grow in Christ.
- SVA is such a huge, important part of my life. The people are more than my friends, they’re my family and that’s why I keep coming back. This school has been my home away from home, and I can’t imagine my life without it.
- Being here at SVA has improved my leadership skills, work ethic and my everlasting relationship with God. I have become closer to God and learned to spend time with Him in a meaningful way.
- I value that I am learning to live a life committed to serving others because I know that is what it means to be a servant of Christ.
- Attending SVA has changed my character to be more determined and mindful of others, giving me a sense of duty to encourage people to walk in the light of our Heavenly Father.

In the 108th year of the educational ministry of Shenandoah Valley Academy, we look forward to seeing how God continues to work in the lives of our young people. Our students and graduates are evidence, by God’s grace and faithfulness, that our mission to produce disciples of Jesus is being accomplished.



Donald R. Short
Principal

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

Students Attend International Summer Program

Over the summer, Takoma Academy (TA) students Courtney Saunders ('17) and Isaiah Earlington ('17) participated in the Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC), an international program that uses friendship and citizen diplomacy to help students build a more civil society.

After a national, competitive and rigorous process including a comprehensive application and two rounds of interviews, Saunders and Earlington joined 144 students from 26 states and 10 countries to explore urban studies, sustainability, culinary arts, ancient civilizations, anthropology, ethnomusicology, ecology and regional cultures in 15 countries throughout Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe.

Saunders says she has a great passion for the arts and joined the "Spain-Picasso y Flamenco" program where she explored Picasso's impact on art history and society, explored other Spanish cultural traditions and learned about the connection between artistic expressions, human rights and national identity.

Her father, Lawrence Saunders, says, "Courtney was blessed with the unique opportunity to explore, learn and experience the culture of a historic country like Spain. My hope and prayer is that Courtney's experience will help her to understand better the purpose that God has for her life."

Her mother, Pam Saunders, says, "Courtney's



Courtney Saunders relaxes with her host family in Spain.



Isaiah Earlington explores Italy.

dad and I, are so proud of her. Last year she applied and did not make it into the program. When she approached me this school year and said she was going to apply again, I personally was not excited about it, because she worked so hard to get in last year and I was so disappointed when she did not. She was just as determined this year [and got it!]."

Earlington says he has a thirst to explore the world and was selected for the "Italy-The Venetian Empire" program where he learned about how the city of Venice operates on water and how the Venetian empire influenced the entire region through art, design, language and commerce. His trip began in Rome where he ate fresh gelato, visited Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and journeyed to the Pantheon. He later visited Venice, where he learned from boat builders, crystal makers, historians, gondoliers and artists.

His father, Glasford Earlington, says, "I felt very proud when Isaiah was accepted into the SDC. This is a life-changing experience that gave him an even deeper appreciation of other languages and cultures." His mother, Di-Ann Earlington, adds, "The opportunity to travel and immerse himself in the Italian culture for three weeks was transformative."



What Truly Matters

At our July 12 General Assembly, a monthly meeting with all employees, I opened the meeting with a conversation



Weymouth Spence
President

on the current issues impacting our nation. My stated goal was for us, as a learning community, to identify action plans that would positively impact the lives of our students and the community. With respect,

honesty and distinction university employees were actively engaged in conversation on race and culture relationships within our institutions of learning (academies and colleges) and the overall Adventist denomination. We concluded that such conversations are valuable and must be continued in order to strengthen how we demonstrate one of our core values – to model the Life and Teachings of Jesus. In continuing such conversations, we must first personalize such conversations in the context of how Jesus managed relationships. When questioned and tested by a Scribe about the greatest commandment, Jesus' response was: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... And your neighbor as yourself." What truly matters is the modeling of God's Love. The Apostle Paul puts it this way, when compared to factors such as position, degrees, wealth, heritage, culture, religion, doctrine, black, white, blue or yellow, the greatest of these is love. He also mentioned in Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

This is Washington Adventist University!

—Weymouth Spence

Students and Staff Join Area Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Praying for Peace and Unity

On Saturday, July 9, Washington Adventist University (WAU) students, faculty and staff joined members of local area churches in praying about the recent shootings and deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and Dallas Police officers Lorne Ahrens, Michael Smith, Michael Krol, Patrick Zamarripa and DART Police Officer Brent Thompson.

A large group of more than 1,000 Seventh-day Adventists gathered at the Lincoln Memorial where the national anthem was performed by Anika Sampson-Anderson, and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was performed by Monique Steele-Griffiths, a 1999 graduate of WAU. From there, participants walked to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, where they stopped to pray and listen to keynote speakers.

According to many of those present, this initiative was a first in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was organized by Debra Anderson, Denise Crarey and April Williams, and sponsored by the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Washington Metro Ministerium. Anderson said that as she was praying, God put it in her spirit to provide a venue for those voicing their opinions on social media, asking what they could do. She said she also wanted to pray for all of the victims' families and for the church and nation as a whole.

"As a black woman born and raised in this body of faith, I had to be there," said Melissa Henley, director of field education for the WAU Department of Social Work. "I was proud and inspired to see so many WAU alums at the rally because I know they will continue to advocate for social justice."

"I never thought that more than fifty years after the civil rights movement, I would be standing with a group at the MLK memorial singing "We Shall Overcome," but I am so impressed that this group was guided by the leader of the SDA church in North America," said WAU Professor of Religion Olive Hemmings, Ph.D. "As I understand it, the church was not present in this way for the civil rights movement. The SDA church in North America is coming of age, and the millennial generation is depending on that. I am proud to be part of this movement that has its own challenges regarding social justice. With God, we will overcome our own attachment to the flesh."

"To me, this rally was of great significance and it was a very powerful thing to see the President of the NAD, Dan Jackson, and the Vice President of Communication, Alvin Kibble, lead out and speak. This was about all the violence that had taken place, and the sentiment that something should be done went across racial lines," said WAU Professor of History & Political Studies William Ellis, Ph.D.



Professor Joan Francis participates in rally. Photo credit: David Turner

KETTERING COLLEGE



Danielle Aka is a second-year nursing student at Kettering College.



Kettering College Student LIFE: A testimony on spirituality and community

By Danielle Aka

During this past school year, I had the privilege of being involved with the Kettering College Campus Ministries team. From daily morning prayer to lively social events like bubble soccer, Campus Ministries was all over campus. In January 2016, this growth culminated in launching a new identity for Campus Ministries: Student LIFE.

As our team continued to grow and create new facets of our ministry, it became clear that we were breaking the typical campus ministries mold, merging the spiritual aspect of our campus with the academic, service, and social aspects to form a supportive backbone for our little community. The change to Student LIFE is not to downplay the spiritual portion of what we do, but rather the opposite. It is to stray from the tendency to separate spirituality from everything else and to extend our ministry even further. By reaching outside of the box and collaborating

with the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church and Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Student LIFE is already finding ways to connect our community and to encourage uplifting encounters.

As a student leader on Kettering College's Student LIFE team, I have been able to contribute to the spirituality at my school. Even more so, I have grown and been shaped by my school. Coming to a new place where I knew no one, I was nervous. Student LIFE has given me a voice and a creative outlet. It has challenged me to be a positive influence on our campus. After spending a whole year working with this team, I have never been more encouraged by the realization that God is able to use me wherever I am.



KC.EDU

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

A Storied College

The story of my coming to Kettering College is an epic tale, at least in my mind. The thrill of a new adventure; the awe-inspiring sense of responsibility to the students, faculty, and staff who make ours an outstanding institution; the pangs in our hearts as Ronda and I said goodbye to many family and friends; the Herculean feat of transporting cats across the country—it's the stuff of legend.

Each year, hundreds of students begin a new chapter as they embark on a healthcare education journey here. They learn, strive, struggle, and ultimately earn the accolades and responsibilities of professional service. Each and every student has a story of their own, one that is amazing, inspiring, and epic. It's no wonder that Kettering College enjoys such a great reputation. As Jesus said to His disciples, "Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear." (Matthew 13:16)

In his book *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009), Harvard University philosophy professor Michael J. Sandel makes the case that our storytelling nature does more than connect us to one another. Through our ties to families, sports teams, nations, and churches, we come to see our lives and our choices as part of a narrative quest that makes more sense when we understand how our situated identity contributes to the particular persons we are. As Seventh-day Adventists, we feel called to educate, to heal, and to share the good news of the Gospel with a world that is caught up in the greatest story of them all—the supernatural struggle between good and evil that Adventist co-foundress Ellen White titled *The Great Controversy*.

In 2017, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kettering College. Our story has touched and been touched by thousands of people over the years. Through events and activities, we plan on reminiscing and highlighting this important milestone. Ultimately, we want to celebrate Kettering College's story, and all the other individual stories that have intertwined throughout the years.



Nate Brandstater, PhD
President
Kettering College

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Brandstater".

"Each and every student has a story of their own. One that is amazing, inspiring, and epic. It's no wonder that Kettering College enjoys such a great reputation."



YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Work with Thailand's Poor Confirms Student's Call to Heal

By Leigh Wilkins

Kettering College's new international medical missionary program exposes students to a wider world

During his three months as an international medical missionary (IMM) student in Thailand,



Green pit viper bites were just one of the ailments Ringering encountered with patients

Jake Ringering learned to expect the unexpected – green pit viper bites and elephant stampede injuries included.



Ringering (center) with the director of the Bamboo School, Catherine Riley-Bryan (left) and the IMM program director, Steve Carlson (right)

student to participate in the College's international medical missionary program. Established in 2015, the program gives students the opportunity to use the skills they are learning in the classroom to serve people without access to basic medical care in other countries. More than that, it is a chance for students to grow personally as they spend time in unfamiliar – and often uncomfortable – surroundings.

Ringering, a fourth-year human biology major at Kettering College, was the first

With the help of program director Steve Carlson, campus chaplain and director of



Ringering with students at the Bamboo School.

Campus Ministries, Ringering found an opportunity to serve in Kanchanaburi Province near the Thailand-Myanmar border. The plan was for him to live in a hut on the property of Bamboo School, an orphanage operated by a Christian missionary from New Zealand. During his 11-week stay, he went on ambulance runs and provided patient care in local health clinics.

Busy shifts, difficult experiences

For the first month of his stay, Ringering worked 12-hour shifts doing ambulance runs. Relying on his basic first aid training and cardiopulmonary resuscitation



Ringering and Malee Kraihom at the end of Jake's first day working in the clinic

certification, he and a Thai driver responded to straightforward calls – women in labor, snake bites – and many vehicle crashes. Motorbike accidents were the worst, he said.



Ringering checks on one of his young patients

After his ambulance riding days were over, he spent the next seven weeks working in two health clinics, one in the town of Bong Ti Bon (population 300) and another at Sai Yok Hospital in the city of Kanchanaburi

(population 172,000). Under Thailand's permissive rules about who can provide medical care, Ringering was able to provide wound care, set broken bones, put in nasogastric feeding tubes, remove cysts, and more.

Ringering said he thinks about the trip often and is thankful for the ways it affected him. "This was my first medical mission, and it was really eye-opening to see how people get by on almost nothing," he said. "The language barrier forced me to be more independent and resourceful. Also, the trip was confirmation that being a doctor is the right career path for me. In fact, I hope to serve in the mission field for a couple of years after earning my medical degree."

Just the beginning

Chaplain Steve Carlson said he is excited about the interest that the program is generating with students on campus. Potential sites include Peru, Chad, Malawi, and the Marshall Islands with clinical opportunities in occupational therapy, primary care, and others.

"Our prayer is that our students return changed from their IMM experience by validating the importance and sacredness to their calling of becoming healthcare professionals," said Carlson.

"I knew Kettering College was the perfect place to start this program because of the combination of our quality healthcare education and our institution's value for service," said Victor Brown, dean for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at Kettering College

"We hope this program demonstrates that a healthcare profession is not simply about clocking in and receiving a paycheck, but it is about answering the call to care."

Visit KC.edu to learn more about the IMM program.



Ringering tells about his IMM experience during a Kettering College student assembly



Ringering's work included emergency squad runs, treating patients in a clinic and health education

THE NEWS

Inter-professional Educational Simulation Center creates lifelike learning experiences for all health disciplines

Kettering College has transformed its nursing laboratory into a state-of-the-art space where students in all allied health disciplines can practice their skills.



A Laerdal staff member came to Kettering College to demonstrate the use and care of the new manikins.

The 6,000-square-foot Inter-professional Educational Simulation Center is the first of its kind in the Dayton area. With a grant of \$130,000 from the Board of Trustees, the College equipped the center with six Laerdal manikins in February.



Nursing instructors are able to run the simulation software to operate the manikin from a computer. This encourages students to interact with the manikin, simulating a real patient experience without the professor's presence.

"We are thrilled to begin using this innovative and leading-edge center," said Ruth Abbott, dean for Academic Affairs. "Interdisciplinary learning will now

be integrated into every allied health program at Kettering College. As this is the environment where our healthcare students will work upon graduation, this realistic learning opportunity will provide a superior educational experience which will bridge the gap between book learning and professional life."

Spring into Health 5K raises over \$8,000 for the Good Neighbor House

More than 500 runners and walkers laced up their gym shoes on April 10 for the eighth annual Spring into Health 5K, raising funds for Good Neighbor House and the Physician Assistant Department's student professional development fund.

Students in the Physician Assistant Department have been the primary organizers of the event since its start.

Victor Brown, dean for Enrollment and Student Life, said he was impressed with the turnout in spite of the cold weather. "Over the years, this event has grown," Brown said. "We hope the number of participants will continue to grow so that we will be able to donate even more in the future."

Good Neighbor House, a collaborative endeavor of eight Dayton-area Seventh-day Adventist churches, provides health, dental, and vision services as well as clothing, food, and household items to those in need.



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UNION COLLEGE seeks

Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for NAD teaching certification. Primary responsibilities include teaching curriculum and instruction courses and supervising elementary student teachers. Ten years of elementary teaching experience, including lower grades and multigrade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate is strongly preferred. Position is effective summer 2017. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a

Seventh-day Adventist PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in family practice and emergency medicine. An appropriate master's degree is essential; prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date is June 1, 2017. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu.

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experience is desired, but not necessary. Interested individuals, please send CV and letter of intent to Jen Mathew, Office of the Dean, at jmathew@llu.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has

two faculty openings in music and one in psychology for the fall. To view the respective job descriptions and to apply, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu. We invite you to share this announcement, as you deem appropriate. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit wallawalla.edu.

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TIDEWATER ADVENTIST ACADEMY AND TIDEWATER JUNIOR ACADEMY will be celebrating 50 years of God's blessings, September 23,24,25, in Chesapeake, Va. Vespers start at 7:30 p.m., Friday; Sabbath School at 10 a.m., followed by Divine Service. There will be events throughout the day, culminating with a dinner Saturday night. Sunday morning will also be full of activities. Check our Facebook page for more information: Tidewater Adventist Academy.

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OBITUARIES

GRIFFIN, L. Elizabeth "Betty," born February 13, 1942, in Philadelphia, Pa.; died suddenly from a heart attack, June 28, 2015,

	Sept 2	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23	Sept 30
Baltimore	7:36	7:25	7:14	7:03	6:51
Cincinnati	8:08	7:57	7:46	7:34	7:23
Cleveland	7:59	7:47	7:35	7:23	7:11
Columbus	8:03	7:51	7:40	7:28	7:17
Jersey City	7:28	7:16	7:04	6:53	6:41
Norfolk	7:33	7:22	7:12	7:01	6:50
Parkersburg	7:56	7:45	7:34	7:22	7:11
Philadelphia	7:31	7:20	7:08	6:57	6:45
Pittsburgh	7:51	7:40	7:28	7:16	7:04
Reading	7:35	7:23	7:12	7:00	6:48
Richmond	7:38	7:28	7:17	7:06	6:55
Roanoke	7:48	7:37	7:27	7:16	7:05
Toledo	8:07	7:55	7:43	7:31	7:19
Trenton	7:30	7:19	7:07	6:55	6:44
Wash., D.C.	7:38	7:27	7:16	7:04	6:53

at their mountain cabin home in Sevierville, Tenn. Betty grew up in Smyrna, Del., the daughter of Herbert and Lois Ruch, and graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy. She received degrees from Columbia Union College (Md.) and Loma Linda University (Calif.). She worked in public health in Montgomery County, Md., later practicing in Ohio before leaving her profession to help her husband, Gordon, build a large insurance agency in Mount Vernon, Ohio. After retirement they operated an overnight tourist, log cabin rental business in Tenn. She served as an elder at the Mt. Vernon (Ohio) church, a Sabbath School teacher, and held other positions. Betty was an avid student of the Bible, leaving a treasure of marked Bibles. She is survived by her husband, Gordon Griffin of Danville, Ohio; two sons, Dr. T. Britton (Valerie) of Percy, Mass., and Michael R. (Nicole) Percy of Mount Vernon; her brother Dr. Charles (Grace) Ruch of Annapolis, Md.; stepdaughter Karen (John) Feltman of Mt. Vernon; stepson Rodger (Paula) Griffin of Phoenix, Ariz.; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Her brother, Robert Ruch of Mount Pleasant, Pa., predeceased her.

ISAAC, William Muller, born December 29, 1922, in Neyyoor, India; died July 4, 2015, in

Takoma Park, Md. He was a member of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., where he served as an elder and greeter for the past 50 years. He was a graduate of Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, in Takoma Park, Md. Muller, as he was lovingly known by many, was a pastor in India and came to the United States for better opportunities in July 1965. His wife and four daughters joined him two years later. He is one of the founders of the Friday night prayer meeting in the community, which continues to grow since its inception 30 years ago. Muller was also an active member of the Southern-Asian Adventist Association. Survivors: his wife of 71 years, Annammal Isaac of Takoma Park, Md.; his siblings, Russell Isaac of Mitchellville, Md., Jones Isaac of Glenelg, Md., and Kamalabai Daniel of Silver Spring, Md.; his sister, Joy Paulraj of Lanham, Md.; daughters, Starlet (Jeyasingh) Vedamuthu of Silver Spring, Catherine (Shirlin) Monickam of Laurel, Md., Marjorie (Selvin) Inparaj of Silver Spring, and Sophia (Jerry) Arthur of Silver Spring; and grandchildren/grandson-in-law, Ivy Vedamuthu, Stanley Monickam, Jason Vedamuthu, Sarah and

Bulletin Board

Ramon Larancuent, Amanda Arthur, William Arthur, Mahiela Inparaj, and Rajesh Inparaj.

JOHNSON, Eugene F. "Shorty," born March 12, 1933, in McDowell County, W.Va.; died January 15, 2015, in Princeton, W.Va. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was an original member of the Princeton Rescue Squad and was a Boy Scout leader. Over the years, he worked for Rockwell International, Christian Record Foundation, and owned and operated the Back to Eden Natural Food Store. "Shorty" was baptized in October 1972 and was a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va. He was a deacon, Pathfinder leader and food pantry director. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and gardening. His greatest joy besides serving the Lord was his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Survivors: his wife, Judy Dye Johnson; daughter Sherry (Keith) Heming of Chattanooga, Tenn.; sons, Dr. Frankie (Dianne) Johnson of Princeton and Russell (Teresa) Johnson of Gastonia, N.C.; grandson Justin Moore of Princeton, Stephen Lee Johnson of Princeton, and Stephen Allen Johnson of Gastonia; granddaughters Rebecca Johnson of

Gastonia and Crystal Graves of Chattanooga; great-granddaughters Ryleigh Moore and Reagan Moore of Belpre, Ohio; great-grandson and great-granddaughter Morgan and Edna Moore of Princeton; and great-granddaughter Morgan Johnson of Bland, Va.; and a sister, Edna (Dewey) Walker of Princeton. He was preceded in death by his parents, Worthie and Villa Johnson; and four brothers, Clyde, Teddy, James and Earl Johnson.

McFARLAND, Roger A., born January 6, 1951, in Millersburg, Ohio; died July 19, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. He was a resident in the Glenmont/Loudonville (Ohio) area all of his life, and a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Roger was a member of the National Guard from 1970-76, and was an independent, owner/operator truck driver for 34 years. In his spare time, he enjoyed old hot rod cars, flower gardening and raising Belgian draft horses. But, the love of his life was his family and grandson. Survivors: his wife, Pam McFarland of Loudonville; his son, Roger E. McFarland of Mt. Vernon, Ohio; his daughters, Cheri McFarland of Mansfield, Ohio, and Nicole Bilancini of Loudonville; and his mother, Alice McFarland of Millersburg.

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2016 Annual MISSION CONFERENCE

You and your family are invited to attend
Kettering Adventist HealthCare's 2016 Annual Mission Conference
at the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church
3939 Stonebridge Road, Kettering, Ohio

The Isaacs Concert • November 4 at 7 p.m.
Sabbath School • November 5 at 9:30 a.m.
Mission Conference Program • November 5 at 10:45 a.m.
Orchestra Concert • November 5 at 7 p.m.

JOIN US!

CONCERT November 4

The Isaacs
Award winning family group from Nashville

CHURCH SERVICE November 5

Dr. Tony Campolo
Speaker
speaker, author, sociologist, pastor, social activist

EVENING CONCERT November 5

HYMNS Triumphant
Kettering Praise Orchestra
Led by Donald Huff

ketteringhealth.org/mission

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

A few years ago CURF helped Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy realize its dream of building a new, state of the art 21st century educational facility. The 100,000-sq.-ft. building was the first LEED-certified building in Montgomery County, Maryland, and received a bronze award for its energy-saving features. It includes a 375-seat auditorium, college-sized gymnasium for PE and varsity sports, certified kitchen for serving hot lunches, spacious classrooms with natural light, wireless technology, smartboards, and ergonomic furniture.

By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF helps further the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more:

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