

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

DECEMBER 2016 • VOLUME 121 • ISSUE 10



**3,000 Attend Union's  
Largest Camporee**

Plus: A Christmas Story, p.12

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*Howard C. Schade*

If this story were fiction, editors would reject it as being too implausible or coincidental to have ever happened. Yet these storm-induced events occurred a number of years after Hitler’s armies ravaged Europe. This treasured Christmas story, edited by Joe Wheeler (profiled on p.10), appeared in one of the early *Christmas in My Heart*® books.

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**About the Cover and Above:** V. Michelle Bernard photographed Pathfinders from Potomac Conference’s Jovens Para Cristo in Hyattsville, Md., displaying the official “Fearless” patch.

## ON THE WEB

### A CHRISTMAS STORY

Read “Christmas Choice,” one of the stories included in Joe Wheeler’s much-anticipated 25th edition of *Christmas in My Heart*, the longest running Christmas story anthology series in America. Find it at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/christmasstory](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/christmasstory).



### “FEARLESS” VIDEOS

During each morning and evening meeting of the 2016 Columbia Union Conference Camporee themed “Fearless,” Pathfinders were treated to sermons focused on how to become courageous in the Christian walk. Watch videos of the evening sermons at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/fearlessvideos](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/fearlessvideos).



### REGISTER NOW

Registration for “Rise Up,” the Columbia Union Young Adult Summit, March 31-April 2, 2017, is now open. The early bird registration discount ends January 24. Visit [youngadultsummit.org](http://youngadultsummit.org) for more information.



### SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Can’t get enough Christmas concerts this season? Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/christmasmusic](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/christmasmusic) to see a list of concerts hosted around the Columbia Union Conference. We’ll even include links to live streams for some of the concerts.



### FAVORITE VEGGIE MEAT?

Big Franks?  
Leanies?  
Fri Chik?

Dinner Roast?

Many Seventh-day Adventists have a favorite meat substitute. Take our Facebook poll, and tell us what your favorite item is at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](http://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor).

# VISITOR

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The *Visitor* is a monthly publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 62,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Volume 121 ■ Issue 10

## Join the Journey Through Psalms

Any day now, the *2017 Columbia Union Calendar* will arrive in your mailbox. Its theme is “A Journey Through the Psalms: Experiencing God, Grace and Growth in Real Time.” The calendar will highlight a different psalm every month, accompanied by a practical assignment.

Psalms is comprised of spiritual journals—personal letters or prayers to God—in the form of poetry. And poetry’s function is not to explain or theologize, but to offer images and stories that resonate with our lives. As I read them, I project myself back into their experience and ask, “Could I have prayed these prayers?” “Have I felt this particular anguish or outburst of joy?” “Do I have this same hunger for God?” And then I proceed to think through the situations in which I might pray the psalm in front of me: facing temptation, celebrating success, praising God, harboring a grudge, suffering an injustice. Under what circumstance would this psalm best apply in my life?

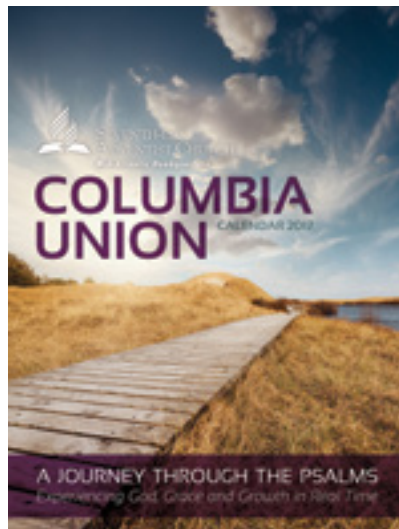


## A BOOK ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

Psalms gives us a comprehensive record of life with God through individually fashioned accounts of how the spiritual life works. They are not to be approached as a student wanting to acquire knowledge, but as a fellow

pilgrim wanting to acquire relationship. The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. More than any other book in the Bible, Psalms reveals what a heartfelt, soul-starved, single-minded relationship with God looks like.

Poetry works its magic subtly. We seldom turn to poetry to learn something. And, if poetry is successful, we may gain something greater than knowledge; we may gain a transformed vision. Psalms has transformed my spiritual vision and my understanding of relationship with God. I am continually amazed by the spiritual wholeness of the Hebrew poets who sought to



include God in every area of life. They brought to God every emotion experienced in their daily activity—in real time. There were no walled off areas. God could be trusted with reality.

This process of letting God in on every detail of life is one we need to learn. Somehow these poets managed to make God the gravitational center of their lives. I sense in them a fierce urgency; a strong desire and hunger for God that makes my own spiritual life look anemic by comparison.

With the chosen calendar passages as our guide, I look forward to embarking on a yearlong study of the Psalms in 2017. And I hope you’ll join me on this journey!

*Rob Vandeman, a pastor and administrator, serves as executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference. Find and follow his monthly blog about Psalms at columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms.*

## RETIRED COLUMBIA UNION PRESIDENT PASSES AWAY



Willis B. Quigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference from 1973-78, passed away October 15, as a result of pneumonia. He was 94.

Quigley, a son of the Columbia Union, was born in Pottstown, Pa., and graduated from Washington Missionary College, now Washington Adventist University, in Takoma Park, Md. He entered the ministry in 1945 and pastored a number of churches in New Jersey, Michigan and California. In 1967 he was elected president of the New Jersey Conference and



During their annual “Food Fight,” fifth- and sixth-grade students at Spring Valley Academy in Centreville, Ohio, collected more than 5,000 pounds of food that will be distributed to underserved families and individuals by the Good Neighbor House in Dayton.

later served as president of the Potomac Conference before being elected to serve as president of the Columbia Union. Ahead of his time, he co-presided with his predecessor Cree Sandefur over the first ordination of a woman as a local church elder. He went on to serve as an associate secretary in the General Conference, working in the Ministerial Department and implementing the PREACH program. He retired to Florida in 1985.

“Dad always said that the purpose of the church is for winning souls for Christ. He fought a good fight and has finished his course, awaiting the return of our Lord,” says son, Robert Lynn Quigley, a pediatrician at Florida Hospital in Orlando.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*



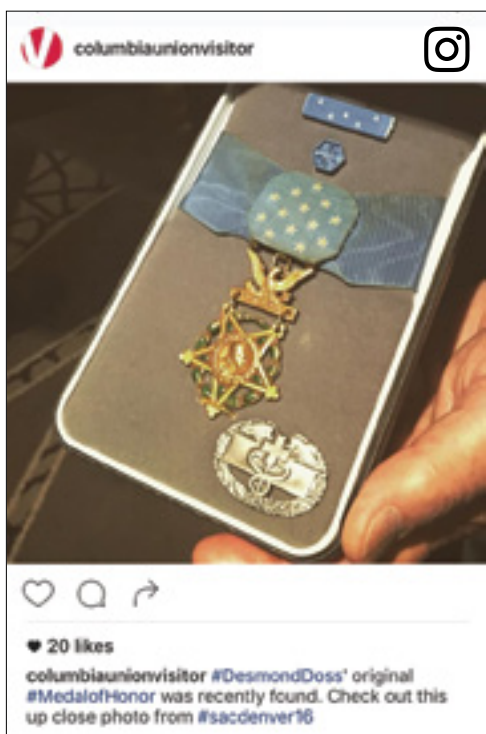
coordinating and editing *Elder’s Digest* and *Collegiate Quarterly*.

“Ricardo brings several welcome skills that will help continue our strong, intentional focus on gathering, editing, preparing and sharing news and information in real time. He loves editing and social media, has an eye for detail and enjoys discussing the proper use of a comma, which means he will fit right in with our team,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, *Visitor* editor and publisher.

Blyden reassumed editorship of the *Visitor* in September. V. Michelle Bernard now serves as the News, Features and Online Editor, and continues managing social media for *Visitor* platforms.—*Visitor Staff*

## NEW STAFF JOINS VISITOR TEAM

Ricardo Bacchus recently joined the Columbia Union Conference Communication department as assistant director and assistant editor of the *Visitor*, coordinating and editing the conference and academy newsletters in each issue. He previously worked at the General Conference,



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFFIRMS STATEMENT VOTED AT NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION YEAR-END MEETING

At its year-end meeting last month, members of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee discussed at length the General Conference Unity in Mission document voted at Annual Council in early October. Many expressed concern about the intent, purpose and assumptions of the document, how it was processed, why it is needed, how it will impact the mission of the church in this region and what will be the consequences of non-compliance.

Dave Richmond (pictured, right), a member from the Pennsylvania Conference said the document blurs the lines between fundamental beliefs and policies. “It gives the impression that our policies are at the same level with our fundamental beliefs, and it places us on very dangerous ground because if someone disagrees with a policy, it makes them appear as though you are out of line with the fundamental beliefs of the church,” he said. “This is a little disconcerting.”

Members also offered suggestions about how the union should respond. “We should be prayerful and thoughtful in our response, and that has been our tone throughout the discussion,” said Marcus Harris, senior pastor at Allegheny East Conference’s Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C. “We should affirm the recommendation we made as a committee and the decision of our constituents in 2012, and we should affirm our leadership who

have been spiritual, thoughtful and courageous.”

They also reviewed and voted to affirm the following statement of response voted by the North American Division (NAD) Executive Committee at their 2016 year-end meeting in late October:

*The Seventh-day Adventist Church exists to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the Three Angels’ Messages. Nothing should impede this prophetic mission.*

*It is thus with grave concern that the members of the North American Division (NAD) Executive Committee witnessed the passing of the Unity in Mission document at the recent Annual Council. The implementation of this document will create—indeed, is already creating—a profoundly divisive and demoralizing reality in many parts of the NAD.*

*While we wish to register our vigorous disagreement with the intent of the document, we do not wish to respond impulsively. Therefore, in light of this document, we move to authorize NADCOM to appoint a subcommittee to craft a thoughtful path forward.*

*Furthermore, recognizing that the underlying focus and context of the Unity in Mission document was the ordination of women to ministry in two Unions in our Division, we wish to once again publicly affirm our unwavering support and steadfast intent to realize the full equality of women in ministry, in*



*fulfillment of biblical principles, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In light of these realities, we do not want the Unity in Mission document to be a deterrent to the ongoing, proactive progress toward the full equality of women in ministry in our Division.*

*We invite earnest prayer for the leading of the Holy Spirit as we engage in this process.*

“The most important thing we can do is pray,” added Denise Isaac, a member of the committee from the Chesapeake Conference. “And our focus on mission has to remain constant.”—Visitor Staff



### READ MORE

Read the North American Division story and statement with a link to the General Conference Unity in Mission document at [columbiaunion-visitor.com/nadstatement](http://columbiaunion-visitor.com/nadstatement).

## CONQUISTADORES ASISTEN AL CAMPORÍ DE LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA

Desde el 6 al 9 de octubre más de 3.000 conquistadores asistieron al camporí más grande de la historia de la Unión de Columbia titulado “Valientes”.

Los conquistadores acamparon, adoraron y participaron de las actividades en el predio Schuylkill County Fairgrounds en Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania. Completaron aproximadamente 1,500 especialidades de Conquistadores y Aventureros sobre una variedad de temas como el sistema circulatorio y cardíaco, cometas, medios sociales, lombrices, arqueología bíblica y muchos más. También navegaron un circuito de cuerdas, participaron en los concursos de marchas, disfrutaron de actividades similares a las que se realizan en las ferias, se lanzaron en



Los conquistadores del Club Mensajeros de Amor (arriba) de la Asociación de New Jersey y el Club Pumas de Langley Park, Maryland, pertenecientes a la Asociación Potomac disfrutaron del Camporí.



tirolina y escalaron una muralla de piedras entre otras actividades.

“Le tengo miedo a las alturas, pero igual quise [escalar la muralla]. Fue una experiencia maravillosa hacerlo”, dice Génesis Acevedo, miembro del club Fortress Dwellers de la iglesia hispana de Lawndale en Pennsylvania. “Aunque tengas miedo, nunca sabrás si no lo intentas. Quizá se te vaya el miedo”.

Una de las metas de los organizadores fue desafiar a los Conquistadores a ser “Valientes” para Dios. “Queríamos que hagan compromisos en sus vidas espirituales que los lleven a un compromiso más profundo con Dios quien nos ama tanto”, dice Sherilyn O’Ffill, coorganizadora del camporí y directora de Conquistadores de la Asociación de Potomac.

El sábado, el Pastor Jonatán Tejel bautizó a Juan González, un miembro del club de la iglesia hispana de Fairfax (Virginia). O’Ffill informa que decenas más decidieron ser bautizados en sus iglesias locales.

Pamela Scheib, directora de Conquistadores de la Unión de Columbia, agrega, “Creo que el pastor Tejel y el pastor Miranda hicieron hincapié en ser valientes para Dios en sus mensajes”.

En las reuniones matutinas y vespertinas, Tejel, director asociado de Jóvenes de la Asociación General y director mundial de Conquistadores, compartió historias bíblicas y experiencias personales sobre la valentía.

“Todo hemos sentido miedo en algún momento. Pienso que solamente Dios nos puede ayudar a vencer el miedo en nuestras vidas. Si queremos ser vencedores [debemos] caminar con Jesús y Él te dará lo que te hace falta. Te dará lo que necesitas”.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, también se dirigió a la audiencia el sábado a la mañana. “Conquistadores, vivan su sueño para Dios, sin importar el llamado que Él les haga”, instó.



Foto superior: Frank Bondurant, vice presidente para el desarrollo de ministerios de la Unión de Columbia introduce a los líderes de Conquistadores de las asociaciones. Foto inferior: Los conquistadores del Club Nebulosa del Águila miembros de la Asociación de Allegheny East se reúnen.

Armando Miranda, director de clubes de la División Norteamericana, habló en la reunión de clausura el sábado a la tarde y animó a que los Conquistadores tomen un salto de confianza y sean audaces para Dios. Muchos Conquistadores pasaron y aceptaron a Jesús como su Salvador personal al finalizar el sermón.

“Siento que por más que enfrente tribulaciones, Dios estará a mi lado y me hará valiente”, dice Chelsea Maclay, miembro del club Parkersburg Panthers perteneciente a la asociación Mountain View. “Siempre he sabido que Dios está conmigo, pero ahora lo siento”.

Para ver más videos y fotos del camporí visite [columbiaunionvisitor.com/cufearlessphotos](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/cufearlessphotos).

## INSCRIPCIÓN ABIERTA PARA LA CUMBRE DE JÓVENES ADULTOS

La inscripción para “Levántate”, la Cumbre de Jóvenes Adultos de la Unión de Columbia que se realizará desde el 31 de marzo al 2 de abril del 2017, está abierta. La inscripción temprana cierra el 24 de enero. Para obtener más información visite la página de [youngadultsummit.org](http://youngadultsummit.org).

## NUEVO EMPLEADO SE INCORPORA AL EQUIPO DEL VISITOR

Ricardo Bacchus recientemente se unió al Departamento de Comunicaciones de la Unión de Columbia. Bacchus servirá como editor asistente del Departamento de Comunicaciones de la Unión de Columbia donde coordinará y editará los boletines informativos de las asociaciones y academias como también la sección *Noticias* en cada ejemplar de la revista. Previamente trabajó en la Asociación General donde ayudó a coordinar y editar la *Revista del anciano* y *El universitario*.

## LAS MUJERES HISPANAS DE ALLEGHENY WEST CELEBRAN SU RETIRO DE DAMAS

Más de 130 mujeres pertenecientes a 15 iglesias de la Asociación Allegheny West, recientemente se reunieron para celebrar el 2016 Retiro Espiritual de Damas organizado por el departamento de ministerios multiculturales bajo el lema “De mujer a mujer como hijas del rey”.



## EL COMITÉ EJECUTIVO RATIFICA LA DECLARACIÓN VOTADA EN LA REUNIÓN DE LA DIVISIÓN NORTEAMERICANA

Durante la reunión de fin de año de la Unión de Columbia, los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo analizaron el documento sobre la Unidad en la Misión votado a principios de octubre por el Consejo Anual de la Asociación General. Muchos expresaron su preocupación por la intención, el propósito, las suposiciones que implica el documento, y cómo impactará la misión de la iglesia en esta región.

Dave Richmond, un miembro de la Asociación de Pennsylvania dijo que el documento desdibuja las líneas entre las creencias fundamentales y las pólizas. “Da la impresión que nuestras pólizas están al mismo nivel de nuestras creencias fundamentales”.

Algunos miembros también brindaron sugerencias sobre cómo debería responder la unión. “Deberíamos responder con oración y reflexión y este ha sido nuestro tono a lo largo de la discusión”, dijo Marcus Harris, pastor principal de la iglesia Dupont Park de la Asociación Allegheny East en Washington, D.C. “Deberíamos ratificar la recomendación que hicimos como comité y la decisión de nuestros constituyentes en el 2012”.

También repasaron y votaron ratificar la siguiente declaración en respuesta al voto tomado por el Comité Ejecutivo de la División Norteamericana en su reunión de fin de año realizada a fines de octubre:

*La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día existe para proclamar el evangelio de Jesucristo expresado en el mensaje de los tres ángeles. Nada debería impedir esta misión profética.*

*Por lo tanto, con grave preocupación los miembros de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la División Norteamericana (DNA) fueron testigos del voto en favor del*

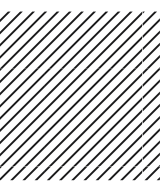


*documento sobre la Unidad en la Misión en el reciente Consejo Anual. La implementación de este documento creará—ciertamente ya está creando—una realidad profundamente divisiva y desmoralizante en muchas partes de la DNA.*

*Aunque deseamos enfatizar nuestro desacuerdo vigoroso en relación a la intención del documento, no queremos responder impulsivamente. Por lo tanto, a la luz de este documento, nuestra moción es autorizar a NADCOM para asignar un subcomité que tenga como objetivo forjar un camino reflexivo hacia adelante.*

*Además, reconociendo que el enfoque y contexto subyacentes al documento sobre la Unidad en la Misión fue la ordenación de la mujer al ministerio en dos Uniones de nuestra División, deseamos reafirmar públicamente una vez más nuestro apoyo firme e intención resuelta de lograr la igualdad de la mujer en el ministerio, cumpliendo los principios bíblicos, en la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día. A la luz de estas realidades, no deseamos que el documento sobre la Unidad en la Misión sea un impedimento para el progreso continuo y proactivo hacia la igualdad de las mujeres en el ministerio en nuestra División.*

*Pedimos sus oraciones sinceras para que el Espíritu Santo nos dirija al emprender este proceso.*



# FEARLESS



## More Than 3,000 Pathfinders Attend Columbia Union's Largest Camporee

STORY: V. MICHELLE BERNARD | PHOTOS: BRIAN TAGALOG

**M**ore than 3,000 Pathfinders attended “Fearless,” the largest camporee in Columbia Union Conference history, October 6-9.

The Pathfinders camped, worshiped and participated in activities at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds in Schuylkill Haven, Pa. Throughout the event, attendees earned an estimated 1,500 Pathfinder honors and 90 Adventurer awards on topics ranging from circulation and heart health, kites, social media and worms to biblical archaeology and more. They also navigated a ropes course, drill competitions, enjoyed fair-type activities, slid down a zip line, climbed a rock wall and more.

“I’m afraid of heights, but I still wanted to [climb the wall]. It was a cool experience to try it,” says Genesis Acevedo (pictured above, right), a member of the Pennsylvania Conference’s Fortress Dwellers from the Lawndale Spanish church. “Even if you are afraid, you never know until you try.”





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1. Matthew Dulcich and Viahncia Lopez, members of the Potomac Conference's Sligo Challenger Pathfinder Club from Takoma Park, Md., unfold the American flag during a morning flag raising ceremony. 2. Chandra Smith, a member of the Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Metrolite Pathfinder Club from Hyattsville, Md., works on her "Mountain" honor. 3. Pathfinders from Ohio Conference's Columbus Eastwood Pathfinder Club from Westerville set up their campsite. 4. Justin Yudhistira, a member of the Potomac's Vienna Stars Pathfinder Club from Vienna, Va., stands at attention after the Sabbath morning parade. 5. Pathfinders from Allegheny West Conference's Panthers Club in Columbus, Ohio, Daysha Crawford, Alyssa Jackson and Emmanuella Francique stand at attention for inspection.

One of the goals of planners was to challenge the Pathfinders to be "Fearless" for God. "We wanted them to make commitments in their spiritual lives that will prove to take them deeper and [encourage them to be] more committed to the God who loves us so much," says Sherilyn O'Ffill, assistant camporee organizer and the Potomac Conference Pathfinder director.

On Sabbath afternoon Pastor Jonatan Tejel baptized Juan Gonzalez (pictured, right), a member of the Potomac Conference's Patriots Club from the Fairfax (Va.) Spanish church. O'Ffill reports that dozens more made decisions to be baptized at their local churches.

Pamela Scheib, Columbia Union Conference Pathfinder and camporee director, adds, "I believe both Pastor Tejel and Pastor Armando Miranda Jr. made spiritual growth very much a part of their talks."

At the morning and evening meetings, Tejel, General Conference associate youth director and Pathfinder world director, shared Bible stories and his own experiences about being fearless.

"We all have fear sometimes. ... I really think that to overcome any kind of fear in our lives, it is something





that only God can do. If we want to become fearless [we must] walk with Jesus and He will give us what we don't have. He will give you what you need."

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, also spoke to the crowd Sabbath morning. "Pathfinders, live your dream for God, no matter what His calling is for you," he shared.

Armando Miranda Jr., director for club ministries at the North American Division, spoke at the closing meeting Saturday evening, further encouraging the Pathfinders to take a leap of faith and be fearless for God. Many Pathfinders came forward and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior following his sermon.

"I feel like no matter what trials I face, God is always right next to me so I can be fearless," says Chelsea Maclay (pictured below, left, with Alaina Zill), of the Mountain View Conference's Parkersburg (W.Va.) Panthers. "I've always known God is with me, but I feel it now."

To see more videos and photos from the camporee, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/cufearlessphotos](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/cufearlessphotos).





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1. As part of a skit, Chesapeake Conference's Williamsport (Md.) Warriors club member Kira Byrkit shaves Mark Byrkit's beard as Ben Lee looks on. 2. Jonatan Tejel and Vienna Stars Pathfinder Gabriel Rodriguez demonstrate how God removes sins. 3. Pathfinders from the New Jersey Conference's Zion club in Paterson display a drill team competition trophy. 4. The AEC's Richmond (Va.) Rams compete in the drill team competition. 5. Kendall Brantley, a member of Potomac's Beltsville (Md.) Broncos club earns the "Bubbles" honor. 6. Jake Cartes, a Pathfinder from Potomac's Chesterfield Orion Club from North Chesterfield, Va., tackles the ropes course. 7. The AEC Color Guard lead the Pathfinder parade. 8. Rene Hoke and Ruth Collins, staff from Pennsylvania Conference's York Cherokees Club, display a few of Hoke's more than 5,000 pins.



A CHRISTMAS STORY

# The Gold and Ivory Tablecloth

HOWARD C. SCHADE

*If this story were fiction, editors would reject it as being too implausible or coincidental to have ever happened. Yet these storm-induced events did occur a number of years after Hitler's armies ravaged Europe. Of true stories of Christmas, few are treasured and re-read more. It was published in Christmas in My Heart 3 and reprinted here with permission of editor/compiler Joe Wheeler and Review & Herald Publishing Association.*

At Christmastime men and women everywhere gather in their churches to wonder anew at the greatest miracle the world has ever known. But the story I like best to recall was not a miracle— not exactly.

It happened to a pastor who was very young. His church was very old. Once, long ago, it had flourished. Famous men had preached from its pulpit, prayed before its altar. Rich and poor alike had worshipped there and built it beautifully. Now the good days had passed from the section of town where it stood. But the pastor and his young wife believed in their run-down church. They felt that with paint, hammer and faith they could get it in shape. Together they went to work.

But late in December a severe storm whipped through the river valley, and the worst blow fell on the little church—a huge chunk of rain-soaked plaster fell

out of the inside wall just behind the altar. Sorrowfully the pastor and his wife swept away the mess, but they couldn't hide the ragged hole.

The pastor looked at it and had to remind himself quickly, "Thy will be done!" But his wife wept, "Christmas is only two days away!"

That afternoon the dispirited couple attended the auction held for the benefit of a youth group. The auctioneer opened a box and shook out of its folds a handsome gold-and-ivory lace tablecloth. It was a magnificent item, nearly 15 feet long. But it, too, dated from a long-vanished era. Who, today, had any use for such a thing? There were a few half-hearted bids. Then the pastor was seized with what he thought was a great idea. He bid it in for \$6.50.

He carried the cloth back to the church and tacked it up on the wall behind the altar. It completely hid the hole! And the extraordinary beauty of its shimmering handwork cast a fine, holiday glow over the chancel. It was a great triumph. Happily, he went back to preparing his Christmas sermon.

Just before noon on the day of Christmas Eve, as the pastor was opening the church, he noticed a woman standing in the cold at the bus stop. "The bus won't be here for 40 minutes!" he called, and invited her into the church to get warm.

She told him that she had come from the city that

morning to be interviewed for a job as governess to the children of one of the wealthy families in town but she had been turned down. A war refugee, her English was imperfect.

The woman sat down in a pew and chafed her hands and rested. After a while she dropped her head and prayed. She looked up as the pastor began to adjust the great gold-and-ivory lace cloth across the hole. She rose suddenly and walked up the steps of the chancel. She looked at the tablecloth. The pastor smiled and started to tell her about the storm damage, but she didn't seem to listen. She took up a fold of the cloth and rubbed it between her fingers.

"It is mine!" she exclaimed. "It is my banquet cloth!" She lifted up a corner and showed the surprised pastor that there were initials monogrammed on it. "My husband had the cloth made especially for me in Brussels! There could not be another like it."

For the next few minutes the woman and the pastor talked excitedly together. She explained that she was Viennese; that she and her husband had opposed the Nazis and decided to leave the country. They were advised to go separately. Her husband put her on a train for Switzerland. They planned that he would join her as soon as he could arrange to ship their household goods across the border.

She never saw him again. Later she heard that he had died in a concentration camp. "I have always felt that it was my fault—to leave without him," she said. "Perhaps these years of wandering have been my punishment!"

The pastor tried to comfort her, urged her to take the cloth with her. She refused. Then she went away.

As the church began to fill on Christmas Eve, it was clear that the cloth was going to be a great success. It had been skillfully designed to look its best by candlelight. After the service, the pastor stood at the doorway; many people told him that the church looked beautiful.

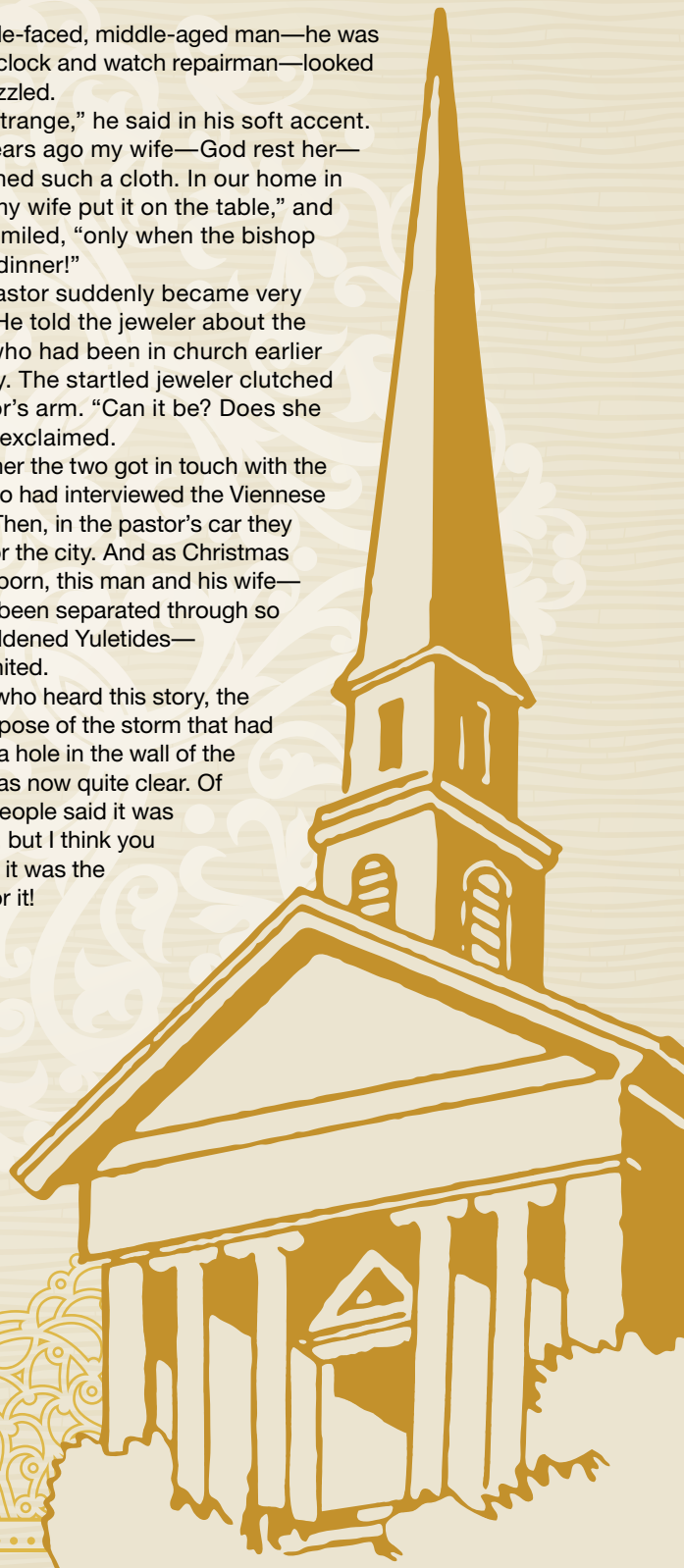
One gentle-faced, middle-aged man—he was the local clock and watch repairman—looked rather puzzled.

"It is strange," he said in his soft accent. "Many years ago my wife—God rest her—and I owned such a cloth. In our home in Vienna, my wife put it on the table," and here he smiled, "only when the bishop came to dinner!"

The pastor suddenly became very excited. He told the jeweler about the woman who had been in church earlier in the day. The startled jeweler clutched the pastor's arm. "Can it be? Does she live?" he exclaimed.

Together the two got in touch with the family who had interviewed the Viennese woman. Then, in the pastor's car they started for the city. And as Christmas Day was born, this man and his wife—who had been separated through so many saddened Yuletides—were reunited.

To all who heard this story, the joyful purpose of the storm that had knocked a hole in the wall of the church was now quite clear. Of course, people said it was a miracle, but I think you will agree it was the season for it!



## KEEPER OF THE STORY

# Joseph L. Wheeler

Joseph Leininger Wheeler, fondly known as “America’s Keeper of the Story,” has a doctorate in English, and has edited and compiled 94 books of stories that have sold more than 1.5 million copies. He is best known for the *Great Stories Remembered*, *Heart to Heart*, *The Good Lord Made Them All* and *Christmas in My Heart* series, whose 25th book was just released by Pacific Press Publishing Association and is available at Adventist Book Centers and other booksellers.

Wheeler, who holds degrees in English and history, taught for 34 years on junior high, senior high and college levels. He chaired college English and communication departments at Oakwood University in Alabama (two years), Southwestern Adventist University in Texas (14 years) and Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md. (10 years).

He credits his appreciation for stories to his mother, who especially loved Christmas themes. He says the seed for the bestselling *Christmas in My Heart* series was planted 27 years ago, with a strong nudge from God and one of his WAU students, during a weekend snowstorm in December 1989. At the behest of English major Naomi Snowdy, he wrote “The Snow of Christmas.”

The following Spring, during a class fieldtrip to the Review & Herald Publishing Association, then based in Hagerstown, Md., Wheeler met acquisitions editor Penny Estes Wheeler (no relation) who requested he send her a compilation of stories—from those he’d written or collected over the years. Months later he received the phone call that set him on the path to leaving teaching and becoming the beloved storyteller he is today.

“From beginning to end, it has been a God thing, not a Joe Wheeler thing,” he says. With each story, “I pray and wait until God gives me the genesis.” He remembers the time when facing a publishing deadline that “the characters were comatose, lying on their backs devoid of life, and I implored God that, if it be His will, He’d see fit to breathe life in them.

About three or so in the morning, I woke my wife and said, ‘Honey, the Lord has brought all the story’s characters to life in a dream!’ She ordered me,



*Joe Wheeler, professor emeritus of English at Washington Adventist University, is one of America’s leading story anthologizers (this is his 79th story anthology and his 94th book). Wheeler resides in Conifer, Colo., with his wife and publishing partner, Connie.*

‘Well, get out of bed ... and write, write, write.’ I did.”

With no retirement in sight, Wheeler continues to enjoy the “unexpected” ministry of writing, collecting and sharing stories. He also spends hours poring through old magazines and books to find matching illustrations (mostly old-time woodcuts) for each story shared with the thousands of readers who he says are “self-acknowledged Christmasaholics.”

Their letters confirm that his annual gift of anthology is appreciated and hard to put down: “Dr. Wheeler, I’m angry with you!” wrote one reader. “I had determined that this year I’d restrict myself to one story a day. Instead, you wicked man, I found myself finishing the book early the next morning!”

That may be the reason he keeps searching for good stories and why he’s already working and praying his way through next year’s series.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*



*In 1991 the first edition of Christmas in My Heart was printed unnumbered, for no one imagined there would be a second book. Or a third. Now, this edition marks the 25th anniversary of the series. With a total of 402 stories and more than 3,000 pages to date, it is the longest-running Christmas story anthology series in America.*

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## Church Hosts Town Hall on Violence

With reports of police violence escalating nationally, the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., recently hosted a town hall meeting to discuss the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Pastor Gene Donaldson opened the meeting with a brief statement on the purpose for the gathering, then introduced the guest panel of judges, councilmen and police officers. The audience submitted questions on topics ranging from police officer training and how the church and community could assist the police, to best practices when pulled over by law enforcement.

An essential step in any reconciliation process is creating a climate for honest dialogue, and this town hall meeting provided a forum for the community and law enforcement representatives to express themselves. "I am honored that the Ephesus church had the privilege to host such an event," says Donaldson.

The meeting concluded with a song and prayer for unity. Afterward a reception allowed attendees to mingle with panelists. This left participants with a



Panelists conclude the town hall meeting by singing and holding hands in unity.

better appreciation of the challenges police face, says Donaldson. Some pledged to work in their respective communities to improve relationships with law enforcement. Some visitors also indicated that they would visit the church again.

## Pine Forge Church Celebrates 70 Years

Pine Forge church in Douglassville, Pa., recently celebrated its 70th anniversary with a full weekend of events. Friday night opened with a singspiration vespers, Sabbath morning former pastor Stephen A. L. Richardson preached the message and the evening

closed with an inspirational concert.

The church also hosted an awards banquet, honoring seven individuals who rendered many years of dedicated service to the church. Awardees included Audrey E. Booker, Samuel E. Darby, Arlene J. Ellison, Vivianne W. Jones, Gwen Bradford-Norwood, Rothacker Smith and David Sumpter.

With the establishment of Pine Forge Institute in 1946, Pine Forge church was also organized on the belief that every church school should be accompanied by a nurturing church. The pioneers who stepped forward to build the academy also served as charter members of the church. In 1965 Pine Forge Institute was renamed Pine Forge Academy, and the church was renamed Pine Forge Academy church. In 1990 the name Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially adopted. There have been 15 pastors during its history. Richardson was one of them—the only pastor who was also an alumnus and principal. Melvin Hayden III currently pastors the congregation.

Vivianne Jones, a member since 1958, says, "This has to be some of the greatest services we have had here during the [past] 70 years, and we have had some good ones."—Robert Booker



Pine Forge church leaders honor long-standing members for their years of service including: Arlene Ellison, Gwen Bradford-Norwood, Vivianne Jones, Audrey Booker, Samuel Darby and David Sumpter.

## Conference Welcomes New Ghanaian Company

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently accepted the newly organized New Life Ghanaian Fellowship in Perth Amboy, N.J., into the AEC sisterhood of churches. AEC leaders, other conference Ghanaian church members and community members came together for the event.

Henry J. Fordham III, AEC president, officiated the service and presented a sermon titled “The Unjust Judge.” Fordham encouraged church members to serve as a light in the community, reaching beyond the four walls of the church building.

“The establishment of the New Life Ghanaian company is clear evidence that God is helping us achieve our mission statement: ‘to promote the sharing of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ ethnically [to all people groups],’” says Fordham.

Currently New Life Ghanaian Fellowship has a membership of 50 adults and 26 young adults.



Henry and Sherry Fordham gather with New Life Ghanaian Fellowship youth as they celebrate establishment as an organized company.

## Youth Evangelists Distribute 12,000 Books

This summer the Youth 4 Change student literature evangelism program took to the streets, distributing nearly 12,000 truth-filled books. A total of 28 students from Oakwood University (Ala.), Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and from other schools worked in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia



Students from the Youth 4 Change summer literature evangelism program hold up books in front of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. They distributed 12,000 books in 10 weeks.

and Washington D.C. Among the books distributed were the *Great Controversy*, *Lessons for Living*, and *Man of Peace*. In addition they dispersed health books, including *Foods and Plants That Heal*, *Seven Secrets*, and *Fun with Kids in the Kitchen*. Participants also distributed smaller books such as *Steps to Christ* and *Bible Answers* to nearly 6,000 people.

“Year after year, I am amazed at how God uses seemingly insignificant people to impact lives through a seemingly unimportant ministry,” says Reginald Alexander, associate publishing director for the D.C. area.

The students had the privilege of working in collaboration with eight churches and generated roughly 650 leads. Contacts were interested in receiving Bible studies and learning natural ways to improve their health and manage stress.

Students raised just over \$125,000 toward school scholarships. The greater blessing, however, is the countless lives that were impacted through the service of these young adults. They prayed with many people, provided encouragement from God’s Word and dispersed literature for the benefit of the community.

For more information on the Youth 4 Change program, visit [youth4change4life.com](http://youth4change4life.com).

## Women Find “Strength for the Journey” at Retreat

Women from multiple states joined together recently in Dublin, Ohio, for the Allegheny West Conference’s “Strength for the Journey” Women’s Ministries retreat. They were greeted by a team of hostesses from the Pittsburgh area, led by Beverly Moore, who ushered them to the registration starting line.

Under the direction of Shirley Benton, Allegheny West Conference’s Women’s Ministries director, the weekend retreat included: the prayer room, hosted by Shawn Leggett; the early morning prayer service, presented by Mikafui Daboni; the morning praise and testimony time with Ruth Cantrell; the pamper room, manned by Robyn Clapp, Marlene Makapela and Alex Mosby; the financial strength workshop led by DeLaina Cox; the spiritual strength workshop led by Shawn Monk; and the emotional strength workshop with Julia Smith.

Each plenary meeting began with a song service, led by Tamaria Kulemeka and her praise team. The divine worship speaker, Pastor Brenda Billingsy, gave attendees practical advice on how to run the Christian race to completion. Debra Anderson gave the vespers thought, and Linda Crimes-Penick ministered to the pastors’ wives.

As part of the community service component, the ladies ministered to families at the local Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), spearheaded by Joppa Person.



*Pastor Brenda Billingsy encourages the women of the Allegheny West Conference in their final prayer circle.*



*Attendees of the Allegheny West Conference’s Women’s Ministries retreat join hands in prayer.*

A short distance from the women’s retreat, young ladies convened and expressed their creative gifts by crafting unique vision boards and defining their ultimate dreams and life goals, thanks to Valerie Green and the Teen Retreat committee. Carla Valles began the program by expressing the value of self-worth, followed by an interactive focus by Jasmyn Green on connecting with Christ through body and mind. Geoff and Jasmyn Green presented on dating and healthy relationships. Karen Williams tackled the topic of depression, the role it plays in the lives of young people today and where and how to seek help. Jasmine Best and Mahogany Kincaid worked to encourage proper manners, which included a discussion at a table where place settings were properly arranged by each participant. Mahogany and Melissa Kincaid presented a hands-on workshop on how to prepare hair products. Melissa also prepared a “Bad Girls of the Bible” scavenger hunt, in which the young ladies had to become super-sleuths.

The weekend was filled with exciting opportunities for fun, fellowship, truth, prayer and discussion. All attendees, young and old, were blessed and grateful as they crossed the “finish line” together, says participant Ruth-Ann Thompson.—*Jasmine Best*



## Former City Councilwoman Publishes Inaugural Book

**D**eborah A. Hill, an elder at Southeast church in Cleveland recently published her inaugural book *The Power of Encouragement: Determinations that Define Your Destiny*. This book describes faith, hope, resilience and the challenging times we are living in.

Hill is the first female in the Allegheny West Conference to be elected to public office as a city councilwoman for two terms. She says she feels blessed and humbled to have been an elected public servant in her community, and during her tenure introduced an approach to social policy that has enhanced the quality of life for her residents. She has also served two terms on the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee and its Association committee. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

Hill informs the reader that they are never too old or too young to start pursuing their dreams. She offers encouragement to those who feel life has placed limitations on them, such as self-doubt, fear, adversity and obstacles. Her book sheds light in the dark places



of life and communicates that there is potential, with God's help, to take someone from their history into their destiny.

This book can be purchased on [lulu.com](http://lulu.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). To find out more about Hill and her book release, visit [deborahahill.com](http://deborahahill.com).

## Hilltop Community Hosts Special Weekend

**T**he Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, Ohio, recently hosted its annual Rock the Block weekend, ministering to the needs of their community. Church members pitched a tent for Sabbath and worshiped in the parking lot with their friends and



Anita Coleman (left) distributes water bottles to thirsty attendees.

neighbors in the community. "Our worship experience was filled with great music, drama presentations and a spoken word about how God values each and every one of us," says Pastor Jason Ridley. "We had a wonderful lunch followed by a spectacular musical program. Rain forced us to go inside, but the Spirit-filled event continued."

On Sunday Hilltop hosted a community block party where they had bounce houses and a dunk tank. Medical professionals administered health screenings and HIV-testing, and the Columbus Public Health and the Westside Health Advisory held health-related meetings. Members also distributed Pathfinder and Adventurer registration forms to parents and children.

"We were blessed to have local restaurant chains donate food for us to serve to the community," says Ridley. Hilltop distributed 150 book bags filled with school supplies to children, and the Mid-Ohio Foodbank of Grove City donated 3,000 pounds of food to the community.

Hilltop's motto is "to be known as the church that outloves everyone else." They accomplished this goal at the Rock the Block weekend, says Ridley.

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

DECEMBER 2016

## A Shining Light

The Advent celebration is synonymous with lights. They decorate our neighborhoods, malls, trees and homes. When we look in the gospel accounts of the first advent of Jesus, we find the angels appearing to the shepherds with a brilliant light. Their presence or message could not be missed—Christ had come.

Then there was the star from the east leading wise men to the humble dwelling to see Jesus. The light of the star provided a guide for those who were willing to find the One who would light the world.

We also find that the description of the second advent includes great light. Jesus' return will light the world like lightning flashing across the sky. The brilliance of Jesus along with all the angels of heaven will be a source of hope for the faithful and dread for the wicked.

Jesus declared to His followers, " 'You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden' " (Matt. 5:14, NKJV). When we walk with Jesus, His light fills us, and there is a natural outflow which impacts everyone within our influence.

So Jesus instructs us to, " 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven' " (Matt. 5:16, NKJV). It is implicit that we can either choose to let our light shine or keep it hidden.

In 2017 I encourage you to intentionally let your light shine. "Just Ask" is a tagline we'll use to remind ourselves to invite someone to a special event or worship service at church. Or you can just ask someone with a spiritual need or interest if they would like to study the Bible. Each of us can let our light shine with a simple invitation.



**Rick Remmers**  
*President*

## Frederick Students Meet, Honor First Responders

Frederick (Md.) Adventist Academy (FAA) students met local community heroes recently. Frederick County firefighters and police officers arrived in uniform at the FAA campus via fire engines and police vehicles. The group shared their work experiences with the students and educated them on safety. FAA students not only asked questions and high-fived firefighters and police officers, they also explored the emergency vehicles.

"I think first responders are very important. It made me feel happy and proud to meet them," says Tami Adepoju, a fourth-grade student.

Classmate Maya Wycliffe agreed. "It was great to celebrate the kindness and bravery of our first responders."

FAA students presented firefighters and police officers with school-made arts and crafts to thank their new friends for coming out to teach them about daily life on the job and to express their gratitude for helping to keep Frederick County safe.

"It was a great way to give back to them for

dedicating their lives every day for us to be safe," says sixth-grader Margaret Shultz. See more photos on the Chesapeake Conference website, [ccosda.org](http://ccosda.org).

—Beckie Carbaugh



*Third-grader Avery Horman tries on a police officer's helmet.*

PHOTO BY RUTH KOLUPILLA

**Subscribe to Currents, Chesapeake Conference's weekly email newsletter, at [ccosda.org](http://ccosda.org) (bottom of the homepage).**

# THE CHALLENGE

## Pathfinders Earn Honors at “Classoree”

More than 450 Pathfinders attended the Pathfinder “Classoree” held recently at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. The annual event provides opportunities for participants to complete requirements for some 40 Pathfinder honors.

“This growth is astounding for our conference, and with five more clubs being established this Pathfinder year, our numbers look promising,” says Carl Rodriguez, conference Youth Ministries director. “An amazing part was all the culture groups [that were] represented—Mizo, Korean, Brazilian, Latino, Caribbean and American. It was a glimpse of what heaven will be like.”




PHOTOS BY CHARLES KOERTING

Ann Reynolds, assistant Youth Ministries director, presents a plaque to Brenda and Dick Griffin in honor of their “retirement” as Pathfinder area coordinators.



Left: Pathfinders participate in an induction ceremony at the “Classoree.”



### Chesapeake Conference Invitational

# Pathfinder Camporee

Highland View Academy Campground | 10100 Academy Dr, Hagerstown, MD 21740

## August 1-5 2017

**On-site Activities (Wednesday – Friday)**

- 300 foot Water Slide (PG Ministries)
- Archery
- Canoing (TBA)
- Climbing Tower
- Horse Riding
- Indian Village
- Inflatable Obstacle Course (PG Ministries)
- Mountain Boarding
- Mountain Biking
- Nature Center Self Guided (Sabbath also)
- Pool
- Wild challenge
- Team challenge

**All Off-site Activities**

- Antietam Honor (Thursday)
- Community Service Projects (Wed. - Sab.)
- Harper’s Ferry Honor (Friday)
- Family Rec Center (Go-carts, mini-golf, batting cage, plus more!)
- Gettysburg Honor (Wednesday)
- Golf Honor (Wed-Fri)

**Competition Activities (Wednesday-Friday)**

- Basket Ball
- Bible Intelligence
- Contest
- Drill Team
- Drum Corp
- Music, Skit, and Flag Synchronization
- Knocker Ball
- Soccer



**Honors Activities**

9 different honors each day for a total of 36 offered!

**Other trips to consider for club activities**


- Air & Space Museum (Udvar – Hazy, and DC)
- Fort McHenry (Baltimore)
- National Zoo (DC)
- Smithsonian (DC)
- Tours of baseball and football stadiums (DC and Baltimore)


**Theme: "Courageous"**

Rich Aguilera   Alvin Payne

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**Registration Opens January 1, 2017 | Contact: [crodriguez@ccosda.org](mailto:crodriguez@ccosda.org), or call: 410-241-4919**

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# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

DECEMBER 2016

## Beckley Church Keeps Momentum Going

This summer floods ravaged West Virginia, resulting in loss of life, homes and personal property. With Your Best Pathway to Health (YbPTH) already planned prior to the flooding, nearly 750 volunteers converged upon Beckley, a town less than an hour from the heavily flooded areas, to offer medical and personal services to approximately 1,700 people for two-and-a-half days. The mayor, news media and local town marveled at the scope of services provided.

“When will you come again?” questioned people throughout the area.

Responding to the cry for help, the mission-minded members of the Acceptance Sabbath School class of Collegedale, Tenn., chose Beckley (W.Va.) church for their ongoing community outreach.

The first follow-up program after YbPTH took place at the Beckley church. First physicians from the Mountain View Conference and the Acceptance Sabbath School class arrived to look at and sign off on all lab results. Kenneth Biehl, MD, also a member of the class, stayed for several more days to assist as nearly 2,000 people came to receive blood test results. Members of the congregation offered hugs, prayers, Bibles and Bible studies to those who came through the church doors. At a later date, nearly 900 pairs of prescription glasses were delivered to the church and were picked up by the eager YbPTH patients.

Robert Gadd, a professor at Southern Adventist University (SAU) (Tenn.), conducted healthy cooking classes and individual instructions. His wife, Holly Gadd, graduate school coordinator at the SAU School of Nursing, presented health seminars and counseling.

Evangelist Richard Halversen completed a full-scale evangelistic series that resulted in more than 20 people committing their lives to Christ and to keeping the Sabbath, with more who will continue to study. A portable baptistry was set up to accommodate the baptism at the Beckley church.

As a follow-up to the series, James Volpe, pastor of the Beckley church and the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., conducted a Daniel seminar. New



*God enlarges the Beckley (W.Va.) church with new members who learned about the church through evangelistic efforts in the area.*

members faithfully attended, studying the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

Various members of the Sabbath School class presented additional follow-up seminars, covering a variety of topics, from the structure and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to personal health. Volunteers also offered a five-day stop smoking seminar to the Beckley community and surrounding area.

“I sincerely appreciate the love and care that the YbPTH volunteers showed to Beckley and the surrounding communities this past summer,” says Pastor Volpe. “As the follow-up programs have begun, and with more to come in 2017, the church members and the Acceptance Sabbath School class are encouraging the new members. We are also busy reaching out to those who have not yet made their decision for Christ with continuing outreach programs. I praise the Lord for the work that has begun in Beckley.”

Acceptance Sabbath School leaders have pledged ongoing support into 2017.—*Naomi McKey-Tricomi*

## Marlinton Company Shows Compassion in Community

The Marlinton (W.Va.) company recently decided they wanted to positively impact their community. Their first idea was to offer a free, nutritious lunch to community members each Sabbath. One of the community members who received a lunch now attends prayer meeting and another attends weekly worship services.

Retired teachers and company members, Roger and Joni Stull, coordinated a project that provided approximately \$1,000 in necessary classroom supplies to teachers and students at the Marlinton Elementary School. "This is just awesome, and the teachers appreciate it so much," says school principal Phillip Anderson. "We have about 260 students, some coming from cities that were flooded in June, such as Richwood, Rainelle and White Sulphur Springs (W.Va.)."

Member Lindie Moore, a bed and breakfast owner, loves to share recipes and health tips. On several Sabbath afternoons, she and her helpers set up a canopy and tables at a small park to promote their cooking class. Marketed with "Healthy Can Taste Good" and "Sponsored by the Marlinton Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship" signs, the members offered free samples of vegan dishes, such as, lemon zucchini bread, black walnut cake, chili, cheese and more.



*Kaitlyn Wratchford, special education teacher, and Phillip Anderson, school principal, express thanks to Roger Stull (center), for giving needed supplies to the Marlinton (W.Va.) Elementary School.*

The Marlinton company continues looking for additional service opportunities, meeting community needs and gaining friends in the process, shares Yonnie Michael, communicator director of the Marlinton Company.

## Tea Party Connects Church and Community Women

Donning their party hats, women and girls from Wheeling and Weirton (W.Va.) churches enjoyed an afternoon of Christian fellowship, tasty treats,



*Wheeling and Weirton (W.Va.) church members Annabel Murphy, Linda Jones, Mary Jo Long, Doreen Maloy and Mary Jennings fellowship during the Fill My Cup tea party.*

devotionals and fun as they attended the Women's Circle Fill My Cup tea party.

The ladies enjoyed specially-designed foods and a variety of teas at the Wheeling fellowship hall. Youth volunteer Ashley Garvick transformed the Wheeling fellowship hall into a quaint English garden for the event. In her devotional, Parable of the Teacup, Linda Jones, Weirton Women's Ministries director, described what a teacup experiences in the hands of a master potter.

The event was originally planned as a way for women from the congregations to enjoy fun together, but it became an outreach to the community, as more than half of the participants were non-members. "God had other plans, and the tea party ended up reaching out to family, friends and neighbors with His love," says Bridgett Lewis, a Wheeling member.

Another Wheeling member, Betty Cusack, was one of many to invite family members who had never attended an event at the church. "My daughter-in-law was just 'bowled over' by the kindness and love she felt," says Cusack. "She and my granddaughters had a lovely time. My cup was filled and overflowing with happiness!"—Amy Garvick



## Going After the Unchurched

God is calling us to undertake a special ministry in areas and neighborhoods where we have no church presence. We have found that the most effective way to reach unchurched people is by going to those cities and neighborhoods to make new friends and give them the opportunity to know Jesus and the church through us.

Also, there are thousands who have abandoned the faith and wandered away. Are we willing to work for them? We need to be very decided concerning this aspect of the mission. Way too many church members simply prefer to give their offerings and let others seek the lost. There are those in the church who crave the status quo preferring that “outsiders” stay away so as not to disturb their coveted comfort zone.

Like Caleb we are to go forth and conquer the highlands where nobody else has gone before, into the land of giants, overcoming all obstacles that beset us on the path, and there, plant the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel (Josh. 14:12-14). This would reveal unmistakably that our lives reflect God’s love and that we are not mere theorists spewing hot air. Through such ministry many would come to know that there is available for them a true city of refuge.



**José H. Cortés**  
*President*

## Meadow View Junior Academy Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Meadow View Junior Academy (MVJA) in Chesterfield, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pastor Art Randall, former pastor of the Robbinsville church, one of the churches that has supported MVJA through the years, delivered a powerful sermon to an audience of nearly 300 people.

On Sabbath afternoon, students from grades K–12 shared their talents through several musical performances. Pastor Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent of schools, presented a symposium on the past, present and future of Adventist education. Malou Saint-Ulysse, MVJA principal, presented a proposal detailing how to ensure the future and sustainability of MVJA in its mission “to provide quality education in a Christian atmosphere.” After an impromptu call to pledge, Edna Hunter, MVJA volunteer development director, several alumni, parents and friends committed to become systematic donors to the school.

The celebration continued Saturday night with recreation and an ice-cream social where alumni, friends and current students enjoyed an evening of sports and fellowship. On Sunday morning, the school hosted a physical education and health emphasis day. Greg Harcum, MVJA board co-chair, led students, parents and alumni on an inspiring prayer walk around the campus. Harpist Lynn Covell and lead chorister Sam Lombardo also helped lead the prayer walk with

their musical talents. Prayer warriors then participated in a 5K Run/Walk.

“The weekend was spirit-filled. We were blessed with beautiful weather and the attendance was great. May God continue to grant Meadow View Junior Academy many more years to continue to train leaders for His service until Jesus returns,” says Malou Saint-Ulysse.



*Prayer walk participants pray around MVJA’s campus as they celebrate the school’s 50th anniversary.*

## First Filipino Church Conducts Health Expo

The First Filipino church (FFSDAC) in Plainfield recently held their second Health Expo under the coordination of Margie Magbanua, FFSDAC health director. Forty church volunteers prepared activities for 42 adult guests and 40 children. Another 50 school-aged children benefited from the event, receiving free backpacks full of school supplies. Officer Johnson, from the local Police Department, and Lieutenant Nieves and his division crew from the city's Fire Department, were among the community members who attended. Esther Dasilva, a public health office nurse, offered a sugar and cholesterol check. Representatives Michelle and Debbie Norek also attended and educated the crowd on the benefits program for women, infants and children (WIC).

The young adults and youth of the church facilitated the Kid's Health Expo station. They also put together backpacks with school supplies for children. The church provided a nutrition booth, a healthy juicing booth, a massage booth, and they offered free blood sugar, blood pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI) checks, water therapy, physical fitness, breast cancer awareness, men's health awareness, stroke



Member Rex Jardiniiano donates blood during the FFSDAC Health Expo.

awareness, diabetes awareness information, CPR demo and much more. They also hosted a prayer booth where they prayed with the guests.

## Leadership Summit Gathers 350 at Lake Nelson Church

New Jersey Conference leaders from local churches had an opportunity to develop their leadership skills during the fourth Adventist Leadership Summit.



Celeste Ryan Blyden preaches at the Adventist Leadership Summit about leaders facing crisis.

More than 350 leaders filled the seats at Lake Nelson church to worship, learn and have fellowship with other leaders from various churches. This year's speakers included: Columbia Union vice presidents Celeste Ryan Blyden and Frank Bondurant; Andre Ascalon, a New Jersey Conference pastor; Paul Richard Goodridge, a pastor from the Oakwood University church (Ala.); and Paulo Macena, youth director from the New Jersey Conference and organizer of the event.

Evelyn Roque, one of the young leaders who attended the event, says, "The Leadership Summit is a great event! We are able to worship and learn together. We are also able to acquire knowledge from great and experienced speakers. In the New Jersey Conference, we deal with people from different ages, cultures and backgrounds, therefore obtaining the right set of skills is crucial."

Macena concludes, "Leaders left the summit inspired and motivated to become better leaders and continue to follow in Jesus' steps—the greatest Leader of all."

## Harding Hospital Commemorates 100 Years of Healing

Harding Hospital in Columbus recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, commemorating a rich heritage of service. *Visitor* readers may recall a centennial story published in December 2007 by Beth Michaels, entitled, “The Harding Legacy: How One Family Enhanced our History and Healing Ministry,” which chronicled the history of the Harding family and hospital. This centennial weekend highlighted the continued heritage of the Hardings and the legacy George Tyron Harding II, MD, and his successors contributed to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and American psychiatry.

Local hospitals of the time refused to admit known psychiatric cases. But Harding recognized early on that in order to treat the whole person, ones’ spiritual side also needed to be addressed. He opened The Indianola Rest Home in 1916, renamed Harding Hospital after his death in 1934. Harding Hospital officially moved from Worthington to Columbus after its merger with Ohio State University in 1999.

The former Harding Hospital campus remains one of Worthington’s most notable historic sites. Centennial weekend events began with the unveiling of a new Ohio History Connection marker, serving as a commemoration of the site. Now home to Step by Step Academy, a school for autistic students, Richard K. Harding, MD, says of the academy, “He [Harding II] felt people with mental illness deserved the best care possible. ... It’s wonderful to see it being used in such a way.”



*Pastor Yuliyay Filipov, George T. Harding IV and Pastor Lowell Cooper celebrate the Harding legacy.*

Richard and George T. Harding IV, MD, grandson of Harding II and board chair of Harding Heritage Foundation, continued the celebration by sharing the story of the hospital’s first 100 years by illustrating their story through photos and documents. During his Sabbath message, Lowell Cooper, Loma Linda University Health Board of Trustees chair and recently retired general vice president of the General Conference, encouraged churches to become healing communities and centers for emotional wellness.

“We must be a church that embraces [all] people,” says Cooper. “The hospital and church are designed to be institutions of healing.” While they do not occupy the same place or role on the continuum of healing, “they’re in the same business,” he adds.

He also reminded guests that the Church should help those in need by breaking the silence and removing the shame and humiliation of mental illness. “The health message is more than eating vegetables and abstaining from tobacco and alcohol. It’s also about how we think, how we live and why,” says Cooper. “Be a vocal ambassador of emotional wellness.”

Visit the Harding Heritage Foundation Facebook page at [facebook.com/hardingerheritagefoundation](https://facebook.com/hardingerheritagefoundation) to see more historical photos of the Harding Hospital, the Harding family, Worthington church and additional Seventh-day Adventist history.—Heidi Shoemaker



*The Ohio History Connection marker commemorates the former Harding Hospital campus in Worthington.*

## Hispanic Camp Meeting Breaks Record Attendance

The Hispanic camp meeting of 2016 brought a record attendance of brothers and sisters from across the state to Camp Mohaven in Danville. Leaders reinforced the theme, “Pentecost: Harvest Time,” with central messages by Pastor July Chazarreta, an evangelist for *El Centinela*, and performances by several well-known musicians. “It was a unique experience. Attendees were spiritually renewed as never before through messages, special music, prayer and Christian fellowship,” says Peter M. Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator of Ohio Conference.

Hispanic Ministries continues to grow rapidly in Ohio. “Three short years ago, Hispanic camp meeting used to bring around 200-225 members, and last year 500 people attended. This year, however, we celebrated camp meeting with more than 700!” exclaims Simpson.

Simpson has recently included baptisms during weekend programming. “The first year we baptized three to five new members; last year, eight to 10 new members; and in 2016, the Lord blessed us with 37 precious souls coming to the kingdom of heaven,” says Simpson. Eight others were baptized prior to camp meeting who were unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances.



More than 700 members attend the 2016 Ohio Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting.

The record number who registered for the weekend forced Simpson and Camp Mohaven ranger, Dave Robinson, to use creative solutions to meet their guests’ needs. They rented a large tent that was equipped with lights to house the main meetings and set up portable toilets and showers. “I love seeing the camp so full,” says Robinson. “There was joy all around, happiness on every face,” proclaims Simpson. “It was the biggest Hispanic celebration we’ve had in the Ohio Conference!”

Simpson and conference Hispanic pastors hold smaller evangelistic and outreach campaigns and assistant lay pastor (ALP) trainings for church elders in the weeks and months prior to camp meeting to encourage members to meet with friends and neighbors in small groups. Two key components in the success of Hispanic Ministries are 1) the active involvement of church members on a personal level, and 2) the use of friendship evangelism. At a recent ALP training, members shared counsel from Ellen G. White. “The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul. To a great degree this must be accomplished by personal labor. This was Christ’s method” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 229).

“We praised the Lord at the end of this convocation for giving us so many victories for His glory. Reaping is our continued focus as we look forward to that glorious day when not just Hispanics, but people from every tongue and nation, will meet at the feet of Jesus, our Master and Savior,” says Simpson.



Conference pastors baptize 37 new believers during the 2016 Ohio Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting.

# Pennsylvania Pen

DECEMBER 2016

## 1,300 “Missionaries” Visit Western Pennsylvania

Church members from eastern Pennsylvania drove across the state one Sabbath afternoon, carpooling in vans, cars and buses, to help western Pennsylvania congregations prepare for the Faith for Family evangelistic efforts held this fall. Together they went door-to-door, distributing literature and invitations to the series.

“I was amazed when I saw the big bus full of people arrive from Hamburg. It gave me goose bumps,” says Debra Bandel, a member of the Washington church, located about 30 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Nancy Stump, a member of the Reading Hampden Heights church in Temple, traveled with a group from the Johnstown church. Stump spoke to a woman who said she’d love to attend the upcoming meetings, but had no way to get there. When asked if a friend or family member could take her, she thought her son might be able to. The phone rang as they were talking; it was her son. She began telling him about the meetings, but he wasn’t happy and asked to talk to one of the church members. As Stump talked with him, he asked what church she belonged to. When she told him the Seventh-day Adventist Church, he said, “Wow! I’ve been watching Hope Channel, and we will be at the meetings!” This is just one of many experiences members enjoyed as they worked together to connect with communities, reports Tim Bailey,



*Forty-five members of Pastor Feleide Garcia’s churches in the Allentown-Bethlehem area join members of Warren church to distribute 1,700 door hangers, inviting people to the evangelistic series.*



*Brendon Barrowman, a member of the Harrisburg church, distributes literature, prays with people and invites them to Faith for Family meetings.*

director of leadership and spiritual growth.

One hundred new leads were generated from the cooperative door-to-door outreach, adding to more than 400 active Bible studies that are currently being given by Bible workers. Each church participating in the series had a Bible worker laying the groundwork, making connections in local churches and preparing interests.

Fourteen churches began evangelistic meetings during the second week of October. Several others started in November.

“Pennsylvania Conference membership is on fire to spread the word that Jesus is coming again. [We’re so excited that] more than 1,300 missionaries participated in the door-to-door ministry event in Western Pennsylvania,” shares Bailey. “Our goal is to have total member involvement all across the conference. Unselfish labor for all our churches is what it will take to reach our territory. Miracles are possible only when we ask for them. And we are praying for God to continue to work His will.”

Read the January/February 2017 *Pennsylvania Pen* to learn more about the Faith for Family evangelistic efforts.

## Members Mourn Passing of Pastor Montalvo

It was Pastor Gabriel Montalvo's dream to raise up a Hispanic church in Pittsburgh. He was excited to be a part of the Faith for Family team planning this year's evangelistic outreach in western Pennsylvania. But one Sabbath, as members from across the state prepared to partner with western Pennsylvania churches in door-to-door outreach, Montalvo suddenly and unexpectedly passed away.

Originally trained as a respiratory therapist, Montalvo's love for God and passion for sharing the gospel with others led him to lay-pastoral work in 1997. Pennsylvania Conference hired him as a pastor in 2000. In 2015 Montalvo was elected Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the conference. Montalvo pastored multiple Hispanic churches across the Philadelphia metro area, many of which he planted.

"Gabriel Montalvo lived a life of mission from his youth to the day he died," says Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania conference president. "Even before being called into full-time ministry, he served as a church elder from the age of 21. He was passionate about evangelism, church planting, lay-led churches and growing young-adult second generation Hispanic churches. We are so thankful for the legacy he created during his ministry and pray that the mission that he was so passionate about will be carried forward by all those who knew him."

Montalvo is survived by his wife, Anna, three children and two grandchildren.



The Pennsylvania Conference Family Ministries Department  
invites couples to attend

**Love  
around the  
World**

Marriage Retreat  
February 24-26, 2017  
Sheraton Hotel, Harrisburg/Hershey  
with  
Drs. Leslie and Prudence Pollard from Oakwood College

For more info or to register online, go to [paconference.org](http://paconference.org)

# Potomac People

DECEMBER 2016

## The Exception to the Rule

You and I live in a world where there seems to be an exception to every rule. In most contexts, the exception applies to “I” and not to “you.” As a child, I was an expert at applying the exception rule—“But Mom, *you* don’t understand.” I wanted her to understand *my* context, that *my* motives were pure and *I* was being wronged. I’d say, “I understand Mom, but that doesn’t apply to *me* in this situation.”

In a world filled with finger pointing and excuses, there is also a world of Truth in which there are no exceptions. As believers there are no exceptions that excuse us from loving our neighbor, acting unkindly or out of arrogance. Micah 6:8 (RSV) asks us, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” We are told in John 13:35 (RSV) that “all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” As disciples of Christ, we are to reflect the character of God—there are no exceptions.

Regardless of gender or ethnicity, the privilege of a follower of Jesus is to excel in justice, kindness, humility and love, and to engage the plight of the marginalized, disenfranchised, deprived and most vulnerable. Jesus left heaven to do just that and thank God there was no exception, so a sinner like me could be saved.



**Bill Miller**  
President

## Beltsville Church Launches Second Campus

It’s a dance and ballroom studio during the week, and it’s transformed into a sanctuary each Sabbath. The Beltsville (Md.) church recently launched its second campus, Tech Road, in Silver Spring, Md. Although Tech Road is situated in an industrial park just four miles from the Ammendale campus, it is big in mission potential.

“This is a great location for people who don’t feel comfortable in a traditional church setting,” says Will Johns, campus pastor for the new site. Johns adds that more than half the people who attended the grand opening were not from the Ammendale campus, the new term for what has been known as the Beltsville church for the past 60 years. “Beltsville church” now refers to both of these sites; they will share a membership roster, tithe report and will represent one body at constituency meetings.

Worship services are staggered at both locations, allowing pastors to shuttle between campuses on Sabbaths and offer support. Tech Road meets for church at 10:45 a.m. at 2126 Industrial Parkway, Silver Spring, Md.—*Kermit Netteburg*



*More than 300 people attend the grand opening of the Beltsville church’s second campus, Tech Road, in Silver Spring, Md.*

# Potomac People

## Community Praise Church Celebrates International Day

Most Saturdays Muna Salih, a Sudanese native and Lorton, Va. resident, can be found relaxing at home or taking her daughter to a soccer game. Salih abandoned those activities when her friend, Veronica Chollette, a member of Community Praise Church (CPC) in Alexandria, Va., invited her to attend the church's annual International Day. "It was my first time in a church," says Salih. "A lot of my friends are [Seventh-day] Adventists, and I'm impressed with the charity work they do in the community. When Veronica called, I was ready to go."

During the service Senior Pastor Bron Jacobs announced nearly 70 countries by name while people from those countries stood or paraded to the front of the church to display their native clothes and colors. When Jacobs called Sudan, Salih, dressed in a long, wrap-around cloth called a Toob, was the only one who stood. "If there were more Sudanese people there, I would have walked down to the front of the church with them," says Salih. "My country was celebrated by the church, and I was welcomed and hugged by so many." When asked if she would return to CPC, Salih says, "Yes, I think I would. It's a holy place with a lot of love and kindness."

Glen Palmer, a longtime elder, suggested hosting an International Day at CPC in the 1980s. He saw it as a means to invite people to church. Over the years, it's developed into a treasured experience that draws members—past and present—and visitors and friends—far and near—together. Others, unable to attend, watch online. "It allows us to celebrate the rich diversity of our church," says Elaine Arthur, minister of worship and music. "Members represent their countries and share their culture through dress, language and food. While we celebrate these differences and enjoy the fellowship, we rejoice in the common love and



Senior Pastor Bron Jacobs takes a selfie with CPC's congregation at its annual International Day.



Top: Sudanese native, Muna Salih, enjoys the "Taste of Nations" as she experiences her first time at a Seventh-day Adventist Church. Bottom: Jacob Conteh (middle) from Sierra Leone with Rebecca and Raquel Sorto from El Salvador display their native attire at the annual CPC International Day.

sacrifice made for us by our Lord and Savior."

More than 700 people came out to celebrate this fall. Jacob Conteh, a native of Sierra Leone, prayed in his native language of Timne. *Higher Calling*, one of the church's choirs, sang in Spanish and English and presented other selections with the support of African drums, creating a vibrant, cultural experience. The celebration ended with a "Taste of Nations," which allowed attendees to enjoy traditional foods from the represented countries.—Mark Young

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## Fire Sparks Student Gratitude

When spontaneous combustion caused a fire in one of the hay barns attached to the old farm shop at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), volunteers of Hamburg's Union Fire Department responded without hesitation. The fire spread to a multiple-alarm level, pulling fire departments from 15 to 20 miles away.

Thanks to the quick response and overwhelming support from the volunteer fire departments, the fire was soon under control. As a sign of gratitude, students and staff from the BMA Assist program spent a Sunday baking cookies. Later that week, students traveled to each first responder station and delivered a verbal thank-you and a platter of baked cookies.

Craig Johnson, assistant coordinator for The Assist program, says, "Our students made an impact every place they visited. The Hamburg Fire Company didn't want us to leave. They were so happy to have us there!"



Students visit the local fire station to thank first responders with cookies.

They showed us the equipment in the firehouse, and the students didn't want to return to campus."

## Students Participate in Faith for Family Outreach

Members of the Blue Mountain Academy community and members of the Pennsylvania Conference, recently replicated the Faith for Family campaign they conducted in Philadelphia last year. This year outreach efforts focused on the Pittsburgh metro area.

Local leaders conducted a special worship service



Seniors leave Faith for Family invitations at an apartment complex in Pittsburgh.

at the Pittsburgh church the weekend prior to the campaign. BMA seniors participated in this kickoff event, led by Pastor John Kent of Carnegie Simple church and Pastor Jason Dietz of the Erie church. They later broke into small groups and went house to house, knocking on doors, sharing valuable family resources and inviting people to the upcoming meetings.

At the conclusion of the outing, BMA students and youth from area churches shared testimonies of people whom they had prayed with, people who accepted invitations to the meetings and the overall positive feeling created by working together to share the gospel. Senior Kylee Davis, says, "Going door-to-door really took me out of my comfort zone since I don't feel comfortable talking to strangers, but I realized I could still do my part by at least leaving literature. It was a blessing to be a part of this experience."

Tim Bailey, director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth for the Pennsylvania Conference, expressed gratitude for the students' support. Their assistance paved the way for an exciting weekend enfolded Pittsburgh in God's love, he says.

## Seniors Choose Service Over Fun

Highland View Academy's graduating class of 2017 is working diligently this year to ensure that their senior trip means more than a few days of class bonding and relaxation. While the more traditional senior trip taken by academy students is filled with much-needed rest and rejuvenation after the rigor of finals, this year's seniors decided that they wanted their class bonding experience to have a greater impact than simply reinforcing their already close relationships.

While the class was dreaming of their senior trip during their junior year, class president Abby Choi suggested the possibility of a mission trip as opposed to a long weekend on the beach. Within a few weeks, the entire class was set on foregoing the popular senior trip layout for an experience that would not only strengthen their class relationships, but also impact a world in need.

When asked about the main reason they chose to give up their opportunity for simple fun for a much more labor-intensive, exhausting and expensive trip, Hannah Spitalsky stated that she and her fellow classmates felt it was their calling to "express Jesus" in every situation. As a whole, they felt that a mission trip would be a much more fitting, natural and fulfilling

culmination of their time at a Seventh-day Adventist school that had done its best to instill the mission of Christ's redeeming love in every one of its students.

While the path ahead seems daunting and almost insurmountable, as each student would need approximately \$1,500 for the trip to Las Lajas, Panama, they are excited about the opportunity to "show Jesus off to the world" and thrilled for the chance to experience new places, people and cultures. First time mission tripper Haley Wear cannot wait to meet new people and discover new ways to express her faith.

A large number of seniors have never been outside of the U.S., and the opportunity to not only spread their faith but also expand their own understanding of other world cultures is an aspect that makes them both nervous and thrilled. Joel Buhler says he is excited to see how this experience will help bring his fellow classmates closer together.

This mission trip will stick with these seniors, their parents and teachers for years to come. The class of 2017 hopes that current and future HVA students will be impacted by their decision to give up the traditional senior trip for the sake of Christ's mission.—April Lutz



PHOTO BY KANDACE ZOLLMAN

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# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

DECEMBER 2016  
*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### Sophomore Helps Others Find Their Voice

As Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) sophomore Autumn Uhrig watched a YouTube video one morning, something piqued her interest. Millions of people who can't speak rely on text-to-speech devices to communicate. Most devices have the same vocal sound for all users, regardless of age or gender. Uhrig learned of VocaliD, which, according to their website, is "the human voicebank of the world."

VocaliD records human voices, mixes them with sounds a non-speaking person can make and blends them to make a unique humanized voice in which the machine talks for them. Uhrig wanted to do her part in helping someone find their voice. She visited the website, recorded a couple of sentences and waited to see if there was anyone her age who needed assistance. Months later she received an email that a young girl, Tesa, was a good match for her voice. Uhrig now needed to record 3,488 sentences to get the job done.

As expected, this process took hours. "I would come home from school every day, do my homework, and then go to a quiet room to record as many sentences as I could before bed. At the end of each session, my throat would hurt a little bit, but it was worth it," says Uhrig. "I recorded the sentences as quickly as possible because [VocaliD] hoped to give this little girl her new voice by Christmas!"

Uhrig finished the sentences in time. Tesa got her very own voice, and other girls will benefit as well. Uhrig's recordings can be matched with anyone who thinks her voice is compatible with theirs. "Currently there are three young women considering my voice as a match," says Uhrig. "Though it took a long time to do—it was actually pretty exhausting at times—it was well worth it. Those women will get their own voice, and I had a part in giving it to them."



### Students Share School Supplies



When Darlene Thompson invited her sixth-grade class to join her in a service project for Bible class, she wasn't sure what type of response she'd receive. She, and other Spencerville (Md.) church members, partnered with Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., to provide backpacks of school supplies to underprivileged students. To her amazement, her students were eager to participate.

As part of the project, the sixth-graders filled a backpack especially for Jasmine, a sixth-grader who attends a public school. Thompson encouraged students to use their own money to purchase supplies. Some earned money by doing extra chores. Students also included personal notes in the backpack, wishing Jasmine well.

*SAA sixth-graders hold handwritten notes and school supplies to fill a backpack for an underprivileged student.*

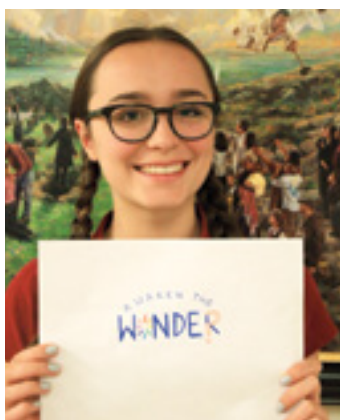
# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY<sub>.ORG</sub> CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

DECEMBER 2016

## Theme Maintains Tone For School Year

Each year the Campus Ministries team at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) chooses a theme for the new school year. The theme gives our school a spiritual focus and a space for collective growth. I couldn't be happier with the students' choice for this year, "Awaken the Wonder." What an awesome indication that our young people desire a vibrant, transcendent faith. One that is alive and not dead. One that is big and fathomless, one that leads to a risen Lord. I'm praying that SVA students and staff will experience that sense of wonder this year in their daily routines of academic life, trips, study tours, service projects and concerts.



To further promote the theme, we held an art contest after the theme was announced. The entire school voted for their design of choice. This year's winners were sophomore Sidney Collins and fourth-grader Brandon Wantz. We congratulate them on a job well done! Our hope is that all students, parents and friends alike will be inspired to join us in our quest to "Awaken the Wonder" this school year.

*Sophomore Sidney Collins displays her winning design for the school's "Awaken the Wonder" theme.*



**Darren Wilkins**  
*Principal*

## Seniors Conquer Survival Weekend

The Class of 2016 recently embarked on Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) annual Senior Survival adventure, held each fall at Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville, Ohio. The purpose of Senior Survival is to set aside time to focus on life's basic issues. No other environment allows for self-exploration and revelation of God quite like nature. Seniors are challenged in ways they have never been before. Upon arrival at the camping site, staff give them basic materials such as plastic, duct tape, etc., to build shelters for the next five days, making sure the shelters will withstand the wind and/or rain.

This experience is part of their senior Bible class, and it covers journal writing, group activities, participation, attitude and attendance. Seniors' grades are measured through the evaluations of both staff and group members. SVA leaders designed the team-building activities to challenge seniors individually and strengthen them as a class.

"Senior Survival was an amazing experience. I feel so much closer to my classmates, and I know that I can trust all of them now!" says Alyson Cole.

Lissie Wilson adds, "My favorite experience was the

time I had with my classmates around the campfire."

Jessica Robinson sums up the experience: "I went into Senior Survival thinking that I knew my classmates and friends, but after this experience, my class grew closer than I ever thought possible!"



*Spring Valley Academy's Class of 2016 tough it out during their Senior Survival trip.*

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# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2016

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

## High-Caliber Academics Prepare Students for Future

Quality college preparatory academics is a core objective at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). High school level classes, in addition to Honors, AP and College Dual Credit courses, prepare students for college rigor and jump-start students earning college credits. “SVA faculty role-model and encourage students to pursue excellence in- and outside of the classroom,” says principal Don Short. “Ninety-four percent of our teachers have a master’s degree or higher level of education.”

Government and history teacher Gabrielle Griffin ('86) likes to get students outside of the classroom to witness court proceedings, political rallies or to walk in the footsteps of soldiers on a battlefield. Her experiential learning methods challenge students to “push a higher level of thinking, apply and process and analyze and think critically—[to] make a real connection.” These skills are the take-away which they will be able to apply throughout their education and careers,” says Griffin. In November she organized a school-wide election, as she does every presidential cycle, with student surrogates representing party ideology. She conducts mock trials in government class and leads a history tour of New England and New York each spring.

Tom McNeilus ('72), one of the highest-ranked math and physics teachers in Virginia, is known for his interactive teaching methods which get students actively engaged in learning.

To best prepare students for college and careers



*Ron Perkin, MD, and teaching assistant, Jin Moon, lecture Anatomy and Physiology students.*



*Students relish the experiential learning and fun of Gabrielle Griffin's U.S. History Tour of New England and New York.*

through experiences which will produce disciples of Jesus, it is imperative to ensure students are processing the knowledge to reach their full potential and achieve academically in the health sciences. With this in mind, the science department and curriculum has undergone a restructuring and review, with several new faculty members, including three graduates of Loma Linda University Medical School.

New science department chair Ron Perkin, professor emeritus of East Carolina State University, is passionate about teaching Anatomy and Physiology and believes if students study the human body for themselves, they will be convicted of a Creator God. He says, “My purpose is to help students learn that they can love and serve God and still do science.” Cardiothoracic surgeon John Anderson team teaches with Perkin.

Biology teacher Erica Franklin comes to SVA from Walla Walla University, where she pursued her graduate studies. Franklin is also passionate about biology and is often seen leading her classes on outdoor explorations to collect specimens.

Pediatrician Kelli Fluharty Hanon ('88) has returned to teach chemistry in the same science department where she worked as a student. Hanon shares, “God is leading on our campus, and the new science program is one of the ways His blessings are evident.”

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Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Donald Short ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

## Student Wins STEM Scholarship

The Health Information Technology Advisory Professional Group (HITPAG) recently presented Takoma Academy (TA) senior, Tiffany Thorn, its inaugural STEM Scholarship. In 2015 the HITPAG established a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) scholarship to encourage high school students nationwide to pursue their passion in the STEM disciplines, as well as to bring awareness and promotion to the U.S. Public Health Services (PHS).

Zanethia Eubanks, a commander at PHS, says, “Tiffany was chosen because of her passion to further her education in one of the STEM disciplines and for her leadership qualities. Our goal is to highlight the skills, abilities and talents of our youth to inspire them to continue their quest for learning more about STEM. Hopefully this will lead them to gaining a greater insight about how they can utilize their STEM education to impact the world. Showing these young scholars the opportunities that are afforded to them will encourage them to seek endless possibilities, and may even open up their interests to applying those skillsets to the public health industry. We could certainly use their expertise! We are excited about the opportunities this provides.”

During the ceremony held at TA, Eubanks relayed a message President Obama gave to STEM scholars. “So I want to congratulate all of you for your



PHOTOS BY CARLITO PALMIER

*Tiffany Thorn receives a STEM Scholarship from Commander Zanethia Eubanks (left) and Lieutenant Commander Gregory Dawson (right).*

remarkable achievements. You’ve made a lot of people proud—your parents, your teachers, your friends, your mentors. And as president, I’m proud of you, because America is going to be stronger and smarter and healthier, and a much more interesting place because of you,” he said.

Lieutenant Commander Gregory Dawson says, “My goal is to solidify students’ interest in STEM. We must nurture our future leaders because pursuing the fields of science, technology, engineering and math will provide them with critical skillsets needed in almost every organization. We need to plant seeds in them now to be forward-thinkers and consider focusing on issues related to cybersecurity, bioterrorism, research and development of cures for diseases, and a plethora of other areas related to STEM. I also want to use this scholarship as a platform to introduce the U.S. Public Health Service to students in hopes that they will consider becoming an officer in the future.”

Parents, Fran and Wes Thorn, praise their daughter for this major accomplishment. “We are happy that the Lord has rewarded Tiffany’s hard work efforts and are thrilled that God has selected her to promote TA in the surrounding community. She is an example of the true benefits of Christian education, and now she is able to share it with the world.”



*Commander Eubanks (left) and Lieutenant Commander Dawson (right) present Tiffany Thorn with a STEM Scholarship.*



## Honors College

Congratulations to Dr. E. Albert Reece, Provost Cheryl Kisunzu and Professor Brad Haas for developing and launching the Honors College at Washington Adventist University. When Dr. Reece, Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Maryland and Dean of the School of Medicine, accepted the invitation to be a member of the WAU Board of Trustees he outlined his vision to grow the academic quality of the university by creating an Honors College. His vision was to work with the University's academic leadership to create an academic learning community that provides a distinctive pathway for students who demonstrate their ability and dream to be exceptional in

their pursuit of academic excellence. The Honors College that was launched at the November 2016 Board of Trustees meeting will provide a supportive and challenging academic program for intellectually motivated undergraduate students. Offering an enriching

interdisciplinary curriculum through its varied programs, the Honors College admits and supports students in a full range of distinctive academic pursuits. This will require designated classes, a collegial environment, and close academic advising for advanced study, internships, and research. The desired outcome is to inspire students to a lifetime of broad intellectual inquisitiveness and continuing self-sustained learning that leads to personal growth.

This is Washington Adventist University!

—Weymouth Spence



**Weymouth Spence**  
President

## Nursing Program Receives Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree in nursing and master's degree in nursing programs at Washington Adventist University have been accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, 202-887-6791.

"We are very pleased with these accreditations, as they reflect the hard work of our faculty and staff, and the high quality of our nursing programs," said WAU President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T. "Please join me in congratulating the nursing program faculty and staff for their excellent work."

"In the Adventist tradition, our programs are defined by our commitment to faith-informed distinctive safe nursing practices, as required for holistic learning and abundant living," said WAU Provost Cheryl Harris Kisunzu, Ph.D.

Washington Adventist University offers a baccalaureate degree in nursing as part of the school's traditional day program. Additionally, three master's degree programs in the University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) are offered, accommodating working adults with an accelerated evening format. The graduate programs include an RN-MSN program, a Master of Science in Nursing and Business Leadership, and a Master of Science in Nursing Education.

## WGTS 91.9 Hits Fall Fundraising Goal

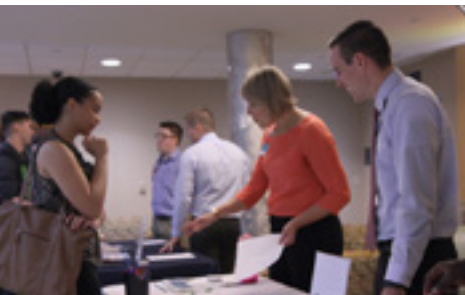
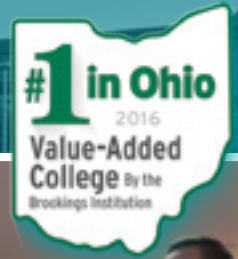
Close to 4,000 WGTS 91.9 listeners cast a vote of support for the station during the recent fundraiser. Listeners enjoyed four days of stories from fellow listeners about how God is using the station to change lives. A pivotal moment of the event was when Washington Redskins Quarterback Kirk Cousins and a team of anonymous donors

put up a match challenge of \$41,000 which listeners more than doubled in the course of an hour. WGTS 91.9 finished the fundraising event with 100% of the goal. This was the largest fundraising event in the station's history.

"It is always deeply humbling to witness the amazing generosity of WGTS listeners during a Fall Fundraiser – this year was incredibly special. The stories of how God is blessing and changing lives were rich and deep. We saw a ton of heart in the giving. It wasn't about the money – the giving was a response to God's goodness in the lives of our listeners. Thank you to all who support WGTS 91.9 with their prayers and financial gifts. Let's serve Washington, D.C. together!" said WGTS 91.9 General Manager Kevin Krueger."



# KETTERING COLLEGE



*More than 30 students signed up for jobs in patient transportation, nursing assistance, registration, and phlebotomy.*

## Kettering College Strengthens Partnership with Kettering Adventist HealthCare

**By Lauren Brooks**

In a new initiative, Kettering College is developing an improved partnership with Kettering Adventist HealthCare to provide full-time students with patient-centered job opportunities through job fairs during the school year.

The first career fair was held on October 18 and gave Kettering College students the opportunity to network with hiring managers from Kettering Adventist HealthCare to fill needed jobs. More than 60 students attended the job fair and about half signed up for jobs in patient transportation, nursing assistance, registration, and phlebotomy.

"Some of the hardest positions for healthcare institutions to fill are their

part-time and resource opportunities. This is perfect for Kettering College because most of our students only have the ability to work part-time or resource hours," explains Ben Hotelling, Career Services Director at Kettering College. "The college and Kettering Adventist HealthCare were able to come together and provide the amazing opportunity to fill their 'hard-to-fill' positions."

In a recent study, Kettering College found that 73 percent of the surveyed students had a job and 44 percent of those surveyed students were not working in healthcare. Hotelling's goal is to provide more opportunities for students to choose healthcare related

jobs to give them an advantage for a full-time job after graduation. This is an advantage for the college students to have applicable and healthcare-related experience on their resume, and have interaction with hospital leadership on a regular basis.

This partnership is a great opportunity for employees to help develop and mentor Kettering College students by providing hands on experience and training.

"The strength in this partnership will continue to set up our students for future success," added Victor Brown, dean for Enrollment Management and Student Life.







# Profiles in Caring

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## Our Hands as God's Tools

One of the most fascinating stories from scriptures is also one of the most important – the scene at the burning bush where Moses was first called by God to return from exile and lead Israel out of slavery and into the promised land.

At one point in the story, God asks Moses, "What is that in your hand?" Moses responds, "It is a stick." And then God says, "Throw it down."

Now it wasn't just a stick; it was his shepherd's rod – the indispensable tool that every shepherd carried. It was used to herd the sheep and protect them. It was used as a climbing stick. It was a symbol of who Moses was; a form of identification. And since Moses was tending a flock that did not belong to him, it may well have been the only thing of value that was actually his.

"Throw it down," God said to Moses. And with those simple words, God called him away from the things that had defined his life as a fugitive, an exile – and called him back to his real purpose and destiny. Before Moses could become the leader that would save Israel, he needed to give up whatever was in his hand that was defining him as a shepherd and to depend solely on God's divine power.

So Moses threw down the stick. And the future of the world was changed forever.

In fact, God had no intention of asking Moses to leave behind those things that defined him. The task God had in mind for Moses would require every bit of his talent, training, wisdom, experience – and his shepherd's stick would even help part the Red Sea. But God was asking Moses to depend on Him – completely.

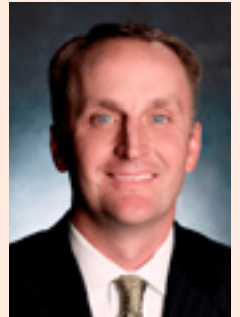
If his hands were full of other things – regardless of their significance – Moses would not have been able to achieve the things that God needed him to do.

What's in your hand? Only you can answer that question. Is whatever you carry with you all of the time impeding the work of God in your life? Is it an attitude? A set of doubts? Unresolved anger? Disappointment? Frustration? Or is it a sense of privilege? An unwillingness to risk depending on others?

When we come to God, He asks us to empty ourselves, empty our hands. It is the dependence on His strength that reawakens our true strengths. It is recognition of His wisdom that transforms our wisdom. It is by placing our lives in His hands that the work of our own hands can be divinely blessed.

I seek to place myself in God's hands every single day – but to do so, I must be willing to throw aside that which I hold in my own hand. For me, this is the daily struggle of faith that transforms the way I live.

And in our professional lives supporting a ministry of healing, what is in our hands? Regardless of what it is – resources, skill, experience, authority – our first task is to respond to the Divine directive: throw it down. Give it back to God. And then let Him lead in placing in our hands and within our reach, those things that can be used to fulfill our mission, achieve our goals, and bring His purposes to pass.



**Terry Forde**

*President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare*

# Adventist HealthCare Physician's Faith Fuels Work in Urgent Care

*Career spans 35 years and two continents*

Richard Samuel, MD, carried his family's dreams from India to the United States when he became a physician.

"I'm the youngest of four children. My parents badly wanted one of my siblings to become a medical doctor, but they were interested not in that career," he said.

Dr. Samuel, however, completed his medical degree in 1980, from Christian Medical College in Vellore, India. He then worked in four different Adventist hospitals, including starting and establishing one of them. By then, his parents' dream had become his passion.

"I felt that God led me into choosing this profession. God saw in me an ability to minister to the sick, the poor and the needy," he said.

Dr. Samuel, along with his wife Bernice, moved to the United States in 1985, and continued his mission. Now, as a physician at the new Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care center in Laurel, Md., his faith fuels his work.

"As an urgent care physician, I'm inspired to minister to all types of people using my knowledge and expertise," Dr. Samuel explained.

## Healthcare as a Ministry

Urgent care medicine is similar to the emergency room, and doctors often only have an instant to connect with patients. Once patients leave, a doctor may never see them again.

To soothe and connect with patients seeking urgent care, Centra Care Adventist HealthCare has developed a warm atmosphere to greet patients and their families as

Adventist HealthCare also has urgent care centers in Rockville and Germantown in Montgomery County.

Each treat a wide range of illnesses and injuries, such as common viruses, infections, stomach and digestive conditions, orthopedic injuries, asthma, allergies and various common skin conditions, they also provide services in occupational medicine.

Centra Care offers appointments, as well as walk-in and emergency treatment.

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



*Dr. Richard Samuel offers quality, compassionate care to patients at Adventist HealthCare's new urgent care facility in Laurel.*

they walk through the doors. There is a reading section and play room for children, and bottled water and magazines for adult patients. Soft Christian music plays in the waiting room.

"What differentiates us from other urgent care centers is the mission of Adventist HealthCare, that is, to extend God's care by giving attention to the physical, mental and spiritual health of our patients," said Dr. Samuel, a member of Southern Asian Church in Silver Spring. Dr. Samuel also expressed how this mission complements his own personal, 35-year effort to minister as a physician.

Dr. Samuel completed his Internal Medicine Residency in 1995, at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Episcopal Hospital, where he served as chief resident. Since then, his work experience has been in ambulatory medicine practice, in which he is board certified, and includes emergency room, urgent care and occupational medicine.

"The most satisfying aspect of my work is being able to convey to the patient the compassionate nature of Christ. I love to really listen to my patients one-on-one. It's important that I can look them in the eyes, and explain their condition to them with love," he said.

Though his time with clients can be brief, Dr. Samuel takes each one to heart. His interactions range from offering simple kindness to sharing a prayer if the patient indicates that would be welcome.

"Every day before I put on my white coat, I pray that God gives me the knowledge, wisdom, understanding and compassion to show His love," he said.

## Turning Silence into Song

*Rehab gives people with language disorders an outlet for expression*



*The Aphasia Tunes — a choir comprising people with a language disorder—practice at Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring.*

It makes sense that the estimated 1 million people in the U.S. who have aphasia cannot easily explain their condition. A language disorder, which typically results from a stroke or other damage to the brain, impairs a person's ability to speak. Unfortunately, it also makes sense that people with the condition feel isolated.

Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation (PH&R), with inpatient and outpatient locations in Rockville, Silver Spring, Takoma Park and Gaithersburg, began offering a community aphasia support group in 2006 to provide a network for those feeling disconnected due to ongoing communication challenges.

"There is value in communicating with others who are also having difficulty," explained Sandi Lancaster, MA, CCC-SLP, a senior speech-language pathologist with PH&R. "Having a supportive group environment to work on communication can be extremely therapeutic for individuals with aphasia."

In 2015, Ms. Lancaster shared information about the potential therapeutic benefits of music and singing with the group.

"Individuals with aphasia typically have damage to the left hemisphere of their brains, whereas music is largely a function of the right hemisphere," she said. "So music can tap into people's strengths when they have aphasia."

Thanks to the presentation, members of the group realized that, although they had difficulty speaking, they were able

to communicate in another way: through song. Group member Erik Delfino felt so inspired that he worked with two other group members to start a choir, now known as Aphasia Tunes.

Today, Aphasia Tunes regularly performs at Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring. The group purchased instruments through a grant from the church and has continued to perform with support from the church's music minister, Brian Priebe. The choir currently practices twice a month and performs at the church.

Mr. Delfino, who suffered a stroke in 2014, said that being part of the choir has helped him with his communication challenges.

"I know people with my condition have difficulty getting the words out, but for me, singing was no problem," Delfino said. "I am excited to see how this new initiative will continue to bless the lives of others as we move forward. I know it has already been a great blessing to those involved."

Visit [AdventistRehab.com](http://AdventistRehab.com) to learn more about the community aphasia group and other support groups.

# La fe de un médico de Adventist HealthCare impulsa el trabajo en la atención urgente

*Tiene 35 años de carrera en dos continentes*

El Doctor Richard Samuel cumplió el sueño de su familia que trajo desde la India hasta los Estados Unidos cuando se convirtió en médico.

“Soy el menor de cuatro hijos. Mis padres anhelaban que uno de mis hermanos se convirtiera en médico, pero a ninguno de ellos le interesaba esa carrera”, él dijo.

El Dr. Samuel, sin embargo, se graduó en 1980 de la Universidad Médica Cristiana en Vellore, India. Luego trabajó en cuatro hospitales distintos de Adventist, incluso comenzó y estableció uno de ellos. Para ese entonces, el sueño de sus padres ya se había convertido en su propia pasión.

“Sentí que Dios me guió para que elija esta profesión. Dios vio en mí la capacidad para servir a los enfermos, los pobres y los necesitados”, agregó.

El Dr. Samuel se mudó a los Estados Unidos junto con su esposa Bernice en el año 1985 y continuó con su misión. Ahora, como médico del nuevo centro de Centra Care Adventist HealthCare Urgent Care en Laurel, Md., su fe impulsa su trabajo.

“Como médico de atención urgente, me inspira servir a toda clase de personas utilizando mi conocimiento y experiencia”, explicó el Dr. Samuel.

## La atención médica como un ministerio

La medicina de atención urgente es similar a la sala de emergencias, y generalmente, los médicos solo tienen un instante para conectarse con los pacientes. Una vez que el paciente se va, es posible que el médico nunca vuelva a verle.

Para tranquilizar y conectarse con los pacientes que requieren atención urgente, Centra Care Adventist HealthCare ha desarrollado un entorno cálido para recibir a los pacientes y sus familias cuando entran por nuestras puertas. Hay una sección de lectura y una sala de juegos para los niños, y agua embotellada y revistas para los pacientes adultos. En la sala de espera suena una suave música cristiana.

“Lo que nos diferencia de otros centros de atención

urgente es la misión de Adventist HealthCare: extender los cuidados de Dios dándole énfasis a la salud física, mental y espiritual de nuestros pacientes,” comentó el Dr. Samuel, un miembro de la Iglesia Asiática del Sur en Silver Spring. El Dr. Samuel también expresó cómo esta misión complementa su esfuerzo personal de 35 años de servir como médico.

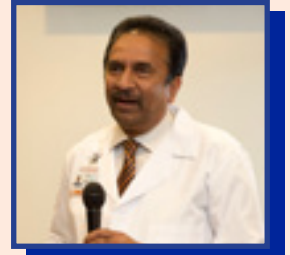
En 1995, el Dr. Samuel completó su Residencia en Medicina Interna en la Facultad de Medicina de Pensilvania, en el Hospital Episcopal, donde se desempeñó como residente en jefe. Desde ese entonces, su experiencia laboral ha sido en la práctica de medicina ambulatoria, para la cual está acreditado, y esto incluye la sala de emergencias, atención urgente y medicina ocupacional.

“El aspecto más gratificante de mi trabajo es poder transmitirle al paciente la naturaleza compasiva de Cristo. Me encanta escuchar a mis pacientes uno por uno. Es importante poder mirarlos a los ojos y explicarles su situación con amor”, él dijo.

A pesar de que el tiempo que tiene con sus pacientes puede ser corto, el Dr. Samuel los escucha con el corazón. Sus interacciones van desde ofrecer simple bondad hasta compartir una plegaria si el paciente indica que eso sería bienvenido.

“Todos los días antes de ponerme mi bata blanca, le rezo a Dios para que me dé conocimiento, sabiduría, entendimiento y compasión para mostrar Su amor”, agregó.

**Adventist HealthCare también tiene centros de atención urgente en Rockville y Germantown en el Condado de Montgomery. Para más información, visite [AdventistUrgentCare.com](http://AdventistUrgentCare.com).**



*El Dr. Richard Samuel invita a la comunidad a la apertura del nuevo centro de atención urgente de Adventist HealthCare este verano en Laurel, Md.*

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



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## EMPLOYMENT

### COMMUNITY PRAISE CENTER

Adventist church of Alexandria, Va., is seeking a full-time executive administrative assistant. Skill sets for this position include a love for God and people; excellent speaking, writing and technology skills; team-building and multitasking skills. Interested candidates please contact the administrative pastor, L. Roo McKenzie, at (301) 310-7133, or email [roomckenzie@cpsda.org](mailto:roomckenzie@cpsda.org).

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### WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

has two faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology. For details and to apply, please visit [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://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](http://wallawalla.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks committed Adventist to establish and direct an occupational therapy assistant program, effective summer 2017. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in occupational therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered and five

years of professional experience. Email letter of interest and CV to Rick Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, [r2young@ucollege.edu](mailto:r2young@ucollege.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks an Adventist, master's-prepared, PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in family practice and emergency medicine. Prior teaching experience is desired, but not necessary. Start date: June 1, 2017. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, [jochewak@ucollege.edu](mailto:jochewak@ucollege.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks full-time professor of communication and English with strong skills in magazine journalism, editing and writing instruction, for position beginning July 2017. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, humanities division chair, at [marobiso@ucollege.edu](mailto:marobiso@ucollege.edu).

### ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (ADU)

seeks a full-time physical therapy faculty to teach in one of the following areas: therapeutic exercise, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary or pediatric PT. The optimal candidate will be an Adventist with a Christian worldview, who embraces the mission and ethos of ADU; has an earned academic doctorate; teaching experience and a scholarly agenda; and is eligible for licensure in Florida. A candidate with a Doctor of Physical Therapy and a clinical specialist certificate would be considered. Position begins August of 2017. Send CV to Donna Meyer at [donna.meyer@adu.edu](mailto:donna.meyer@adu.edu).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks an HVAC technician that will

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seeks an assistant/associate professor of nursing. Responsibilities include: teaching didactic and clinical nursing, skills lab and simulation, along with other applicable assignments to make a full-time position. Other duties include: teaching didactic and clinical nursing courses; teaching/supervising skills and simulation labs; attending all departmental meetings; advising students; attending pinnings, dedications, and graduations; and participating in writing program self-study and preparation for accreditation visits. For more information or to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1135](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1135).

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## SERVICES

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**"GREAT GRACE, GREAT MARRIAGE" MARRIAGE RETREAT**, February 17-19, 2017, to be held at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Mike and Lynn Ortel will be the presenters of the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email [MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net](mailto:MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net), or call (301) 801-2344 or (443) 864-6328.

**THE EBENEZER ADVENTIST SANCTUARY CHOIR**, presents "Messiah," under the direction of Gwendolyn Foster, music director, Sabbath, Dec. 17, 11 a.m., at the Ebenezer church, 15th & Christian Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. 19146. For more information, call, (215) 545-2650, Carlos McConico, pastor. Freewill offering.

**95TH YEAR ALUMNI REUNION, LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA)**, April 28-29, 2017, at 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside, Calif. Honor classes: 2s and 7s. Welcome reception, 7 p.m., Friday, April 28, in the LSA Library. Honor class services registration, April 29 at 9 a.m.; services at 10 a.m. Pottluck luncheon. Alumni/varsity basketball, 8:30 p.m., Saturday evening. Please update your contact information. [JNelson@lsak12.com](mailto:JNelson@lsak12.com); (951) 351-1445, ext. 244; [lsak12.com](http://lsak12.com).

**OBITUARIES**

**BUDDY, Fred W.**, age 75, born March 8, 1940, in Grenada; died December 11, 2015, in Silver Spring, Md. Dr. Buddy graduated from Oakwood College (Ala.) in 1971, earned a master's degree from Kent State University (Ohio) in 1975, and a doctorate from the University of Akron (Ohio) in 1990. He was a hazardous materials specialist for Goodyear Tire Company, went on to become a university administrator for 26 years, and finally retired from Spelman College in Georgia in 2005. Fred faithfully worked for decades in local churches as an elder, Sabbath School superintendent and teacher, and a finance committee member. Known as "Brother Buddy," he was a mentor to many students preparing for college. He loved gardening and helping others. He is survived by his daughter, Frenita Buddy Fullwood, and

## Sunset Calendar

	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30
<b>Baltimore</b>	4:44	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:52
<b>Cincinnati</b>	5:16	5:15	5:16	5:19	5:24
<b>Cleveland</b>	4:58	4:57	4:58	5:01	5:06
<b>Columbus</b>	5:07	5:07	5:08	5:11	5:15
<b>Jersey City</b>	4:29	4:29	4:30	4:33	4:38
<b>Norfolk</b>	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
<b>Parkersburg</b>	5:03	5:03	5:04	5:07	5:12
<b>Philadelphia</b>	4:36	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:44
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	4:54	4:53	4:54	4:57	5:02
<b>Reading</b>	4:38	4:37	4:38	4:41	4:46
<b>Richmond</b>	4:52	4:52	4:53	4:56	5:01
<b>Roanoke</b>	5:02	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:11
<b>Toledo</b>	5:05	5:04	5:05	5:08	5:13
<b>Trenton</b>	4:34	4:33	4:34	4:37	4:42
<b>Wash., D.C.</b>	4:46	4:46	4:47	4:50	4:55

her husband, Courtney Darnell Fullwood; his mother; eight siblings; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

**LONG, Lenora Blanche (Tungate)**, peacefully passed to her rest December 6, 2015, after a full life that spanned 98 years and two days. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, the youngest of four children, to Perry Lee and Della Tungate. Blanche attended Mt. Vernon Academy. Following the death of her adored husband, Jack W. Long, Blanche moved to California, where she was employed at the Loma Linda University Health Study Division. She was a great shopper, fun loving and made friends easily. She loved the Lord, knew the Bible well and was a faithful, lifetime member of the Adventist church. She raised her children in Hamilton Ohio, and most recently was a member of the Mansfield, Ohio, congregation. In addition to her husband, her parents, two sisters and a brother preceded her in death. She is survived by three children, Jackie (Walter) Carson of Woodbine, Md., Dr. Jeffrey (Carolyn) Long of Mansfield, Ohio, and Judy (Robert) Arth of Carmichael, Calif.; seven grandchildren, Susan Carson, Walter Carson, Kevin Long, Kari Gerstenberger,

Sarah Hastings, Samantha Arth and Tim Niswander; and nine great-grandchildren.

**WILLIAMS, Margaret Nelda**, born December 24, 1938, in Byrd, Texas, the oldest child of James and Emily Norman; died November 7, 2015, in Baltimore. She was a member of the Emmanuel Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. Margaret's parents joined the church during a tent effort and sent her to Oakwood College (Ala.) where she earned a Bachelor of Arts (class of 1962). She earned a master's degree from Indiana University and held teaching positions in Oklahoma, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Africa. Her first teaching position was at Pine Forge Academy (Pa.), and her last was with the Baltimore City Public School system. In between, she served as principal at Dupont Park Elementary School in Washington, D. C. She passed away after a long and chronic fight with muscular dystrophy. Survivors: her husband, Dr. DeWitt S. Williams; two daughters, Darnella Williams of Laurel, Md., and Ditrice (Cedric) Chapman, MD, of Dayton, Ohio; one grandson, Neil Michael Chapman; and one sister, Pearl Norman.



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