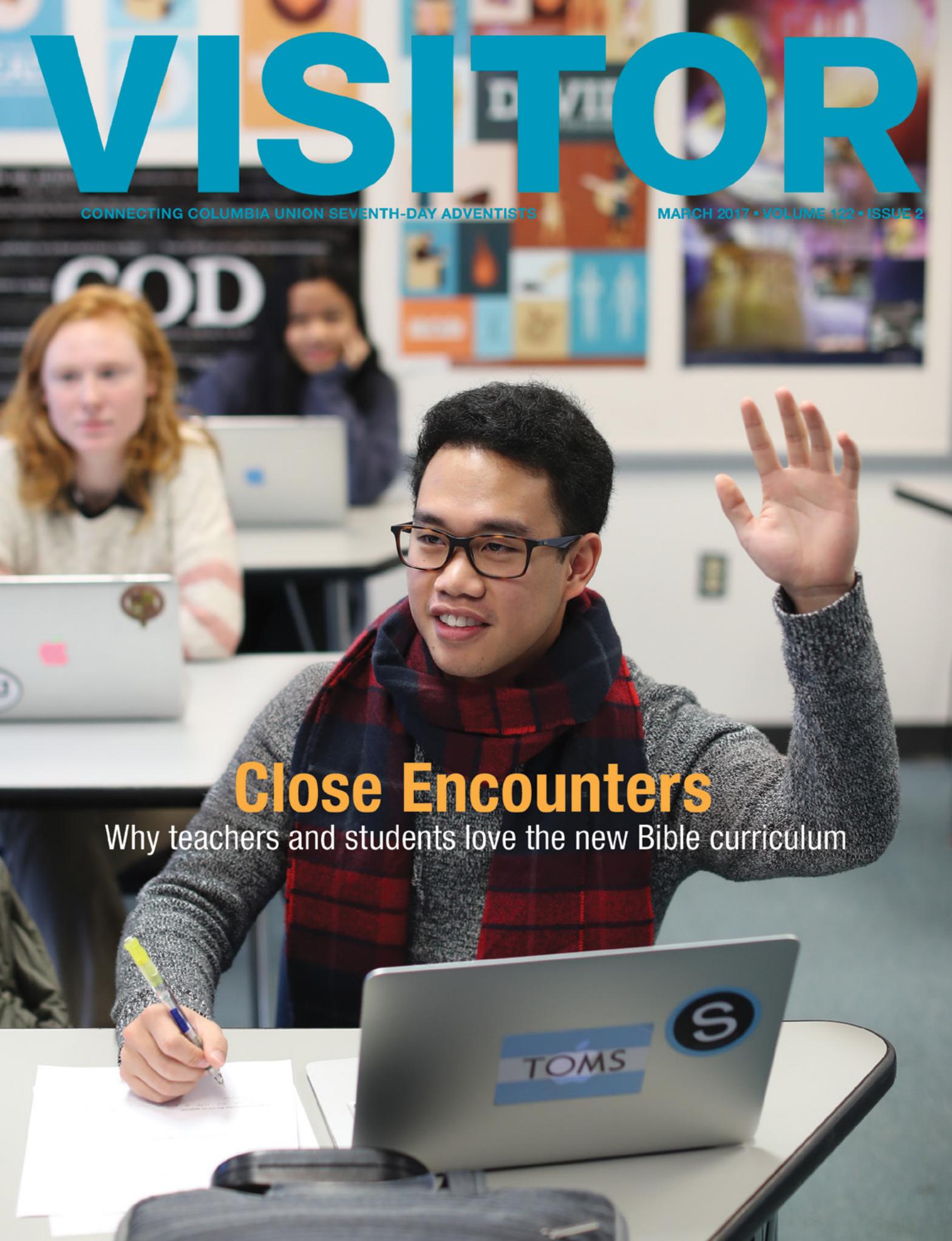


VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

MARCH 2017 • VOLUME 122 • ISSUE 2



Close Encounters

Why teachers and students love the new Bible curriculum

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Close Encounters

David Pluviose

Discover how Encounter, the new Bible curriculum for Seventh-day Adventist schools, encourages students and teachers to cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus.

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About the Cover: Andrew Shurtleff photographed sophomore Owen Pagunsan at Richmond Adventist Academy in Richmond, Va. **Above:** Sophomores Kiersten Zinke and Rachel Ingram-Clay at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., participate in a religion class activity.

ON THE WEB

JOURNEY THROUGH THE PSALMS

In his March blog, Rob Vandeman, Columbia Union Conference executive secretary, writes, “God does not always remove the pain or troubling times. However, we can be assured of this—whatever the cross we must bear, He will hear our prayers and come to strengthen us.” Read the rest of his blog on Psalm 69 at columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms.

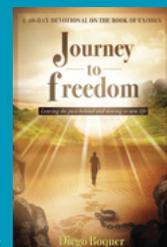


DISNEYLAND'S BACK DOOR

“What do wild crocodiles in New Guinea and yellow Lamborghinis in Paris have in common?” asks James D’Arcy Standish, who attends the Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Standish writes about adventures involving crocodiles and more in *Disneyland’s Back Door and Other Great Stories*. Read our interview with Standish at columbiaunionvisitor.com/disneylandsbackdoor.

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Diego Boquer, pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Living Word church in Glen Burnie, Md., recently wrote *Journey to Freedom: Leaving the Past Behind and Moving to a New Life*, a 40-day devotional on the book of Exodus. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeytofreedom.



RISE UP FOR #YASUMMIT17

You can still register for the Columbia Union Conference Young Adult Summit 2017 until March 7. Register at youngadultsummit.org, and at the event, share your favorite moments on social media using #yasummit17.



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Volume 122 ■ Issue 2

Something Better

I remember the day I walked into my first classroom as a teacher. Within a few hours, I thought I had been afflicted with temporary insanity. By the end of the day, I decided that as soon as “something better” came my way, I would be off to pursue a more lucrative and less stressful career.

God had other plans. As my days in the classroom turned into years, I realized I was passionate about teaching, and education would remain my career of choice. Of far more significance was the realization that teaching was not just a job; it was a ministry, a calling. In retrospect, I am certain that I became a Seventh-day Adventist Christian educator because God called me to be part of His teaching ministry.

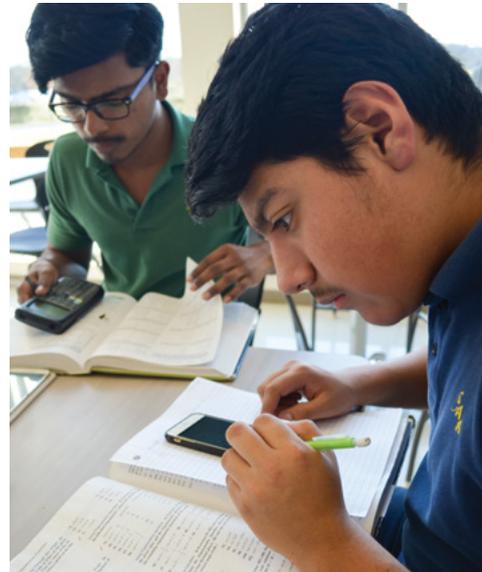


ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

In the Columbia Union Conference, we have a team of 466 dedicated educators who have accepted Christ’s call. Our vision is to see every student grow in their knowledge of Jesus, cultivate a sustaining relationship with Him, gain a better understanding of Scripture and make an impact on our world.

Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White wrote, “The teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods and our most earnest effort”

(*Education*, p. 186.1). This is the goal of the North American Division’s new Adventist Encounter Bible Curriculum. It goes beyond stories and intentionally leads students to explore big-picture biblical concepts through experiential learning. Two years ago, we started using this curriculum in the ninth and 10th grades and can already see its impact in the lives of our students and faculty (see story on pp. 8-12). Within the next two years, we will implement it in all elementary and secondary classrooms in the Columbia Union.



Growing up I was blessed with parents, teachers and other adult role models who helped me grow in my walk with Jesus and deepen my Adventist faith. I did my best to provide the same nurturing environment for my daughter, and every day our teachers are working to provide it for students across our union.

As we launch this new Bible curriculum in our union’s 78 schools, please pray that the young people entrusted to our care will experience life-transforming encounters with Jesus that last for eternity.

I can’t think of anything better!

Donovan Ross serves as vice president for Education in the Columbia Union Conference.



Camerata, the select choir from Potomac Conference's Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., greets former first lady Michelle Obama after performing at The White House in December.

Stewardship and Trust Services director there.

Ray joined the Pennsylvania Conference in 1995 as executive secretary and ministerial director. He then served as president from 2003 until 2016. Jeanne served as associate ministerial director and Family Ministries director from 1995 to 2016.

"Ray and Jeanne have made a significant impact on the mission of the church in Pennsylvania," says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president. "They have demonstrated wonderful support for the mission in so many ways."

Read more in the *Pennsylvania Pen.—Pennsylvania Conference Staff*

7,800 ATTEND CARAVAN OF TRAINING

Some 7,800 Columbia Union Conference members recently attended Caravan of Training meetings at 24 sites across the union.

During the meetings, international evangelist Alejandro Bullón and Rubén Ramos (pictured), Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries, encouraged members to get personally involved in evangelizing their communities.



"The goal of the caravan is to help every member realize they need to be involved in mission—not to make sooner the coming of Jesus or to help the church grow. That isn't the reason [for the caravan.] The 'why' is because we want to grow and keep our relationship with the Lord strong and full of life," says Ramos.

Local conference Hispanic Ministries directors and Ramos set a goal to baptize 3,000 people and start 1,000 small groups in 2017.

HARTWELLS LEAVE PENNSYLVANIA

Ray and Jeanne Hartwell have accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Ray, longtime Pennsylvania Conference president, now serves as the



During the December blessing ceremony, just ahead of the pouring of the Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) foundation, Geoff Morgan, vice president of expanded access at WAH, presents several items to be embedded into the foundation of the hospital, including a copy of *Ministry of Healing*. Read more at ourcommunitytransformed.org and on p.41.

Carol Wright Retires, New Treasury Staff Named

After 39 years of serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church—28 in Columbia Union Conference Treasury—Carol Wright retired February 1.

“Carol has given stellar service to the Columbia Union,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. “She has contributed in moving the mission forward in so many ways—from her expertise in finance, to her cool, calm demeanor as the Human Resources director for our office team. She is one of the finest leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and an incredible Christian, an inspiration to all. We will miss her.”

Wright has worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1978. Before joining the union in 1989, she served at Oakwood University (Ala.), the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and at the Allegheny West Conference in Ohio. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., and later earned her CPA. In 2013 she was recognized as one of the union’s Notable Persons of Honor.

Her son Herbert says she not only has passion for accounting, finance and HR, “She is passionate about her church and passionate about what you all do at the Columbia Union Conference.”

Colleague Walter Carson, Columbia Union vice president and general counsel, shares that Wright brought a high level of professionalism, had a great wealth of institutional knowledge and was always caring and compassionate. “She kept us grounded, kept us focused,” he says.

Wright says her time serving at the union has been a privilege. “I’ve enjoyed the camaraderie, I’ve enjoyed the spiritual emphasis, never taking our eyes off our mission, why we do what we do.”

Besides her role in the office,



Columbia Union Conference executive officers Rob Vandeman, executive secretary; Dave Weigley, president; and Seth Bardu, treasurer, honor Carol Wright for 39 years of service.

Wright partners with her husband of 50 years, Henry Wright, senior pastor of the Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church. They raised three sons and have four grandchildren. During her retirement, she plans to volunteer by reading to children.

Tabita Martinez (below), associate treasurer, started her new role as undertreasurer February 1. Martinez joined the Columbia



Union as assistant treasurer in 2006, and was promoted to associate treasurer in 2014.

Martinez earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) and an MBA from WAU.

“Over the years, Tabita has served as a dedicated and faithful member of our team,” says Seth Bardu, Columbia Union treasurer.

“As an undertreasurer, she will be presented with even more opportunities to serve her church in a leadership capacity.”

Jane Cermak-Faver (below), who previously served as assistant treasurer for the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF), assumed the role of Columbia Union associate treasurer February 1. “Jane is a highly qualified accountant with great attention to detail,” says Rob Vandeman, Columbia Union executive secretary. “Her work with CURF has been a great blessing to the organization.”

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from WAU, and medical and Master of Public Health degrees from Loma Linda University (Calif.). She also earned a certificate in accounting from California State University, San Bernardino.

—V. Michelle Bernard



SE PIDE UNA BENDICIÓN SOBRE EL SITIO DEL NUEVO HOSPITAL ADVENTISTA

Los líderes del hospital y de la comunidad, junto al personal y socios de Adventist HealthCare se reunieron en diciembre para pedir una bendición especial justo antes de poner los cimientos del nuevo Hospital Adventista de Adventist HealthCare Washington en White Oak, Maryland. Se estima que el nuevo edificio abrirá en el año 2019.



Erik Wangsness, presidente del Hospital Adventista de Adventist HealthCare Washington (en la foto orando), dio inicio a la ceremonia, que no solamente consistió en poner los cimientos físicos del nuevo edificio, sino que también se reconoció el fundamento de Adventist HealthCare construido sobre un legado de larga data adventista de ofrecer un saneamiento integral y holístico a los miembros de la comunidad. Siga el desarrollo del proyecto en ourcommunitytransformed.org.

SE VA EL PRESIDENTE DE LA ASOCIACIÓN DE PENNSYLVANIA

Ray Hartwell aceptó un llamado para servir como director de Mayordomía y Servicios Fiduciarios y secretario de la Asociación de Georgia-Cumberland, y asumió su nuevo rol el pasado 3 de enero.

Hartwell se unió a la asociación en 1995 como secretario ejecutivo y ministerial. Sirvió como presidente desde el 2003 hasta el 2016.



Su esposa, Jeanne, sirvió como ministerial asociada y directora de los Ministerios de Familia desde 1995 al 2016.

“Ray y Jeanne (en la foto) han hecho un impacto significativo en la misión de la iglesia en Pennsylvania”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia. “Con un fuerte intelecto, [Ray] tenía una habilidad asombrosa de descifrar y luego abogar por cuestiones de importancia para nuestra iglesia en su totalidad. Se echará de menos su presencia en la Unión de Columbia.”

Lea más en el boletín informativo *Pennsylvania Pen.—Personal de la Asociación de Pennsylvania*

LA CONFERENCIA DE PENNSYLVANIA NOMBRA AL NUEVO COORDINADOR DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO

Saud Elias ha aceptado recientemente el rol de coordinador del Ministerio Hispano para la Conferencia de Pensilvania. Elias ha servido anteriormente como pastor de la Iglesia Hispana de Lawndale, la Iglesia Hispana de Filadelfia I, y el grupo Hispano de Juniata, todos estos en Filadelfia. También ha sido pastor del grupo hispano del condado de Bucks en el distrito de Warminster. “Elias tiene su corazón puesto en el evangelismo, y desde el 2008, ha sido parte integral del equipo pastoral hispano de la Conferencia de Pensilvania,” dice Tim Bailey, director de Liderazgo y Crecimiento Espiritual. —Tamyra Horst

SE JUBILA CAROL WRIGHT

Después de haber servido a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día por 39 años, de los cuales durante 28 años se desempeñó como subtesorera en el departamento de tesorería de la Unión de Columbia, se jubiló Carol Wright el 1 de febrero.

“Carol ha brindado un servicio excelente a la Unión de Columbia”, comenta Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia. “Ella contribuyó a llevar adelante la misión en tantas maneras—desde su experiencia en finanzas hasta en su carácter sereno como directora de Recursos Humanos de nuestra oficina. Carol es una de las líderes más excelentes de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día y, además, es una increíble cristiana—una inspiración para todos”.

Wright dice que su tiempo sirviendo en la unión ha sido un privilegio. “He disfrutado de la camaradería. He disfrutado el énfasis espiritual, nunca sacando nuestros ojos de la misión, por qué hacemos lo que hacemos”.

A parte de su rol en la oficina, Wright apoya a su esposo de 50 años, Henry Wright, pastor principal de la iglesia de Takoma Park (Maryland) perteneciente a la Asociación Potomac. Ha criado a tres hijos varones y tiene cuatro nietos. Durante su jubilación, ella tiene planes de pasar tiempo como voluntaria leyéndole a los niños.



Rob Vandeman, Dave Weigley y Seth Bardu con Carol Wright durante su fiesta de jubilación.



Tabita Martínez (arriba), tesorera asociada, inició su nuevo rol como subtesorera el 1 de febrero. Martínez se unió a la Unión de Columbia como asistente en el departamento de tesorería en el 2006 y fue ascendida a tesorera asociada en el 2014.

“En el transcurso de los años, Tabita ha servido como una miembro dedicada y fiel de nuestro equipo”, dice Seth Bardu, tesorero de la Unión de Columbia. “Como subtesorera, tendrá un mayor número de oportunidades para servir como líder de su iglesia”.



Jane Cermak-Faver (arriba), quien sirvió previamente como asistente de tesorería para el Fondo Revés de la Unión de Columbia (CURF, en inglés) asumió su rol de tesorera asociada de la Unión de Columbia el 1 de febrero. “Jane ha sido una contadora altamente calificada con una gran atención a los detalles,” dice Rob Vandeman, secretario ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia. “Su trabajo en CURF ha sido una gran bendición para la organización”.

Jamie Timon, CPA del sector público pasó a ser Tesorero Asistente de CURF en Marzo.

7.800 asisten a la caravana de entrenamiento

A rededor de 7.800 miembros de la Unión de Columbia asistieron a las reuniones de la reciente Caravana de Entrenamiento realizadas en 24 sitios dentro del territorio de la unión.

Antes de las reuniones, Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente para los Ministerios Multilingües de la Unión Columbia, y su equipo distribuyeron 19.000 ejemplares de *Cómo compartir a Jesús* en las iglesias de la Unión con el objetivo de ayudarlo a los miembros a entender porque necesitan involucrarse en la misión.

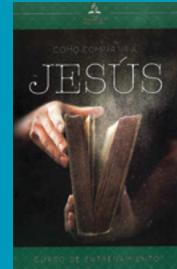
Durante las reuniones, el evangelista internacional Alejandro Bullón y el pastor Ramos motivaron a que los miembros se involucren personalmente en llevar el mensaje a sus comunidades.

“El objetivo de la caravana es ayudar a que cada miembro se dé cuenta que necesita involucrarse en la misión—no con el fin de acelerar la llegada de Jesús o para ayudar al crecimiento de la iglesia. El ‘motivo’ es porque queremos crecer y mantener una fuerte relación y una vida plena en el Señor”, dice Ramos.

Bullón desafió a los presentes a usar el método de Cristo de hacer amigos y querer a las personas. “Traer un amigo a Jesús por amor no es un don espiritual”, agrega Ramos. “Es una necesidad espiritual”.

Los directores de los ministerios multilingües de las asociaciones locales y el personal de la unión han establecido un blanco de bautizar a 3.000 personas y formar 1.000 grupos pequeños en el 2017. También desean que 1.000 ancianos de iglesia realicen dos semanas de evangelismo este año. Los planes ya están en marcha para celebrar la participación de los miembros en las actividades evangelísticas del 8 al 10 de diciembre en Ocean City, Maryland.

Para recibir un ejemplar de *Cómo servir a Jesús*, envíe un correo electrónico a rmos@columbiaunion.net.





[Encounter] makes the Bible more interactive ...
Encounter has helped me understand who God is.
—Rebekah Eley, Senior,
Richmond Academy

Close Encounters

By David Pluviose

Why teachers and students love the new Bible curriculum

Columbia Union Conference schools are in the process of rolling out the Adventist Encounter Bible curriculum in elementary and high school classes. A key goal of this new curriculum, slated to be implemented in all union schools by Fall 2018, is to foster a deeper relationship with God and each other. The curriculum uses the Bible as the primary textbook, rather than the assortment of textbooks used by the old Bible curriculum, says Ileana Espinosa, associate director of elementary education for Columbia Union schools.

“The response has been phenomenal. Students love it,” says Espinosa. “There’s a feeling of genuine relationship with Jesus. Teachers are saying, ‘My spiritual experience has grown. I am a better person because of what I am doing with this curriculum for the kids.’ And the kids love it. We’ve already seen the difference here and across North America.”



Jennifer Bianco, principal of the Pennsylvania Conference's Lehigh Valley Elementary School in Whitehall, is one of the three Columbia Union educators who piloted the program in her classroom. She used the curriculum at the elementary level when she taught at Huntington Valley Christian Academy (pictured above) in suburban Philadelphia. She applauds Encounter for focusing on a relationship with God rather than just learning a story, which many say was the emphasis of the prior curriculum. However, Bianco adds that learning Bible stories is important, and students learn Bible stories via Encounter.

"But we also take it that step further and teach them what it's like to have a relationship. It's something that, as a teacher, [has] helped me with my relationship as well, because I had to read the lessons ahead of time," Bianco says. "I had to reflect, because if I didn't get the lesson, how was I going to teach it to the children? It actually helped me personally as well. I think it's a fantastic program. I'm very excited for it to be rolled out for everyone to start using in all the grades."

Tim Soper (pictured below), campus chaplain and religion teacher at Spencerville Adventist Academy



How do You Encounter Jesus?

We asked students at Spencerville Adventist Academy about their relationships with Jesus. Watch their responses at columbiaunionvisitor.com/encounteringJesus.

in Silver Spring, Md., says that while he saw value in the old textbooks, "it's easy for us to use those as the primary source. As Christians, and as Seventh-day Adventists, we're 'people of the Book,'" so the Bible "needs to be our first textbook." Encounter does, so-to-speak, "force us as educators to help students learn how to study the Scripture as the primary source, how to make Scripture the central component, as opposed to just an add-on."

He adds that the Encounter curriculum "has been good for me as a teacher, too, because it helps me to find ways to make the Scripture real, alive and help students learn how to study it."

Give Me the Bible

The Adventist Encounter curriculum (K-10) was initially developed by the Australian and New Zealand Adventist Education Departments and has been taught in Australia and New Zealand for the past several years. The North American Division later hired Nina Atcheson, co-author of the Encounter curriculum, to create a curriculum for grades 11 and 12 in North America.

Arne Nielsen, director for secondary education for the North American Division Department of Education, says that prior to the implementation of Encounter, there "was a feeling that our young people were not getting into the Bible anymore. And there was a desire for them to dig a little bit deeper and to understand how to work their way through the Bible on their own."

When numerous supplementary materials are in play for religion instruction, it can sometimes "be a distraction from the Bible itself. The Bible is interesting and exciting on its own, so that's the core textbook," Nielsen adds.

Encounter also features a number of supplemental materials, including CDs and books. Yet the Bible remains the core textbook. Desmond Suarez (above), religion teacher at Potomac Conference's Richmond Academy in Virginia piloted and taught Encounter for the past few years, and says one of its strengths is its flexibility. "The old [curriculum] wasn't very flexible. It was pretty rigid, as most textbooks are." Encounter is "designed to be able to plug and play a little bit."

Suarez also applauds Encounter's emphasis on relationship. "For so long, we've thought that the facts are enough. ... [The] information and facts are



important, but they become empty if [students] do not have a relationship with [God],” he adds.

One of the concerns with Encounter is that moving away from textbooks could lessen its value as an academic course. Yet Nielsen says that maintaining Encounter’s credibility as an academic course is key. “There is assessment built into Encounter. And so we assess in more ways than we used to. It used to be that you would take a quiz or a test, but we also assess now with portfolios, we assess with group activities and group learnings. We assess with essays. And so it’s a much broader assessment program than we used to have, but we’re covering all of the main standards from the old Bible curriculum. We haven’t missed a beat,” Nielsen says.

Closing the Back Door

Certainly the backdrop to the rollout of Encounter is the vast numbers of youth who are leaving the church, says Espinosa. A 2016 Annual Council presentation by David Trim, director of Archives, Statistics, and Research for the worldwide church, pointed out that since 1965, around four in 10 Adventists have left the Church worldwide, a high proportion of them youth. In addition, a 2008 study revealed that the median age of a North American Adventist was 51.

“We believe that with this new curriculum, we will be closing the back door and stopping our kids from leaving because they have now formed an intimate relationship with Jesus,” says Espinosa.

Bianco adds, “Ultimately, our goal is to allow the kids to know that the Bible is there for them, and through it, we can have a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ,” and though salvation is the ultimate goal, “we want them to stay in our church and be leaders in our church, and, if they’ve had this as an example through their teachers and those who are sharing the curriculum with them during their years of school, that’s something that they’re going to continue.”

Suarez says that there has always been a gap between the very young and the older members of the church, as young people begin to assert their independence and, in some cases, leave the church. Yet Suarez prays that “even if they do exercise that independence, that one day they will return.”

He adds, “If I can help lay that foundation, if this curriculum can help lay that foundation, then we might not always have them in the church, we might not always have them following God, but I’m praying that by the end, they will. That when they are old, they will return.”

David Pluviose is a journalist and graduate student in religion at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He writes from Richmond, Va.

Behind the Scenes

We interviewed Nina Atcheson, co-author of the Adventist Encounter curriculum about how the project began. See part of her responses below. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/encounterinterview to read the full interview.



Visitor: What originally prompted you to write Encounter?

Atcheson: In 2008 a small team of writers from Australia and New Zealand combined their efforts and began working on developing new teaching units for the Adventist Encounter curriculum for Kindergarten through grade 10. The large percentage of students who weren’t members of the Adventist Church in our schools “Down Under” (up to 95 percent) also meant that it was time to reassess the needs of our changing clientele and consider how we could witness and share Jesus and the Adventist message with our students and their families in a meaningful way.

One of our first decisions was that the Bible itself should be the textbook in Bible class.

Visitor: How can concerns about the number of young adults leaving the Adventist Church be addressed by Encounter?

Atcheson: The ValueGenesis study showed that the “climate” of our churches/schools has a great impact on our teenagers. The curriculum seeks to embrace students—despite their knowledge base, walk with God, or background—so that they can think for themselves, ask questions in a safe environment, where they can be guided to the Bible as the source of truth, and where relationships are built (between students/teachers/God). Hopefully, as a result of the warm environment that Encounter encourages, our schools can provide places where students know they belong—in a church they wouldn’t want to leave.

How Has Encounter Changed Your School Experience?



Sonali Prillman
Junior
Spencerville Adventist
Academy

That class taught me a lot. We learned so much about Bible characters, morals and what God really meant in different kinds of prophecies.



Landon Brown
Senior
Richmond
Academy

The other books focused more on basic concepts, and this new curriculum goes more into each verse. ... So it helps you build more of an understanding of what Scripture, as a whole, is saying.



Amanda Lucini
Sophomore
Spencerville Adventist
Academy

In religion class we have a good mix of interactive and individual activities. It really caters to each person's individual educational needs. That could improve their overall relationship with God.



David Oliyde
Sophomore
Spencerville Adventist
Academy

Before I started attending Spencerville, I thought religion class would just be focusing on the same old repetitive things. ... But I was surprised when I started class. It is pretty fun.



Owen Pagunsan
Senior
Richmond
Academy

With Encounter we get more into the Bible by delving into it, studying it. ... I also liked how it covers prophecy from the Bible, especially the different beasts you see in Daniel.



Sneak Peak

The Adventist Encounter Bible curriculum will soon be used in all Columbia Union school classrooms. But before it arrives at your local school, get a sneak peak of a sample unit from grade 10 at encounter.adventisteducation.org.

We believe that with this new curriculum, we will be closing the back door and stopping our kids from leaving because they have now formed an intimate relationship with Jesus.—*Ileana Espinosa*

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

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Walnut Street Community Church Witnesses Miracle

When the Adventist Community Services (ACS) department of the Walnut Street Community church in Pottstown, Pa., initiated plans for their community Thanksgiving dinner, they were faced with a dilemma: there were insufficient funds to meet their goal! However, they didn't want to disappoint several families who were depending on this annual program.

After much prayer and consultation, they sought funding from the wider community. Community members and organizations responded with financial contributions totaling \$665. In addition, Sysco, a distributor of foodservice products, donated 16 turkeys.

As a result of these blessings, the ACS department packed and delivered hot dinners to 30 families, feeding 144 people. "This miracle is a reminder that God is very present in our daily lives, and all things are possible with Him," says Gillian Slocum-Ross, ACS leader.



Dee Sumpter and Tracey Jackson, Walnut Street Community church members, prepare meals for the community dinner drive.

Churches Serve, Celebrate Adventism in Barbados

More than 40 Allegheny East Conference (AEC) members, including administrators and members of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church and Walnut Street Community church in nearby Pottstown, recently journeyed to Barbados to participate in the island's 125th anniversary of Adventism.

The group partnered with the King Street church, the flagship Adventist church on the island, to participate in their weekend celebration. Henry J. Fordham III,

president of AEC, shared a message during the program. When King Street church first opened in 1900, there were only 11 members. The Adventist membership in Barbados has since grown to 60 churches and 19,000 members.

The AEC members participated in a variety of service projects during their visit. They partnered with Andre McDonald, founder of It's From the Sole, a non-profit organization. Together they donated 200 pairs of shoes to Barbados residents. McDonald even gave a gentleman his very own shoes after the last pair had run out.

Diedra Alston, a dentist and member of the Pine Forge church, shared information on dental hygiene with the community and consulted with parents about their children's dental health needs. Alston gave each child a dental bag that included toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and other dental supplies.

Church members also showcased a cooking demonstration and taught participants how to make and prepare gluten. "We wanted to be able to show them a healthier option of eating, since health food is costly and difficult to obtain," says Cynthia Poole, director of AEC's Women's Ministries.

Michael and Pearlita Jones, members of the Pine Forge church, organized the mission trip. Pearlita is from Barbados, and King Street is her home church.



Deidra and Charles Alston of the Pine Forge church share dental hygiene products with children in Barbados.

Salem French Member Opens Daycare

Not satisfied with the child care her three little ones were receiving, Nadege Duvernay, a member of the Salem (N.J.) French church, felt the need to start a daycare center in her community. As a result, she opened the Applecore Learning Early Childhood Center in Maplewood, N.J. “I have been an educator for over seven years, and I always wanted to provide high-quality education and enrichment to little ones,” says Duvernay (pictured with students).

Applecore services children from ages 2-6, and focuses on reading and literacy. Even though it is not a faith-based center, Duvernay is committed to modeling Christ-like principles. “This daycare allows me to share God’s love and genuine kindness,” she shares.



Applecore patterns their daycare program names after those used by the Adventurer Club. “I thought it would be great for our Adventist parents to send their children to a school that shared the same values as the Adventurer Club,” says Duvernay.

Since opening in August of last year, Applecore has grown to 35 kids, 75 percent of them Adventists.

George E. Peters Students Embrace Service Project

For the past five years, George E. Peters School (GEP) in Hyattsville, Md., has participated in Operation Christmas Child, a service project where volunteers fill shoeboxes for children around the world. This year they donated 101 boxes filled with toys.

Since joining GEP in 2002, Kindergarten teacher Gladys Guerrero, has provided mission projects for her classes. “I believe the students must be taught about the Great Commission by example, thus providing opportunities for them to serve,” says Guerrero. John Alberty, principal, encourages this schoolwide effort to make Operation Christmas Child GEP’s official outreach program.

To motivate students to volunteer, Guerrero shows them a video about the program. During collection



Kindergarten teacher Gladys Guerrero and her student Alina Thompson prepare labels for boxes slated for donation.

week, students drop off boxes and earn community service hours. Later, Guerrero and her team (students she taught in her kindergarten classes) count and label each box. Finally, students pray over the boxes and for the intended recipients. After the boxes are shipped, students eagerly anticipate learning which part of the world will receive their donations.

“Every year the students ask me, ‘When are we doing the boxes?’” says Guerrero. “It has become part of our culture and mission. I believe it blesses them and me more and more each time.”

Notable Achievements in Allegheny East Conference History

As we reflect on 50 years of ministry, we celebrate being the first regional conference to:

- Establish its own media department
- Appoint a female as director of publishing (Joan Cummings)
- Hire a Caucasian pastor (Tony Andrews)
- Hire a female pastor (Lisa Smith)
- Initiate term limits for the office of president



107 Baptized at Glenville Present Truth

The Glenville Present Truth church in Cleveland recently held a six-week evangelistic series themed “Our World in Crisis: Are You Ready?” Stephen D. Lewis, evangelist for Present Truth Ministry, presented Bible truth on topics such as the law of God, the Sabbath, the state of the dead and the plan of salvation. He also presented counsel for married couples and singles. Each evening he quizzed the attendees to see what they had learned from the previous night.

Lewis had the congregation join him in silent prayer prior to each evening’s service, as the theme song, “Only Jesus Can Satisfy Your Soul,” played in the background. One visitor said that as she left the meeting one night, her granddaughter continued to sing that song on the ride home.

More than 370 people attended Family Night, and 264 young adults attended Youth Night. “The Spirit of the Lord was with Lewis. If you came one night, you had to keep on coming,” says Eugene Anthony, pastor of the Glenville Present Truth church.

With only a small budget, the Lord blessed in a tremendous way. There was no transportation, no praise teams, no Bible workers, no puppet shows and no PowerPoint presentations. There was only the Word of



Candidates prepare to be baptized at the Glenville Present Truth church in Cleveland.

God, much prayer and six weeks of hard work.

The Glenville Present Truth members were also very supportive; they attended each night and brought family, relatives and friends to the meetings. As a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Lewis baptized 107 people.

Beacon of Hope Hosts Shepherdess Brunch



LaTonya Cox, Mariella Rizzo, Alicia Johnson, Kim Joseph, Eglá Barionette, Karino Lopez, Karla Boston, Laura Romero and Grace Brown attend the Central Ohio Ministerial Wives Shepherdess brunch.

Central Ohio Ministerial wives recently attended a Shepherdess brunch at the Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio. Alicia Johnson, area coordinator and Beacon of Hope church member, hosted the event. Vivian D. Martin, an author and also a member of the Beacon of Hope church, offered the devotional thought.

“The opportunity to enjoy a delectable brunch and mix and mingle in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. We shared ideas, inspirational moments, praise and laughter,” says Kim Joseph, a member of the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus.

Attendees agreed that the brunch was a great idea, and they look forward to the next event. LaTonya Cox, the wife of William T. Cox, president of Allegheny West Conference, and her assistants, Joseph, and Grace Brown, a member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, will be working with each Shepherdess area coordinator in the near future to plan similar events in their respective areas.

Three Angels Message Church Distributes 600 Gifts

The Three Angels Message church in Danville, Va., recently gave away more than 600 gifts to their community. John Coaxum, pastor, regularly organizes Sabbath events, and this was the second annual Christmas gift giveaway program the church has participated in since he began pastoring there. Each time he has been successful in reaching souls for Christ.

Parents from as far as South Boston, Va. (30 miles away), came to receive gifts for their children. The church used this outreach program as a tool to get visitors to stick around for the church service to hear the gospel.

The sanctuary was packed, including the balcony and overflow rooms. George Evans, head elder, opened the service with a welcome and offering; Leah Coaxum,

the pastor's wife, led the praise team; and Pastor Coaxam preached. At the end of his sermon, Coaxam made an appeal to make a lifestyle change in 2017. Many rededicated their lives to Christ. After the service, they received a special gift from Ralph and Delores Rhyne, event organizers.

"I know that there are a few people who may feel that doing these events on Sabbath are inappropriate," says Coaxum. "But I believe in following the example of Jesus, who did many miracles on the Sabbath. Christ blessed people every day, won their hearts and then asked them to follow Him. I am just trying to do the same."



John Coaxum, pastor of the Three Angels Message church, makes an appeal for people to accept Christ at the community event.



Children enjoy goodie bags they received during the second annual giveaway program at the Three Angels Message church in Danville, Va.



50 YEARS ALLEGHENY WEST CELEBRATION DATES

VIRGINIA: March 25, 2017
Three Angels Message SDA Church, Danville, VA

10 DAY CAMPMEEETING:
June 15-25, 2017,
AWC Campground,
Thornville, OH

CLEVELAND: August 20, 2017,
Marriott Key Center,
Downtown Cleveland, OH

CINCINNATI: August 27, 2017,
Marriott North,
West Chester Township, OH

COLUMBUS: November 4, 2017,
Renaissance, Downtown
Columbus, OH

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE

Correction: In the January/February 2017 Allegheny West Spirit, Evelyn Myatt's name was inadvertently misspelled. We regret the error.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Just Ask!

Wayne Gretzky, the famous and retired Canadian hockey player, is credited with the quote, “You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take.” A corollary to this would be, “People can’t accept an invitation that’s never given.”

All the paths to church membership include some form of Bible study. People need to meet the Jesus we find in the Scriptures and learn the things He taught. It doesn’t need to be complicated or difficult. In fact, Jesus Himself presented important and profound lessons in simple, easy-to-remember stories and illustrations.

This year we’re encouraging every member in the Chesapeake Conference to “Just Ask!” It’s easy to do, and you’ll be surprised by how many people will accept your invitation. Jesus taught, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7, NKJV).

Churches will supply Bible study guides for members to use in any setting. Alternatives for continuing (or further) study include personal, online or correspondence.

“The church of Christ is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. Its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. And the obligation rests upon all Christians” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 81). Each of us has the privilege of just asking others if they want to taste and see what a difference Jesus can make in their life.

So, just ask someone if they would like a free sample Bible study guide. Just ask if they would like to attend a special service at your church. Just ask—and let the Holy Spirit work.



Rick Remmers
President

Barizo Named Environmental Educator of the Year



Ophelia Barizo (fourth from left), celebrates her 2017 Environmental Educator of the Year award with colleagues Andrew Choi, Janet Walker, Mark Walker, Carole Smith, Kim Brown, Colleen Lay and Andrew Lay.

Ophelia Barizo, vice president for advancement at Highland View Academy (HVA) and coordinator of Chesapeake Conference STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), was named 2017 Environmental Educator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, a nonprofit grant-making organization that has funded environmental education at HVA since 1999.

“Being nominated was a total surprise,” says Barizo. She accepted her award at a banquet held at the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis, Md. With the award comes \$2,500 for environmental projects at HVA.

During her 21-year tenure at HVA, she is responsible for bringing in almost \$800,000 in grant funds.

“[Barizo] is a tremendous asset to HVA and to all our schools in the Chesapeake Conference,” says Mark Walker, interim conference superintendent of schools. “We appreciate her many contributions, especially in the area of promoting STEM.”

PHOTO BY DANIEL BARIZO

THE CHALLENGE



THE Gathering

SHARE THE HOPE

JUNE 13-17, 2017 HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY IN HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND.

Reserve your space now for this gathering of the Chesapeake family of believers. Be encouraged and inspired by evening and Sabbath messages brought by John Bradshaw, speaker/director for It Is Written, a Seventh-day Adventist media evangelism ministry. Morning worship times feature the energetic and engaging Richie Silie. Join us for worship, music, recreation and exciting programs and special features for all ages!

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1

You can register:

1. online at www.ccosda.org/campmeeting
2. by phone at 410-995-1910
3. by mailing a **check payable to Chesapeake Conference** to Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044

ITEM	PRICES	QUANTITY	TOTAL
DORMITORY ROOMS All rooms air-conditioned; windows have blinds			
GIRLS DORM – 1st & 2nd floor, adults only (18 yrs and older) – 3rd floor, families and adults			
1st floor - mens' rest rooms	\$115.00/5 nights price is for 2 people \$8.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
BOYS' DORM -- FAMILIES & ADULTS			
1st floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$115.00/5 nights price is for 2 people \$8.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - mens' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
<i>Fire code prohibits cooking in rooms. Bring your own bedding. Dorm rooms must be rented for the full time. There must be two persons in the room. Third and fourth persons will be \$8.00 per night per person.</i>			
TENTS (Available in trailer area only – must pre-register. Limited availability, first come first serve.)			
With concrete floor & electricity	\$50.00/5 nights		
	\$20.00/night		
Single cot with mattress	\$4.00 each		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
PERSONAL TENTS (With Use of Bath House)			
Space for your own personal tent	\$35.00/5 nights		
	\$15.00/night		
Space for your own personal tent w/electricity & water	\$45.00/5 nights		
	\$20.00/night		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
TRAILERS Length of trailer: _____ ft.			
Updated large RV space	\$100.00/5 nights		
	\$40.00/night		
Trailer space w/electricity, water, sewer	\$85.00/5 nights		
	\$35.00/night		
Trailer space w/electricity, water	\$75.00/5 nights		
	\$30.00/night		
Trailer space without hookups	\$40.00/5 nights		
	\$17.00/night		
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED			\$

NAME: _____ HOME CHURCH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

ELECTRONIC CHECK: ABA ROUTING #: _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT #: _____

BANK NAME: _____



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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Mike Hewitt Joins Conference Administration

Mike Hewitt recently joined the Mountain View Conference (MVC) as executive secretary and ministerial director. “Hewitt is a soul winner, experienced in community involvement,” says Larry Boggess, MVC president. “He will be able to coach our pastoral team and our members to greater effectiveness in reaching communities for Jesus.”

Hewitt previously served in the Potomac Conference for 11 years and earned a Master in Pastoral Ministry from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.) before his 2014 ordination. He’s married to Brittan, a medical transcriptionist (pictured). They have a daughter, Jewell, 11, and son, Levi, 4.

Read more about Hewitt in the following interview:

MV: Tell us about your childhood.

Hewitt: I grew up in Salem, Va., in a Seventh-day Adventist family with my parents and two older sisters. My maternal grandparents also lived with us. Jewell Albert, my grandmother, was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and had a profound impact on my life and walk with Jesus. Grandmother Jewell also read the Bible to us and spoke often about Jesus. Church was a high priority in my early life, and I was baptized at a fairly young age.

MV: Where did you attend school?

Hewitt: My parents were very committed followers of Jesus and strongly desired that my sisters and I attend the Oxford Elementary Seventh-day Adventist School (known today as Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School). As a student there, I learned more about Jesus, sung songs about Him and participated in Bible drills and school-sponsored church programs.

MV: How did you become a minister?

Hewitt: After high school, I decided to pursue a career as a police officer with the Roanoke County (Va.) Police Department, against the counsel of my family. I had become distant from the Lord, although I still attended church, mainly because my parents and grandmother continually encouraged me to do so. I specifically remember my grandmother expressing strong concern about my career choice because she feared worldly exposure would negatively influence me.



I experienced a difficult time that drove me to my knees, and ultimately, returned back to God. Afterward, I felt a strong calling to ministry. My closest friends in law enforcement laughed when I told them that I felt called to become a minister of the gospel. But I made the decision to pursue a career in ministry. About that time, Robert C. Clarke started serving as interim pastor at the North Valley church in Roanoke where I was head elder. The first time Clarke spoke to me, he said, “I’m going to do everything I can to help you become a pastor.” He and John McGraw, a retired minister who also attended the church, mentored me.

MV: What are your hobbies?

Hewitt: My family loves to go on road trips in our travel trailer. I enjoy anything electronic, including Apple computers. And I take pleasure in working on cars.

MV: What goals do you have for your new roles in MVC?

Hewitt: I love to help people make a decision for Jesus and dedicate their lives to Him. I’m also passionate about helping churches and schools pursue the mission of Jesus Christ. In my new roles, I want to come alongside the pastors and churches, helping them do great things for the Kingdom of God, and for the churches to become healthy disciple-making congregations, reaching their communities for Jesus Christ.

Hispanic Membership Surpasses 100 Members

On a Sabbath morning in July 2005, an Adventist Spanish-speaking gentleman walked through the doors of the Moorefield (W.Va.) church. Communicating with him was limited because of the language barrier, but that day the members of this small church “realized that we may have other brothers and sisters from Spanish-speaking countries that would want to join us,” says Phyllis Jeffers, Moorefield church treasurer. “The next week we ordered four Spanish Adult Sabbath School quarterlies.”

One month later, Froilan Gabriel left a voice message on the church’s answering machine. He did his best to speak English, but no one could understand the message. The members prayed for someone to help them reach him. The next Sabbath, Quelman and Anita Quiroz visited from Winchester, Va. Members asked Quelman, who is bilingual, to listen to the phone message and call the Spanish-speaking family. The following Sabbath, Quelman and his wife returned, this time bringing the Gabriel family. Jeffers and another member, Wanda Dove, taught the Sabbath School class to the Gabriel children, despite the fact that the children didn’t speak English. The church began having bilingual services. This effort marked the beginning of the Spanish work in Moorefield and the Mountain View Conference.

In 2012 lay members of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church began noticing many Spanish-speakers around the city. The Kester Erskine and Charles Gallimore families began to pray for the people and asked the conference to send help. The Argueta family, who had previously helped at the Moorefield church, moved to Lewisburg in December. Juan Carlos Argueta became a Bible worker and set the groundwork for the Spanish work in Lewisburg.

In 2013 Pastor Arturo Jeronimo and his family arrived at Lewisburg and started working with members to establish a Spanish-speaking congregation.

In July 2015, 11 theology students from the Peruvian Union University arrived in West Virginia to serve as missionaries for a year. These students moved to different cities in the MVC territory, including Moorefield and Lewisburg to support the work already in progress.

Through the support of the local church, student missionaries and pastors Heroes Sical (Moorefield) and Arturo Jeronimo (Lewisburg), both groups have



Members of the Moorefield Spanish Company gather outside their rented facility.

grown. This past summer, the Lewisburg Spanish and the Moorfield Spanish congregations were organized as companies. Members of various churches in Charleston and Morgantown have also started working with the Spanish-speaking community and hope to have Spanish-speaking congregations in the near future.

As a result of these initiatives, more than 100 people worship in Spanish every Sabbath in the MVC territory. “Praise the Lord for dedicated people who followed the Holy Spirit’s leading and welcomed everyone, not only into the fellowship of the church but into their own personal circles of influence,” says Larry Boggess, MVC president. “May God continue to open our eyes to meeting the needs of others with hearts of compassion, regardless of the language spoken,” says Larry Boggess, MVC president.

The next time you encounter a visitor walking through your church doors, what will you do? This could be an opportunity to create a new ministry or even plant a new congregation. Praise God for brothers and sisters who are willing to listen to God’s leading.
—Walter Cardenas

NEWS NEW JERSEY

Go Fish!

From the seashore, Jesus called out to Peter and Andrew: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him” (Matt. 4:19, 20, NKJV).

Jesus’ invitation was clear: “I want you to be fishers of men.” Peter and Andrew understood their commitment to reach people would involve putting everything else aside; to place a greater effort and dedication into fishing for men than when they fished for money. Maybe they weren’t fully prepared to take on this task, but they accepted it anyhow. Today Jesus’ invitation to us is the same. We are called to go into all the world, with a compassionate and loving spirit, and dedicate our lives to sharing the good news of Jesus.

Jesus did not send Peter and Andrew out to do His work alone. He promised them the power of the Holy Spirit to help them in their new venture. A boat, net, food and bait is not what makes a fisherman a fisherman; a fisherman earns that title because he actively catches fish. We are not to stay on the seashore—our church—and do nothing for others. Being Jesus’ followers means we are to go out and earnestly fight the waves, as we strive to be fishers of men.

Remember that the Holy Spirit is with us as we face the stormy waters. He is active in the business of salvation. Therefore, fishing for humankind is not “our ministry,” but the Holy Spirit’s. Therefore, in Him, go fish!



Paulo Macena

*Youth and Compassion
Ministries Director*

Bethesda French Church Inaugurates New Building

A recent snowstorm in New Jersey didn’t stop members and guests of the Bethesda French church in Roselle from attending an inauguration service for their new church building. Christine Dansereau, city mayor, and José H. Cortés, president of the New Jersey Conference, attended the celebration. The new building can accommodate more than 400 people.

“I am very grateful to God for blessing the Bethesda French church with this wonderful temple. May His name be exalted forevermore! says Pastor Jean Etienne. “The church has been renting a place for the past 19 years, and finally, because of the will of God and the willingness of the New Jersey Conference to help us, we now have our own place to grow and to show compassion to the community of Roselle.”

Despite the snowstorm, Fenold and Eli Jean, attend the inaugural service of the Bethesda French church’s new home.



PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

40 Churches Participate in Compassion Project

More than 40 churches participated in the second annual outreach Compassion Christmas program, organized by the New Jersey Conference Youth Ministries Department. Members, including hundreds of children, donated 120 boxes filled with food and toys to their local churches. The Luso-Brazilian church



José H. Cortés, president of the New Jersey Conference, and his wife, Celia, stand in front of a display of food collected by members of the Luso-Brazilian church in Newark.

in Newark collected enough food to feed 210 families. Consequently, hundreds of families had food on their tables during the holidays and hundreds of children received gifts.

The project's impact went beyond the church walls. Nathaly Sampaio, a 15-year-old student, took a box to her high school in Nutley and encouraged her classmates to participate in this outreach program. As a result, she motivated her entire school to participate in 2017. The Morristown Spanish church also took the project beyond the church walls by hosting a special program that

included food, games and face painting in their local community center. More than 30 families received toys and food.

"This project was created to assist low-income families during Christmas. Many families don't have the means to celebrate with gifts or a good meal, so we encouraged the members [including the youth] of our churches to get involved in the project," says Paulo Macena, Youth and Compassion Ministries director.

160 Attend Children's Ministries Leaders Training

Children's Ministries leaders and teachers recently attended a day of training and inspiration at the "Train Up a Child" convention at the conference office in



Lawrenceville. Instructors presented six workshops to the 160 attendees, introducing new and creative methods to teach the gospel to children in their local churches. "Teachers left the event full of knowledge, lots of new ideas and with fire in their hearts to teach kids about Jesus," says Cristina Macena, event organizer.

Redemption Chapel Celebrates First Baptisms

On the last Sabbath of the year, Redemption Chapel members in Vineland celebrated the first baptisms they've had in the church's three-year existence. Karla Diaz and the De La Cruz family chose to follow Jesus by giving their lives to Him. "The work doesn't end here. There are many people who need to know about Jesus in Vineland, and it's time to wake up and preach the gospel all over the place, so our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, can return soon," says Leonardo Melendez, pastor.



Angel De La Cruz, Angel De La Cruz Jr., Vanessa De La Cruz, Jezahlia De La Cruz and Evalice De La Cruz prepare for baptism, with support from deaconesses Mary Velez and Carmen Tejada.

PHOTOS BY JORGE PILCO

New Year, New Changes to Ohio Advance

What does high school chemistry, summer camp high ropes course, community health fairs and a new boiler for a church heating system have in common? All of them benefit from Ohio Advance.

Ohio Advance (OA), a free-will offering to specifically reach the community and bring people to the Lord, is changing its allocations this year. In December the Ohio Conference Executive Committee voted to allocate funds to outreach and evangelism, secondary education, Camp Mohaven in Danville and church buildings and equipment.

Thirty percent of OA donations will be used for outreach and evangelism programs.

Churches and pastors can apply to the conference for specific project funding. Outreach programs include anything aimed at the community, such as health fairs, health screenings, health seminars, cooking classes and block parties.

For several years, a high percentage of OA has been allocated to Mount Vernon Academy, and a strong commitment to Adventist education continues. Fifty percent of OA donations will be applied to secondary education. Spring Valley Academy is accredited for grades 9-12 and Northern Ohio Adventist



Academy is accredited for grades 9-10. Combined, these two academies have 128 secondary education students, and these funds will continue to enrich their educational experience.

Ten percent of OA will be allocated to buildings and equipment at Camp Mohaven.

This camp not only hosts summer camps, but last year, it held events for lay pastors and elders, young adults, middle and high school students, church groups and even camp meeting. OA will help keep Camp Mohaven a place where church members can enjoy nature and fellowship together.

Ten percent of OA will be used for buildings and equipment in Ohio churches and schools. Continuing to give offerings helps maintain the buildings and improve or build new ones.

In summary, Ohio Advance will now be allocated: 30 percent for outreach and evangelism programs; 50 percent for secondary education; 10 percent for Camp Mohaven development; and 10 percent for church and school buildings and equipment.

Thank you for your generous support of the Ohio Conference. Your offerings are helping bring many people to the Lord.



Karen L. Senecal
Treasurer



Donating to Ohio Advance, a free-will offering, will help maintain Camp Mohaven's buildings and equipment.

God Answers One Woman's Prayer, Helping Thousands

The Lord answered my prayer that day," says Kim Whitford, director of the Adventists Caring Through Sharing (ACTS) center in Mount Vernon. "I had a good, full-time job working for Mount Vernon city schools, but I had a health scare, and I knew I was going to die."

Distraught over the loss of her 17-year-old son, Dustin, to a rare form of cancer, and questioning why she was now ill, Whitford walked the local high school track for hours one morning. "I walked and prayed and talked out loud to God," she shares. "I told God, 'If you save my life, I will work for you ... even in the mission lands.'"

A few hours later, Peter Simpson, former pastor of the Mount Vernon Hill church, called her and asked to meet with her at the church. "Kim, I want you to run our community center," Simpson said. After explaining the morning's events to Simpson, Whitford returned home to her husband and said, "We need to get moving here. I have a community center to run!" She says at that moment, she *knew* she would live.

The building, formerly used as an antiquated Dorcas center, was remodeled with the help of a little seed money from a Mount Vernon Hill church outreach fund. Whitford and Simpson changed the ACTS model of operation to provide fresh, frozen and shelf-stable foods out each Thursday, work with county agencies to help clothe those in need or



Kim Whitford, director of the Adventists Caring Through Sharing center in Mount Vernon, volunteers in the thrift store with Deb Hodges and Jennifer Howard.

victims of domestic abuse and collaborate with the local ministerial association for other basic needs. Doors opened in March 2004 with 40 families. Today they reach up to 400 families a month.

ACTS celebrates 13 years this month. They are completely self-sufficient, with proceeds from the thrift store and rental income from small apartments above the shop funding the food pantry. They purchased the building and warehouse, renovated both and paid their loans in full.

Each month the center helps between 750-1,000 people, including many children. One of four pantries in Mount Vernon, the ACTS center improves the quality of life for a population of 17,000 people (60,000 in Knox County), with a median family income of only \$47,000—well below the national average.

Last December, after completing an application for a local grant, Whitford was awarded \$1,000 for the center. It was the first time ACTS received outside funding, aside from community donations.

"We just keep getting bigger and bigger," says Whitford, necessitating the need for additional volunteers. If you live in the Knox County area and want to volunteer, contact Whitford at (740) 397-1065.



Kim Whitford, director of the Adventists Caring Through Sharing center in Mount Vernon, and 40 volunteers, including Deb Hodges, Jennifer Howard and Jackson Whitford, assist 750-1,000 people per month.

Pennsylvania *Pen*

NEWS

Hartwells Bid Farewell

In December Ray Hartwell, president of the Pennsylvania Conference, accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to serve as the Stewardship and Trust Services director and Association secretary. Hartwell and his wife, Jeanne, served in the conference for 21 years. Ray joined the conference in 1995 as executive secretary and ministerial director. Since 2003 he has served as president. Jeanne has served as associate ministerial director and Family Ministries director since 1995.



“The churches and members in Pennsylvania will remain in our hearts and in our prayers,” shares Ray. “And we shall be eager to watch and see what the Lord does through the amazing mission leadership team all across the Pennsylvania Conference. As a leader in Christ’s mission in Pennsylvania, always lift up the joy of Christ’s second coming and the power of His transforming grace.”

HOPE Fellowship Church Established

More than 150 people recently gathered to celebrate the inauguration of the HOPE Fellowship church in Kunkletown. Will Peterson, vice president of Mission and Administration, conducted the official organization ceremony, while Tim Bailey, director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth, led the ordination service for the church deacons.

In 2001 the Stroudsburg church explored a church planting venture, due to a large migration of families from New York and New Jersey and not enough space to hold them. A group began meeting at the home of Steven Jordan, who now serves as the church’s clerk, treasurer and communication director. “The church went through many ups and downs, but under the leadership of members David Richmond, Steven Jordan and Pastor Leon Beckles, the members kept moving forward,” says Carlyle Wildman, who became the district pastor in 2013. “They worked hard to achieve stability and growth. With the added leadership of



Pastor Carlyle Wildman (holding microphone) and other HOPE Fellowship members in Kunkletown celebrate during their official church plant ceremony.

Pastor Eddison McPherson, the congregation started to prosper numerically and financially until we were finally ready to be organized as a church.”

The celebration continued into the evening as musicians from area churches presented a concert, including a father and his two sons who discovered the Seventh-day Adventist Church via television ministries.

The church’s name reflects their mission. HOPE stands for “Help Others Prepare for Eternity.” The church is active in their community through their food pantry ministry, health seminars and regular door-to-door visitation.

Conference Names New Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

Saud Elias has recently accepted the role as Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Pennsylvania Conference. Elias previously served as the pastor of the Lawndale Hispanic church, the Philadelphia Hispanic I church and the Juniata Hispanic mission group—all based in Philadelphia. He also pastored the Bucks County Hispanic mission group district in Warminster. “Elias has a heart for evangelism and, since 2008, has been an integral part of the Hispanic pastoral team of the Pennsylvania Conference,” says Tim Bailey, director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth.



Adventist WholeHealth Welcomes New Executive Director

Richard Christman recently joined Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN) as the new executive director. AWHN, located in Reading, is a ministry of the Pennsylvania Conference providing business communities, faith communities and individuals in the surrounding areas with services and resources to improve their health and wellness.

Christman has served in the fields of pastoral ministry, literature evangelism, lay evangelism training, community outreach and wellness coaching in Maryland, Georgia and Florida. He most recently served in the Chesapeake Conference as pastor of the Providence church in Elkton, Md., and associate pastor of the West Wilmington church in Delaware.

“I am grateful for the privilege to serve and partner with our Pennsylvania churches and communities in this exciting health and wellness ministry!” says Christman. “My prayer is that God will use Adventist WholeHealth Network to lead people to Jesus.”

Christman replaces Cheryl Goff, who is now serving as a local nurse practitioner. Alysha Hollingshead, Faith Community nurse manager, served as the interim director for the last two years.



Pennsylvania Conference 2017 Women's Retreat



Rooted and Grounded in Love

March 24-26, 2017

*Holiday Inn Middletown-Harrisburg
815 South Eisenhower Boulevard
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

Featured Speaker Gail McKenzie serves as the Women's Ministries Director and Prayer Coordinator for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. She hosts both cable channel programs, "Health Hope" and "Truth & Wellness." Her greatest desire is for women everywhere to experience who Jesus is, how much He loves them, and who they are in Christ.



For more information or to register online, go to paconference.org or call 610.374.8331.

Potomac People

Conference Welcomes New Directors

The Potomac Conference recently hired Debra Anderson, assistant to the president for communication, and Tony Reyes, director for Stewardship, Trust and Development.

Anderson joined the team in mid-January and brings a wealth of experience to the job. Her professional background includes a 20-year career in radio and television and 15 years of executive communications on Capitol Hill. She worked as a radio news and evening anchor, talk show host and television news analyst. Prior to accepting her position with Potomac, Anderson served as the deputy chief of staff and communication director for the 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania.



Anderson is married to Paul, director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries for the North American Division.

Reyes joined the Potomac Conference last November. He began his professional career as a human resources generalist, and later moved into a project manager position for an architectural firm. He served as director of development at Universidad de Montemorelos in Mexico, Valley View Adventist Academy in Arroyo Grande, Calif., and Loma Linda Academy in Calif., where he, along with many faithful, committed members and volunteers, helped organize and implement fundraising efforts for the advancement of God's kingdom.



Cornerstone Church Opens Prayer Garden

A decade ago, members of the Cornerstone congregation in Chantilly, Va., purchased a parcel of land in the Stone Ridge development. Once the property was paid for and the population surpassed 10,000 residents, members decided it was time to get serious about building a church and engaging in outreach.

"While we were still raising money for our building project, we decided not to let that stop us from using the property to bless our neighbors," says Rick Johns, senior pastor. "We decided to create a simple prayer garden where individuals could enjoy quiet time with God."

Construction of the garden created a buzz in the neighborhood. Some community members left notes of encouragement, while others contacted the Home Owners Association (HOA) to learn more.

Meanwhile, a pharmacist at Walgreens asked Johns if his church members could partner with the store to conduct a community health fair. Johns immediately agreed to coordinate the event, and soon the church had more than a dozen health-related businesses who wanted to participate.

At the health fair, church members distributed invitations to their worship service open house and invited them to use the prayer garden. "Many visitors expressed interest in visiting the church and asked questions about our faith," says Johns. "Relationships were built with the HOA, hospital and many local businesses that can be a blessing for years to come!"



The Cornerstone congregation created a peaceful prayer garden for its members and community.

Potomac People

Richmond Academy Launches Leadership Program

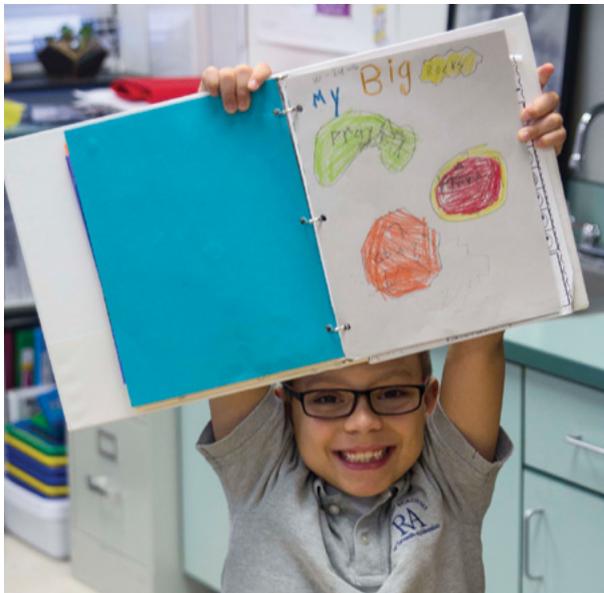
At the beginning of the school year, staff and faculty at Richmond Academy (RA) in Virginia, adopted The Leader in Me program, which draws key components from the book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. This program teaches skills for academic success, such as critical thinking, goal setting, listening, speaking and self-directed learning.

“Each day, students spend time in their leadership notebooks and talk about how they can make every day count by being kind, following directions, obeying, listening and being safe,” says Karen Van Ornam, first- and second-grade teacher. “Students learn about habits that make a difference, like being proactive, beginning with the end in mind and finding your voice.” The program extends to all grades, with the goals and habits being similar in nature, but geared appropriately for each age group.

First- and second-graders have already applied, interviewed and been “hired” for their first job. One student was hired to lead the Pledge of Allegiance each morning. Another student scrubs scuffs off the walls each day—and has even hired a helper. Students are coming to teachers when they see a problem and



Richmond Academy first- and second-graders hold *The Leader in Me* notebooks, alongside teacher Karen Van Ornam.



Nicholas Ximenes, a second-grader at Richmond Academy, shows off his drawing of the “big rocks” his classroom focuses on—like prayer and obeying.

asking if a position can be created for them, wanting to take on the responsibility. For many, this concept is unheard of, however, it’s becoming the norm at RA.

Van Ornam first discovered *The Leader in Me* program and brought it to Principal Nancy Melashenko, who then took a team of three teachers to visit another school where it was being implemented. “The results that we saw in the children’s development of values and the ownership of their educational process was amazing, and we knew that this program would align ideally with our mission and vision,” says Melashenko. “Now that we have launched the program, we are excited to see how our students are already stepping up.”

She continues, “Used as a structure for achieving academic goals, internalized Christian values and the development of leadership skills, we are confident that the long-term benefits for our students will be great.”

Van Ornam and Melashenko agree that this leadership program has the potential to change the culture of a school and plan to implement it for the next three years. RA hopes to become a Lighthouse School, which indicates that a school has fully integrated *The Leader in Me* curriculum and is achieving measurable results.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

Homeless Teen Gets Second Chance

How does Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) make Jesus real to its students?

While on a recent mission trip to Pittsburgh, the BMA seniors befriended a young homeless girl. Pastor John Kent, from the Carnegie Simple (Pa.) church, shared that the girl, Michelle “Shelby” Muyango, had been coming to church intermittently due to a difficult living environment. A bright and insightful young lady, Muyango struggled to be visible to the outside world. During the trip, BMA students took notice of her, and rather than shun her, talked with her, got to know her, ate with her and played volleyball with her.

An idea was born, and soon students encouraged Muyango to consider attending BMA. Muyango hardly imagined that this was possible. Despite her past, she began opening up to God and developing a friendship with Him. She knew she needed heavenly intervention in addition to earthly guidance.

BMA interviewed her and prayerfully decided to give her a chance to, as she puts it, “be part of something positive.” Soon after, Karen Schneider, assistant treasurer of the Pennsylvania Conference, learned of Muyango’s needs while preparing for an audit at the school. Within an hour, she decided to support Muyango. She provided the teen with many items, and more importantly, a feeling of being “at home,” by demonstrating Christ’s love to her.

When Schneider is asked why she stepped out like this for a complete stranger, she shares, “I was privileged to have parents who were involved in my interests growing up. Shelby has an amazing ‘I can do that’ attitude. I’ve seen her be a friend to someone she hardly knows when they’re having a bad day. It doesn’t take much for you to claim Shelby as your



Michelle “Shelby” Muyango (center), joined by Pastor John Kent and Karen Schneider, shares her testimony.

family. She has many traits that make her easy to love. When you learn the ways she has survived and how God is drawing her to Him, you know she is truly a special child of His.”

“People say ‘you are so wonderful for what you have done for Shelby,’” she continues, “but the truth is, I feel privileged to pay forward all the ways my parents were involved in my interests while meeting my financial and emotional needs.”

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus states, “‘I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me’” (NET). It takes a village to raise a child, and in Pennsylvania, a school, church and a conference employee are taking on that challenge!

Alumni Weekend to Honor Veterans

Blue Mountain Academy announces a special 2017 Alumni Weekend, April 29-30, honoring veterans and Thomas Diller, class of 1967, who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam Conflict. Events to be held at Wes Schultz Gymnasium, Duane Ferguson Sanctuary and Edison Hall.

Girls' Dormitory Renovation Underway

This year, DeHaan Hall, Highland View Academy's girls' dormitory, has begun the process of renovating their dorm rooms, thanks to the generosity of the community.

Marci Corea, girls' assistant dean, says, "Being a member of this community for the past 15 years, I have loved seeing the life this dorm holds. Our dorm has received lots of love in its lifetime, and understandably a lot of wear and tear, too!"

The renovation has involved repainting the walls and cabinets; replacing stained, moldy carpet with hypo-allergenic, easy-to-clean flooring; installing new sink faucets; and adding USB ports to the wall outlets.

"Long-term, we hope to transform every dorm room into a cleaner, safer, more modern environment, best suited for studying, sleeping, growth and fun!" Corea says.

Austin Gomez, girls' head dean, adds, "I live my life in this dorm, just like our girls do. When I began working here in 2015, I could tell that work needed to be done on these rooms after years of having dorm girls, camp meetings, international groups and sports groups come through. This dorm is used almost year-round."

Since the rooms are almost always in use, it is difficult to update them, but, Gomez says, "With generous donations [from the community], we have been able to start, room by room, to make this dorm a cleaner, more modern and homier place to be." The goal is to complete the project within a year.

The dorm students have expressed a positive response to the renovations. Senior Danielle Ntakirutimana, girls' club president, says, "The rooms look so nice. The new, minty green color on the cabinets is so pretty."

Freshman Hannah Scalzo comments, "I love the green cabinets and the new floors because it makes the room look a lot lighter."

Senior Johnah Hrabowy, resident advisor, adds, "I'm so excited that they're renovating the rooms!"



A DeHaan Hall girls' dorm room before and after the renovations.

It's a shame I'm graduating, but I'm happy future girls will get to live in them!"

Gomez adds, "Every time the girls get to see the new rooms under construction, they gaze in awe. I can't wait until every girl who comes to live in DeHaan Hall gets to live in a ... bright and comfortable room in their 'home' away from home."

PHOTOS BY AUSTIN GOMEZ

Calendar of Events

March 5 International Fair
March 11 Senior Play

PFA POST



Visit us online at PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG. *Excellence is no accident.*

Celebrating the Past, Charting the Future

In 2016 Pine Forge Academy (PFA) celebrated its 70th anniversary. The year-long commemoration illuminated the powerful history of the only historically black Seventh-day Adventist boarding school and the legendary success of its graduates.

As the first student to graduate from the academy (formerly known as Pine Forge Institute) in 1946, Marguerite Anderson Dixon, who has a doctorate in Nursing Sciences, is one such legend.

To honor the legacy of Dixon and other pioneers, the alumni installed a commemorative brick section in the existing concrete pathway between Wagner Hall and North Hall. This pathway has tremendous historical significance as it is the walk graduates take during commencement.

Alumni and current families have personalized bricks to include pioneer names, class names and mottos. To commemorate the academy's 70th anniversary, the Class of 1947 donated two green benches to be placed on the brick pathway.

Nicole Hughes, headmaster of PFA, says, "It is important to honor our pioneers while they are still with us. The achievements and sacrifices of the first class paved the way for all other classes since and all the classes to come. Each time we sit on these benches or stand on these bricks, we will remember that we owe them a debt of gratitude that can only be repaid through righteous Christian living and service."



Pine Forge Academy celebrates Marguerite Anderson Dixon ('46), the first student to graduate from the institution.

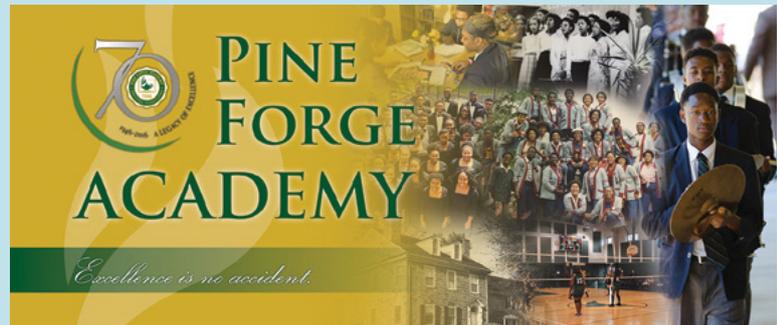
Alumni Association Raises \$270K

The National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association (NPFAAA) successfully raised \$270,000 during its #Reignite70 campaign to help celebrate the academy's 70th anniversary.

Sokoni Scott, vice president of NPFAAA, says, "Our commitment to #Reignite70 is critical to the future of Pine Forge Academy."

The NPFAAA's gift to PFA will go toward the renovation of Handy Hall (the boys' dorm), the weight room and recreation hall. Kimbrough Hall, the girls' dorm, will see renovations to its cafeteria, recreation hall and other student spaces. Wagner Hall, the administration building, will receive upgraded wall-mounted SMARTboard technology in every classroom. The NPFAAA's gifts will leave an indelible mark on the academy and have already paved the way for the future Pine Forge Academy Foundation (PFAF) fundraising

efforts to erect the Paul R. Jones Student/STEM Center in the coming years. This center is intended to provide PFA with a new student lounge, STEM classrooms and laboratory, work/industry offices, a kitchen, cafeteria and auditorium. Learn more at pineforgeacademy.org.



Spotlight

on Spencerville

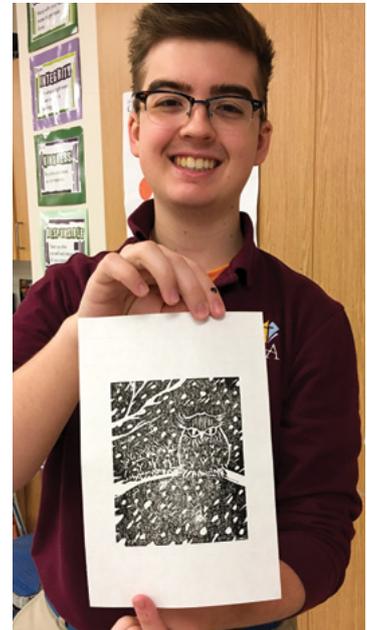
Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Art Project Benefits Orphans

The idea started out as a fun linoleum block printing project. Middle school and high school art teacher, Nancy Rivera, challenged her students to design a Christmas card, then carve the design into a linoleum block, ink it with a roller and finally hand stamp the design onto fine paper. The students personally signed the back of each hand-made Christmas card and intended to give them to special people in their lives.

However, Rivera began thinking about how this project could help raise money to benefit others. Spencerville Adventist Academy is committed to service, and its strategic plan encourages classes and school organizations to do service projects. Rivera discussed this idea with her students, and instead of making cards for their loved ones, they decided to sell the cards and donate the money to Restore a Child, a Christian charitable organization dedicated to helping orphans and underprivileged children throughout the world. In a day-and-a-half, they raised \$80. Senior Berkeley Poulsen says, "It's such a rewarding experience knowing my art is making a difference in the world. While I worked on my cards so that they could be sold to benefit the charity, I realized that I could contribute my skills to the lives of others."

As the school year progresses, students will be creating categories such as birthdays, Mother's and Father's Day, sympathy and "just because" to add to their collection. The cards will be available for purchase, with monies donated to Restore a Child. "We feel so blessed and humbled as we use our God-given artistic abilities to lift up orphan children," says Rivera. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Nancy Rivera at nrivera@spencerville.org.



Berkeley Poulsen displays a card he designed for an art class fundraiser to support the Restore a Child organization.

Drama Team to Present Famous Musical



Spencerville Adventist Academy's (SAA) high school drama students have been rehearsing since September for this year's performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *Oklahoma!* "You will find this musical to be a joyous celebration of frontier life across the Western plains. The songs will linger in your hearts long after the play is over," says Jane Lanning, director. Don't miss SAA's performance of *Oklahoma!* April 19, 20, 22 and 23 in the school's auditorium. For ticket information and show times, please visit SAA's website at spencervilleacademy.org, or call (301) 421-9101.

The Oklahoma! cast, directed by Jane Lanning (third row, far left), rehearse for their upcoming spring performances.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Students Attend Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Centerville Washington Diversity Council (CWDC) invited Darren Wilkins, principal of Spring Valley Academy (SVA), and a select number of high school students, to join the 17th Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. This annual event celebrates and promotes an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community. Each year civic and business leaders give testimonies about the continuing influence of the life and words of Dr. King.

Barbara Cross, a survivor of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963, was this year's keynote speaker. Cross, who was 12 at the time, says her father's church became a target because King was using it to hold civil rights meetings. She shared her recollections from that September 15 morning:

"Little did I realize we were the victims of a racist terrorist attack and that my four friends were dead in the bathroom, just feet away from my Sunday School class. I will always remember that four innocent girls lost their lives in a place of worship. I will continuously keep their memory alive and share the lesson we studied that day about "A Love That Forgives."

NaTozja Alford, SVA's senior class president, says, "[Cross's] determination has shown everyone that God will always be there to lift you up in any situation, and that courage is one of the best gifts you can have."



Keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, Barbara Cross (fourth from left), reminds Spring Valley Academy students Corliss Wilson, NaTozja Alford, Chaleigha Brooks, Zori Jefferies Thomas and Joshua St. Pierre that God is with them in every situation.

Cross wrote the story "My Soul is a Witness" in the book *Sisters on the Journey*, chronicling her Birmingham experiences.

Kumar Dixit ('92) to Speak for Alumni Weekend



Each April Spring Valley Academy welcomes alumni to visit the campus and reconnect with old friends. This school year, alumni weekend will be held April 21-22. Honor years include the classes of '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07 and '12. Kumar Dixit ('92), chaplain of WGTS 91.9 in Washington, D.C., will be the special guest speaker. Highlights of the weekend include:

Friday, April 21

- 1 p.m.—Alumni Golf Tournament

Sabbath, April 22

- 9 a.m.—Breakfast with Principal Darren Wilkins
- 10:30 a.m.—Church service, including sermon by Kumar Dixit ('92) and performances by SVA's musical groups
- Noon—Lunch in the cafeteria
- 2 p.m.—Campus tour
- 9 p.m.—Alumni vs. SVA varsity basketball game

We urge our alumni to return each year to reminisce, see how SVA is growing and what plans we have for the future. For more information, please visit springvalleyacademy.org, or call Angie Peach, alumni/development director, at (937) 433-0790.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS

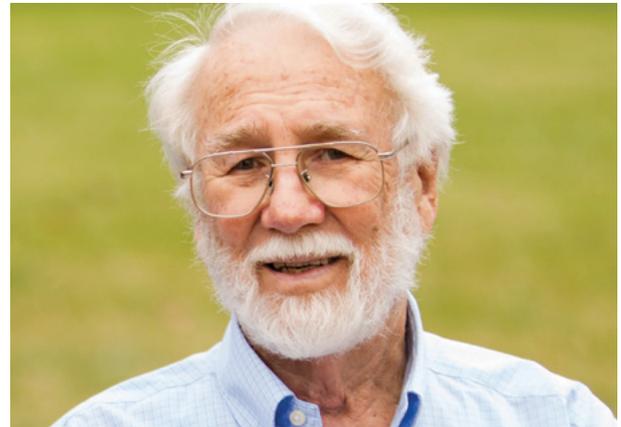
www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Memories of William J. Strickland: Goodbye to “Mr. SVA”

For hundreds of students over four decades, Bill Strickland was the essence of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Rightfully so, to staff and students who knew and worked with him, he was “Mr. SVA.” Not only because of his extensive tenure from 1958 to his retirement in 1998, during which he served as teacher, vice principal and acting principal, but also because he clearly loved SVA as if it was his own. He knew every student, knew their hometown, the names of their parents, and often the names of their grandparents—information retained even decades later.

Countless former students recall Spanish class international trips to Cuba, Spain, Colombia, Mexico and Puerto Rico, where Strickland introduced students to mission work. Others have fond memories of sitting around a campfire in the woods on a weekend of hiking/camping in the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains, or a Senior class trip to Calloway Gardens. Whether behind the wheel of an SVA bus, driving students anywhere from Maine to Florida multiple times and for many events or arranging for Student Association banquets or other outings, Strickland’s life was wrapped around the students and the school he loved.

Strickland knew the SVA pioneer stories and history like a book! I loved to hear his deep southern voice tell these stories because they seemed to flow naturally



Bill Strickland, who passed away January 3, devoted his life to the students and educational ministry at SVA for 40 years.

from his extensive knowledge and connection to the Valley and his school.

Bill and I worked together for four years. He, the senior advisor to a whipper-snapper young principal trying his wings at a boarding school, was so gracious to me, even though he had already been at SVA for 16 years. We worked very well together as enrollment reached its peak of 398 students in 1978. Our friendship continued long after our work together at SVA, and we often recalled memories of our experiences there.

There will be a void on the campus and in the hearts of alumni that will never be filled. The reading of the Honor Class Roll Call during Alumni Weekends, the friendly, warm smile and southern drawl, the instant recall of the faces of years gone by remain now only in the memory. Yet the legacy of this man who loved no place better than “Where Shines the Big Virginia Sun”* will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved him.

For now, rest in peace, Mr. SVA, beside your beloved wife, Jean. When you awake, you will again see the faces of those to whom you dedicated your life on Earth. See you soon, my friend.



Dale E. Twomley
Former SVA
Principal



Bill Strickland reads his final Honor Class Roll Call during Shenandoah Valley Academy’s 2016 Alumni Weekend.

*From the first stanza of the SVA school song, “Our Shenandoah.”

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Engineering Club Attends White House Film Screening

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) invited members of its junior chapter at Takoma Academy (TA) to represent and celebrate unknown figures in the U.S. space exploration program.

Fourteen members of TA's chapter had the honor of attending a private screening of the film *Hidden Figures* at the White House in Washington, D.C. *Hidden Figures* is based on the real-life story of Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson and Katherine Johnson. These three brilliant African-American women overcame great odds to help America launch astronaut John Glenn into outer space. The tagline "Meet the women you don't know, behind the mission you do" correctly depicts these women who utilized their intelligence and desire to dream big.

Many of the TA students in the engineering club aspire to be engineers, and this movie motivated them to keep their dreams alive. The women in the story were ostracized to the point that they weren't allowed to use the same bathrooms as their colleagues, but they did not allow segregation, racism or sexism to keep them from achieving excellence. Their efforts helped the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, become a progressive work environment, and carry out the space exploration goals set by President John F. Kennedy.



Members of Takoma Academy's Engineering Club, including Sheri Thorne (left) and Ronnie Mills (right), co-advisors of TA's National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter, attend a private screening of the film *Hidden Figures* at the White House.

Actors Taraji P. Henson, Kevin Costner, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe and director, Theodore Melfi, also attended the private screening. Afterward, they held a panel discussion, and Kircil Dowers, a junior at TA, voiced the first comment: "Just by watching the movie, I could tell that even the cast members were very much in touch with the characters they were playing in their roles."

Later, Michelle Obama, then first lady of the United States, made a surprise appearance. She spoke about the importance of obtaining an education. "I am free, not because I am the first lady, but because I have an education; so put down your phones and study," she admonished.

TA Junior Mekhi Brown notes, "The movie reminded me that nothing is impossible." Senior Alex Gibbons adds, "I gained insight on how African-American women were overlooked, but still played a key role in shaping America."

Another interesting angle to this story is that the artwork used by 20th Century Fox to promote the film was created by Jamila Silvera ('99), a former TA art teacher. She says, "It's marvelous to look on a screen and see people that look like you, celebrated for being brilliant, strong and gifted, and who happen to be brown."



Jamila Silvera ('99), a former TA art teacher, created this promotion artwork for *Hidden Figures*, the motion picture depicting three African-American women who overcame great odds to assist in space exploration.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMILA SILVERA/PROPERTY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

Night of Hope Draws Thousands

It's the largest evangelism event of the year for WGTS 91.9. Night of Hope is a free evening service of music and inspiration. On Nov. 11, 2016, over 2,000 people came to McLean Bible Church in Virginia to hear the Passion Worship Band and Pastor Setan Lee, president of TransformAsia, an organization that provides housing, food and education to people in Cambodia.

Pastor Lee shared a message of salvation from his experience of being in Cambodia in the 1970s when the Khmer Rouge army killed millions. Pastor Lee's story of escape from certain execution to a life of freedom and service to God inspired the audience. Close to 100 people made first-time decisions for Christ. "To see fear replaced by hope in so many lives is an amazing blessing," says General Manager Kevin Krueger. This event has been faithfully supported by Adventist HealthCare.



hands and heart

Serving Central Union Mission

On Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the radio station hosted "Take Over Day" at Central Union Mission, one of Washington, D.C.'s, major homeless shelters. "During our Year of Service, this Hands and Heart event shared the love of Jesus with the residents," says Chaplain Kumar Dixit.

Starting at 6 a.m., over 175 WGTS 91.9 volunteers and staff set to work preparing and serving meals, cleaning the sleeping areas, playing board games with the residents and leading out in two special programs including a message from Pastor Paul Graham, senior pastor at Restoration Praise Center Seventh-day Adventist Church. Volunteers also conducted a prayer walk throughout the mission praying for those in the shelter. To see firsthand, visit: <http://wgts.org/homeless-shelter>



Bottom Left Photo: Team members Brennan Wimbush and Chaplain Kumar Dixit prepare to surprise the children with the bears.



Bears Bring Cheer to Children at Hospital

Just in time for Christmas, the WGTS 91.9 staff went on a Hands and Heart Initiative field trip to the pediatric ward of the Shady Grove Adventist Medical Center in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. They delivered 100 teddy bears to children at the hospital, which were hand-stuffed during the annual staff Christmas party—a three-year tradition.





THE VALUE of a SUPPORTIVE CONSTITUENCY

Since 1904 the constituency of the Columbia Union has supported Adventist Christian higher education in the nation's capital. This fact must not go unnoticed, because the eight conferences that comprise the Columbia Union – Allegheny East, Allegheny West, Chesapeake, Mountain View,



Weymouth Spence
President

New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Potomac –have continuously supported this institution in significant ways. On behalf of the over 15,000 alumni and our current faculty, staff and students, thank you for believing in Christian education, and for providing the financial support to make Adventist Christian education accessible to all God's children. The institution you have entrusted your money to is appreciative of your gift. It has been used wisely in preparing pastors, teachers, leaders, social workers, physicians, legal experts, medical professionals and a host of others in various careers, to fulfill the commission of providing Christian service to humanity. Most importantly, we have prepared individuals for eternity. Without you, our mission would not have achieved such amazing things.

This is Washington Adventist University!
–Weymouth Spence

Washington Adventist University Partners with Frontline Community Services to Advance Employee Educations

Washington Adventist University (WAU) has entered into a partnership agreement with Frontline Community Services that will help Frontline employees and their families further their educations. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Tuesday, January 10, by the principals of both organizations, including WAU President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., and Frontline Community Services President Dittu Abraham.

Frontline Community Services (FCS) is a nonprofit agency that provides a wide range of services, including residential and psychological supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the District of Columbia. With over 200 staff and administrators, FCS is recognized by the service community for innovation and strategic approaches to improving the lives of people who would otherwise remain on the outer fringes of society. The company motto – “Bringing Meaning to Lives” – reflects the example that Jesus Christ set for His disciples to love and serve every segment of society, especially the most vulnerable, demonstrating love that is all inclusive.

The organization is headquartered in Takoma Park, not far from the WAU campus. Under the agreement, Frontline employees are eligible for

continued on next page →



Left: Dean for the School of graduate and Professional Studies, Nicole Currier; Executive Vice President for Finance, Patrick Farley; Provost Cheryl Kisinzu; President Weymouth Spence; President Dittu Abraham; Vice President of Clinical, Nursing and Program, Lizzie Timothy; Vice President of Quality Management, Admin. and HR, Praveenya Pallipamula; and Assistant Program Director & Service Coordination David Armo.

continued from previous page

discounted tuition for courses offered by the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS), which accommodates working adults with accelerated evening programs. Classes start at 6 p.m. and meet once a week for eight weeks, enabling students to earn a degree faster. The families of Frontline employees are also eligible for discounted tuition at both the SGPS and the university's traditional program.



Frontline Community Services Vice President of Quality Management, Admin and Human Resource, Praveenya Pallipamula, signing the agreement.

In order to benefit from the partnership agreement, Frontline Community Services employees and their families must provide a verification of employment letter or a valid Frontline employee identification card at the time of registration.

Degree programs currently offered in the evening format include nine undergraduate and nine graduate programs, including an innovative RN-MSN program that enables nurses with an associate degree to move directly to a master's degree. In addition, three fully online degree programs are available, including master's degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and

Public Administration (MA), as well as a bachelor's degree designed specifically for Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs) who already have an associate degree.

For more information about the partnership agreement or degree programs offered by the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, contact the SGPS Office at 301-891-4092. The office is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.



President Weymouth Spence shaking hands with Frontline Community Services Vice President of Clinical, Nursing and Program, Lizzie Timothy; and President, Dittu Abraham.



Jerry Woods, WGTS 91.9 Morning Show Host and Director of Promotions serving on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

WGTS 91.9 Hands & Heart Team Spreads Hope on MLK Jr. Day

WGTS 91.9's "Hands and Heart" initiative is providing more opportunities this year for listeners to be involved in the community. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day the WGTS 91.9 staff and Hands and Heart volunteers took over the Central Union Mission in Washington D.C. The team did take part in serving meals, making beds, cleaning the mission, prayer walking around the mission and leading out in worship and a special MLK Day service for the men at the mission. Throughout the course of the day the WGTS team served over 150 homeless men.

"We were looking forward to connecting our listeners with a project to serve the community. I can't believe how many people, over 200 volunteers showed up throughout the day, and made a huge impact. I loved seeing the interaction between our listeners and the homeless men as they played board games in the afternoon!" said WGTS chaplain Kumar Dixit.

WGTS 91.9 celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. As part of the celebration the station is launching a series of "Hands and Heart" projects to give listeners the opportunity to serve the greater D.C. community. The Central Union Mission takeover day was the first of those opportunities.

Head and Heart: The 17-inch Rule

Try this: put your hand on the top of your head. Now move your hand down, past your mouth and neck, continuing down your torso until it comes to rest on your heart – in the middle of your chest.

How many inches are there from your head to your heart? Of course, everyone will be a little different, but the distance is approximately 17 inches. Maybe an inch less, maybe an inch more, but about 17. And that's where the "17-Inch Rule" comes in.

It seems to me that being aware of the relationship between our heads and our hearts is essential to our success in life.

When we focus on data, information, facts, process, figures, protocols, rules, policies – we say we are "using our heads." Science, logic, math, technology: these are the hallmarks of our cognitive self.

When we focus on feelings, intuition, hunches, instincts, relationships, compassion, kindness – we say we are "following our hearts." Spirituality, the arts, love: these are the hallmarks of our affective self.

We need both head and heart – both the cognitive and affective parts of ourselves.

How do we bring them into alignment with each other? How do we keep the channel between head and heart open? Does our faith in God have any impact on our capacity to balance using our heads and following our hearts? How do we shorten the distance between what we know and what we do?

To be faithful to our mission and calling, the 17-inch rule can help remind us to respond to others using both our heads and our hearts. The essence of maturity and leadership is developing the quiet capacity for listening, focusing, and learning to hear God's voice – and then with kindness, compassion, and courage following our hearts to do what He asks us to do.



Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Ann Roda, vice president of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care, Adventist HealthCare, leads guests in a prayer for the new Washington Adventist Hospital site and for the workers who are helping build our new facility.

Washington Adventist Hospital Blesses Foundation for New Location in White Oak, MD

Hospital and community leaders, caregivers and partners of Adventist HealthCare gathered in December for a blessing ceremony for the foundation for the new Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital in the White Oak area of Maryland, set to open in 2019.

The ceremony celebrated not only the physical foundation pouring, but also recognized that Adventist HealthCare's foundation is built upon the longstanding legacy of Adventists bringing holistic, whole-person healing to their communities.

The foundation pouring marks the beginning of the construction of the hospital building, following months of work preparing the land and planning the design of clinical spaces.

Geoff Morgan, vice president of Expanded Access at Washington Adventist Hospital, presented four items to be embedded into a concrete wall of the hospital to signify Adventist HealthCare's legacy, including:

- The 1907 ledger of the first patients admitted to the Washington Sanitarium, now Washington Adventist Hospital
- The book "The Ministry of Healing" by Ellen White, one of Adventist HealthCare's founders
- A copy of a letter Ellen White wrote regarding the purchase of the Takoma Park property for the Washington Sanitarium
- A copy of the Scripture passage, Ephesians 2:19-21, that reminds us that Jesus Christ is our cornerstone.

Stay up to date with hospital's construction progress at OurCommunityTransformed.org.

Modern Heart Procedure Gives “New Lease on Life”

Several months ago, Don Russell's doctor asked him to listen to his heartbeat and then his own.

“His heart was just the perfect ‘thump thump’ sound,” said Don, an 85-year old resident of Laurel, Md., and a member of the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church. “When I listened to mine, it was sort of this squishy sound like blood trying to force its way through the valve.”

Time to Act

That “squishy sound” was aortic stenosis – a narrowing of the aortic valve between the heart and the aortic blood vessel, which delivers blood to the body.

After monitoring Don's condition, Keith Lindgren, MD, a cardiologist with Adventist HealthCare Adventist Medical Group, told Don he had to take action.

Traditionally, action would mean open-heart surgery with a long, six-week recovery. Although he was nervous, Don agreed that he couldn't wait.

“I was having difficulty walking very far. My whole life was impacted by this problem,” said Don, who enjoys traveling with his wife to visit their eight children.

A New Option

Then Don saw the Adventist HealthCare video about an innovative heart procedure called “TAVR” that could fix his faulty heart valve without open-heart surgery. In consultation with his doctor, Don decided that was the way to go.

“Transaortic valve replacement, or TAVR, allows the physician to place a new aortic valve into the damaged valve using a tiny tube, called a catheter. It is inserted through a small opening in the groin,” explained David Brill, MD, an interventional cardiologist at Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital.

On Aug. 24, Dr. Brill performed Don's TAVR procedure in collaboration with heart surgeon, Anthony Rongione, MD. After spending just two days at Washington Adventist Hospital, Don was amazed to hear his own heart beating regularly, and that the hospital's cardiac experts fixed his heart without ever opening his chest.



Don Russell and his wife, Arlene, can now spend more time traveling to see their children following Don's successful heart procedure at Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital.

“I had no pain at all and had a very short recovery period. In fact, the next day, I went grocery shopping with my wife. It really is too good to be true,” said Don.

Since then, Russell has traveled to Colorado, North Carolina and even Canada with his wife, and is able to take long walks with ease. “It has just given me a new lease on life,” he said.

To learn more about the quality heart care at Adventist HealthCare, visit [TrustedHeartCare.com](https://www.TrustedHeartCare.com).

How is Your Heart?

About 750,000 people in the U.S. have heart attacks each year, according to the American Heart Association. For 50 percent of people experiencing mild symptoms, a heart attack can be prevented with early treatment before heart damage occurs.

Mild chest symptoms include:

- Pressure
- Burning
- Aching
- Tightness or squeezing
- Indigestion

Are you at risk of heart disease? Find out by taking our fast, free heart health risk assessment at [AdventistHealthCare.com/Heart](https://www.AdventistHealthCare.com/Heart).

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EMPLOYMENT

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is looking to fill several full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in the areas of educational psychology, English education/children's literature, industrial design, 19th century British literature, research services librarian, music, psychology and social work. For a detailed description of each position and to apply, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an art and graphic design professor, beginning in June. Master's degree in art or graphic design required; MFA preferred. Responsibilities include teaching art and graphic design courses, academic advising, recruiting and program development. Further information, visit ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Submit CV to Bruce Forbes, Fine Arts Division Chair, at b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a director of academic support and advising. Master's degree in higher education, developmental learning or related field required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have higher education experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S English Department is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred candidates will have a PhD; a creative writing background is a plus. Send CV with cover letter to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, lauej@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S Nursing Department seeks a full-time nurse educator. Doctorate desired; MSN considered. Experience in mental health, medical/surgical or pediatrics preferred. Must enjoy working with young people who are excited about service. Must have, or be able to obtain, an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenenthal@swau.edu.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF RELIGION is seeking a tenure-track professor (assistant/associate/full) to begin in 2017. The candidates should possess ethics training and a completed PhD (ABD accepted). Please email a cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample and three professional references to Ethics Area Chair, Dr. Zack Plantak, zplantak@llu.edu.

FIVE COLLEGE FARMS IN HADLEY, MASS., SEEKS GENERAL LABORERS. Farm experience is a plus. Help a growing community of committed workers develop sustainable industry in the Pioneer Valley. Visit fivecollegefarms.com to apply, or email info@fivecollegefarms.com for inquiries. Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

PULSE CAFÉ IN HADLEY, MASS., is coming soon and seeks to fill varied salaried and hourly positions. Kitchen/Restaurant experience is a plus. Help a growing community of committed workers impact the community of the Pioneer Valley. Email lawron@pulsecafe.com for inquiries. Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-DAY NATURAL REMEDIES AND HYDROTHERAPY WORKSHOP, August 6-11, at Andrews University. For details, visit Andrews.edu/go/nrhww, email janinec@andrews.edu or call (269) 471-3541.

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Contact Tim Mayer for more information and a tour at (240) 286-3635, or email tim@elternhausalf.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
Notice is hereby given that the fourth quadrennial and 17th regular constituency session of

the Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3650 Sunbury Road, Columbus, OH 43219. The meeting is called for the electing of officers, departmental directors and pertinent committees, to amend the constitution and bylaws, to receive reports and to transact any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article IV, Section 1f of the bylaws will convene in two locations at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2017, at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3650 Sunbury Road, Columbus, OH 43219, and the Melrose Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1601 Melrose Avenue, N.W., Roanoke, VA 24017, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the following quadrennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

William T. Cox, *President*
Marvin C. Brown, III, *Secretary*

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE CORPORATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the fourth quadrennial and 17th regular session of the Allegheny West Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the regular session of the Allegheny West Conference on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3650 Sunbury Road, Columbus, OH 43219, in order to select officers, a Board of Trustees, to hear reports and to transact any other business that may properly come before the session. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Allegheny West Conference session.

William T. Cox, *President*
Marvin C. Brown, III, *Secretary*

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE FOURTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fourth quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905. This meeting is held for the election of

officers and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article III, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2017, at the conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

Rick Remmers, *President*
Jerry Lutz, *Secretary*

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION FOURTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fourth quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Rick Remmers, *President*
Jerry Lutz, *Secretary*

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY FOURTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fourth quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Rick Remmers, *President*
Erik Borges, *Secretary*

Sunset Calendar

Month	3	10	17	24	31
Baltimore	6:00	6:08	7:15	7:22	7:29
Cincinnati	6:32	6:39	7:46	7:53	8:00
Cleveland	6:19	6:27	7:35	7:43	7:50
Columbus	6:25	6:33	7:40	7:47	7:55
Jersey City	5:49	5:57	7:04	7:12	7:19
Norfolk	6:01	6:07	7:13	7:20	7:26
Parkersburg	6:20	6:27	7:34	7:41	7:48
Philadelphia	5:54	6:02	7:09	7:16	7:23
Pittsburgh	6:13	6:21	7:28	7:35	7:43
Reading	5:57	6:04	7:12	7:19	7:26
Richmond	6:05	6:12	7:18	7:25	7:31
Roanoke	6:15	6:22	7:28	7:35	7:41
Toledo	6:26	6:34	7:42	7:50	7:58
Trenton	5:52	6:00	7:07	7:15	7:22
Wash., D.C.	6:02	6:09	7:16	7:23	7:30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

110th JOHN NEVINS ANDREWS SCHOOL (JNA) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION,

April 1 at Takoma Park Church, 6951 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, and JNA, 117 Elm Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Sabbath Worship, fellowship luncheon, class reunions at JNA, concert and memories; alumni basketball game. RSVP, mrevoilo@jna.org, (301) 270-1400.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE

ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 9-11 for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1937,

1947, 1957 and 1967. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit glaa.net.

OBITUARIES

SETH, William "Bill," born April 29, 1932, in Baltimore, Md.; died August 15, 2015, in Ooltewah, Tenn. He was a member of the Collegedale (Tenn.) church. He was married to the love of his life, Courtney Hendryx Seth, for 59 years. Bill attended Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist Univ.) in Takoma Park, Md., from 1952-1956, worked for the Potomac Conference from 1956-1968, and then he taught and/or was principal from 1976-1979 at Richmond Jr. Academy, Sligo Elementary in Takoma Park, Md., and the Beltsville (Md.) Elementary School; and then for the Florida Conference in Port Charlotte, Fla. In retirement Bill enjoyed a visiting ministry for the Collegedale (Tenn.) church. Survivors: his children, Marie (Peter) Petrelis, Doug (Michelle) Seth, Ken (Lisa) Seth and Barb (Scott) Edens; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His wife preceded him in death in 2013.

Mountain View Conference

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Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA), in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies:

1. Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or application because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
2. Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution.
3. Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
4. Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered.
5. Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Adventist Academy, Calvary Seventh-day Adventist School, Dupont Park Adventist Junior Academy, Ephesus Adventist Junior Academy, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Seventh-day Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Junior Academy, Trinity Temple Academy, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Athalton Adventist Academy, Baltimore-White Marsh Adventist School, Chester River Adventist School, Crest Lane Adventist School, Dover First Christian School, Frederick Adventist Academy, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Mount Aetna Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Wilmington Jr. Academy

Mountain View—Boulevard Adventist Academy, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop SDA School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville SDA School

New Jersey—Lake Nelson SDA School, Meadow View Junior Academy, Tranquility Adventist School, Vine Haven Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Clifton Christian Academy, Eastwood SDA Junior Academy, Mansfield SDA School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon SDA School, Northern Ohio Adventist Academy, Piqua SDA School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Jr. Academy, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville SDA School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain SDA Elementary, Gettysburg Adventist Christian School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Lehigh Valley SDA School, Mountain View Christian School, Pocono Adventist Christian School, Reading SDA Junior Academy, Simplicity Christian Academy, The Northern Tier Christian School, Wyoming Valley SDA School, York Adventist Christian School

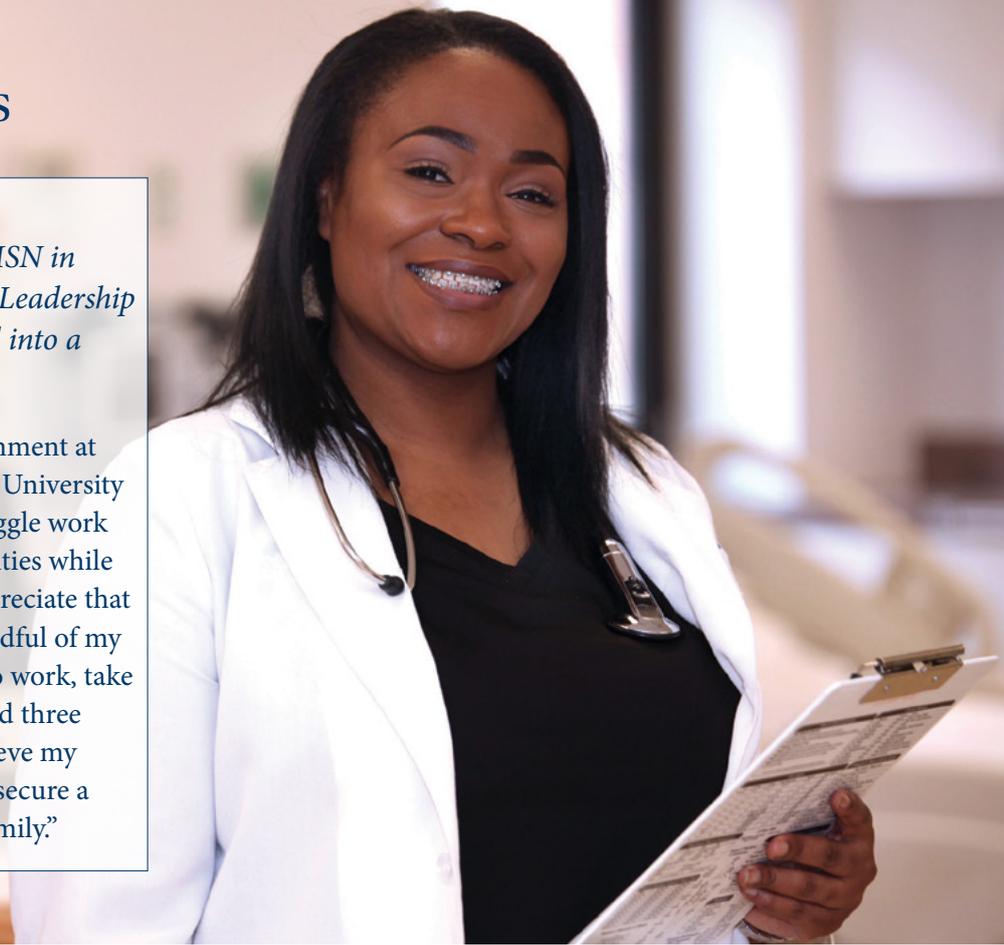
Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, John Nevins Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley SDA School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, Vienna Adventist Academy

mind·ful of my needs

Tynisha Kadiri

Recently earned her MSN in Nursing and Business Leadership and has been accepted into a doctorate program.

“The supportive environment at Washington Adventist University makes it possible to juggle work and family responsibilities while earning a degree. I appreciate that the university was mindful of my needs. It allowed me to work, take care of my husband and three children, and still achieve my educational goals and secure a better future for my family.”



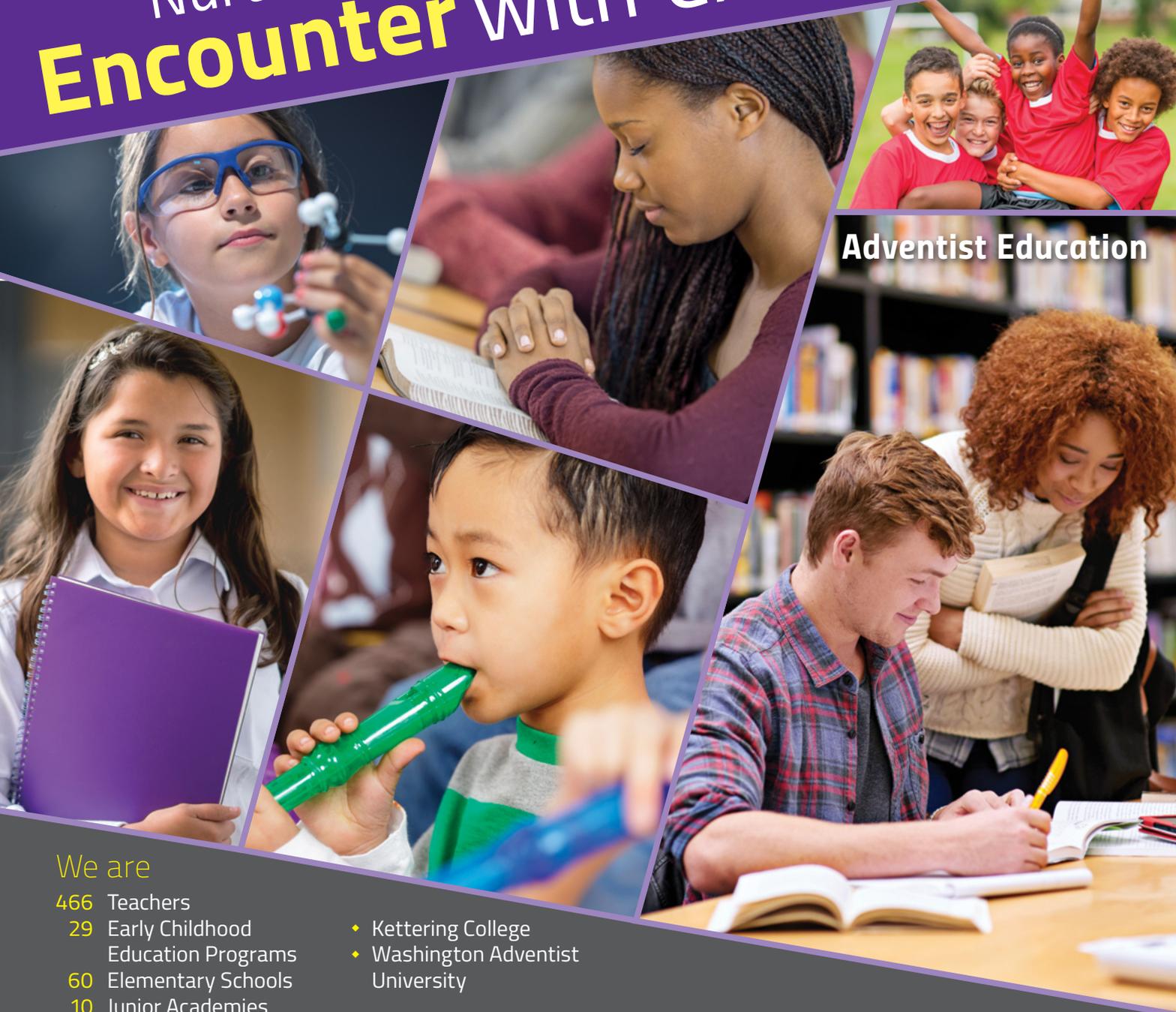
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