

VISITOR

A man with glasses and a goatee is playing a guitar. He is looking directly at the camera. The background is a colorful mural featuring various musical instruments like a harp, a violin, a saxophone, and a piano keyboard. The word 'VISITOR' is written in large, bold, blue letters at the top of the page.

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 123 • ISSUE 1

Choosing Hope

Elliot Smith Shares His Experience With Depression

Plus: Could Christian Fiction be a Bridge to the Bible?

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Choosing Hope

V. Michelle Bernard

Elliot Smith remembers his academy teacher pulling him aside after class one day. The teacher noticed he wasn't enjoying singing anymore—something he loved doing since elementary school. The “darkness” continued until he realized it wasn't something he could just “pray away.”

Truth Be Told

Peggi Trusty

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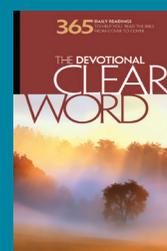
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About the Cover: Ty Wright photographed Elliot Smith with his ukulele in downtown Dayton, Ohio.

ON THE WEB

CELEBRATE VIVANGELISMO

Members from around the Columbia Union Conference recently gathered in Ocean City, Md., to celebrate the 3,158 Hispanic baptisms in the union this year. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/vivangelismo to see videos in English and Spanish of the event, as well as personal testimonies.



NEW 2018 DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS

Want to read the Bible completely through this year? Pacific Press® Publishing Association (Idaho) recently released *The Devotional Clear Word*, a reformatted version of Jack Blanco's *The Clear Word* paraphrase with 365 daily readings. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/2018resources to read more about this and other new books that can help support your devotional life in 2018.

IS THIS THING ON?

In December Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division (NAD), and Alex Bryant, NAD executive secretary, met with students from Oakwood University (Ala.) for “Is This Thing On?” a program where they answered questions from the audience and social media. “We want to dialogue with our young adults in an open and transparent way on the issues important to them,” says Jackson. “Our church only becomes stronger when we talk to each other, pray with each other and learn from one another.” Watch a video of the event on columbiaunionvisitor.com/isthisthingon.



NEED ANOTHER CALENDAR?

Want to share a copy of the *2018 Columbia Union Conference Calendar* featuring favorite pets? Email srowley@columbiaunion.net for additional free copies.

VISITOR

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Volume 123 ■ Issue 1

Don't Miss a Moment!

Every so often, I am asked to fill out one of those medical forms that requires an emergency contact. It always makes me pause and think about the people in my life. Who are my real friends? Who could I call in time of need? While it's easy for me to answer because I'm married to a wonderful person—my best friend, Becky—these are important questions for each of us to ponder. They are very revealing in that they expose our need for relationships, connection and support. We marvel at the rise of social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat, but their growth is really the result of these innate needs.



THE ESSENCE OF LIFE

In the Garden of Eden, God revealed to Adam and Eve the basics for a meaningful life: purposeful work, rest and relationships.

Last year I attended a memorial service. I noticed that the deceased's loved ones didn't focus on how much he had acquired or all the places he traveled; they talked about his relationships with friends and family. "He really was a part of my life," his grandson said. "He made a huge impact on me and who I am today. I will really miss him." Obviously to this man, relationships were the essence of life, and I couldn't agree more!

As we begin 2018, let's do all we can to strengthen our relationships. And may I also suggest that if we want our relationships to be meaningful,



let's begin with that most important relationship with our Heavenly Father. Read His Word; share with Him in prayer the burdens of your heart; answer His call; and tell someone what He means to you.

As Ellen White wrote, strengthening your relationship with Jesus will, in turn, strengthen your relationships with others: "As Christ was speaking ... the glory of God was shining from His countenance, and all present felt a sacred awe as they

listened with rapt attention to His words. Their hearts were more decidedly drawn to Him; and as they were drawn to Christ in greater love, they were drawn to one another" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 664).

This year, depending on how you look at it, we have 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes or 31,536,000 seconds to build meaningful relationships. Don't miss a moment!

Dave Weigley serves as president of the Columbia Union Conference.

Newsline



NEW HOPE ADVENTURERS PACK MORE THAN 200 SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS

Adventurers from Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., recently packed more than 200 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a project that provides for children's needs in the developing world. Youth and leaders packed gifts such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, hygiene products, small toys and Bibles.

For the past three years, 10-year-old Adilynn Woods (pictured) has led the project. "I just want to help them so they can have the joy that I have, too, and hopefully learn about Jesus in the process," she says.—*New Hope staff*



COLUMBIA UNION PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT EVANGELISTIC MEETING

This fall churches from around the Columbia Union Conference, including Mountain View Conference's Cumberland and Frostburg (Md.) churches, hosted evangelistic meetings. Speaker Dave Weigley, union president, spoke for several weeks at the event in LaVale, Md. "It was encouraging to see so many

people from the community attend these meetings; there is a hunger for the Word of God in our world today," says Weigley. Read more in Mountain View Conference's newsletter on page 21.—*Mountain View Conference Staff*

ADVENTIST JOURNEY ARRIVING SOON

This January members of the North American Division (NAD) will receive *Adventist Journey*, a monthly magazine for NAD members wrapped around the 32-page *Adventist World International Edition*.

"We hope that this magazine helps illuminate our journey with content designed to offer inspiration, information, fellowship and dialogue," says Kimberly



Luste Maran, editor.—*NAD Communication Staff*

UNION ENROLLMENT NUMBERS INCREASE

In the 2017-18 academic year, Columbia Union Conference pre-K through university-level schools reported a combined opening enrollment of 8,917, says Donovan Ross, the union's vice president for education. Enrollment is up 90 students from last year, he adds.

God continues to miraculously provide for our schools and students, says Ross. "We have seen overall growth in our Early Childhood and Higher Education opening enrollment and continue to work toward increasing our K-12 enrollment."



Chorale members from Potomac Conference's Shenandoah Valley Academy (Va.), one of the union's four boarding academies, perform.

Conference education staff reported the following totals:

- 1,215 students in early childhood education and care
- 3,055 in elementary (only) schools
- 859 in junior academies (pre-K – 10th grade)
- 517 in senior boarding academies
- 1,385 in senior day academies
- 1,886 at Kettering College in Dayton, Ohio, and Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

—*V. Michelle Bernard*

PHOTO BY LAURA SHORT

Hispanic Members Celebrate 3,158 Baptisms in 2017



Brian Hernandez (below), a 13-year-old member of Potomac Conference's Seneca Valley Spanish church in Gaithersburg, Md., stood by the baptismal tank of Alexis Argueta recently, as his eighth-grade classmate from Gaithersburg Middle School publicly accepted Christ through baptism. Argueta made a decision for Christ after Hernandez introduced him to Jesus and gave him Bible studies.



"I prayed to God to give me courage to talk to him about God. ... I was scared because I didn't feel like I could do it, but I felt with God, we could do it together," says Hernandez, who states that he plans to continue to "preach" to all the kids in his school and his family members and neighborhood.

Hernandez is one of the thousands of Hispanic Seventh-day Adventists across the Columbia Union Conference who shared their faith in 2017 by giving Bible studies, hosting small groups in

their homes, starting church plants and inviting friends to church.

More than 3,000 Columbia Union Hispanic church members recently gathered at Vivangelismo in Ocean City, Md., to celebrate a year of evangelism with stories of conversions and inspiring sermons from Columbia Union and Hispanic leaders Jose Esposito, Peter Simpson, Orlando Rosales, Rubén Ramos, Dave Weigley, Jorge Aguero, Sergio Romero, Saud Elias, Walter Cardenas and Ramon Escalante (pictured praying). Attendees also celebrated 3,158 baptisms that took place in the union this year.

"We are celebrating the miracles of God through personal outreach of thousands of brothers and sisters," says Rubén Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries. He also noted the work of the more than 900 weekly small group meetings and 60 church plantings since January 2016. "We come not only to celebrate and to exalt Jesus for what He has done, but also to get energized and motivated to proclaim with more power and more conviction that Jesus is coming. ... We are celebrating the joy of experiencing the mission."

At the event, many people chose to be baptized, including Keisha Batlle (below with Pastor Lail Fuentes), a member of Ohio Conference's New Columbus Spanish church plant.

Javier Santana from Ohio



Conference's Bosworth church plant in Cleveland, says, "I become strengthened spiritually as a result of helping others." Pennsylvania Conference's First Philadelphia Youth Ministries director Jackeline Quevedo (above) adds, "My mission is to get my youth involved in spreading the gospel by hosting a small group in my house ... and sharing with others."

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president and worship speaker, says, "People's lives were changed. I hope they leave here [inspired] and with a desire to share Jesus."

Ramos hopes the 2017 focus on evangelism will inspire other Hispanic members to share the gospel in 2018. "People don't need to conduct a crusade, but everyone can reach their circle of influence, become friends with a new person, and sooner or later, can have the joy of bringing them to Christ."—Ricardo Bacchus and V. Michelle Bernard



CLUB DE AVENTUREROS PREPARA CAJAS DE ZAPATOS POR NAVIDAD

En una reciente tarde de Sábado, los Aventureros de la iglesia New Hope de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en Fulton, Md., empacó más de 200 cajas de zapatos para la organización Operation Christmas Child, un proyecto que enseña a los niños sobre dar y aportar para las necesidades de los niños en países en desarrollo. Jóvenes y líderes llenaron las cajas de zapatos con regalos como cuadernos, lápices, crayones, productos de higiene, juguetes pequeños y Biblias.

Durante los últimos tres años, Adilynn Woods, de 10 años, ha dirigido el ministerio de las cajas de zapatos por Navidad en la iglesia New Hope. “Solo quiero ayudarlos para que puedan tener la alegría que yo también tengo, y con la esperanza de que aprendan sobre Jesús en el proceso”, nos cuenta Adilynn.—*Equipo de la iglesia New Hope*



PRESIDENTE DE LA UNIÓN PREDICA EN UNA REUNIÓN EVANGELÍSTICA

En este otoño, las iglesias de la Conferencia de la Unión de Columbia, incluidas las iglesias Cumberland y Frostburg (Md.) de la Conferencia de Mountain View, organizaron jornadas de evangelísticas. El ponente fue Dave Weigley

(en la foto), presidente de la Unión, habló durante varias semanas en el evento en LaVale, Maryland. “Fue alentador ver a tanta gente de la comunidad venir a estas reuniones”, dijo Weigley. Descubra más en el boletín informativo de la Conferencia de Mountain View en la página 21.—*Equipo de la Conferencia de Mountain View*

YA LLEGA LA REVISTA ADVENTIST JOURNEY

Este próximo enero, los miembros de la División Norteamericana (NAD) recibirán *Adventist Journey*, una revista mensual para los miembros de la NAD que estará incluida dentro de las 32



páginas de edición internacional de la *Adventist World*.

“Esperamos que esta revista ayude a iluminar nuestro camino con contenido diseñado para ofrecer inspiración, información, conexión y diálogo”, comenta Kimberly Luste Maran, editora.—*Equipo de Comunicaciones de la NAD*

MÁS ESTUDIANTES PARA LA UNIÓN

En el año académico 2017-18, las instituciones educativas desde el pre-escolar hasta la universidad de la Conferencia de la Unión de Columbia reportaron una inscripción combinada de 8,917 cupos, informa Donovan Ross, vicepresidente de educación de la Conferencia. El total de matriculados aumentó en 90 estudiantes con respecto al año pasado, agrega.



Cosecha de alimentos que los estudiantes cultivaron en el invernadero de la Academia Junior de Parkersburg (W.Va.) de la Conferencia de Mountain View.

El equipo de educación de la Conferencia reportó:

- 1,215 estudiantes de temprana educación y cuidado
- 3,055 en (solo) escuelas primarias
- 859 en academias junior (de Pre-K a 10° grado)
- 517 en academias con internado
- 1,385 en academias completas
- 1,886 alumnos en la Universidad de Kettering Health en Dayton, Ohio, y Universidad Adventista de Washington en Takoma Park, Md.

—V. Michelle Bernard

Miembros Hispanos Celebran 3,158 bautismos



Brian Hernandez (en la foto), un miembro de 13 años de la Iglesia Hispana Valle del Séneca, de la Asociación Potomac en Gaithersburg, Md., recientemente estuvo junto al tanque bautismal de Alexis Argueta, cuando su compañero de clase de la escuela secundaria Gaithersburg aceptó públicamente a Cristo a través del bautismo, Argueta decidió seguir a Cristo después de que Hernández le presentó a Jesús y le dio estudios bíblicos.

“Oré a Dios para que me diera el coraje de hablar con él acerca de Dios. ...Tenía miedo porque no sentía que pudiera, pero sentía que con Dios podíamos hacerlo juntos”, dice Hernández, quien afirma que planea continuar “predicando” a todos los niños en su escuela y los miembros de su familia y al vecindario.

Hernández es uno de los miles de Adventistas del Séptimo Día



hispanos de la Unión de Columbia que compartieron su fe en el 2017 al dar estudios bíblicos, organizar pequeños grupos en sus hogares, iniciar iglesias e invitar a amigos a la iglesia.

Más de 3,000 miembros de la iglesia hispana de Unión de Columbia celebraron recientemente un año de evangelismo en Vivangelismo en la ciudad Ocean City, Maryland, con historias de conversiones y sermones inspiradores de José Esposito, Peter Simpson, Orlando Rosales, Rubén Ramos, Dave Weigley, Jorge Agüero, Sergio Romero, Saúd Elias, Walter Cárdenas y Ramón Escalante (en la foto de izquierda a derecha), entre otros oradores. Los asistentes también celebraron los más de 3,000 bautismos que tuvieron lugar en la Unión este año.

“Celebramos los milagros de Dios a través del alcance personal de miles de hermanos y hermanas”, dice Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilinguaje. También observó el trabajo de las más de 900 reuniones semanales de grupos pequeños y 60 planta-



ciones de iglesias desde enero de 2016. “Venimos no solo a celebrar y exaltar a Jesús por lo que ha hecho, sino también a entusiasmarlos y motivarnos a proclamar con más poder y más convicción de que Jesús viene. Nuestro tema es “Exaltadlo: Jesús viene. ...Celebramos la alegría de experimentar la misión”.

En el evento, muchas personas eligieron bautizarse, incluido el bautismo de Alejandro Toledo (en la foto con el pastor Rafael



Soto), miembro de la Iglesia Hispana de Lorton (Va.) de la Asociación Potomac.

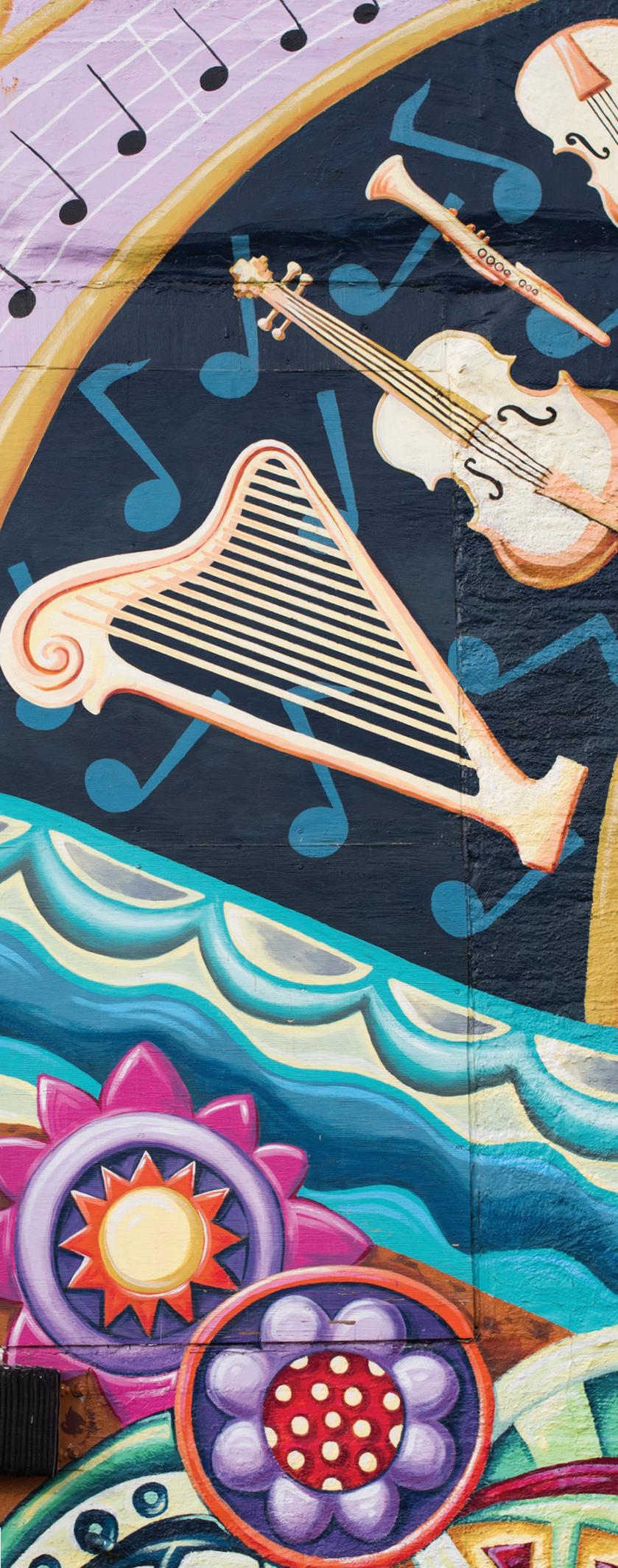
El hermano Javier Santana (a la derecha en la imagen) de la nueva Iglesia Bosworth de la Asociación de Ohio en Cleveland, dice: “Como resultado de ayudar a otros, me fortalezo espiritualmente”.

Ramos espera que el enfoque de este año en evangelismo inspire en el 2018 a otros miembros hispanos que aún no han participado activamente en compartir el evangelio. “No se necesita realizar una gran campaña, cualquiera pueden alcanzar su círculo de influencia, hacerse amigos de una nueva persona y, tarde o temprano, pueden tener la alegría de llevarlos a Cristo”.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, dice: “Esto no fue solo una conferencia más. Este fue realmente un reavivamiento espiritual. Las vidas de las personas fueron cambiadas. Espero que la gente se vaya de aquí con una verdadera inspiración y deseo de compartir a Jesús”.—Ricardo Bacchus y V. Michelle Bernard

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark blue jacket and khaki pants, sits on a ledge in front of a vibrant, colorful mural. The mural features a large blue door, stylized waves in shades of blue and yellow, and various floral and geometric patterns in pink, orange, and purple. The text "choosing hope" is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow font. The man is sitting on a black, textured ledge. The overall scene is bright and artistic.

choosing hope



Elliot Smith Shares His Experience With Depression

By V. Michelle Bernard

Elliot Smith remembers his academy teacher pulling him aside after class one day. The teacher noticed he wasn't enjoying singing anymore—something he loved doing since elementary school. "I didn't have fun with it, didn't have the peace I had before," says Smith, a member and former young adult pastor of Ohio Conference's Kettering church in Dayton. His blue feelings also changed his life academically. "If I would encounter a difficulty, it would seem hopeless," he says. "It wasn't that I was trying to do something and getting bad grades; I just stopped 'doing.'"

In college Smith says he felt the "darkness" again. This time his advisor pulled him aside and was the first person to use the term "depression" with him. "I did what a lot of people do—I didn't want to talk about it," shared Smith in a recent sermon at Ohio Conference's Miamisburg church. "As guys, let's be honest, we don't like talking about our problems, especially emotional problems."

Smith started sharing his struggles with his advisor and says that she opened his eyes to the reality of his disease. He realized it wasn't something you could just "pray away."

He continued learning and understanding more about depression when that same advisor challenged him to pursue a career in social work. He later started working in a psychiatric hospital. He says seeing the medical side of people with severe mental illnesses and depression "woke me up to the reality that it isn't just spiritual and mental, [but also physical]."

In the Storm

Smith, now a licensed social worker and a chaplain at Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) in Dayton, says depression can be caused by genetic and/or environmental factors. Children learn how to feel, eat and make lifestyle choices from their families—factors that can all have an impact, he adds.

"Sometimes people get trapped thinking so much about the 'why,' [that] they don't think about what to do now. ... I was stuck on the 'why' for almost a decade, being content to batter that question around," he says.

Elliot Smith (pictured with his family, Jacqueline, Chloe and Cole) says it is incredibly healing to look back and see God working in his life over the years.

During this phase, a friend asked him what he thought about most during the day. Smith realized he was focusing on how dark and hopeless things were. His first step of healing was to “get outside himself” and focus on someone else. “Not to look to them for strength or to make me feel better, but to take my mind off myself,” he says, and adds that those suffering from depression must intellectually choose to have hope.

“It is very difficult to choose hope in dark times, but part of the healing process is to start looking for those little glimmers of hope that we can find in our lives or in this world,” he says.

In addition to seeking counseling and medication, Smith also says that realizing God was present in the good *and* bad times helped him recover. “I remember it changed my life when I realized that God is just as present in the dark times as the bright times. ... God is with us in the storm.”



Is it “the Blues” or Depression?

Depression, like most mental illnesses, lies on a spectrum,” says Kirk Chung, M.D., medical director of Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s Behavioral Medicine Center in Dayton, Ohio. “Everyone feels down from time to time. Depression, as an illness, is defined by the intensity of its symptoms and duration.”

He adds, major depression is diagnosed by a person suffering with at least five of the following symptoms for a two-week period or longer:

- **Fatigue**
- **Feelings of sadness or emptiness**
- **Loss of enjoyment in activities that had previously been pleasurable**
- **Changes in appetite and/or weight, either gain or loss**
- **Difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep or sleeping too much**
- **Restlessness, irritability or an observable physical slowing or dragging**
- **Feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt**
- **Interference with thinking or concentration or indecisiveness**
- **Recurrent thoughts of death**

Church as a Hospital

Smith is not alone in the struggle with depression. The National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that 6.9 percent of adults in the U.S. have had a major depressive episode in the past year. This figure doesn’t include anxiety, bipolar disorder and other common mental health issues. According to the World Health Organization, depression affects 300 million people worldwide. It can affect a person’s ability to work, form relationships and destroy their quality of life. At its worst, depression can lead to suicide and is responsible for close to 800,000 deaths every year.

To their detriment, many people fail to seek help for various reasons. In Smith’s case, faith played a factor. “Sometimes we spiritualize our problems,” he says. “I thought that I was being a weak Christian if I couldn’t pray my way through it.”

He notes another challenge is that some members feel they can’t “be real” about their problems. A common complaint he hears from young adults is that Adventist members need to talk about issues like depression more. He hopes that churches can turn into places where people can open up and talk about what life is really like.

Marissa Leslie, M.D., and medical director of Adventist HealthCare’s Behavioral Health division in Gaithersburg, Md., says there needs to be an organizational culture shift in church. “There needs to be an environment where people feel safe enough to share their intimate struggles. The church itself should adopt an attitude that embraces mental health issues as any other issue. We have no issues asking for prayer for cancer, but for some reason we have great difficulty asking for prayer for depression.”

Individual church members can make an impact

too. Smith says, “Your job isn’t to fix somebody, but to walk beside someone and help carry that burden.” He adds, “Sometimes Christians do something that is also unhelpful—trying to fix things immediately. The problem with that is depression isn’t just something you can fix.”

Smith would especially like to see more intentional Christian development with members, just like he received from his teachers years ago. Mentoring is especially important for guys, he says. “We need to come alongside each other and share how we live life. Hopefully that normalizes things and gives people a sense of hope.”

Rediscovering Joy

More than 20 years into this journey, Smith says he no longer struggles with depression, but continues to attend counseling, journal and talk about his feelings, rather than stuffing or brooding over them. “It is incredibly therapeutic to go back and read those journals over the last 20 years and see evidence of God working in my life that I didn’t see at the time,” he says.

He has also rediscovered the joy in music. Today he is one of Kettering church’s worship leaders, and teaches individual guitar and ukulele lessons, using his experience to help others. “It is something we all deal with,” he says. “Talking about it and labeling it helps us understand and move forward.”

If he could go back and counsel his younger self, he’d say, “Look what life can be. ...The reality is, you aren’t going to be completely happy and carefree, [but] you’ll be able to enjoy singing.”

He adds, “It is a miracle in some ways to see where God brought me. It is pretty humbling.”

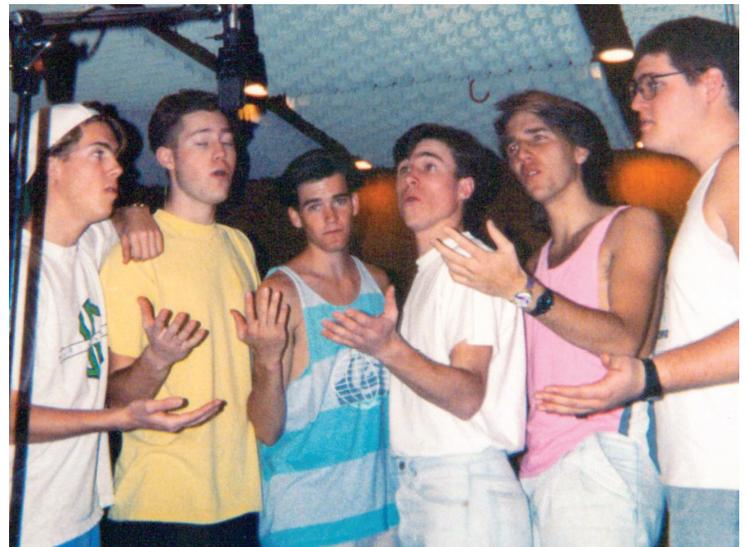


How Can You Help?

Marissa Leslie, M.D., medical director of Adventist HealthCare’s Behavioral Health division in Gaithersburg, Md., says depression should be viewed more like a very severe flu, a serious illness not dependent on faith. “We don’t tell people with the flu to just pray. We tell them to sleep and drink plenty of water. And we ask how we can help.”

In addition to the powerful tool of prayer, here are a few tangible things she suggests to help loved ones dealing with depression:

- 1 **Be supportive of them seeing a doctor** Offer to drive them to appointments, which can help them overcome a fear of going to an appointment
- 2
- 3 **Connect them to a support system** If we’ve experienced depression ourselves, talk about that experience
- 4
- 5 **Bring something enjoyable to them, like a meal**
- 6 Offer to go on a walk with them



Elliot Smith has rediscovered the joy of worshiping through music and regularly leads worship at Ohio Conference’s Kettering church. ■ Smith (second from left) performs with First Love, a group he helped start when attending College View Academy in Lincoln, Neb., that still performs together, 25 years later.

Truth Be Told

Could Christian Fiction be a Bridge to the Bible?

By Peggi Trusty

Christian fiction can be the bridge that brings people to the Bible,” says Sheryl Brown-Norman, author of *Restored*, a Christian novel published in October 2015. “The concepts are true, the principles are true and the characters bring the story to life.”

Talented authors, using their gifts to show Christ to the world, vary as much as the stories they tell. Brown-Norman, of Rockville, Md., is an attorney and motivational speaker. She recalls, from a young age, a burning desire to teach biblical values through the written word—a dream she and

other Columbia Union-based fiction writers have finally realized.

Restored, written by Brown-Norman, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., tells the story of a young woman named Savannah Hartford who inherits an old mansion on a beautiful piece of land in Jamaica. Deciding to turn the mansion into a bed and breakfast, she meets a host of characters who assist her and change her life in ways she never imagined.

The story, which includes romance, faith and intrigue, is part of a trilogy about the journey of faith. The first book, published in 2015, is about establishing faith. The second, now in the works, is about the testing of faith. The final book, the heart of the series, will be about the reward of faith through end-time events.

Davenia Jones Lea of Glenn Dale, Md., is the Early Childhood Education director for the North American Division. Her first book, *Naked and Unashamed*, takes readers to a Christian retreat center where four women take part in a weeklong getaway. With their host, Shula, they explore what the Bible says about marriage and its relevance to 21st century women.

Mark Brown, a major film producer, director and writer for movies such as *The Barber Shop* and a Seventh-day Adventist, says, “Davenia Lea has crafted an amazing novel featuring characters who grapple with life issues. She provides biblical insights in a unique and maybe even controversial way.”

Lea, a member of AEC’s First church in Washington, D.C., says, “I’ve always enjoyed reading, and I wanted to combine entertainment with information. Each character’s

story is based on real situations and people. Telling the story this way allows me to explore uncomfortable topics in a way that is entertaining, yet palatable.”

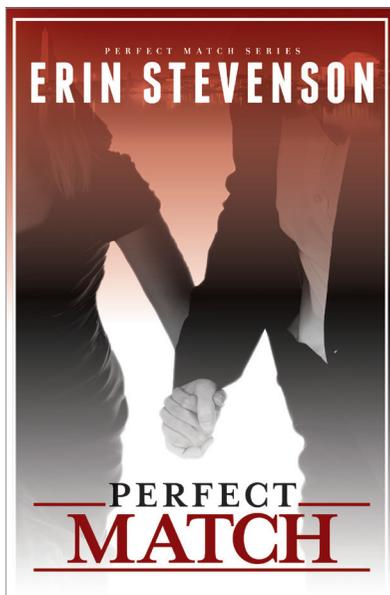
Erin Stevenson* of Lexington, Ohio, works in organizational development and training for a major corporation and authored a five-book series called *The Perfect Match*, which is still in the publishing process. The story begins with a senator’s daughter, who after experiencing a difficult break up, moves to Washington, D.C., and meets an undercover operative. This chance encounter leads her on a journey of romance and suspense, but most importantly, offers readers a chance to see Christian values in action.

“Stevenson provides a unique female lead whose intelligence and values make for a positive role model,” says Michelle Barichello, a blogger from San Tan Valley, Ariz., who reviewed the manuscript. “*The Perfect Match* is a suspenseful story that has you on the edge of your seat while falling in love with the unforgettable characters.”

Untapped Market?

While each writer approaches her story differently, all have the same goal of revealing Christ to what they believe is a largely untapped market. However, their elected medium isn’t without critics who question the idea of Christian fiction as a form of ministry.

In her book, *The Ministry of Healing*, Adventist co-founder Ellen White counseled, “There are works of fiction that were written for the purpose of teaching truth or exposing some great evil. Some of these works have accomplished good. Yet they have also wrought untold harm. ... Such reading unfits the



Davenia Jones Lea and Sheryl Brown-Norman are Christian fiction writers.

mind for usefulness and disqualifies it for spiritual exercise. It destroys interest in the Bible” (p. 445).

On the other hand, White wrote that illustrations can be useful tools in ministry, and that even Jesus used them. “There were many souls starving for the Bread of Life, and Jesus fed them with pure, simple truth. In His teaching, He drew illustrations from the things of nature and the common transactions of life, with which they were familiar. Thus, the truth became to them a living reality; the scenes of nature and the affairs of daily life were ever repeating to them the Savior’s precious teachings. Christ’s manner of teaching was just what He desires His servants to follow” (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 243).

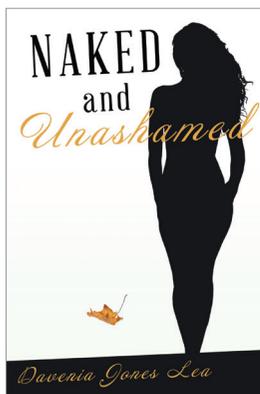
Can a fictional book meet the Christian mandate to draw people closer to Christ?

Lea, who also publishes a blog related to her books, believes so. “Those who have read my book say they initially thought that it was going to be a make-believe, feel-good type of book,” she says. “However, many have shared that after reading the first few chapters, they went to their Bibles. While the Bible is the foremost source of information, biblical truths can be presented in many ways.”

Lea’s book emphasizes biblical truths many readers didn’t know existed. It allows them to examine their personal views of womanhood and marriage in a biblical framework.

“Many people believe that we are living in the last days and are searching for answers,” says Norman. “They’re not picking up the Bible, but they are picking up other books.” If those other books are Christian or inspirational fiction, they will be led right back to the Bible, she adds.

Stevenson has tapped into another audience aside from



Read an excerpt of Davenia Lea’s book, *Naked and Unashamed*, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/Christianfiction.

readers—other writers. “I’ve been networking with a large community of writers outside of the Adventist [community],” she says. “One woman that I have gotten close to has started asking me to pray for her.”

In Stevenson’s writing group, many of the members have never been to church or grown up in any particular denomination. In critiquing her work, some have been exposed to Christian ideals for the first time.

“My stories enlighten them, and I’m able to introduce a whole different culture,” says Stevenson. “This is definitely a way to reach out. I am expanding my worldview while still holding on to my faith.”

Is Christian Fiction Marketable?

Is there a market for this brand of evangelism? According to Eric Grimm, communication director for Christian Booksellers Association, a

trade organization for Christian retail, “Christian fiction represented about 5 percent of total book sales through Christian stores in 2016. Overall, books represent about 40 percent of sales in a typical Christian store and Bibles 20 percent.”

Laura Wolf, former general manager of LivingWell, Potomac Conference’s Adventist Book Center in Silver Spring, Md., says, “While book sales in general only represent 30 percent of our sales, we do have a small section for Christian fiction. For anyone who enjoys reading stories, a Christian novel is a great thing because it introduces them to Christian principles they might not be open to reading in a heavy doctrinal book. It’s a great entry point for people to better understand the effects of biblical values and how God can transform lives.”

**Erin Stevenson is a pen name.*



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Adventist Mayor Leads Local Anti-Hate Rally

Albert Kelly, mayor of Bridgeton, N.J., and a member of the Bethany church in Bridgeton, recently hosted an anti-hate rally on the steps of Bridgeton City Hall to support the “Hate Has No Home Here” (HHNHH) initiative. Close to 200 community members gathered for the event.

The idea originated with leaders of the Vineland (N.J.) Public School System, who endeavor to make students feel “safe and valued regardless of ethnic background, language, race, etc.” Ross Stanger, the supervisor of instruction, contacted Kelly to help spread the HHNHH message.

Kelly supported the idea and reached out to the local clergy in Bridgeton. “I am so happy that so many members of the clergy were present and actively supported the rally; not just with their participation but also financial donations,” says Kelly. “That’s why I am proud to be the mayor of the great city of Bridgeton!”

During the hour-long program, several community pastors offered encouraging words and prayers for the residents. Senate President Stephen Sweeney of the New Jersey Legislature offered words of support to the



Close to 200 community members gather in front of Bridgeton City Hall for the first annual “Hate Has No Home Here.”

congregants. A local church band performed gospel musical selections, and the program concluded with a selection from a combined community choir.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL SCHUELKE

Jessie R. Wagner School Starts Robotics Club

Daphne Beck, school board chair at Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School (JRW) in Boyertown, Pa., recently shared a robotics club idea with Shemika Campbell, principal. When Khandi Cooper, a Pine Forge Academy (Pa.) teacher and parent of a JRW



Noah and Ulette Merchant, III participate in Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School’s new robotics club.

student, got wind of this idea, Beck and Campbell offered her a volunteer job to lead the robotics team. They saw it as a divine opportunity. “She was willing to work with us, and we are so grateful,” says Campbell.

The club, “Team Zoom,” includes eight students from grades 3-8. They meet every Tuesday for an hour in the school’s computer lab, and their computer teacher, Pat Bratton, serves as their coach. Cooper says, “It’s a wonderful opportunity to work with the faculty and staff of JRW to equip our students in STEM and create a legacy for life-long learners.”

The students are excited about the club and what they are learning. “I like robotics club because we get to build robots and program them. I look forward to learning how to program them because it is very cool to create the robot’s movements,” shares eighth-grader Ulette Merchant, III.

Their theme this year is hydrodynamics, which focuses on the movement of fluids. They hope to compete in the Adventist Robotics Tournament in 2018 and inspire more clubs to form within Allegheny East Conference schools.

Departmental Leader Retires After 20+ Years



Minnie McNeil recently retired from Allegheny East Conference (AEC). During her more than 20 years in AEC, she served as Women’s Ministries, Prison Ministries and Adventist Community Services (ACS) director. McNeil also served as ACS and disaster relief coordinator for the Columbia Union

Conference, as well as an ACS board member for the North American Division.

Under her direction, AEC acquired a disaster response vehicle, affectionately known as “Big Red,” she spearheaded AEC’s Women’s Ministries being recognized as a department and oversaw countless training sessions and retreats.

She left the conference with these ideas for continued advancement: Each church serving as a center of influence; a warehouse constructed on AEC grounds to store goods for crisis needs; more training for crisis

intervention volunteers; and building a “Pine Forge Village” for seniors.

Robert Smith, who replaces her as ACS director, says of her leadership: “Great is the woman who knew not to work like 100, but who inspired 100 to work!”

Although she bids us farewell, McNeil doesn’t plan to put her feet up during her retirement. “God is leading, and I am anxious to follow. Retiring from ministry? Unlikely,” she says.



Minnie McNeil is pictured with her husband, Andrew, and their sons John, Mark and Andrew.

Prison Ministry Federation Receives Award

The Federal Bureau of Prisons recently recognized members of the Allegheny East Conference Prison Ministry Federation (AECPMF) at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. They received the Volunteer Organization of the Year award for outstanding and



dedicated service. Three times each month, members from AECPMF visit prisons to interact with inmates through services and group discussion.

Organizers held the program at the Fairton Correctional Institute’s Federal Bureau of Prisons (N.J.). “It was a day of rejoicing, giving God the glory for what he has done in the lives of the men we impacted,” says Bil Morgan, a prison ministry volunteer from Mt. Olivet Church in Camden, N.J. “They are now volunteering themselves, just as they learned from us.”

Zubair Yousef, chaplain at South Woods State Prison (N.J.); Ali Hakim, a former prisoner whose sentence was commuted by then-U.S. President Barack Obama; and Bil Morgan, an AECPMF member, gather at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Adventist Honored by Top University in Ohio

Case Western Reserve University Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences in Cleveland recently honored Deborah A. Hill with the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award at an elaborate reception.

This award is the highest honor granted by the alumni association to an alumnus who has demonstrated extraordinary professional success and achievements over the span of their career. She is the first Seventh-day Adventist to be honored by Case Western Reserve University, ranked the number one university in Ohio. Her name will be placed in the school's "Hall of Fame."

Among her many contributions, she has served as a two-term elected City Councilwoman, the first elected public official in Allegheny West Conference. She served on the Allegheny West Conference Committee, served two terms on the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

A member of the Southeast church in Cleveland, Hill has dedicated her life to the service of others. "I will continue to use my voice as a catalyst for change by



Deborah A. Hill (third from left), Southeast church member, receives the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award and celebrates with John A. Yankey, Case Western Reserve University professor; Sharon E. Milligan, associate dean; and Annette Iwamoto, alumni president.

uplifting, inspiring and empowering others, while giving back to the community," she says.

Southeast Member Graduates from Highway Patrol Class



Johnnaya Norton, a member of the Southeast church, celebrates her graduation with Pastor Jerome M. Hurst, as she begins her career as an Ohio State highway patrol officer.

The Cleveland-based Southeast church family recently recognized and prayed for Johnnaya Norton, one of their young adults who recently completed training and took the oath of office to serve as an Ohio State highway patrol officer.

Following 26 weeks of intense training, as part of the patrol's 162nd academy class, Trooper Norton, along with 87 other cadets, completed the course, which included crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, detection of impaired drivers, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense and emergency vehicle operations. Norton has been assigned to the Warren district Ashtabula Patrol Post.

"We thank God for those officers who risk their lives each day to serve our communities, and we are extremely proud to have one of our young adults make the decision to serve in this way," says Jerome M. Hurst, pastor. "We lift Johnnaya up in prayer, not only today, but every day, as she fulfills her oath to protect and serve the citizens of Ohio."



Cincinnati Shiloh Member Becomes Screenplay Writer

In February 2016, after undergoing surgery, Janice Walker-Cleveland, a member of the Cincinnati Shiloh church in Ohio, sought God's plan for her life, expressing the sentiment, "Many people search their entire lives and never find ... God's purpose and plan."

The only African-American female attorney at Duke Energy's predecessor, Cincinnati Gas & Electric, Walker-Cleveland has held the positions of senior counsel and assistant general, and is currently the associate general counsel.

Passionate about the remnant people and the three angels' messages, Walker-Cleveland spoke with her sister, Thea Walker, a member of Dallas City Temple church (Texas), about the Lord's soon return and her personal mission to reach others.

Before realizing it, she blurted out, "I'm going to make a movie!" Having no idea where the thought originated, she soon realized the Holy Spirit was speaking to her. Walker-Cleveland recounts that she told the Holy Spirit she knew nothing about the movie industry; that she is a lawyer. The Holy Spirit impressed upon her that writing a movie would give God glory and honor and that faith-based movies have gained wider acceptance these days; that she wasn't ready before, but God could use her now. She asked her husband for advice. "You go where you feel the Holy Spirit is leading you," he responded.

Walker-Cleveland completed her first screenplay in November 2016, and then tabled it temporarily to begin writing a screenplay with a universal faith-based appeal—love and forgiveness—believing that a majority of families are dysfunctional to some degree.

Completing the first draft of her second screenplay, in May 2017 she entered it into several film festivals to determine if anyone in the film industry saw merit in her work.



Corporate attorney Janice Walker-Cleveland, a Cincinnati Shiloh church member, becomes an award-winning screenplay writer.

To date, the first screenplay, *The First Time for Penny*, is a 17-time award-winner, including 10 first place awards in film festivals in Los Angeles, New York and internationally, including at the Christian Film Festival, where she won the Fan Favorite for Best Writer and Best Script awards.

"Each award represents divine confirmation of my divine mission," Walker-Cleveland says. In 2018 she plans to direct and produce her first film in Cincinnati, with the goal of seeing the three angels' messages on the movie screen. "It is the final warning to this world, and since people are not flooding into the churches, the message has to be given to them."

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

New Year's Choices

A new year lies before us full of hope and promise. It is a time of year to reflect and refocus. As we begin afresh, we each have goals and aspirations for the days ahead.

Many things are within our grasp; others are beyond our control. It is easy to look at unsettling global events and feel powerless. Nonetheless, each day we get to make choices that will impact how this year will unfold. We can choose to spend time with Jesus and allow Him to mold and shape our lives after His likeness. God's Word promises "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17, NKJV).

Let us look back at the past year and recognize "old" things that hindered our walk with Jesus. By rooting out those influences and replacing them with the newness of Christ, our lives will transform. Unfortunately, natural disasters will still occur. Crime and disease will take their toll. Even so, each day we can decide to grow with Christ and influence the outcome of 2018 with His direction and blessing.

How can you improve your service to others? How can you share the hope you have in Jesus with others? How can you make a difference, however small, in the lives of those around you? Each choice made for Christ can make a positive, eternal difference for you and all within your sphere of influence.



Rick Remmers
President

Volunteers Take on Flood Bucket Challenge

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, church volunteers from Chesapeake Conference recently filled flood buckets destined for St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John and Dominica. The buckets contained trash bags, air fresheners, cleaners, scouring pads, sponges, towels, dust masks, gloves and other products. Columbia Union Conference leaders spearheaded the effort by challenging conferences within the union to help fill 2,000 buckets for the hurricane survivors. Chesapeake Conference committed to 500 buckets, but exceeded their goal by filling 612.

Chesapeake Conference church administrators and members provided financial help, as well as in-kind donations. Volunteers from multiple Chesapeake churches, as well as a team from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and the Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce assisted in the bucket assembly. They filled, stacked and wrapped close to 250 buckets per hour.

"Working together as a team and participating in the bucket packing event helped me feel purposeful in doing something for those in need," says Amber Davis, a volunteer from Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

Chesapeake Conference leaders encourage members to continue to support their local church

and conference Community Services and Disaster Response teams, as their next goal is to raise \$10,000 for future emergencies. "We are eager to see more churches come together in this endeavor," says Ignacio Goya, Chesapeake Conference Adventist Community Services coordinator.—*Samantha Young*



Volunteers spend a Sunday morning filling flood buckets bound for islands devastated by Hurricane Maria.

PHOTO BY LAUREN LOMBARD

THE CHALLENGE

Rock Hall Members Celebrate 125th Anniversary

Rock Hall (Md.) members recently celebrated their 125th anniversary as a congregation with a special worship service and a fellowship meal in the newly renovated social hall.

Throughout the weekend, members learned of the church's interesting history. In 1891 John Judefind, a carpenter who had recently accepted the Adventist message, settled in Rock Hall. Upon learning this, Leah Victor, a cousin living in Indiana, sent a check for \$100 to the General Conference Session in Battle Creek, Mich., to send a pastor to Rock Hall. An evangelist held meetings in December 1891, and 37 people became members through baptism. Judefind donated land for a church, and within a year, it was built. Membership swelled to more than 100.

Judefind's great-great granddaughter was among those who attended the anniversary celebration services. Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president, shared a sermon and a charge to continue living out the gospel commission.

On Sabbath afternoon, Rock Hall members recounted



The Rock Hall congregation listens to a special music selection during their 125th anniversary celebration.

the lives they had touched through the years. David Byrkit, pastor, expresses, "God has worked through and has blessed the Rock Hall church family."—SY

STEMfest Engages Creativity

The annual STEMfest, organized by Ophelia Barizo, Chesapeake Conference STEM coordinator, recently buzzed with activity. Held at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., this event was designed for all ages interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Highland View Academy students (left to right) Curtis Morris and Tristan Taylor demonstrate how to use a 3D printer during STEMfest.

A wide variety of interactive booths displayed innovative products and designs. E-Nable demonstrated 3D-printed fingers and hands intended for children and adults in underserved countries who need prosthetics. Representatives from NASA, the National Security Administration, the Department of Energy, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and many more STEM-oriented organizations also attended STEMfest.

"It was awesome," says Leia Stefan, a second grader at Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown. "It was fun because it was all based on science, and I love science!" Her brother, Brayden, a fourth grader, chimed in, "Science is cool. I was amazed to find out that the largest land creature in Antarctica is a fly."

Under Barizo's leadership, Chesapeake Conference's 11 schools are developing more interest in STEM-based projects. Many schools featured STEM activities for students on opening day in August. Teachers will take a STEM field trip next month in the Baltimore Harbor, and field trips are planned for students as well. Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.) recently debuted a STEM lab to inspire creative design. Learn more on facebook.com/STEMMatters.org/ and in Spencerville's newsletter on page 34.—SY

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Columbia Union President Conducts Evangelistic Series

As many Mountain View Conference churches held evangelistic meetings this past fall, the Cumberland/Frostburg (Md.) district joined together to host their meetings. Earlier in 2017, Lillian Torres, a Bible worker from the Pennsylvania Conference, gave members instruction on soul-winning.

Closer to the November series, members mailed brochures to 46,000 homes advertising the upcoming meetings. On opening night, 125 people attended.

Presenter Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, says, "It was encouraging to see so many people from the community attend these meetings; there is a hunger for the Word of God in our world today. I was truly blessed to be able to preach the three angels' messages."

Follow-up continues with a group Bible study held each Monday evening for the next three months. Those interested are already attending both Adventist churches, and the congregations are looking forward to baptisms.—*Jim and Elaine Buchanan*



Dave Weigley (center), Columbia Union president, conducts an evangelistic series for Mountain View Conference's Cumberland/Frostburg (Md.) district.

Parkersburg Member Uses Grocery Bags for Ministry

As an adult, I was looking for something different as part of my religious experience," Shirley Crouser says. "I wanted something that would satisfy." One day



Shirley Crouser shows a soft mat made from colorful plastic grocery bags which will bring warmth to a homeless person.

she saw an advertisement for a seminar to be held at a nearby Holiday Inn. As she attended the evangelistic meetings, Crouser decided to join the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. Three years later, her husband, William, joined, too.

As a member, Crouser longed to do some type of outreach to help others, but she was hesitant for fear she wouldn't do it right.

In 2017 while watching a TV newscast, a story caught her attention. It was about a senior citizen center in Charleston, W.Va., whose members were making mats from plastic grocery bags and giving them to the homeless. "I can do that," thought Crouser. Searching online, she found the instructions.

Using bags donated from a local grocery store and Parkersburg church members, Crouser makes mats that are 36" x 66" long, and a half-inch thick. It takes about 700 bags to complete one mat.

"I've given out one mat so far to a gentleman who lives in his truck. It makes me feel good to help someone who needs help. God gave me the time, talent and ability to do this ministry," Crouser concludes.

Pastors Share Favorite Passages of Scripture

Four Mountain View Conference pastors respond to this question: “What scripture promise is especially meaningful to you, and why?”

Matthew 28:19-20, NKJV

Here we are each given the almost impossible task of reaching every living person with the message of Christ. By human standards, this is impossible! But the promise at the end of verse 20 is key!



“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” We were never supposed to accomplish this task on our own. We are on a “co-mission” with Christ! If we are faithful in our part, He will help us every step of the way. With Him by our side, there is no way we cannot succeed! That is a promise I can stand behind!—*Jared M. Briggman, pastor of the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va., and the Point Pleasant (W.Va.) district*



Proverbs 3:5-7, KJV

I often choose my own way rather than allowing God to have total control of my life. These verses express my desire and goal to have God’s direction and understanding in my daily life.

God knows so much more than I do; He is all-knowing, so why do I rely upon my understanding when I can have the direction of the One who knows the end from the beginning?—*Daniel Morikone, pastor of the New Martinsville, Parkersburg, Spencer and Toll Gate (W.Va.) district*

Romans 5:18, NKJV

For much of my life, I thought I was unacceptable to a Holy God because I was not good enough. We fall for this lie from the devil all too often. John’s sublime equation, “God is love,” and the idea of a stern, demanding God just do not fit together.

I praise God that He did not leave me in these thought patterns. After saving me, He led me to an understanding of Paul’s teaching of the “Two Adams” found in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. It was through this teaching that I was able to see the mechanics of the gospel, and how it included even me.—*Larry Murphy, pastor of the Weirton and Wheeling (W.Va.) district*



Psalm 4:2-4, CJB

Some time ago, I was in real distress. I was tied to a situation that seemed impossible to get out of. I tried everything in my power to make it work. It didn’t. I was desperate. After two decades,

the Lord heard my prayers and gave me freedom. Yet, just when I thought I was free, men of rank “shame my honor, chasing after lies.” However, Adonai, the Lord Sovereign, set “the godly person apart for Himself.”

Today I serve because God is my vindicator. He hears when I call to Him.—*Brian Gonzalez, pastor of the Lewisburg (English), Marlinton and Rainelle (W.Va.) district*

news

NEW JERSEY

Share Hope in the Second Coming of Christ

On any given day, we are bombarded with information from a multitude of sources—email, text messages, television and social media sites. Sadly, too many times this barrage of information is more negative than positive. Between the increasingly common natural disasters, mass shootings, sexual misconduct of those in public office, the opioid epidemic, accidents and disturbing social and political issues, it seems like every day is a struggle to survive. Even for the most committed Christian, it can be a challenge to remain hopeful in a world that seems hopeless. But the good news is that we can.

Although our chaotic world may seem like a speeding train about to jump the tracks, we need not fear. God Almighty, who made the heavens and earth, and created us in His own image, still sits on the throne. He cautioned us that these uncertain times would come to pass, as written in Matthew 24:6: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (KJV).

Additionally, He gave us promises to hold on to, so that when we witness these things happening, and our hearts are filled with fear, we can be filled with expectancy, knowing that His coming is close at hand. Luke 21:27-28 clearly states that “Then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (KJV).

The second coming of Christ is probably the most anticipated event in the history of the world, and rightly so. It is the event that will put an end to suffering, pain and fear, as we know it. While we await this event, we need not live in fear, despite the shroud of darkness around us. God’s Holy Word is filled with many promises of hope regarding Christ’s second coming. If we read these promises daily and reflect on what awaits us, we will have hope even when life seems hopeless. As we share this hope with others, it will not only give us peace; it will also be a source of comfort to those with whom we share this glorious message of salvation and Jesus’ soon coming.



Andre Ascalon
*Pastor, Newark English,
Elizabeth English Churches*



District Pastor and School Work Together

Jean-Michel Etienne, a pastor of the Bethel French church in Irvington, the Bethesda French church in Elizabeth, and the New Brunswick Morija French company in Somerset, recently completed the Encounter training program for secondary Bible teachers, and started volunteer teaching the ninth- and tenth-grade Bible courses at Meadow View Junior Academy (MVJA) in Chesterfield. The students, principal and teachers of MVJA say they are blessed with the ministry of Etienne who demonstrates how pastors and teachers can collaborate to prepare students for the soon return of Jesus.

Vine Haven School Hosts Festival

The Vine Haven Adventist School in Vineland, N.J., recently hosted a Fall Festival. School leaders organized the event to raise funds for an upcoming field trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. They also raised funds to send money to ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to help with disaster relief in Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Event organizers teamed up with constituent churches Vineland Spanish, Vineland English, Panamericana, Bridgeton Spanish 1, Bridgeton Spanish 2, Bridgeton English, Atlantic City Spanish, Newtonville and



At a recent Vine Haven Adventist School festival, parents sell food for disaster relief in Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Williamstown. “God blessed in an amazing way with amazing support from many local churches,” says Dulce Gabriel, principal. “With God’s help, and the community working together, we were able to raise \$1,000 for ADRA Mexico and \$1,000 for ADRA Puerto Rico! Praise the Lord!”

Conference Students Participate in Outdoor Education

In 2007 Lake Nelson School teachers Elayna Barnhill Howard and Sheri Thomas started the Outdoor Education Program, an experience where students learn by doing a variety of hands-on activities. The event allows students to explore and experiment in a different environment, while using all their senses and creating new ties and relationships with people, nature and Jesus, explains Howard, director of the conference’s Outdoor Education Program.

With the support of Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent of schools, and Barnhill Howard, the program has continued for 10 years.

The program has become an exciting and essential element of the New Jersey Conference schools, says Saint-Ulysse. “It is carefully planned to support the schools’ mission by developing personal growth, teamwork and leadership, strengthening the relationships that are unique to our schools. It also provides

opportunities for students to develop an appreciation of nature and a closer walk with Jesus.”

In its 10th year, the Outdoor Education Program expanded to include seventh- and eighth-graders from the four New Jersey Conference schools: Lake Nelson Adventist Academy in Piscataway, Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School, Tranquility Adventist School in Andover, and Vine Haven Adventist School in Vineland.

This year students spent three days at Mohican Outdoor Center in Blairstown, and participated in wood working, canoeing, hiking, building campfires and more. A highlight of the event was dissecting a cow’s eye. “While delving in the anatomy of the eye, we made a spiritual connection—our views vs. God’s views. Seeing the student’s transformation in just three short days is amazing and beautiful to see,” says Anna-Gayle Hemmings, seventh-grade teacher of Lake Nelson Adventist Academy.—*Nolan Pieters*

Mental Health Conference Helps Clergy Support Members

In 1954 Charles Anderson, a psychiatrist at Harding Hospital, and Charles Wittschiebe of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary met and immediately discovered a mutual interest in sharing their understanding of the human mind, gleaned from their psychiatric residency and clinical pastoral education,” said George T. Harding IV, M.D., during his address at the recent Mental Health and the Faith Community Conference.

They brought their ideas to colleague George T. Harding III, M.D., and in October 1955, Harding Hospital held its first Mental Health Institute for Clergy. Several conference presidents attended this event before sending pastors from their conferences. “Over the next 30 years, more than 900 clergy attended, many of whom indicated that the experience helped them better understand their parishioners needs and how they could help,” said Harding IV.

The Harding Heritage Foundation recently collaborated with Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president, and Nestor Bruno, M.S., director of Kettering Ministry Care Services, to hold a Mental Health and the Faith Community Conference. Under the leadership of Fred Manchur, chief executive officer of Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Dayton, Ohio, this network became a sponsoring partner and offered Soin Medical Center in Beavercreek as a venue.

More than 100 clergy and spouses attended this event from across the nation. While the majority came from the Ohio Conference, several ministry leaders attended from the North Pacific Union Conference



Nestor Bruno and Denis Mee-Lee address how depression and suicide can impact clergy by enacting a real-life case study at the Mental Health and the Faith Community Conference.

(Wash.) During the intensive three-day conference, well-known psychiatrists and mental health professionals presented a variety of seminars.

Timothy R. Jennings, a board-certified Christian psychiatrist, master psychopharmacologist and international speaker, discussed in detail the human mind, God’s intention for the mind and how the mind functions today. “When Satan destroys our reason and conscience, he doesn’t even need to lie anymore,” said Jennings.

Denis Mee-Lee, M.D., president and principal investigator of Valden Medical, a psychiatric treatment and clinical research center in Honolulu, addressed depression and suicide, as well as addictive disorders and ministry. Sandy Wyman Johnson, R.N., director of Organizational Culture for Kettering, discussed burnout in the ministry. “The way we deal with loss or trauma shapes our capacity to be present [in] life more than anything else,” she said.

Larry Kositsin, Grief Recovery specialist and Spiritual Services director for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, shared with clergy how to not “lose themselves” when faced with losses in their lives and ministry. “One cannot feel forgiveness unless one does it. Forgiveness is an action,” he said.

The Adventist Learning Community recorded the majority of the seminars. Videos of the seminars will soon be available at adventistlearningcommunity.com. Another conference is anticipated next year.



Larry Kositsin, Grief Recovery specialist and Spiritual Services director for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, speaks about how “forgiveness is an action.”

Ohio Pastor Writes Spiritual Growth Book

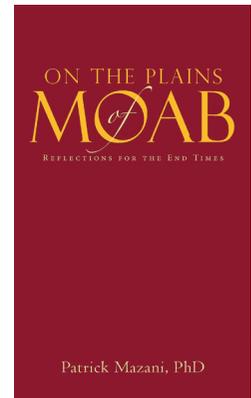
The idea to write this book was ignited when I spent some time on the plains of Moab (in the modern country of Jordan), just east of the Jordan River,” says Patrick Mazani, pastor of the Findlay district. Fully convinced that history holds the key to understanding the future of the world, Mazani closely examines the biblical account of ancient Israel in their last camp just before crossing into the Promised Land.

Designed to make biblical text easy to understand, practical and appealing to the reader, Mazani’s new book, *On the Plains of Moab: Reflections for the End Times*, analyzes the final moments of ancient Israel’s 40-year journey from Egypt to Canaan. His studies required him to do some archaeological work in several locations in Bible lands, including Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Turkey. “I needed to be in those places where God interacted with His people,” says Mazani.



When asked who would most benefit from his book, Mazani shared, “The spiritually fatigued, the searching mind, those hit by disasters, those trying to find meaning, [those who want to] help others and the Christian who is serious about successfully completing their faith journey will find this book very handy and inspiring. It addresses issues that leaders, believers and the public are wrestling with daily. Everybody is affected by what is going on in our world today. Many have no clue on what to do or where to go, but are searching for [answers] to pertinent questions [for] life and survival.”

Mazani’s book, published by WestBow Press, is available on mazanipom.com, amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.



Family Ministries Director to Conduct Marriage Retreat



What are the characteristics of a healthy relationship? Do you and your spouse have issues with communication, forgiveness, processing regrettable incidents or attachments? Ohio Conference Family Ministries Director Buffy Halvorsen, a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist, will share key tools at an upcoming marriage retreat to help strengthen marriages. International speaker and author of *To My King: Open Letter to the God Who Hears*, Halvorsen shares, “God has called me to help make marriages stronger and heal wounds caused by sin in His children.”

Whether you are a newlywed or have been married for 50 years, this January 26-27 retreat is for you. Registration is not necessary for this free workshop, held at the Xenia church. Childcare is available for ages 2-7. Visit ohioadventist.org, email bhalvorsen@ohioadventist.org or call (937) 376-4144 for more information.



Pennsylvania Pen

Laborers Together with God

Our Pennsylvania leadership team and Executive Committee members have been praying for unity across our conference. This fall we saw an example of what happens when God's people unite for a common mission, as more than 1,820 members met at 23 central Pennsylvania churches to go door-to-door, distributing invitations to the Faith for Family (F4F) evangelistic series, praying with people and inviting them to study the Word of God. Powerful things happen when God's people come together.

More than 110 people filled the Ephrata church—which typically has less than two dozen people attending on Sabbaths—as members of the Hamburg, Kenhorst Boulevard in Reading and Allentown churches partnered with them. When Hamburg member Ellen Lazo realized that the Ephrata church couldn't offer children's classes during their upcoming meetings, she and her family, along with several others, offered to bring their VBS supplies and minister to the children whose parents attended the meetings. This passion surprised and thrilled Ephrata members. Lazo, who recently joined the Pennsylvania Conference as Children's Ministries director, says she just wants to work together to share Christ with kids.

Working together is developing lasting relationships. Buddy Goodwin, pastor of the Philadelphia Boulevard church, spoke during last year's F4F evangelistic series at the Washington Heights church in Apolla, where one person chose baptism. Washington Heights members invited Goodwin to speak again this fall, where 11 additional people became members through baptism. Five more are continuing to study.

Join me in praying for this unity to grow as we labor together—not only with each other, but with God, as we reveal Jesus and make disciples in our communities across this state.



Gary Gibbs
President

Gayle Accepts Associate Superintendent Role

The Pennsylvania Conference welcomes Michael Gayle, principal of Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, to the new role of associate superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Already serving the conference in the areas of curriculum and instruction, the Executive Committee recently voted to create this new position, and Gayle accepted it.

"Michael Gayle is a gifted educator who is not only well versed in curriculum and instruction, but is also an outstanding presenter for professional development for teachers and administrators," states Jeff Bovee, vice president for education. "This new dual position as associate superintendent and principal is a great fit for Michael as he helps in bringing instructional best practices to Adventist education in the Pennsylvania Conference."

Gayle serves on the Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee, the Blue Mountain Academy board and the Pennsylvania Board of Education. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have four daughters. The family attends the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, where Gayle is the youth director.



Michael Gayle, principal of Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, will now also serve as conference associate superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

PHOTO BY LANCE MONGRIEFFE

Faith for Family Initiative Impacts Lives, Churches

Last year George lost his son to suicide. Drowning in anger, guilt and depression, he searched for hope. Invited to the Happy Family Life seminar, held at the Blossburg church, he decided to attend. As Tom Cusack, pastor, shared each evening, George discovered God's love and acceptance. He was baptized this past November.

George is just one of the many people whose lives have changed as a result of the Faith for Family initiative in central Pennsylvania this past fall. Six people became members through baptism at the Lancaster church, including Gladys Torres. After being out of the church for years, Torres began attending the Faith for Family evangelistic series, and, on the

final Sabbath, chose to be baptized. She worried her son wouldn't arrive in time to see her recommit her life to God, but he arrived just as she stepped into the baptistry. After Tom Hennlein, pastor of the Lancaster church, baptized her, Torres, still dripping wet from her own commitment, made an emotional appeal to her son to also commit his life to Jesus.

"The Lord is awaking interest in Scripture and a desire for hearts to accept the good news of Jesus Christ," says Bob Snyder, pastor of the Lewistown church. "These meetings have created a renewed interest and enthusiasm in members, along with a growing desire to win souls for the kingdom of God."

2018 Pennsylvania Conference Spring Women's Retreat

brave

courageously trusting God

Join us for a weekend of dynamic teaching, inspiring worship, and an encounter with a God who loves you relentlessly, pursues you persistently and will give you the courage and strength to live brave.

You will be inspired, challenged and changed as Cindy Mercer presents a series of messages that will deepen your faith and strengthen your courage. Journey with Cindy through forgiveness and the powerful demonstration of God's restorative power.

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With featured speaker
Cynthia Mercer
Prayer Ministries Director &
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for the Carolina Conference



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

Potomac People

First Annual Desmond T. Doss Run Held in His Hometown

Runners, walkers and veterans from across the country recently gathered in Lynchburg, Va., for the first annual Desmond T. Doss Fun Run and Walk in honor of the celebrated American hero. Doss, a corporal in the U.S. Army and a conscientious objector, served as a medic during World War II and awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery.

Billy Wright, race coordinator and assistant principal at the Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy in Lynchburg where Doss grew up, says the race was the fulfillment of a 10-year dream. "This race provides us with a rare opportunity to share with our community the God that Desmond Doss served and to financially support the school that bears [Doss'] name. While Doss prayed for God to help him 'save just one more,' our prayer is, that through this race, we will continually be able to reach one more student."

During the opening ceremony, Desmond Doss Jr. read the October 1945 Medal of Honor citation that President Harry Truman presented to his father.

The academy and Lynchburg Area Veterans Council shared the proceeds from the inaugural race.



Supporters run during the Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy's first annual Fun Run and Walk in honor of the celebrated American hero.

Organizers also sponsored a Desmond T. Doss race in Chattanooga, Tenn. Plans are underway for races in California, Washington, D.C., and China.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE HALL

215 Baptisms Celebrated During Pentecostes Now

Members from 30 Hispanic churches across the Potomac Conference recently gathered at the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., to celebrate 215 baptisms during Pentecostes Now. This



Members from 30 Hispanic churches across the Potomac Conference gather to celebrate 215 baptisms at Pentecostes Now.

event was the culmination of week-long evangelism campaigns held by 30 evangelists from the Adventist Salvadoran Union, led by President Abel Pacheco. Evangelists partnered with dozens of Potomac pastors to visit families in their homes, hold Bible studies and encourage people to make decisions for Jesus.

"More than 600 non-Adventists were reached," shares Jose Esposito, director for Hispanic ministries. "These evangelists understand the culture of most of the people we try to reach, and we invited them to help us spread the Word of God." During Pentecostes Now, each pastor shared their testimony.

The celebration included special musical guests Sampaguita, Edwin Castillo and Ebenezer and Alabanza Pura. Esposito says, "We concluded the meeting by giving thanks to God for the work of the Holy Spirit and asking for more of Pentecostes Now."

These 215 baptisms are part of the 3,158 that have taken place in Columbia Union Hispanic churches in 2017. Members from around the union gathered in December to celebrate these evangelism efforts at Vivangelismo 2017 in Ocean City, Md.

Potomac People

Seabrook Pastor Promotes Cocaine-Free Ministry

While visiting Colombia, South America in 2005, a little boy approached Jimmy Munoz, associate pastor at Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., offering to shine Munoz's tennis shoes. "Our Colombian friends felt bothered by the street boy and wanted to send him away with nothing," says Munoz. "I felt deeply touched by his plight. At his age, I, too, was out on the streets in Colombia trying to work and make money to provide for my family."

Munoz has since learned there are more than half a million unschooled children in this impoverished country, making them prime targets of drug lords who want them to work on illegal farms.

Last year Munoz and his family; nine Seabrook members; Olives and Claudia Villamizar, a pastoral couple of four Spanish churches in Potomac; and Bill Miller, conference president, flew to Colombia to initiate Munoz's dream of helping create a "cocaine-free world." The team taught leadership principles, held conflict resolution workshops and led addiction treatment and prevention seminars.

At the locals' request, the group also conducted



Impoverished and unschooled children wait for the opportunity to enroll in a Christian school, as the team who visited Colombia donated \$3,500 for this cause.

evangelistic meetings, where 12 people made decisions for Christ. Munoz says the group learned about effective poverty alleviation, fellowshipped with local gospel and public workers and encouraged them to continue moving forward in sharing the goodness of God. The team also gave \$3,500 to a local church who wants to open a Christian school.

"The vision of this ministry, Cocaine Free World, is to promote entrepreneurship and to one day employ people in producing helpful items that have a high demand," explains Munoz. "We are also working to attack emotional poverty by inspiring people to aim high and dream of starting industries that are greatly needed in order for community members to have honest and productive jobs."

While in Colombia this past year, Munoz met David, a member of an Adventist church who works as a tailor. David dreams of growing his business to employ family members and neighbors who don't have jobs: "Through this ministry, I want to make it impossible for drug lords to find illiterate people willing to work in their fields and to have those 500,000 children in school, learning to dream big—dream about the second coming of Jesus Christ—and how they can make the world a better place."



David, an Adventist who works as a tailor in Colombia, hopes to help the Cocaine Free World ministry by growing his business to employ family members and neighbors who don't have jobs.

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Assistant, Tiffany Doss



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

Students Help Rebuild Farm Shop, Barn After Fire

In September 2016, the sound of fire sirens and strobes of flashing blue and red lights punctuated the stillness as fire fighters converged on Blue Mountain Academy's (BMA) campus. Hay erupted in flames, destroying a key part of the farm shop and totaling thousands of dollars in loss.

In November 2017, BMA board member Homer Strong and his two sons, Tim and John, volunteered to help rebuild the farm shop and barn. In addition, Aaron Weber, director of operations, included students in the process.

Sophomore Esteban Grajales shares, "It feels good to know I am contributing something positive to the agriculture program." Jonah Baksa, also a sophomore, says, "It's a great honor to be part of this rebuild. Someday I'll be able to come back to BMA and see a small contribution I made in helping rebuild an important building."

Both students are part of BMA's unique vocational education program. The academy has implemented this course to teach real-world ethics founded on the Spirit of Prophecy, the Bible and best practices in the labor industry.



Sophomore Jonah Baksa and director of operations Aaron Weber side the new barn.

Alumni Enthusiastic About Dorm Facelift

Maranatha and Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) have partnered to renovate BMA's academy dorm



Alumnus Steve Reese ('93), juniors Nicole Becker and Keon Gurley and cafeteria director Matt Anderson break down material during the dorm renovation process.

rooms. Construction is in full swing as old furniture is removed, flooring pulled up and electrical fittings extracted in preparation for fresh plaster, paint and electrical upgrades.

Alumni are enthusiastically behind the renovation. Alumnus Leroy Haas ('62) shares, "I believe BMA has some of its best years ahead! I share its excitement for the future, and this is but one very necessary step in that direction."

Haas was honored at the 2017 annual recognition dinner as "outstanding alumnus" for his tireless efforts enabling BMA to continue providing a Christ-centered education that leads students into lives of service for God.

Alumni and friends are encouraged to assist in renovating 128 rooms and the lobbies in both dorms. Sponsorship for a single room is about \$1,000 for a complete rebuild and furniture. Renovation is expected to be completed by November 2018.

STEMFest Draws Crowds to Highland View Academy

Highland View Academy's (HVA) STEM Department recently held its fourth annual STEMfest. This event showcased federal, state and private STEM organizations, STEM careers and hands-on interactive STEM activities run by HVA STEM students.

A wide variety of federal STEM organizations sent representatives, materials and gadgets for the event, including the Department of Energy, NASA, National Academy of Engineering, National Institute of Health, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Security Agency, National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Patent and Trade Office.

Private organizations that participated included American Association of Physics Teachers, Andrews University (Mich.), The Einstein Fellowship, Master Gardeners, Jaydee's Nature Zone, Mycological Association of Washington D.C., Phillips Mushrooms, E-Nable Alliance, JLG Industries, Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., Vieyra Software, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Antarctica—A Fly in the Pole.

STEMfest also featured three 50-minute breakout sessions. E-Nable Alliance, a global network of volunteers that uses 3D printing to create fingers and hands for children and adults in underserved areas, shared how schools can print hands and help in this



Young attendees enjoy Craig Trader's Chaos Machine, a large automated marble machine composed of tubes, tracks, motors and widgets.

worldwide endeavor. The National Security Agency K-12 Academic Outreach Team introduced basic terminology used in code-breaking and led students through deciphering several messages using various substitution and transposition ciphers. James Gulley, M.D., Ph.D., FACP, an internationally recognized expert in immunotherapy for cancer, talked about teaching T-Cells to eradicate cancer.

Interactive STEM activities included robotics; several types of building sets; a polymer station where students could make slime, silly putty and polymer snow; a simulated earthquake shake table to test marshmallow-and-toothpick structures; electricity activities; and an iPad interactive educational toy called OSMO, among others.

Students from area schools eagerly explored the booths. Edmund Zerme, a first-grader from Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Md., said he had been looking forward to STEMfest for weeks. "I liked the Chaos Machine the most," he says.

STEMfest was organized by Ophelia Barizo, STEM coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference and HVA, with the help of HVA STEM teachers Colleen Lay, Lisa Norton and Myrna Nowrangi. Sponsorships from local organizations and businesses helped to fund the annual event.



Karen Gomez, a student from Mt. Aetna Adventist School, uses a 3D pen.

PFA POST



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

Science Department Spotlights Robotics, STEM Fair

This school year, Pine Forge Academy (PFA) has been intentional in enhancing the science program by offering a new robotics class and a wider range of science courses. Hoping to peak student interest in Science, PFA has added a new Level II Anatomy and Physiology course and more than five categories of robotics. Both of these courses provide hands-on learning experiences. For example, in the Level II Anatomy and Physiology class, students recently visited the cadaver labs of Ursinus College (Pa.) to observe human internal organs.

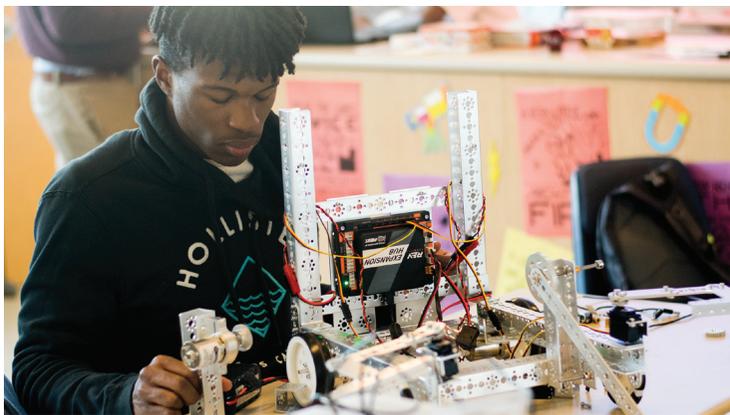
In addition, this school year the Science Department hosted the inaugural Pine Forge Academy STEM Fair. To inspire students interested in STEM fields of study, the Science Department initiated a STEM experimentation poster competition. Student projects ranged from agriculture and human anatomy to aerodynamics.

The robotics course has stimulated the most excitement across campus. "I love the robotics program because it helps me get closer to my dream of becoming an engineer," says 11th-grader Cole Mattox. "I am inspired and interested in this new program, and I am hoping that it will help me understand what I want my career to be," adds Miracle Smith, also an 11th-grader.

Courtney Brown, Physics and Robotics coach, states, "The robotics program has given students the opportunity to develop some of their natural curiosity. Students are given the opportunity to design and build the robots. It also provides another aspect of hands-on



Under the tutelage of Courtney Brown, Math/Science teacher and Robotics coach, seniors Joshua Perkins and Darren Hart build a robot.



Joshua Perkins, PFA senior, undertakes a robotics project.

learning, so instead of students tinkering on their phones, now they are able to use tools that provide a real-world application."

Khandi Cooper, Science Department chair, has been instrumental in instituting this new program. She spoke about her plans for her class and the student body at large: "The students have completed their first STEM fair project, and through it, practiced a professional standard of scientific thinking. We are hoping to help students grow and learn about new research, additional thinking strategies and different experiments as the school year progresses. By the end of the school year, we will compete in two STEM robotics competitions and participate in the AEC STEM Fair."

For more information on the STEM program, including photos and videos, go to PFA's Facebook page.

—Savannah Anderson

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

SAA Builds New STEM Lab

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) recently received two STEM grants to enhance this year's focus on academic skills.

The Joanne Cross Coon Foundation awarded SAA a \$5,000 grant to outfit a new makerspace called the Fun Fab Lab. A makerspace is a creative space where students can learn, create, invent and work with hands-on projects. Using the funds from the grants, Ophelia Barizo, SAA and Chesapeake Conference's STEM coordinator, purchased robots for use in various education levels. "We have several sets of Ozobots®, Dash and Dot™ robots ... and EV3 LEGO® robots," says Barizo.

Other material and equipment funded by the grant included several sets of Keva® planks for creative building in STEM and art; several types of snap circuit sets for the study of electricity; OSMO™ Genius Sets for math, engineering, coding and a whole host of applications; 3D printers; STEM lab sets on various topics; and other materials. Additional equipment will be added to the makerspace as more funds become available.

SAA also received a \$4,965 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for hands-on and interactive outdoor field trips on the Chesapeake Bay. A group of SAA faculty recently participated on a field trip at the Baltimore Harbor with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, funded by a separate grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

The group, which included superintendents, administrators and science teachers from across the Chesapeake Conference, boarded the Snow Goose, a scientific work boat, and learned about how industries in the harbor affect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.



Kindergarten student Joaquin Martinez controls a Dash robot by choosing its sounds, lights and path.



Kindergarten students Isabela Cocozzella and Mikaela Weich show the building they created using Magformer® Tiles in the Fun Fab Lab.



Nathan Hess, SAA's high school science teacher, Mindi Nix, middle school science teacher, and other SAA staff members pull in a fishing net while aboard the Snow Goose boat.

They studied maps of the bay, tested water samples, dredged for and dissected oysters, trawled for fish, caught and studied adaptations of three varieties of jellyfish and learned the history of certain landmarks in the harbor.

"This was a valuable demonstration of the impact of hands-on scientific experimentation. The experiments we performed showed the improved health of the Chesapeake Bay and that efforts being made are having a positive effect," says Mindi Nix, SAA's middle school science teacher. "I'm going to take my students on Snow Goose as soon as I can arrange it."

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Band Gets a Taste of Tennessee

Spring Valley Academy (SVA) band students and chaperones recently boarded a charter bus and traveled south to Tennessee for the school's annual band tour. In Memphis the group attended the play *An American in Paris* at the Orpheum Theater.

They later toured Graceland, Elvis Presley's home, and as the band performed on site, an Elvis-impersonator stopped by and tried his hand at directing. "Elvis" gave his famous "Thank you, thank you very much!" line as he departed.

The group ate lunch at Huey's, where thousands of toothpicks covered the ceiling. The students successfully stuck their own toothpicks on the ceiling. The Peabody Hotel and its famous ducks highlighted their Memphis experience. Every day at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., ducks walk the red carpet to the fountain in the hotel's lobby, and either spend their day there or return to the elevator to be taken back to the rooftop.

On the fourth day of the tour, the band performed for students at Memphis Junior Academy. Afterward, they visited Sun Studio, known as the birth place of Rock and Roll, where greats like Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley got their start. They even took pictures with the microphone Elvis used to

record his first song. Senior Monte Wilkins shares, "I thoroughly enjoyed seeing Sun Studio and learning about its significance in music history."

The band also visited the Civil Rights Museum, which is attached to the Lorraine Motel where James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King Jr. This site really touched Vicki Briley, band parent and chaperone. "It was both interesting and sad," she says.

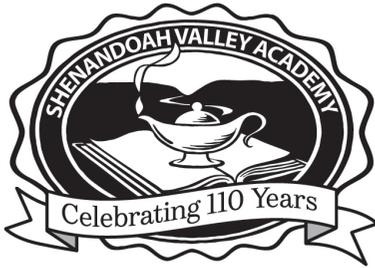
Next, the group visited the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., an outing that would not be complete without a backstage tour and the opportunity to stand on its historic stage. While on stage, some of the girls even sang. That evening the SVA band played outside the opry, where many people stopped to watch them. After the performance, the band attended a show at the opry.

The trip culminated with a CD recording session at the RCA Studio B recording studio and a tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. "I enjoyed recording 'My Shot' at RCA Studio B," says senior Mitchell Jackson.

Faculty and students give a special thanks to the adult chaperones, Jennifer Pomales and Donald Shull, and to Donald Huff, SAA's band director, for the informative, fun tour.



SVA band members get ready to perform during their recent tour of Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee.



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Phanstiel Hall Retreat Invigorates Men, Not Boys

We recently enjoyed the Sigma Beta Chi Boys' Club retreat at the beautiful Spencer Farm property. Our deans wanted us to be completely removed from the influences and distractions we face each day, so they took us camping by the lake. We appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Spencer for letting us use their property. Asher Ardron ('20) and Ben Perkin's ('19) parents teamed up to feed us delicious meals.

When asked the goal of his weekend sermons, our speaker and taskforce Dean Bradley Russell said, "For students to wake up and realize how close we are to the end times, and to take our spiritual journey seriously." Russell said that in order for men to have healthy and strong relationships, they must be willing to give up things and to make God the center of their lives. The strength of our relationship with Him decides how well we hear His message.

On Sabbath we studied individually, reading a passage from the book of James, then shared our interpretation of the text and what it meant to us. The highlight of the day was when Russell distributed a towel to every guy and told him to write a realistic goal for the future on it. Afterward he had us dirty our towels in every way possible, then try to wash them clean. It illustrated that sometimes in the Christian walk, we get distracted by sin. Our lives become messy, and we can't make them clean again, no matter how hard we try. God is the only One who can restore us, if we just turn to Him.

On Saturday night, we returned to campus, where the Girls' Club, Thea Fia, made pizzas for us. After



SVA "Men of 'Stiel" prayerfully ask God to wash them clean of distracting sins that keep them from living His plans.

cleaning up the cafeteria, we had evening worship in front of the dorm. Then we played Capture the Flag—one of the highlights of the school year. Dean Ryan Knight also opened the gym for the guys, ending the retreat on a high note.

Overall the Phanstiel Hall weekend retreat was just what many guys needed—a spiritual escape from the stress of school and relationships. Russell's sermons gave us spiritual guidance, motivated us and showed what a relationship centered around Jesus should look like. It was a fantastic experience, and I am looking forward to next year very much!
—Tommy Retz ('19)



Sigma Beta Chi Boys Club, aka "Men of 'Stiel," enjoy camping, spiritual emphasis and fun during a dorm retreat at Spencer's Farm.

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Students Visit Holocaust Museum

The Takoma Academy (TA) freshmen English class recently spent a day visiting the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., after reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

English teacher Ericka Blackwell expressed the importance of placing oneself in another's shoes, when possible, in order to bring the pages of a book to life. "What better way to get a visual understanding for such a tragic period in earth's history," she says. "It makes this event [the Holocaust] unforgettable in the minds of the students. Hopefully they will appreciate their freedom more knowing that so many young people lost their lives during the Holocaust."

Angela Bryant Brown, TA's Annual Fund and Social Media manager, shares, "As a chaperone on this class field trip, I hesitantly stepped into the elevator designed to look like the gas chamber where many of the Jews died. It felt heavy and somber. Later a photo of an African-American soldier who was part of the militia who liberated the imprisoned Jews captured my heart. I found the rest of the tour, however, both enlightening and energizing, mainly because of the students' reactions and comments about the artifacts and recollection of this historical event.



An African-American soldier who helped liberate Jews during the Holocaust inspires students.



Freshmen Keinan Mitchell, Zenovia Graham and Aja Nurse visit the Holocaust Museum during an English class field trip.

Freshman Troi Moore says, "I'm grateful that we got to read the book and then see how life was through Anne's eyes." Sid Chavan, also a freshman, adds, "[The Holocaust reminds us that] we today hurt people with our words and actions."

One of the chaperones, TA's athletic director Treymane Douglas, shared his thoughts regarding the field trip: "There are amazing parallels between the period of the Holocaust and American Blacks in the U.S., even today. What happened to the Jews of that time was horrible and should not be taken lightly, but before, during and after that time period, Africans and Black Americans were experiencing, and still are experiencing, the effect of racism and discrimination in the U.S.," he said. "It is important that we learn from these horrible situations in order to not repeat them. That can only be done when we have honest, constructive conversations about it."

One of the most important takeaways students learned from this trip was that as Christians and TA students, they must continue to stand and speak up for the downtrodden, just as Christ did for mankind at Calvary, and continues today as our Advocate and High Priest before our heavenly Father.

KETTERING COLLEGE



Kettering College's first Giving Day raised over \$59,000 to support the advancement of Kettering College and its students.



Kettering College Holds First Giving Day

By Lauren Brooks

The first KC Giving Day was held on November 2, 2017. During those 24 hours, students, alumni, and friends of the college came together to make a difference for future generations of Kettering College students, while celebrating 50 years of excellence, service, and innovation.

KC Giving Day gave people the opportunity to give a monetary pledge toward three different funds, all which support students in need at the college: the Kettering College fund, the Kettering College General Scholarship fund, and the Kettering College Student Assistance fund. This event raised over \$59,000, which doubled the initial goal of \$25,000.

Kettering College students also had the opportunity to write thank you notes to donors on special postcards created for the event, as well as take photos in the KC Giving Day photo booth. Throughout the day, pastries and popcorn were given to students while they visited.

"If it were not for the student assistance fund helping students with immediate needs, I believe many would have been forced to drop out," said Susan Price, program director of Sonography.

The opportunity to pledge was open online until the end of December. Kettering College is immensely grateful for all the support and donations that were given. Many Kettering College graduates go on to serve in the most in-demand areas of healthcare, and the funds raised at KC Giving Day will make a lasting impact on future generations of healthcare professionals.





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NEW YEAR, *Same Mission*

Washington Adventist University is a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. This cosmopolitan institution challenges

students to seize the opportunities for learning in the nation's capital in order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world.



**Weymouth
Spence**

Here is a powerful statement from

George R. Knight. "Christian education is the only education that can meet humanity's deepest needs, because only Christian educators understand the core of the human problem. The redemptive aim of Christian education is what makes it Christian." This statement is consistent with Ellen White's statement in the book *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 436 that the "all important thing" in education "should be the conversion of... students, that they may have a new heart and life." At WAU we say it this way, "engaging minds and transforming lives."

On behalf of our learning community, may the new sun of the New Year bring you power and vibrancy while the God of all our years brings you peace, love, and tranquility!

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence, President

DOUG WALKER NAMED TO LEAD WAU COMMUNICATIONS

Doug Walker has been named to serve as Vice President of Integrated Marketing & Communications for Washington Adventist University (WAU). He brings to the position more than 20 years experience in shaping communications for large organizations.

Walker attended WAU as an undergraduate student and worked at WGTS 91.9 FM radio. He later returned to WGTS 91.9 to serve as a volunteer producer, board member and the interim General Manager.



**Doug Walker, Vice President
of Integrated Marketing &
Communications for WAU**

Describing himself as "a strategic storyteller," Walker adds that "I strive to tell an organization's story. Tell it well. Tell it to the audience it needs to reach."

A presidential appointee during the last three years of the Obama Administration, Walker was Deputy Commissioner for Communications at the Social Security Administration. Prior to that, he handled communications and government relations at the National Education Association (NEA) for more than a dozen years. He edited the nation's largest circulation education magazine and supervised the editors of four periodicals. Walker also oversaw social media outreach and multiple websites.

A newly ordained elder, Walker is active at the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he says he loves teaching Sabbath School. His leisure activities include reading books, particularly biographies, espionage fiction, management/leadership, and Christian fiction. In addition, Walker says, "I enjoy swimming, tolerate aerobics, and don't get to play enough golf!"

Doug Walker met his wife, Linda, at Takoma Academy, although they did not date until later. They share their home with a "rambunctious dog" named Apollo.

Walker earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Howard University and was a Senior Executive Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

ADVENTIST ACCREDITORS COMMEND WAU AND OFFER POSITIVE REPORT

Washington Adventist University (WAU), the first institution of higher learning to be accredited by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, recently received a positive report from the Interim Visiting Committee of the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA).

The interim report is based on a November 2017 regular visit by AAA. WAU demonstrated to the committee that it had fulfilled 90 percent of the 31 recommendations made during the previous accreditation visit in 2012, and had made significant progress on the other 10 percent.

The committee commended WAU in the recent visit for having placed among the top nine colleges by the 650-plus member Council of Independent Colleges, for adopting procedures to enhance the quality of online programs, and for WAU's "commitment to the mission of the church that has translated into 97 baptisms and wide spiritual influence on young men and women associated with the university."

The committee also commended WAU Board Chair Dave Weigley "for the active promotion of Board-member engagement in the decision-making process related to University governance."

Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., Chair of the Visiting Committee, particularly noted the enthusiastic feedback from WAU students. "You've got something there you should bottle and sell," he said, adding that the students "didn't even complain about the food!"

The interim committee report must be ratified by the full Adventist Accrediting Association.

RECENT ACROFEST EVENT ON CAMPUS HOSTED 800 GYMNASTS

Washington Adventist University (WAU) hosted a three-day Acrofest event in November that brought more than 800 gymnasts from across North America to campus for fellowship, opportunities to learn and grow, and spiritual renewal. Participants included members of WAU's own 48-member Acro-Airs team.

This is the largest and longest-running Adventist Athletic event in the world. The event started on the campus of Andrews University more than 25 years ago, and hosting has rotated each year among five schools: Andrews University, Southern Adventist University, Southwestern Adventist University, Union College and Washington Adventist University.



Acrofest, the largest and longest-running Adventist athletic event in the world has just completed its 26th year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of Prayer

Monday, January 29 – Saturday, February 3

A convocation will be held each day at 11:15 a.m. at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church on campus.

Anna H. Wang Presidential Concert Series

Saturday, February 3, 8 p.m.

Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, featuring violinist Charles Castleman. For ticket information, contact tsweeney@wau.edu or call **301-576-0105**. The proceeds will help fund a new concert hall.

Alumni Weekend—Save the Dates

Thursday, April 12 through Sunday, April 15.

Honoring the classes of 2008, 1998, 1993, 1988, 1978, 1968, 1958, 1953 and 1948.

Weekend of Celebration

By Christina Keresoma

November is a favorite time of year for Kettering Adventist HealthCare as we celebrate our annual Mission Conference at Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church. Employees, community, and church members gather to take a glimpse into the many ways Kettering Adventist HealthCare shares its mission locally and abroad.

Celebrations started Friday evening with a worship service listening to special Christian musical guests: Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. Sabbath services focused on the mission, starting with Legacy of Healing, a physician-lead mission group, leading in song service. The music was followed by updates about the disaster relief we provided this past year, overseas missions, and local missions and community outreach efforts. Special guest speaker Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International, gave the sermon "Least of These."

The Sabbath was brought to a close with music by the Kettering Praise Orchestra featuring Elizabeth Montgomery.

Visit ketsda.org to view the Sabbath services.



Clockwise from top: Ernie Haase and Signature Sound; Karl Haffner, senior pastor of Kettering SDA Church; Peter Bath, vice president of Missions and Ministry; Anita Adams, chief operating officer of Kettering Medical Center; Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International



THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Answering a Call to Serve Abroad

Serving the Greater Dayton, Ohio area is an important part of Kettering Adventist HealthCare's mission, but it is also important to serve beyond our borders. We are blessed to have passionate individuals who serve both locally and abroad. They include network employees, nurses and physicians; Kettering College students and professors; and Spring Valley Academy teachers and students. As a network, we encourage serving others and help in any way we are able, whether it's by sponsoring a trip or by donating equipment and resources. Our mission is to improve people's quality of life, and it takes many hands and feet to do this. We are grateful to have a community so willing to give and serve others.



Yvette Wilkins and Shelley Perez Chung helped educate woman and girls about personal hygiene on the Spring Valley Academy mission trip to Peru.



A team of physicians and nurses helped perform surgeries in Zambia.



A team from Legacy of Healing cleaned locals' teeth.



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2. Cities are dangerous. Rural places need Jesus too.
3. I'm not cut out for this Gentile thing. God should find someone else.

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SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology Department invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology or Secondary Education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Donna Berkner, dberkner@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an online adjunct professor(s) to teach part-time courses in newly organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of Business. Submit cover letter and current CV/ résumé to denise.rivera@swau.edu. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference is given with prior teaching experience.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is looking for a full-time English professor with a Ph.D. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty considered. Send a CV to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest Street,

Keene, Texas 76059, or email lauej@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Systematic Theology faculty member for 2018-2019. Ph.D. preferred; master's degree considered. Successful candidates will have teaching and pastoral experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosen@swau.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

GIFTED, ONE-ARMED TRUMPETER Carlot Dorvé will come to your church to present his music from his recent CD, *Sacred Sounds of the Trumpet*, and share his testimony. A native of Haiti, Carlot professionally plays the trumpet despite suffering the amputation of his right arm. He has encountered hunger, homelessness, physical abuse, abandonment and religious hardship because of his Adventist beliefs. To set up a concert, please email him at carlot.trumpeter@gmail.com, or visit his website at carlotdorve.com.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

“I ‘STILL’ DO” MARRIAGE RETREAT, MARCH 9-11! Held at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Eric and Ann Marie Bates will present at the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net or contact Mark and Peggy Lee, (301) 801-2344, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz, (443) 864-6328.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING, APRIL 5-8:

Honor classes are 1948, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2008. For more information, contact the alumni office at (401) 486-2503, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA) ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 27-28. Honor Classes 3's and 8's. Welcome reception Friday, 7 p.m., LSA Library. Sabbath services: registration 9 a.m. and Homecoming Service 10 a.m., LSA Gym. Potluck, campus tours, reunions and varsity basketball. Please update contact information: JNelson@lsak12.com, lsak12.com, or alumni office (951) 351-1445, ext. 244.

LEGAL NOTICES

QUADRENNIAL MEETING OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The 42nd regular constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday May 6, 2018, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for revisions of the articles and regulations, and to transact such other business as comes before the conference.

Ron Halvorsen Jr., *President*
Oswaldo Magaña, *Secretary*

OBITUARIES

ALLEN, Charles Robert “Chuck,” born April 1, 1947, in Millington, Mich., to the late Robert and Esther Allen; died February 3, 2017, at his home in Portland, Tenn., after an 18-year, up-and-down bout with cancer. He graduated from Adelphian Academy (Mich.) in 1966. A student job there in the cafeteria started him on a lifetime career in food service, after training with chefs at Andrews (Mich.) and Loma Linda (Calif.) universities, as well as at Battle Creek, Mich. He worked for 43 years in denominational kitchens, starting at Florida Hospital. He then became head chef at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.); moving on to food service director at Shenandoah Valley Academy (Va.), Highland Academy (Tenn.), Adelphian Academy (Mich.), Tennessee Christian Medical Center, Highland Hospital and Blue Mountain Academy (Pa.). He retired to Portland, Tenn., in 2010, and was an active member of the Highland (Tenn.) church.

CLARKE, John “Jack” F., Jr.,” born June 24, 1921, in Trenton, N.J.; died February 7, 2017, in Adelphi, Md. He was a member of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Jack lived in Takoma Park from the age of 5, attending Sligo Adventist Elementary and Takoma Academy located in Takoma Park. Jack married Frances L. Baumgartner in 1942. He served in the Armed Services during World War II, and once discharged, settled into family life in Silver Spring, Md. Jack was a builder and did renovations on Sligo church and built the addition on the church. He was active in Sligo Pathfinders and the Boy's Club, coaching teams for several years when his children attended. They remember their father as a very affectionate man who was a patient listener and a savvy, hard-working small business owner. He would eventually become a business partner with his eldest son. Survivors: his wife of 74 years, Frances L. Clarke of Apopka, Fla.; his children, John F. Clark, III, of Stevensville, Md., Diane Clarke Litten of Apopka, Fla., and James Douglas Clarke of Lutherville, Md.; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his sister, Kay Daniel of Calverton, Md.

MAY, Eleanor (Dancek), born November 11, 1936, in New Brighton, Pa., to the late Steven and Anna Magera Dancek; died February 8, 2017, in Beaver, Pa. She was a member of the New Brighton church and served as their church clerk. Eleanor retired

from the former B&W Tubular Steel Co., where she was an executive assistant, and was a member of the B&W Ladies Luncheon Group. Survivors: her brother, Edward (Sandra) Dancek of Lansing, Mich.; her step-daughter, Cynthia (John) Cienkowski of New Brighton; her step-son, Ralph (Mandy) May of Zelenople, Pa.; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a host of nephews, nieces and cousins; and a dear cousin and friend, Pat Kolumban.

HEIKS, Heidi, born November 22, 1955; died March 27, 2017, in Brinkhaven, Ohio. He was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. He spent his childhood in Haysville, Ohio, and graduated from Haysville High School. A quiet, patient man of many interests and talents, Heidi excelled as a scholar, researcher, author, teacher and musician. He also enjoyed working in the construction trades and was in the process of transforming a church into a beautiful home at the time of his death. Heidi loved animals, motorcycles, playing the bass guitar and meandering over the back roads of Amish country while driving a truck for Weaver's Farm and Furniture. Heidi is survived by his adoring wife of 21 years, Robin Worth-

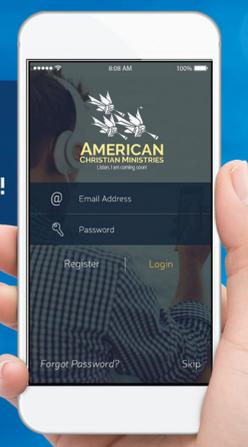
ington Heiks; his son Corey (Lisa Bergeron) Heiks of Killingworth, Conn.; step-children, Jamie (Steve) Sigman of Fredericktown, Ohio, Emily (Jon) Newsome of Kila, Mont., Curtis (Kate) Mirise of Mount Gilead, Ohio, Jason (Dawn) Tremmel of Priest River, Idaho, and Julie (John) Weber of Columbus, Ohio; grandchildren, Wyatt and Nathan Newsome and Tori Billings; siblings Janice (Jerry) Schaad, Joel (Marda) Heiks and Joyce Bowersock, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Forest and Arlene Heiks.

JONES, Pelton Noel, born December 20, 1929, in Durham, N.C.; died January 31, 2017, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. Pelton was a retired electrical supervisor with the University of Maryland at College Park, Md. He is survived by his son, Charles; his daughter, Debra Leigh Jones, his sister, Ellen Smith; brothers, Sidney and Leon; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Edna Leigh Gall Jones.

MALONE, Hazel (Stokes), born May 19, 1916, in Greenville, S.C. She was the third of seven children born to Grover Cleveland

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and Adeline Rosemond Stokes; died February 28, 2017, at the Solon Pointe Nursing Home in Solon, Ohio. Hazel lived and worked in Cleveland, Ohio, and was baptized into the East 71st Adventist church. She later joined Bethel church in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Ramah Jr. Academy for her first seven years, and then graduated from Central High School. She was employed as a beautician and co-owner of Lady Fair Beauty Salon. Hazel also loved to bowl and received many trophies. Survivors: her sister, Anna Mary Lee; cousins, Marion Bassett, Marion Grier, Christine Hayes and Irene Walker; nieces, Janice (Harry) Brinks, Lavonna Evans, Olivia Henry, Melvina Stokes, Alice Stokes, Dorian Stokes, Leah Stokes and Rosalyn Willis; nephews, Nelson (Lornette) Stokes, Roy (Ilmo Jean) Willis, William (Rose) Stokes; and a host of great nieces, nephews, friends and a special friend who was like a sister, Lorraine Pearson.

MASTERS, Harold "Hal" R., born November 10, 1932, in Campobello, S.C.; died December 23, 2016, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. Hal attended Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. He was employed with the federal

government for 40 years before retiring in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Ina; two beloved nieces and five nephews.

McLAUGHLIN, Elva Irene, born November 18, 1936, in Valley View, Pa.; died December 23, 2016, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. She is survived by her sons, Stephen (Yvonne) and Michael (Barbara) McLaughlin; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MOREHOUSE, Georgia A., born August 26, 1942, to the late George and Nettie Rowe Mizer.; died March 24, 2017, surrounded by her family, at Affinity Medical Center in Massillon, Ohio. She was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Georgia was a homemaker and enjoyed playing PS2 golf games, fishing and collecting angels. She loved family gatherings and her dogs, Prince and Annie. She is survived by her significant other of 20 years, Carl Gean Boley, Sr.; her children, Brenda Mizer of Millersburg, James Morehouse II of Conneaut, Ohio, and Jody (Richard) Crider of Killbuck, Ohio; grandchildren, Lisa Cochran, Matthew (Lacey) Raber, Jolena (Allen) Earls, Steven (Kimmy) Raber, Alexandria (Joe) Thompson, Shelly (Danny)

Crider, Brad (Cherokee) Crider, Breanna Mizer, Leanna Mizer and Leona, Loretta and Timothy Mizer; great-grandchildren, James Raber, Kayleigh Raber, Ashton and Peyton Earls, Dreydan Crider, Senica and Jayden Mizer, and Georgiahnah, Zakeryah and William French. Georgia was preceded in death by her parents; all of her siblings; a daughter, Pamela Mizer; and a great-grandson, Alexander.

ONDRIZEK, Walter Alvin, born July 12, 1942, in Strongstown, Pa.; died January 25, 2017, in Nashville, Tenn. He was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Wally graduated from Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. Survivors: his mother, Louise Currier Ondrizek; his daughters, Trina (Roy) Frazier, and Rebekah Ondrizek and her fiancé Daniel Hill; his sisters, Keren Templeton, Eileen Thompson and Maxine Lang; and grandchildren, Greycen and Gavin Frazier. He is preceded in death by his father, Walter E. Ondrizek, and a brother, Glenn E. Ondrizek.

PARSLEY, June, born June 3, 1925, in Mount Vernon, Ill., to the late John and Ada Maynor Parsley; died March 26, 2017, in Winter Haven, Fla. She was a former member of the Charleston (W.Va.)

church. June met the love of her life, George Martin Parsley, at Mt. Vernon High School, and told her best friend, "That's the man I'm going to marry!" And, January 22, 1945, she did just that, and they spent 60 wonderful years together. She was devoted to her family and the church, and served as a faithful member of the Mountain View Conference Executive Committee in Parkersburg, W.Va. Of all her accomplishments, her greatest have been in the lives of her family and friends. She had a unique gift of touching the lives of anyone she met, making them feel loved. Her kind heart and wonderful smile lit up any room she entered. June is survived by her three children: Laura Hart of Michigan, Martie Parsley of California and Jon Parsley of Florida; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

RONCHI, Beverly Ann (Beard), born October 10, 1936, in Hagerstown, Md., to the late Bill and Helen Beard; died October 16, 2016, in Hagerstown. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. Beverly graduated from Washington Missionary College Nursing School (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. Survivors: her daughter, Sharon (Allen) Small; and her grandson, Nathan Small.

Sunset Calendar

	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
Baltimore	4:57	5:03	5:11	5:19	5:27	5:35	5:43	5:51
Cincinnati	5:29	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:07	6:15	6:23
Cleveland	5:10	5:18	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:52	6:00	6:09
Columbus	5:20	5:27	5:35	5:43	5:51	6:00	6:08	6:16
Jersey City	5:18	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:14	5:23	5:31	5:40
Norfolk	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:30	5:38	5:45	5:52
Parkersburg	5:16	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55	6:03	6:11
Philadelphia	4:49	4:56	5:04	5:12	5:20	5:28	5:37	5:45
Pittsburgh	5:07	5:14	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:47	5:55	6:03
Reading	4:51	4:58	5:06	5:14	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:40
Richmond	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:42	5:49	5:50
Roanoke	5:16	5:22	5:29	5:37	5:44	5:52	6:00	6:07
Toledo	5:18	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:16
Trenton	4:47	4:54	5:01	5:09	5:18	5:26	5:35	5:43
Wash., D.C.	5:00	5:06	5:14	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:45	5:52



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