

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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WHEN IT COMES TO EVANGELISM

Are we getting it right?

At the Columbia Union Transformational Evangelism Conference, the DePaulas, among others, discussed what's working and what's not



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When it Comes to Evangelism, Are We Getting it Right?

V. Michelle Bernard

Are Revelation Seminars outdated? Do we need to totally change our worship styles? What does it really mean to be a disciple? Must we use traditional forms of evangelism to be effective? Some 160 pastors recently gathered at the Transformational Evangelism conference to tackle these questions.

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About the Cover: Brenda and Edwin DePaula were photographed at the Transformational Evangelism conference in Columbia, Md., by Brian Patrick Tagalog. **Above:** Pastors from across the Columbia Union gather at the same event.

ON THE WEB

ETHICAL EVANGELISM?

In an effort to help his local community, Cesar Gonzalez, a Chesapeake Conference pastor in the poorest county in Maryland, started a summer FLAG (Fun Learning About God) camp several years ago, sponsored by the Cambridge (Md.) church. “Our church kids showed up and had a great time, but the children who really needed the experience could not afford it. In fact, they couldn’t even travel the couple of miles from their neighborhood to my church, which—like many Seventh-day Adventist churches—is nestled in an affluent neighborhood away from the urban center in my town,” he said.

This created a minor crisis in his ministry. How could he serve these children? In this opinion piece, Gonzalez urges readers to think about the ethics of evangelism. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/ethicalevangelism.



WATCH TRANSFORMATIONAL EVANGELISM VIDEOS

During the Columbia Union Conference’s recent Transformational Evangelism conference, Adventist leaders such as Elizabeth Talbott, speaker/director for Jesus 101, Tim Madding, lead pastor of the Beltsville (Md.) churches, and Sung Kwon, executive director of Adventist Community Services, gathered with Columbia Union Conference pastors to discuss the best ways to evangelize our community in today’s culture.

Watch the full presentations, and see why projects such as Project Somebody from Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast church in Cleveland won \$10,000 (Pastor Jerome Hurst, pictured celebrating) during the “Shark Tank” event at columbiaunionvisitor.com/transformationalevangelismvideos.



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Seeking Relevance

First Chronicles 12:32 mentions the tribe of Issachar who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (NIV). We need Issacharian pastors today who understand the trends and changes in our culture, and who will reach out to and engage people for Christ in relevant ways. Evangelism isn’t a set of skills you learn once and then are universally and always applicable. Evangelism isn’t static because people aren’t static. Our culture and communities aren’t static. They are constantly changing.



I was powerfully reminded of this as I visited with a pastor at our Columbia Union evangelism conference in late April. He recently pastored a church in Southwest Baltimore,



one I had also pastored 33 years ago.

As we compared notes, it was fascinating to learn how the community around the church had drastically changed through the years.

New families moved into the neighborhood, many of whom represented racial and socio-economic groups vastly different from

the congregation. The community’s transformation was reflected in the turnover of the local business scene, restaurants and school district. Everything in the community changed except our church. They attempted to reach the new demographic, using the same methods and programming as always. But the church no longer looked like its neighborhood. Gradually it became a “drive-in church,” since none of its members lived in the neighborhood any longer. The physical and social distance separating the church from the people surrounding its building grew. Eventually the church was sold, and the congregation merged with a church in another community.

STUDENTS OF THE TIMES

The pace of this change is accelerating. The shelf life of evangelistic ideas, assumptions and approaches is shorter than it has ever been. That is why it is critical that our church leaders and members, like these sons of Issachar, be students of the times. The gap between how quickly we change and how quickly society is changing leads to *irrelevance*.

In reality, many Adventist churches are perfectly poised to reach out and evangelize a world that no longer exists. Neglected satellite dishes, closets full of outdated literature answering questions no one is asking and dusty unused baptistries all bear witness to the irrelevance of our methods. Walking into some of our buildings and experiencing the worship services is like entering a time capsule. And many of our members don’t even have friends outside the church.

The gospel must never change, but we need new methods to communicate its timeless message. We must transform our church culture and also create strong relationships with our community so we can minister to our neighbors in culturally relevant ways.

In this issue of the *Visitor*, you’ll see a recap of our evangelism conference. While attendees expressed appreciation for the creative ideas, models of excellence and thought-provoking discussions, my prayer is that, as a result of this event, we will see “descendants” from the tribe of Issachar rise up in our church today.

Frank Bondurant serves as Columbia Union Conference’s vice president for Ministries Development.

Newsline

V. MICHELLE BERNARD



MOUNTAIN VIEW RE-ELECTS OFFICERS

Last month delegates to the Mountain View Conference's (MVC) first Quinquennial Constituency Session at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., voted to re-elect President Mike Hewitt (with wife, Brittan) and Secretary/Treasurer Victor Zill (with wife, Monica). Read more in MVC's July/August newsletter.

HISPANIC SMALL GROUPS CELEBRATE 987 BAPTISMS

This spring Spanish-speaking churches around the Columbia Union Conference participated in a highlight of the Vida GPS (Healthy Small Groups) initiative, with a North American Division-led week



The Vida Nueva small group started meeting after 14 members from Allegheny West Conference's Central Hispanic Church in Cincinnati and their friends and family created a small group to reach the local Honduran immigrant community, another fruit of Vida GPS.

of an internet-streamed evangelism series presented by Evangelist Alejandro Bullón. Leading up to the event, members participated in months of coordinated training, creation and nurturing of small groups in homes and churches that would eventually host the meetings.

Some 2,475 Spanish-speaking small groups participated. As a result of the initiative, these groups, with more than 10,000 members, have celebrated 987 baptisms from January 1 to May 5, says Rubén Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries in the union.

Local leaders placed a special emphasis on growing the amount of small groups, which increased from 900 groups in 2017. Hispanic

Ministries leaders are praying for 3,000 small groups by the end of 2019.

One highlight from the initiative was when members from a small group of youth in Potomac Conference's Alexandria Spanish (Va.) church welcomed Karim to their meeting. Karim, who was Muslim, made a connection with Pastor Omar Fismed, whose family came from Palestine, during the meetings. At the close of the meeting, as 20 people prepared themselves for baptism, Fismed gave a final appeal, and Karim came forward to give his life to Jesus. He is now trying to establish a small group, said Ramos, who adds, "He was a deeply committed Muslim. And now with the same commitment, he is trying to help bring his family to Christ."

14 UNION TEAMS PLACE FIRST AT NAD PBE

Pathfinders and Adventurers from Potomac Conference's Leesburg church celebrate their first-place status at the North American Division's Pathfinder Bible Experience in Rockford, Ill., this spring. See rankings at columbiaunionvisitor.com/2019nadbpe.



Claim the promises of God every single day of your life. If you don't, you may forget who God is.

—Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer, in a worship talk presented at the May Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting.

NURSES HONORED AT APPRECIATION DAY EVENT



More than 100 nurses from around the Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac conferences recently gathered at Potomac's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., for Nurses' Appreciation Day. "We wanted our Adventist nurses to be recognized, acknowledged and celebrated for the work they do. We want them to know that the Adventist church and the Adventist HealthCare system appreciates them," said event organizer Kathy Coleman, Faith Community Nurse coordinator and program director for Adventist HealthCare, headquartered in Montgomery County, Maryland.

During the event, Ann Roda (pictured above, left), vice president of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare, and Coleman (right) honored Bernice DeShay (center), a member of Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., with the Adventist HealthCare Faith Community Health Nightingale Nursing Excellence Award. DeShay, a retired nurse and nursing instructor at Columbia Union College (CUC)—now Washington Adventist University—in Takoma Park, Md., created a Parish nursing (now called Faith Community Nursing) program at CUC and helped bring awareness of the specialty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Adventist HealthCare, the North American Division Health Ministries Department, the Columbia Union,

\$746,343

The amount of funds (including union and matching funds) that the Columbia Union Conference has returned to local churches for ministry projects this year.

the Adventist Association of Faith Community Nurses and three local conferences hosted the event.

JOBSON TO JOIN UNION EDUCATION TEAM

Starting July 1, Alison Jobson will start her new role as associate director for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Pre-K at the Columbia Union Conference in Columbia, Md. Since July 2016, Jobson has served as the elementary vice principal at Ohio Conference's Spring Valley Academy in Centerville.



"Alison brings to this position an outstanding record of scholarship and leadership," says Donovan Ross, vice president for Education in the Columbia Union Conference. "She is committed to Seventh-day Christian Education, and will be a great addition to our team. ... We look forward to her leadership as we continue to support the growth of our current ECEC programs and the opening of new centers."

Jobson says she's "looking forward to serving with the Columbia Union Education team in order to support the educators in our wide community. High-quality Seventh-day Adventist Early Childhood Education and Care allows for current and future student success."

MARYLAND PASTORS ATTEND INTERFAITH EVENT



Pastors from around Maryland, including Chesapeake Conference's Javier Moreno, Jenner Becerra and Orlando Rosales (pictured with Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, second from right), recently attended an interfaith dialogue with state representatives at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Students from the first graduating class at Chesapeake Conference's Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., pose in their graduation gowns in 1949. The school celebrated their 70th graduation this spring.



PHOTOS BY ARLENE BONILLA, PIETER DAMSTEEGT/NAO, ANDRE HASTICK

Noticias

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

CUANDO SE TRATA DE EVANGELISMO, ¿LO ESTAMOS HACIENDO BIEN?

En la reciente conferencia *Transformational Evangelism*, los pastores de la Unión de Columbia se reunieron para lidiar con preguntas sobre lo que está funcionando en relación con el evangelismo y lo que no.

Durante el evento de tres días, realizado en Columbia, Md., 160 asistentes escucharon a oradores que presentaron innumerables ideas para un evangelismo efectivo y discutieron cómo implementarlas en la sociedad de hoy, cada vez más secular.

“Hemos hecho [el evangelismo] de la misma manera durante muchos años, y hemos visto que los resultados van decreciendo, y nuestras iglesias [y pastores] están desanimados”, dice el organizador del evento Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente de Desarrollo de Ministerios de la Unión. “Queríamos exponerlos a un espectro completo de formas diferentes en que nuestras iglesias en la Unión de Columbia están llegando a sus comunidades y presentándoles a Jesús a las personas”.

Para ver videos de las presentaciones en inglés, visite columbiaunionvisitor.com/transformationalevangelismvideos.



Carolina Ramos, asistente administrativa para Desarrollo de Ministerios y coorganizadora del evento, registra a Ismael Núñez, pastor de las iglesias de Belleville, Newark y Sion en la Conferencia de New Jersey.

LA CONFERENCIA DE MOUNTAIN VIEW REELIGE PRESIDENTE

En mayo, los delegados a la primera sesión de la Asamblea Quinquenal de la Conferencia de Mountain View (MVC) en Valley Vista Adventist Center en Huttonsville, West Virginia, votaron para reelegir al presidente Mike Hewitt y al secretario/tesorero Victor Zill.

GRUPOS PEQUEÑOS HISPANOS CELEBRAN 987 BAUTISMOS

Esta primavera, las iglesias de habla hispana alrededor de la Unión de Columbia participaron de una semana de evangelismo Vida GPS organizada por la División Norteamericana. Esta fue transmitida por Internet y presentada por el evangelista Alejandro Bullón. En preparación para el evento, los miembros participaron en meses de capacitación y creación de grupos pequeños en hogares e iglesias que eventualmente organizarían las reuniones.

2.475 grupos pequeños de habla hispana participaron del evento. Estos grupos, con más de 10,000 miembros, han celebrado 987 bautismos desde el 1 de enero hasta el 5 de mayo como resultado de la iniciativa, dice Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingües de la Unión.

Los líderes locales hicieron hincapié en aumentar la cantidad de grupos pequeños, que aumentó de 900 en 2017. Los líderes de Ministerios Hispanos oran por 3,000 grupos pequeños para fines de 2019.

Un aspecto destacado de la iniciativa fue cuando los miembros de un grupo pequeño de jóvenes de la iglesia Hispana de Alexandria (Virginia) de la Conferencia de Potomac dieron la bienvenida a Karim, un musulmán. Al final de la reunión, mientras 20 personas se preparaban para el bautismo, el pastor Omar Fismed dio un último llamado y Karim se adelantó para dar su vida a Jesús. Ahora está tratando de establecer un grupo



Más de 460 miembros de grupos Vida GPS de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania celebran sus ministerios en el hotel Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey antes de que comience la semana evangelística.

pequeño, dijo Ramos, quien agrega: “Era un musulmán profundamente comprometido. Y ahora con el mismo compromiso, él está tratando de llevar a su familia a Cristo”.

JOBSON SE UNIRÁ AL EQUIPO DE EDUCACIÓN DE LA UNIÓN

A partir del 1 de julio, Alison Jobson comenzará su nuevo cargo como directora asociada de Educación y Cuidado de la Niñez Temprana (ECEC por sus siglas en inglés) Pre-K en la Unión de Columbia. Desde julio de 2016, Jobson se ha desempeñado como vicedirectora de la Academia de Spring Valley de la Conferencia de Ohio en Centerville.

“Alison trae a esta posición un historial sobresaliente de becas y liderazgo”, dice Donovan Ross, vicepresidente de Educación en la Unión de Columbia.

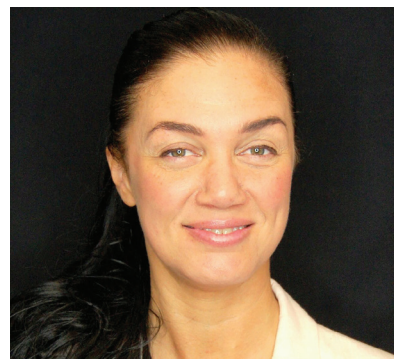


FOTO POR BRIAN PATRICK TAGALOG

QUANT À L'ÉVANGÉLISATION, SOMMES-NOUS SUR LA BONNE VOIE ?

Lors de la récente conférence sur l'Évangélisation Transformationnelle, des pasteurs de toute L'Union de Fédérations de Columbia se sont réunis pour s'interroger sur ce qui fonctionne et ce qui ne fonctionne pas dans le domaine l'évangélisation.

Au cours de cet événement de trois jours tenu à Columbia, dans le Maryland, 160 participants ont écouté des orateurs qui ont présenté une myriade d'idées pour une évangélisation efficace et ont discuté sur façon de les mettre en œuvre dans une société de plus en plus laïque.

Le président de l'Union, Dave Weigley, a déclaré : « L'évangélisation transformationnelle va au-delà de ce que la majorité considère comme de l'évangélisation traditionnelle ; c'est là que l'église essaie de se transformer pour continuer à gagner d'âme, reconnaissant toujours les personnes perdues qui franchissent la porte, en étant conviviale, ouverte, etc.... C'est vraiment l'idée de quelque chose qui est pertinent et significatif [dans le monde d'aujourd'hui.] »

Pour regarder des vidéos des présentations en anglais, visitez columbiaunionvisitor.com/transformationalevangelismvideos.



Pasteur Gaspar Colón, responsable de Nurture and Discipleship à l'église adventiste de Spencerville de la Fédération de Chesapeake à Silver Spring, dans le Maryland, prie.



JOBSON REJOINT L'ÉQUIPE DE L'ÉDUCATION DE L'UNION

A partir du 1er juillet, Alison Jobson prendra ses nouvelles fonctions en tant que directrice adjointe de l'Éducation de la Petite Enfance et de la Pré-Maternelle à l'Union de Columbia. Depuis juillet 2016, Jobson occupe le poste de directrice adjointe au niveau primaire à la Spring Valley Academy de la Fédération Ohio à Centerville.

« Alison apporte à ce poste une feuille de route et un leadership remarquables », a déclaré Donovan Ross, vice-président de l'éducation pour l'Union de Columbia.

PETITS GROUPES HISPANIQUES CÉLÈBRENT 987 BAPTÊMES

Ce printemps, les églises hispanophones à travers l'Union de Columbia ont participé à l'un des moments forts du programme Vida GPS, avec une semaine organisée par la Division Nord-Américaine consacrée à une série sur l'évangélisation diffusée sur Internet et présentée par l'évangéliste Alejandro Bullón. En prélude à cet événement, les membres ont participé à des mois de formation coordonnée, de création et de soutien de petits groupes dans les maisons et les églises qui organiseraient éventuellement les réunions.

Quelque 2475 petits groupes hispanophones y ont participé. Rubén Ramos, vice-président des ministères multilingues de l'Union précise, ces groupes, avec plus de

10.000 membres, ont gagné 987 âmes du 1er janvier au 5 mai 2019, comme résultat du programme.

Les dirigeants locaux ont mis un accent particulier sur l'augmentation du nombre de petits groupes, qui est passé à 900 en 2017. Les responsables des ministères hispaniques prient pour qu'ils atteignent le nombre de 3 000 petits groupes d'ici la fin de 2019.



Plus de 460 membres de petits groupes de Vida GPS de la Fédération de Pennsylvanie célèbrent leurs ministères à l'hôtel Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey avant l'ouverture de la semaine d'évangélisation du programme Vida GPS.

LA FÉDÉRATION MT. VIEW REÉLIT SON PRÉSIDENT

En mai dernier, à la première session quinquennale de la Fédération de Mountain View (MVC) au Valley Vista Adventist Center de Huttonsville, Virginie-Occidentale, les délégués ont voté en faveur de la réélection du président Mike Hewitt et du secrétaire / trésorier Victor Zill. (Plus d'informations dans le bulletin de juillet / août de MVC).



Are We Getting it Right?

At the recent Transformational Evangelism conference, pastors from across the Columbia Union Conference gathered to grapple with questions about what's working and what's not.

Story by V. Michelle Bernard
Photos by Brian Patrick Tagalog

Historically, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has relied heavily on old-style revival efforts, prophecy seminars in public spaces and other traditional forms of evangelism. In the last 20 years, popular speakers have transmitted their sermons to local churches via satellite—all to share the unique Seventh-day Adventist message.

At the recent Transformational Evangelism conference, pastors from across the Columbia Union



Conference gathered to grapple with several questions: What are the best methods to share the message? Whose job is it to evangelize? What is the missing element in many evangelism efforts? And is it really evangelism if you don't make an appeal?

During the three-day event held in Columbia, Md., 160 attendees listened to speakers who presented myriad ideas for effective evangelism and discussed how to implement them in today's increasingly secular society.

"We've done [evangelism] the same way for so many years, and we've seen diminishing results, and our churches [and pastors] are discouraged," says event organizer Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the union. "We tend to have a very narrow view of what evangelism looks like and how it works, ... so we wanted to expose them to a whole spectrum of different ways that our churches in the Columbia Union are reaching out to their communities



and introducing people to Jesus."

Union President Dave Weigley (pictured left, with Bondurant) adds, "Transformational Evangelism is about more than what most people think of as traditional evangelism. It's where the church attempts to transform itself into being continually 'on' for soul-winning—always recognizing lost people who walk through the door, being user-friendly, transparent, etc. ... It's really getting at the idea of something that's relevant and meaningful [in today's world]."

Members On Mission

"In many parts of the world, the church isn't growing," said Bill McClendon, vice president for Administration at the North Pacific Union Conference, during his "Transforming Disciples Into Disciple-makers" presentation. "In North America it has plateaued for a number of years. ... We're



Emil Peeler, senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., challenged attendees to ask themselves if their churches were warm, loving and accepting of those who may not look like them.

JT Pinilla, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Wilna and Dundalk (Md.) churches; Jean Pierre, pastor of Chesapeake's Salisbury (Md.) Spanish Company, Seaford (Del.) Spanish Company and Cambridge (Md.) Spanish Group; and Luis Beltre, pastor of Potomac Conference's Martinsville, South Boston, Piney Forest and Stuart churches in Virginia, discuss how to integrate evangelism into their local church cultures.

Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, pastor for worship at Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., talks with fellow pastors.



Despite the fact that 94 percent of people did not come in contact with the Adventist Church by a handbill, radio advertisement, TV commercial or billboard, we continue to use [these methods]. They came because somebody brought them.

—Roger Hernandez, director of Ministerial & Evangelism at the Southern Union Conference

encouraged when we hear messages of what is happening overseas. It's almost as if we've given up on the idea that it could happen here. ... Unless something changes, we will be the first generation to hand off a church that is weaker than when we found it."

McClendon thinks the church can do better. "God is a god that inspires life and can bring life out of the most barren places," he told the pastors. "You aren't the one to do all the work of the ministry. You're called to lead an organization of believers and charge them to do ministry for the Lord."

Potomac Conference pastors Jennifer Deans of the Living Faith and Cornerstone congregations in Northern Virginia, and Tim Madding of Beltsville's Ammendale and Tech Road churches in Maryland, also encouraged the pastors to empower members to participate in the discipling and evangelism process.

Deans said, "God has told us to invest in the people who He's put in our lives. It's His job to convict, and 100 percent of our mission as pastors is to send our people as missionaries."

She continued, "We [often] feel that unless our members [go] through a class, that they're [not prepared] enough to share the story of God," reminding the crowd that Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs with only the Holy Spirit.

Deans and her church leaders are working to create a culture where members are always 100 percent "on mission." She shared an example of a member who would wait until his neighbors left the halls in his apartment building before leaving in the morning.

"He started realizing he needed to be a missionary," and now waits until he hears people in the hall before leaving so he can talk and grow relationships.

The same man, who teaches violin, starting sharing his faith with an atheist student during her music lessons, and said, "I think you're an atheist with questions." She later opened up and spent almost two full lessons talking about her faith questions. The student eventually chose to be baptized.

While not all connections made by members result in baptisms, Dean's members now have 400 people they are impacting on a regular basis through relationships, a number that wouldn't be so high if the group didn't see themselves as disciples.

Reflecting on this point, event attendee Regina Johnson, the administrative pastor at Allegheny West Conference's Grace Community church in Euclid, Ohio, shared a story about one of her younger parishioners who recently shared a post on Instagram saying an interaction with her had been "life-changing."

Johnson didn't recall anything special in their interaction, but remembered that in the past she had opened up to the young lady about some similar struggles they both shared. That moment of encouragement strengthened their relationship.

"There are times where I'm not looking to try and share my story. But when I meet somebody who is going through something that



Opposite page: Bill McClendon, Regina Johnson and Jennifer Deans

Right: New Jersey Conference pastors Stefan Burton-Schnüll, Carlos De La Cruz and Bruce Banner flank Elizabeth Talbot to get a photograph.

I'm going through, if I'm willing to be transparent, it's going to come out," said Johnson, who thinks the member will do the same for others now. "When she meets someone else, she's going to be able to say, 'Hey, I also dealt with that, and this is what I did, and this is how I overcame.' How do you think that's going to help and impact the church culture? What could that do if we had more authentic people in our churches? I think they can change the church completely ... and shift our narrative."

Johnson continued, "I think for so long [church members] act like we're a bunch of perfect people coming to serve a perfect God. And I think when we are able to come in and realize we're a bunch of non-perfect people, serving a perfect God, [it will be] encouraging to know that I'm sitting next to somebody who also is trying to get it right. ... I think as young adults, I don't feel like we had a generation that was above us that opened up and shared."

Johnson concluded, "What could that do if we had more authentic people in our churches? I think [it could] change the church completely."

Method Swap?

"One of the things that boggles my mind is [how we] sometimes do the same thing repeatedly, even if it doesn't work," challenged opening session presenter Roger Hernandez, director of Ministerial & Evangelism at the Southern Union Conference. "At some point we have to say, 'Our message is unchangeable, our method needs to be contextualized.'"

Attendee Cesar Gonzalez, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Beacon of Light and Cambridge



7 Ways to Build Relationships in the Community

"Evangelism is not an event; it is a process," said presenter Carlton Byrd (praying with attendee Bonnie Cutright). "Everything a church does should reflect evangelism, but it has to be relevant to the culture and context in which we live." In his presentation "How to Make Your Church's Evangelism Relevant," he shared the importance of using fresh and innovative ideas in public evangelistic outreach. Here are a few ways he and other presenters and attendees shared that can help build relationships:

- Community baby showers/ dedications
- Voter registration drives
- Homecoming celebrations for former inmates
- Health/fitness classes
- Environmental/green projects
- Back-to-School bashes
- Community classes (smoking cessation, computer, health, ESOL)



churches on Maryland's Eastern Shore, referenced his article titled, "Ethical Evangelism" (see On the Web, p. 2, for details): "Our form of evangelism was developed in a time when the vast majority of the population was already Christian. It [assumes] that people will have a strong understanding of the gospel and respect for the authority of the Bible. This is no longer the case, and I think it is why only one or

two percent of people that receive mailings will respond."

Gonzalez says that most Adventists he meets are graying and over 55-years-old, and "the way that we do evangelism has been left behind by the culture. And we have to adapt to the culture that we're in now."

He continued, "I would ask them, tell me how your kids would like to attend a 30-day Revelation

Ryan Comeau, associate pastor at Chesapeake Conference's Hagerstown (Md.) church, accepts \$5,000 from the event's "Shark Tank" competition for the church's planned Christian gaming convention.

Seminar? ... I think most people realize that they're imposing something on somebody that they don't know that they would never impose on someone that they love. ... And that has to change. ... If we can't reach our own kids, then how are we going to reach people that we don't know who are very much like our own kids?"

Participant Ryan Comeau, associate pastor at Chesapeake Conference's Hagerstown (Md.) church, a young adult, says if we want to appeal to younger audiences, something else must be done. "Millennials and Generation Z want to live in the now, and we should gear our evangelistic efforts toward the present. I'm not saying we should throw out our belief in the Second Coming, but we should show how that belief and others pertain to their lives today. ... We need to make the gospel [message we share] relevant."

One way his church is trying to do this is by planning Christ Con, a Christian gaming and entertainment convention designed for and planned by young adults with smaller meetings throughout the year. This project won funding during the Transformational Evangelism's "Shark Tank" event. (For more, see On the Web.) "With an event like this, connections can



be made through shared interests and trying out a variety of games together. ... It will also serve to inspire our young adults to begin the lead-up events this summer. ... Hopefully by connecting with others, we can eventually connect them with Christ," he says.

Do Not Feed Them So They Can Get Baptized

"If you go to the Bible, people didn't follow Jesus, didn't love Jesus because of His diet, music or dress. Jesus wasn't loved because of His profession," said presenter José Cortes Jr., associate director of Evangelism for the North American Division Ministerial Association. "People loved Jesus because Jesus loved people. Our problem isn't with our message. We need members who are filled with the love of God and the compassion of Jesus."

Cortes continued, "We do not feed them so they can get baptized; we feed them because they are 'hungry.' We do compassion because it transforms individuals

and communities. ... And because it helps us make friends and gains the confidence of those who are blessed regularly. ... It makes proclamation more effective. ... But compassion isn't a substitute for proclamation. Somebody has to tell the story [of] Jesus. But it becomes a lot easier to tell them about Jesus when somebody has already shown them."

Edwin and Brenda DePaula (pictured, right) are doing just that at Pennsylvania Conference's Allentown Hispanic Community church, which they helped start and lead. Knowing they wanted to be a community church, they first prayed, listened to current and former members and reached out to local community organizations to discover what their needs were, then put together a strategic plan.

"We wanted to know how we as a church could [best] serve the community," says Edwin, the church's volunteer lay pastor.

"We're passionate about our community. We're passionate about our church and wanted to give back



Attendee Bob Snyder, pastor of the Pennsylvania Conference's Altoona, Everett, Lewistown and State College district, has been a pastor for 34 years. "You cannot expect any more that you'll send out thousands of brochures and you'll get a great crowd [like in the 1980s]," he said. "People think different. Their religious views are more affected. Some even don't have them. Some people are secular. You need to do things differently. So you can't expect people to come to the church anymore. You're going to have to go to them. ... We're going to have to get into the community to get people interested."



To view presentations from the Transformational Evangelism conference, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/transformationalevangelism.

somehow,” added Brenda, church communication director.

From bringing speakers to present on topics like depression, addiction and domestic violence to asking other organizations how church members can help, they focus on building relationships and meeting identified needs.

Another method a church can use to meet the needs in the community is what Gonzalez did in his Cambridge congregation when they started hosting a FLAG (Fun Learning About God) camp. The first summer his churches had five staff that hosted seven campers—all church kids. They soon started opening the camp to the community and 45 children eventually came.

“We started to realize early on that these kids were hungry. ... And when they came in and started asking for lunch at 10:30 a.m., we looked around and said we have to do something,” he said. Church volunteers [who provided food] “eventually opened the camp for two weeks but realized that when camp was over, the kids went back out on the streets, again having a ‘Snickers and a Coke for lunch,’” says Gonzalez. They knew they had to do something and expanded the program to six weeks.

“Although I have created many relationships and bonds with kids and their families from my time working with FLAG Camp, I have not added any new members to my church from this program. Is it worth it? I struggled with this question for months. The answer seemed simple, ‘Yes, of course it’s worth it,’” said Gonzalez in “Ethical Evangelism.” “But the reality for an Adventist pastor is a bit more complicated. We work in an ethereal sort of economy. While other ‘industries’ have a tangible product and the value of their workers can be easily calculated

in dollars, a pastor’s only tangible ‘product’ is baptisms.”

But isn’t the intention of evangelism to introduce and welcome people to the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Evangelism Is Not An Event

“Friendship, kindness and compassion ministries are crucial foundations for evangelism. Scripture is clear that we are called to compassion ministry. It helps members grow an outward focus and establishes a positive reputation in the community,” says Larry Witzel, who worked for 20 years as a pastor and is president of SermonView Evangelism Marketing, a provider of marketing services to Adventist churches throughout North America. “But the data says, if we don’t ask for decisions, people don’t join the church. The Seventh-day Adventist churches with the most baptisms across the [North American Division] include public meetings as part of the evangelism cycle.”

Presenter Carlton Bryd, senior pastor of the Oakwood University church in Huntsville, Ala., and speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Broadcast,



believes evangelism and a healthy church culture can lead to growth. “Evangelism is not an event; it is a process,” said Byrd. “Everything a church does should reflect evangelism.”

This includes the Sabbath morning worship experience, says Emil Peeler. In his session, “Making Your Sabbath Worship Service an Evangelistic Experience,” Peeler, senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., posed the following questions: “Is your church warm? Is your church loving? Is it accepting of those who may not look like you? If you want to make your church, your worship service more evangelistic, I want to challenge the leaders to do the best you can to cultivate a warm atmosphere and to turn the focus of your worship to God. It isn’t about you. It isn’t about me. It isn’t about our likes and preferences. It’s about God. ... We have to make sure the focus of worship is to God and God alone.”





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Willow Grove Opens Soup Kitchen, Holds Community Day

The Willow Grove (Pa.) church recently launched the grand opening of their soup kitchen at the Grace Center of Hope building, located across from the church. They held this event in conjunction with their Community Outreach Day. More than 40 community residents and seven police officers from the Abington Police Department (Pa.) attended.

Attendees enjoyed free giveaways such as clothes, slippers, toys and appliances and chose from several meal options provided by the soup kitchen.

Several church departments joined together to provide services and resources to the community. The Stewardship Department set up a booth to assist anyone who had questions on budgeting and money management. The medical team assessed vital signs, blood glucose levels and weight and body mass indexes.

Willow Grove's Chieftans Pathfinder Club got involved too. Their drum corps marched through the neighborhood distributing invitations to the grand opening. They also gave water and juice to passersby and assisted with clothing donations.

Members from the local fire and police departments handed out safety activity books and crayons, and police officers spoke with the children about calling 911 in case of an emergency.



Willow Grove church member Rosemarie Webster takes blood pressure from frequent visitor Dornell LaVant during the Community Outreach Day.

"The community members greatly appreciated the effort and kindness shown to them. We hope this program will be used to bring people to Christ in the Willow Grove and surrounding communities," says Stacia Smith, community outreach leader.

Wilbert F. Mays Holds Scholastic Book Fair

This school year, the Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School (WFM), located in Teaneck, N.J., held a Scholastic Book Fair, themed "Enchanted Forest."



The school invited students and families into a whimsical space full of books. The five-day event was open to the community from

Preschoolers admire some of the books offered during the school's "Enchanted Forest" book fair.

8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. One evening, WFM hosted a family night where parents came to read with their scholars.

Students enjoyed shopping for books before and after school and during their lunch breaks. The fair featured books for every reading level, as well as other items such as posters, an assortment of erasers, pencils, bookmarks and pens.

WFM held a contest for the class that had the highest amount in sales. The K-2 class won, earning them a pizza, cupcake and ice cream party. Preschooler Aiden Khubba and second-grader Laila Thomas had the highest amount in individual sales and received special "Enchanted Forest" pins.

"We want each student to become an avid reader in their educational journey to excellence," says M. Ann Smith, interim principal. "Our goal is to help students develop a love for reading as it helps with essential literary skills and promotes brain development."

Camden Church Organizes Mock Trial for Local School

When the Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J., adopted their neighborhood school—H. B. Wilson Elementary—they wanted to make a difference. One recent initiative was a “mock” trial, designed to teach students about the judicial system and bring awareness to the seriousness of crime.

Mt. Olivet members Ingrid French, an administrative supervising judge of worker’s compensation for New Jersey, and Lorene Watkins, Mt. Olivet’s Relationship Ministries leader, developed the idea. French presented the concept to Principal Nicole Harrigan, and she and her staff embraced the idea. Fifth-grade teachers coached the children, and Mt. Olivet church members assisted with the trial.

“In addition to being good role models for the students, we were helping urban youth appreciate a justice system that is not perceived as being ‘user-friendly’ for them,” says French.

The mock trial was held at Rutgers University (N.J.) after almost 40 hours of practicing and developing the court scenario. The fifth-grade students played the roles of judge, prosecutor, defense attorney and jurors.

The scenario involved Superman being charged with the crime of bursting through the wall of a Costco



Lorene Watkins, Mt. Olivet’s Relationship Ministries leader, gives a high five to a fifth-grader from a local public school who played the “Superman” defendant during a mock trial.

warehouse. Superman’s character demonstrated that when you have a good reputation, people are more likely to give you the benefit of the doubt.

“The mock trial helped the students to display teamwork, fairness and how to be a good sport whether you win or lose,” says Watkins.

PHOTO BY APRIL SAUL

Central Maryland Korean Hosts Church Dedication

The Central Maryland Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md., recently celebrated the burning of their mortgage with a church dedication program.



Visitors from surrounding Korean churches, as well as special guests from the conference and the North American Division (NAD), filled the church pews.

Pastor Gyu-Nam Bak welcomed attendees to the celebration, then Henry J. Fordham III, Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) president, and Sam Kim, president of NAD Korean churches, offered some brief comments. Lawrance E. Martin, vice president for finance, conducted the ceremony, inviting the pastor, the oldest member and the youngest member to join him as they safely set a copy of the mortgage on fire (pictured).

Central Maryland Korean began in February 1990 with five families who gathered to worship at the Twinbrook Elementary School (Md.). In July 1990, AEC recognized the small group as a company. In less than a year, the company grew into a church. In 1997 they purchased the building where they now reside.

“We are grateful for how God has blessed us so far, and we are confident about our future,” says Bak.

Shiloh Guest, Recovering Addict Throws Party for God

Birthday parties, retirement goodbyes, anniversary celebrations and many other occasions are reasons worthy to come together and celebrate, but has anyone ever thrown a party for God? Wilbur Davis, an individual who regularly attends the Shiloh Cincinnati church, decided to do just that.

Davis, a recovering and delivered addict, had been attending Shiloh for a month when he approached an elder about having a party to celebrate the goodness of God in his life and just for who God is. After talking with the pastor and laying out his plans, Davis planned an afternoon filled with music, testimonies and good food. He invited people from his recovery group who he met along the way, who have inspired him and who he has touched in one way or another. Guests came from as far as Virginia when they heard what Davis was planning. One by one individuals stood up to praise God and talk about their individual journeys.

The guests—comprised of non-believers—came with one goal in mind: to celebrate God! “Since coming to the Adventist church, this has been an experience that I have never had before. It’s like going to see a world premiere,” Davis says. “That is what I get when I hear the music, hear the preaching. I have never ever experienced that type of spiritual awakening before.”



Wilbur Davis, a Shiloh church community attendee and recovering addict, celebrates God with Shiloh member Rick Howard.

Davis attends church regularly, and brings visitors with him every Sabbath. As a result, many more people are exposed to God’s love—all because someone decided to throw a party.

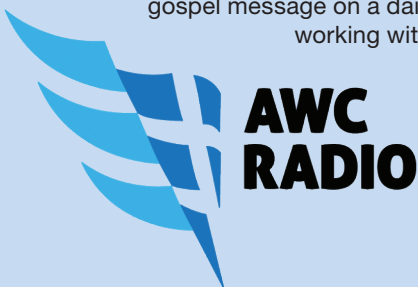
Youth Panel Shares Perspectives on Radio App

A panel comprised of teen and young adult members from the Parkwood church in Toledo, Ohio, recently participated in recording the premiere episode of Youth Uncut, a radio show that will soon start airing on AWC Radio—the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) streaming app. The five panelists, Tiana Valles, Ryen Langford, Shalynn Taylor, Kaden Langford and Deborah Inyama, sat with Benia Jennings, AWC’s new Multimedia Ministries coordinator, in a candid discussion on various topics for the show’s first season. The group, made up of members ages 16 to 29, expressed thoughts and ideas on real issues facing teens and young adults in the church today.

“For many young Adventists being surrounded by a secular world of fashion, music and media, living out the gospel message on a daily basis can be challenging,” says Jennings. “One thing that I have learned from working with our younger members is that their voices are worth hearing and their concerns are worth sharing. Youth Uncut provides a forum for that sharing.”

With support from AWC’s Communication Department, the panel will plan, produce and co-host an upcoming show in which they will discuss relevant topics, share ideas with one another and discover the godly influence they can bring to today’s world.

Beginning this fall, Youth Uncut will air every second Sunday at 6 p.m. on the AWC Radio app, and will be available in the App Store and on Google Play.





Columbus Adventist Academy Experiments with Energy

COSI (Center of Science and Industry) on Wheels, a program that, according to their website, introduces dynamic science topics to enhance inquiry skills, encourage curiosity and spark interest in science, rolled onto Ohio's Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) campus earlier this year, providing students with a unique perspective on energy. Their visit, organized by science teacher Larry Brooks, was the highlight of the school's Science Expo.

Students experienced hands-on learning and



Eighth-grader Bright Ossei-Wusu demonstrates the Friction Table to younger students using a variety of surfaces to learn how friction changes the force and motion of an object.



Themba Makapela, Columbus Adventist Academy's fifth-grade teacher; Brelane Thomas, a fifth-grader; Chris, a COSI inventor; and Lisa Lavales, the school's kindergarten teacher, demonstrate how energy works.

experimented with electricity, magnetism and motion. They helped COSI's inventor complete its greatest creation—SAM (Super Awesome Mini Machine) that harnessed the power of both potential and kinetic energy through multiple moving parts working together to ultimately illuminate the “ENERGY” sign. Students also built circuits, created chain reactions and moved objects without touching them, as they grasped how forces and energy work together.

“We wanted to give the kids an alternative science experience besides the traditional science fair. We were happy to be able to bring COSI to them instead of having to go off-campus for a visit,” says Brooks. “Students learned about energy in all its forms, and, at the end of the day, it was really great to see our kids not only learning, but also working together in the environment. Many of our eighth-grade students were also there to help demonstrate the experiments to younger students.”

Principal Brenda Arthurs expresses, “A special thank you to all the parents and CAA student volunteers for their efforts in making this activity a success.”



CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CURRENTS

Nature Reveals His Nature

Most of us have read the book of Genesis and the story of creation many times, but have you ever “read between the lines”? Have you taken the time to pause after each verse to contemplate the magnitude of what our Creator did for us and how He did it? He spoke, and it was created—incredible!

God’s voice is heard in His creation. The first book He gave us was on nature.

Ellen White writes, “We need no fanciful teaching regarding the personality of God. What God desires us to know of Him is revealed in His word and His works. The beautiful things of nature reveal His character and His power as Creator” (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 94).

As a grandmother, I love to take my 3-year-old grandson outdoors and see him get so excited by the nature around him, over finding a wooly caterpillar in the grass or watching him collect his “treasures” like pinecones, stones, sticks and feathers and hear him say, “Thank you, Jesus.”

In Job 12:7–9, we read, “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” (NIV).

We truly have a lot to thank our Creator for, as we marvel over the awesome gift of nature!



Ann Reynolds
Children's
Ministries Director

Healthy Meals, Seminar Offers Tips for Families

This spring during the annual Chesapeake Children’s and Youth Leaders Enrichment Day, hosted at the Baltimore-White Marsh (Md.) church, a new presentation instructed attendees on healthier living. In the “Creative Healthy Meals” seminar, Connie Edwards, Health Ministries director of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., highlighted the importance of both teaching and modeling the health message to the next generation.

Edwards began with a holistic overview, explaining why a whole-food, plant-based diet is vitally important, especially for children. The seminar instructed participants of health benefits for embracing this lifestyle, including helping to prevent the onset of heart conditions, Type 2 diabetes and other maladies. The seminar also highlighted that a holistic life approach connects physical health, mental health and spirituality. They work together toward experiencing optimal health.

Demonstrating that it does not need to be difficult to cook healthy meals, Edwards made a food demo using simple ingredients available at any grocery store. She also suggested making kid-approved meals healthier, such as cheese-less veggie pizza and nutrient-rich rice bowls. Other tips covered decreasing or eliminating oil

when cooking, water-based sautéing and how to properly read food labels. Several children in attendance volunteered and helped to prepare four-ingredient burgers, kale salad and overnight oats. Overall, the seminar offered instructions on how to convert the abundance of health information into practical healthy living for families.—*Gaspar Colón*



Connie Edwards, Atholton church's Health Ministries director, conducts a seminar instructing families on how to make healthy meals.

PHOTO BY GASPAR COLÓN

New Castle Uses Health to Reach Community

Recently the New Castle Spanish church in Wilmington, Del., made a concerted effort to reach their community with targeted health initiatives. The church held a Health and Wellness Week, featuring special guest Chef Julio Barillas. Throughout the week, presented topics included healthy versus unhealthy fats, the effects of meat consumption and the benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables, providing insight and practical health tips to those gathered.

Attendees watched a cooking demonstration to help prepare healthy dishes at the daily meetings. Upward of eight visitors from the community joined each weeknight. The final evening incorporated a more spiritual topic, centering around Jesus being the giver of true abundant life. As a result, one visitor expressed a desire to know more about the Word of God and the church. All attendees received a participation certificate celebrating the new information received and a renewed commitment to healthy living.

A few weeks later, New Castle conducted a health



walk as a follow-up to Wellness Week. Thirty adults and 10 children donned specially-designed T-shirts with the church's name and logo (pictured). Four of the walkers were community members who had attended Wellness Week. All walkathon participants completed two miles and some completed three. New Castle plans to hold regular walking events in the future.

PHOTO BY DILCIA GONZALEZ

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Rewarded Beyond Measure

Naomi Tricomi has a fascinating story to share of her experience as a Bible worker in the Mountain View Conference (MVC):

My great-grandparents came to the U.S. from Russia (now Ukraine) in the 19th century and met a group of immigrant Seventh-day Adventists who wanted to claim land in Oklahoma. Our family did not immediately accept Adventism. On my great-grandfather's death bed, he told his family he was convinced that Saturday was God's ordained Sabbath. The entire family joined the Adventist church and were instrumental in building the first church and cemetery in the new territory.

That is how our family became Adventist. Here is how God called me personally to witness for Him. While attending the Oklahoma Camp Meeting in 1972, I felt an overwhelming call to become a literature evangelist. So, I decided to become a colporteur for three years. At that time, Larry Boggess, the former MVC president, was the literature assistant.

In 2012 Boggess contacted me because he was recruiting a Bible worker to follow up contacts from a Voice of Prophecy mailing. I was serving as city clerk at the time and there was little doubt that I would be re-elected at the end of my contract. Still, I felt drawn to the need and mission of Bible work in the MVC.

I served in Huntington, W.Va., for one-and-a-half years, and then the Cumberland, Frostburg and Mountaintop (Md.) district for more than two years. Next, I moved to Beckley, W.Va., the site of the 2016 Your Best Pathway to Health program, followed by engaging in evangelistic meetings and health outreach programs. And for the past year, I have been in the Weirton/Wheeling, W.Va., district and carry the role of pastoral assistant.

One lady that I studied with had a variety of emotional issues. She told me she only wanted Bible lessons to satisfy her sister who kept "nagging" her to "give God a chance." She wanted to study at 4 p.m., but that just so happened to be her "beer thirty" time. She was negative, grumpy and made very coarse comments. After a while, I explained to her that if I didn't receive some respect, she should study on her own. The next time I visited, she had fresh air circulating and



Surrounded by church members Annabel Murphy and Sue Walter, Naomi Tricomi, pastoral assistant for the Weirton/Wheeling, W.Va., district, together display an advertising banner for a Single Mom's Ministries event.

no beer bottle in sight. As time went on, I saw less and less evidence of tobacco or alcohol. On the day she decided to be baptized, we hugged and cried. She tells me she now has peace.

I also studied with a recently retired couple. They requested baptism and wanted it soon. I was a bit concerned they decided too quickly, but they appeared sincere. About a year later, I was in another area when I received an early morning phone call from the husband. His wife had died from a heart attack the night before. Prior to her death, she made him promise to call me first thing and thank me for coming to study with them. That way she could die in peace. He cried and thanked me for giving them the blessed hope.

It is such a privilege to share God's Word with friends, relatives, neighbors and even enemies. The rewards are beyond measure. Every time someone is baptized whom I studied with, I thank the Lord for the opportunity to have played a small part in their commitment to Him.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Parkersburg Blankets Children with Care

The Parkersburg (W.Va.) church recently hosted a Project Linus event, creating handmade blankets for children ages newborn to 18. A total of 16 people participated—measuring, cutting and tying fleece blankets together, while others sewed Project Linus labels on the blankets. Some helpers came for an hour or two, while others stayed all day.

Project Linus blankets go to children who are sick, have experienced trauma through fires or other disasters, are foster children or for other reasons.

Some folks had never made fleece blankets before, while others learned how to crochet edging around the blankets instead of tying them. “I think the blankets are a really great way to show Jesus’ love to other children,” says preteen Jewel Hewitt, who attends Parkersburg. “It made me happy to know that I was helping others by making the blankets.”

At the end of the seven-hour event, volunteers handmade 25 to 30 fleece blankets to add to the more than 200 handmade blankets already completed and ready to be distributed to the Charleston Ronald McDonald House (W.Va.) and the pediatric unit in the

Wheeling Hospital (W.Va.).

Amber Skidmore, Project Linus area chapter coordinator, shares, “Everyone had so much fun that the decision was made to continue this program at the church on a regular basis.”



Winnie, a community friend, sews Project Linus labels on completed blankets during a recent Parkersburg church outreach event.

Member Converts from Mormonism to Adventism

The Cumberland and Frostburg (Md.) churches sponsored an evangelistic series a couple of falls ago, led by Columbia Union Conference President Dave Weigley. While reviewing nightly registration slips, someone noticed that one attendee had indicated he was Mormon. Don Kelly, a fifth-generation Mormon, recalls, “As a child, I heard the story about my great-great-grandfather who was a wagon builder and was in the church with Brigham Young ... the second president of the Church of Latter-Day Saints.”



At the evangelistic series, Kelly was slowly being convicted as he learned truths from the Bible. “When I first received the flier in the mail, I contemplated for two days whether to attend the meetings,” he says. He now believes it was a divine calling.

One topic that really caused him to think was the biblical Sabbath. Kelly realized he had been worshipping on the wrong day. He went back to his church repeatedly to speak with the head bishop about what he was learning. The leaders could not prove him wrong in the doctrines he shared with them.

At last year’s camp meeting, Kelly came forward when he heard the call for baptism. A month later, he was baptized into the Frostburg (Md.) church and is sharing his newfound faith with others on Facebook, including his former Mormon associates. —Jim Buchanan

Prior to baptism, Jim Buchanan (right), pastor of the Cumberland/Frostburg church district, welcomes Don Kelly, a former Mormon, as the newest member of the Frostburg church.

NEWS

NEW JERSEY

Connected to the Mission

In the context of the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:16–20, there are very specific details of why the disciples of Jesus must now be connected to His mission. According to the biblical passage, the following points stand out:

1. Jesus' disciples obey and go to where the Lord commands them—Galilee (Matt. 28:16). Today's disciples must also obey and go to the mission fields where God indicates.
2. Jesus' disciples recognize Him as their God and worship Him (Matt. 28:17). The only one who must be worshipped is God (Matt. 4:9–10). Obedience to God is an act of worship. The fulfillment of the mission that God commands is in the context of worship. It cannot be said that Jesus is our God unless His order is obeyed and His mission fulfilled.
3. The One who gives the command has the authority and power to demand that the order be carried out (Matt. 28:18).
4. The mission of Jesus is not optional. And it is specific: “Go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19).
5. Jesus' companionship in fulfilling the mission is a promise to the end (Matt. 28:20).

The true disciple of Jesus obeys Him, recognizes Him as God and is connected to His mission until the end of time. Get connected to the mission!



Jorge Agüero
President

Conectados a la Misión

En el contexto de la Gran Comisión dada por Jesús en Mateo 28:16 al 20, se encuentran detalles bien específicos de las razones del por qué los discípulos de Jesús de ahora deben estar conectados a la misión de Jesús. De acuerdo con el pasaje bíblico se destaca los siguientes puntos:



El presidente Jorge Agüero (derecha) se dirige a los amigos de la comunidad que asistieron al pequeño grupo de Vida GPS llamado “Emmanuel”.

1. Los discípulos de Jesús obedecen y van donde el Señor les ordena – Galilea (Mat. 28:16). Los discípulos de hoy deben obedecer e ir al lugar misionero donde Dios les indique.
2. Los discípulos de Jesús le reconocen como Dios y le adoran (Mat. 28:17). El único que debe adorarse es a Dios (Mat. 4:9-10). El obedecer a Dios es un acto de adoración. El cumplir la misión que Dios ordena está en el contexto de la adoración. No se puede decir que Jesús es nuestro Dios sino se obedece su orden y se cumple su misión.
3. El que da la orden tiene la autoridad y el poder para demandar que se cumpla la orden (Mat. 28:18).
4. La misión de Jesús no es opcional. Y es específica: “Ir y hacer discípulos” (Mat. 28:19).
5. La compañía de Jesús al cumplir la misión es una promesa hasta el fin (Mat. 28:20).

El verdadero discípulo de Jesús le obedece, le reconoce como Dios y por eso está conectado a la misión, y a Jesús hasta el fin del mundo. ¡Conéctate con la Misión!—Jorge Agüero

West New York Small Group Makes Big Difference

As part of this year's Vida GPS campaign, the West New York Spanish (N.J.) church formed the "Emmanuel" healthy small group. Member and leader Irene Núñez (pictured) opened her doors to become a support home for several community friends. These friends have already become family, and members have taken the time to introduce them to Jesus—the best friend of all. During the one-week Vida GPS, streamed online, evangelist Alejandro Bullón invited them to lay their burdens at Jesus' feet, as many asked for personal prayers. The group also celebrated the birthday of one of their new friends and thanked God for a new opportunity of life, His love and forgiveness. "Winning friends for eternity, strengthening them in faith and obeying the Great Commission is what a healthy small group looks like," says Carlos J. Torres, Personal Ministries director.



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10 Churches Embark Upon 'Growing Young'

I've been involved in Youth and Young Adult Ministries for about 14 years in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I have never seen anything ... take off with [such] gusto as the movement of Growing Young Adventists," said Benjamin Lundquist, Young Adult Ministries coordinator for the North American Division.

Lundquist spoke to 85 young adults and key lay leaders from across the conference at a recent "Immersion" young adult weekend, held at Camp Mohaven in Danville. He explained that while initiatives for churches come and go, Growing Young Adventists (#GYA) has been running strong for three years and is continuing to gain momentum.

Contrary to what the title denotes, #GYA does not focus on younger generations while *excluding* older generations. "I think it really is a movement of churches that want to grow, and leaders that want to grow and create local Seventh-day Adventist churches that can be healthier for all generations," said Lundquist.

One session included a panel discussion with nine young adults from Ohio. These young people exhibited profound vulnerability while sharing their stories. "I left the church when I entered college," explained one participant. "The reason was because I didn't feel accepted. ... I wish that a church member had reached out to me while I was in college or tried to maintain a relationship with me while I was there."

Other young adults shared how they long for connection with their church family. One girl explained that she found her present church when one of the families



Benjamin Lundquist, Youth and Young Adult Ministries coordinator for the North American Division, speaks to multiple generations about identity during the "Immersion" event.



More than 85 young adults and lay leaders from across the conference spend a weekend learning how to "grow young."

simply opened their home to her for a meal after church. Another shared how he valued a text or weekly phone call from a church member who merely wanted to touch base with him and learn how he was doing.

Churches can grow stronger together when older members and young people truly listen to one another. Senior church members need to stay connected with students while they are away at school, and mentor them instead of judging them. Speaking to the older generation, Lundquist said, "Yes, we've all been young adults ... but we've never been a young adult [in today's world]."

Some have said the average age of an Adventist in Ohio is 62. "The reality is we want every age group in all of our churches," said Edward Marton, Youth Ministries director for the Ohio Conference and #GYA-certified speaker. "One of Ron Halvorsen's passions as president is that he wants to see our churches grow young."

This summer the Chillicothe, Clifton, Elyria, Galion, Mansfield, Marion, Revive, Stillwater, Toledo and Worthington churches in Ohio will embark upon the movement to grow young. Both Marton and Halvorsen will serve as #GYA coaches for these 10 churches. Visit ohioadventist.org, or call (740) 397-4665 to learn more about this growing movement.

Prophecy Seminar Inspires, Reaches Souls

The Columbus Eastwood church recently invited Dakota Day, a young speaker from Amazing Facts, for a four-week seminar on the book of Revelation.

The series kicked off at the Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association in Westerville. Nearly 170 people from all ages and backgrounds attended with the hope to learn more about Jesus, prophetic events and what God had in store for them. After the first night, many guests exited the venue impacted by the words they heard. “I’m going to cancel my Sunday bowling plans so I can return for tomorrow’s lecture,” said one woman, while a young boy pled with his parents to return the following night. After two weeks, the series relocated to the Columbus Eastwood church. “Three people were baptized, and several more continue to attend church,” says Kyle Baldwin, Eastwood pastor.

On the final night of the series, Day requested attendees to come forward to make an agreement with one another before God. “Jesus loves you so much,” Day emotionally shared. “I don’t travel the world to uplift myself. I travel the world because I want to see



Amazing Facts speaker Dakota Day teaches about prophecy from the book of Revelation to a full house at the Columbus Eastwood church.

people in heaven. I want to see you there, and I want you to see your loved ones there.”—Caitlin Hastilow

Youth ‘Recharge’ Faith at Worthington Church

How do I find Christ again?” This was one of the authentic and heartfelt questions asked by high school youth during the recent “ReCharge” gathering at the Worthington church, says Edward Marton, Ohio Conference’s Youth Ministries director.

Guest speaker Willy Ramos, affectionally known



Edward Marton (pictured, holding mic) Ohio Conference’s Youth Ministries director, leads prayer with high school students and youth pastors during the “ReCharge” event at the Worthington church.

as the “Ghetto Preacher,” connected with the teens, sharing scripture from Genesis in the morning and Revelation in the evening. He focused on the importance of maintaining a relationship with Jesus—Someone who will never let you down. “The devil tempts you to leave Jesus ... but it’s you and Jesus,” shared Ramos.

Multiple activities and service projects broke up the afternoon. These included baking homemade cookies and delivering them to area firefighters; engaging in a “food fight”; distributing grocery bags to homes throughout the neighborhood, requesting residents to fill them before being picked up the following week; painting rocks with inspirational messages to place in local parks; and visiting an area nursing home.

During one portion of the event, teens were able to text questions to Ramos, Marton and a team of youth pastors. “These were not theoretical questions,” says Marton. “These were questions dealing with issues [earlier generations] didn’t have to deal with in the past at their age.” One by one, they answered each question, as the young people renewed their faith a passion for Christ.

Visit vimeo.com/ohioconference/recharge to see how Ohio is #GrowingYoung together as a church family!

Pennsylvania Pen

Acosta Joins Treasury Team

Pennsylvania Conference is excited to welcome Paulo Acosta to its treasury team. He began his role as associate treasurer on April 1. Acosta, who has a Master of Business Administration from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., previously served as an IPRS payroll assistant for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md. He also worked as a senior accountant for Washington Adventist University and for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md.

"I believe that Paulo, with his mission-mindset, skills and experience, will help us to continue to improve the quality of service to our constituents, churches and schools," shares Carlos Charnichart, treasurer.

Acosta and his wife, Juliana, are both graduates of Universidad Adventista del Plata (River Plate Adventist University) in Entre Rios, Argentina. Juliana currently works in Columbia Union Conference's Multilingual Ministries Department in Columbia, Md. She has a master's degree in English and taught in several schools in Argentina. After moving to the U.S., she worked for the



Paulo Acosta, alongside his wife, Juliana, is the new associate treasurer for the Pennsylvania Conference.

Review and Herald before joining the teaching staff at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown.

The Acostas have two daughters, Briana and Emma.

Church Helps Children REACH Success

Logan is a second-grader who struggled with reading. He lacked confidence in his ability and was way behind other students in his class. Then his mom discovered the REACH Success tutoring program, launched by the REACH Philadelphia church in 2014,



Amy Thomas, a student at Temple University, tutors third-grader Jodi Glenn as part of the REACH Success after-school program.

which partners volunteers with students who need help with their schoolwork.

"There was a huge dropout rate in our community. Many young people who had nothing to do with their time were on the streets. They were involved in drugs, gangs," shares Angel Smith, pastor of REACH Philadelphia. "We made up our minds that we needed to start a kid's program. We decided to tutor grades K-8 after asking the local police department what we could do about this situation in our community. They told us we need to start reaching out to kids early because it's very hard to make an impact once they reach high school."

Currently eight volunteers meet students every Tuesday and Thursday at the REACH Life Hope Center in Philadelphia. Logan's mom recently showed REACH leaders Logan's report card. Since he has been receiving tutoring from REACH Success, Logan has gone up a whole letter grade in his reading class. Volunteers are encouraged by his improvement and the impact the program has had on other students currently being tutored.

To volunteer or learn more about this program, visit reachphiladelphia.org/reachsuccess.

—LeShawn Browne

Scranton Hispanic Dedicates New Building

The Scranton Hispanic Adventist Mission Group began with six people who had a vision for sharing the gospel with the Hispanic community in Scranton. They quickly grew to more than 30 members with 10 to 15 visitors each week for worship services.

Recently Gary Gibbs, conference president, and Will Peterson, vice president for administration, joined Pastor Fernando Rocha and more than 90 people who gathered to celebrate the dedication of the group's new facility in Scranton. The group unveiled a new church sign, and conference officers, church leaders, and a Scranton city representative joined Rocha in a ribbon cutting ceremony (pictured).

"We are so thankful to God for this building, located in the very center of the Hispanic community here in Scranton," states Peterson. "We are very confident that God will fill it with many souls won to Christ."



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July 21, 2019

Costs:
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Adult without lodging: \$150

Sponsored by
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For more info or to register online,
go to www.awhn.org.



The True Spirit of Camp Meeting

June is considered camp meeting season for many conferences. As our two unique Impact 2019: Camp Meeting Re-Imagined events kick off in the coming weeks, may we be reminded of the true spirit in which camp meeting came into existence—an opportunity to connect with the community and show others Christ’s example through missional work.

Author John C. Maxwell reminds us: “A leader is the one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” Jesus came to the earth to show us a human example of godliness and heavenly leadership. He didn’t come to rule in might and power. He came as a servant, willing to do the Father’s work. He was loving, humble, obedient and selfless. This is not the way the world would typically describe a leader, but isn’t it the kind of person you would want to follow?

In the same way we are called to follow Jesus and accept the salvation that is offered to us, we are called to lead others to the truth. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (NIV). May this month be a time to renew your commitment and spirit of leading—or may it be a time that you are spiritually fed and led back to or into a deeper understanding in your own journey. May the true spirit of camp meeting—and leadership—cover our conference, and, in Christ, bind us closer together.

Visit pcpsda.org for more information.



William “Bill” Miller
President

Children’s Shoe Ministry Off and Running

Petra Dodge, a 6-year-old girl from the Roanoke (Va.) church, felt inspired to help homeless people after fellow church members committed to distribute lunches once a month.

“We noticed that several of the men [who came] to get lunches were wearing worn shoes,” says Jennifer Dodge, Petra’s mother. “Later Petra told me that she wanted to buy shoes for those who needed them. Initially, I put the idea on the back burner, but Petra persistently reminded me that she wanted to do this.”

Within four months, the Dodes officially started *Petra and William’s Shoe Ministry*—named after Petra and her younger brother, William—and donated nearly 60 pairs of shoes to the Roanoke Area Ministries House after a simple fundraiser. Inspired by what this little girl has accomplished, local businesses, such as Super Shoes, have extended shoe discounts for the project.

Jennifer says she helps steer this ministry, but encourages and allows her children to run it as much as possible. “I want my kids to be mission-minded,” she says. “Petra decides what she wants to handwrite on the cards that go with each pair of shoes and socks. She chose, on her own, to put ‘Jesus loves you’ with a heart and cross. I’m so proud of her thoughtful and

simple message and the desire she has, at such a young age, to help people.”

The Dodge family is in the middle of another fundraiser. To learn more about this ministry, visit Petra’s Shoe Ministry on Facebook, or email petrashoeministry@gmail.com.



Petra and William Dodge, members of the Roanoke church, show their gratitude to those who helped them reach their goal of raising \$1,000 to buy and donate shoes for the Roanoke Area Ministries House.

'Service Sabbath' Meets Countless Needs

For many, Sabbath day begins with a sermon delivered by a pastor behind a pulpit. A number of Potomac churches have begun changing this narrative by implementing "Service Sabbaths" several times a year. Takoma Park (Md.) church (TPC) members represent one congregation that takes a Sabbath each quarter to "be the sermon" and volunteer their day to serve their community.

"Nearly 200 members participated in our most recent Service Sabbath," comments Daniel Xisto, TPC's pastor for community engagement. "This quarter we focused on serving breakfast to the homeless, hand-delivering meals to those who cannot leave their homes, visiting the elderly and sick or shut-in, partnering with the city for a citywide cleanup, helping Adventist Community Services and other organizations clean up their facilities, renovating a women's shelter, and our children even participated by creating artwork that we delivered to those who we visited."

Xisto shares that the congregation specifically hired him to help TPC grow in the area of community engagement. Like most congregations, the notion of supplementing a work day for regularly scheduled church services was met with some resistance. However, Xisto says that after participants began sharing testimonies and stories, resistance started to fade.

Pastoral staff soon decided to expand the hours of



Takoma Park church volunteers clear and prepare a 15-bed women's shelter quarters for renovation during "Service Sabbath."

the service days, now from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. "We began with a handful of volunteers in 2014 to a few dozen in 2017 [and] 175 last year," Xisto reports. "This year we surpassed 200! This type of service impacts those far and wide. Last year we renovated a women's shelter—sort of an extreme home makeover. One of the residents could not stop thanking us through her tears when she saw the progress and upgrades we had been able to make."

This year Laura Barclay, executive director for the Old Takoma Business Association, wrote a heartfelt thanks to those who partnered with the organization on the citywide cleanup. "With your help," she writes, "I can unequivocally report that it was our best clean-up day ever. The commercial district looks markedly different this morning—a perfect backdrop to today's warm temperatures."

Xisto continues, "There are countless stories of young people who say that they love that our church actually does stuff in the community. One young person, who is not a member, said they wanted to get baptized at our next Service Sabbath. They have come to believe in the truth that our church teaches and in the truth they see lived out as we engage with our community."

To learn more about helping your community, visit communityservices.org.



Kevin Bartley, a Takoma Park church member, delivers groceries and hot meals to elderly people in partnership with the Food and Friends organization.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

Students Visit Pennsylvania Governor

Recently students from Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) had the privilege of representing their school when they visited Tom Wolf, the governor of Pennsylvania. Craig Johnson, BMA's ASSIST director, shares the reason behind the meeting: "When you believe in a program like I do with ASSIST (a program that fosters relationships between students and mentoring adults in the community), you find yourself wanting to share it with the world. My passion, with the help of my students, is to bring 'elderly neglect awareness' not only to our government officials but also to our church families across the nation. No one should be dropped off at a nursing home and left to live their final years in neglect. No matter how big or how small a school, we should not make excuses that we are not important enough [to help]."

Junior Esteban Grajales says, "I told the governor that it was a great privilege to serve the [elderly] residents and that I learned a lot from their stories, experiences and lifestyle. I also said that I loved bringing the residents a smile and making their day."

Freshman Reanna Serrano reflects, "We told him about BMA and the ASSIST program, like how there



BMA ASSIST Director Craig Johnson, Reanna Serrano ('22), Rachel Ingram ('21), Ellen DeJesus ('20), Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, Paul Masaka ('22), Henrique DaSilva ('20), Esteban Grajales ('20) and Antonia Hess ('21) stand united to bring awareness to elderly neglect issues.



BMA's ASSIST program students visit with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

are students going out every day except for Sabbath to see our mentors. He told us that what we did really touched him."

Junior Henrique DaSilva agrees, "Every day we have the chance to show Jesus in just little things in our life. Talking to a resident or to the governor does not matter; what matters is the purpose of what you are doing. Wherever I go, I [will] tell and show Jesus' light; so, shine on me with Your glory, shine on me! I want to be a testimony."

Johnson shares, "We never lose sight that without God these programs would not be successful, but God gives us the vision—big or small—and we are commissioned to do His works."

Can a teenager make a difference in the world? Blue Mountain Academy believes so! For more information about how your child can be a part of the BMA experience, email info@bma.us.

Students Participate in 2nd Annual Service Week

For the second consecutive spring, the student body at Highland View Academy (HVA) devoted a week to service. Their service spanned the world, from India to Philadelphia to local cities in Maryland and West Virginia.

Ten students and three staff members traveled to the Khunti Seventh-day Adventist Senior Secondary School outside of Ranchi, India. The school has approximately 1,300 students in grades K–12. For five days, the group sanded, scraped, primed and painted a new elementary school building constructed by previous Maranatha groups. This new building holds 12 classrooms—each with a capacity for 40 students—and one large common room. The experience inspired senior Emerson McCain to commit his life to serving others. “Now that I have been to India and seen the poverty and destitution that is out there, I have a moral obligation to help,” he says.

Another eight students and three staff members participated in eight service areas in Philadelphia. They sorted clothes and prepped bags of diapers from a donation center, participated in two street cleanups, worked in a nursing home, sorted and served food at a homeless shelter, made and distributed lunches to



Seniors Kyra Wirsz and Curtis Morris paint a window frame at the Khunti Seventh-day Adventist Senior Secondary School in India.

passersby, cleaned and delivered furniture and served at the Inglis House, a wheelchair community. At Inglis, the students met Donna, a resident who has made it her mission to get to know all 230 residents. Senior Destiny Brumbaugh says, “Donna taught me that it’s important to have a positive attitude, even through hard times, and [to] simply care for people.”

The remaining students and staff served locally. They worked as mother’s helpers, assisted in cleanup and educational projects at two Adventist elementary schools—Frederick Adventist Academy (Md.) and the Rocky Knoll School in Martinsburg, W.Va.—and aided a variety of local organizations in helping homeless, impoverished and disabled neighbors. Senior Michael Coleman, who spent one day unloading and stocking food items at the Frederick Rescue Mission (Md.), learned the value of even small acts of service. He says, “It felt like we were doing little until we stepped outside and saw the long line of people waiting to get a loaf of bread or a can of beans.”

Senior Mariah Lee-Wong, who served as a mother’s helper, adds, “Though our initial goal was to serve others, they in turn served us by sharing advice on motherhood. I learned that service is a giant circle of people paying it forward.”



Students and staff clean the streets of Philadelphia as part of HVA’s second annual service week.

PFA POST



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

42 Seniors Confirm That Excellence Is no Accident

Pine Forge Academy (PFA) is a place where its mantra, "Excellence is no accident" is not just words on a page but a way of life. It is a school whose ethos and pathos are rooted in a rich tradition of excellence that continues to inspire students to develop skills that will allow them to function beyond its hallowed halls. With records such as its 100 percent graduation rates, 98 percent of seniors matriculating to a tertiary institution and statistics that demonstrate that the school performs well above the national average, this historical establishment continues to make waves in the area of Christian education.

In April campus life was abuzz with positive energy, as 42 seniors prepared for final exams, their senior class trip and one final shot at the ACT and/or SAT tests. This feeling of excitement and jubilation was further enriched by news that 100 percent of the seniors had been accepted into the university or college of their choice.

Among the seniors is one student, Micaiah Murrell, who shares what has been most helpful in his journey at PFA: "I have learned to celebrate my unique gifts and talents, never put myself down and [have] always been willing to reach beyond my comfort zone as I discover who I am in Christ."

PFA remains committed to the cause of molding and fashioning the lives of all those who enter its walls. We celebrate with those parents who have stayed the course and will be able to witness this monumental achievement for their children. According to Gillian Joseph, the mother of senior Kohriese Joseph, "My daughter entered Pine



Zaria, the mother of senior Micaiah, is proud of her son for his accomplishments while attending Pine Forge Academy.

Forge Academy as a shy and quiet young lady, but she is leaving as a confident no-nonsense leader who knows what she wants to do with her life, and most of all, she knows Jesus for herself."

PFA is truly a place where "Excellence is no accident," and students are given the opportunity to develop as confident leaders, prepared to make an indelible mark on society. Students leave PFA with a heightened sense of purpose and belief in their unique God-given abilities. Congratulations, to the efficacious Class of 2019!



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Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Honors Chorus Performs at National Music Festival

The Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) Honors Chorus was one of the 71 select musical ensembles recently invited to perform at the 28th annual Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha in Indianapolis. The festival showcased America's finest middle- and high-school student musicians and music ensembles, hailing from 22 states and Puerto Rico.

Under the direction of Robert Martinez, SAA's choir director, the Honors Chorus performed a concert in one of Indianapolis' premier halls and received a post-concert clinic for future growth. They also attended master classes and the 3,000-guest Gala Awards Banquet.

SAA students raised \$45,000 to cover the cost of the trip. "This national festival was an experience of a lifetime for my students," states Martinez. "They practiced their craft, as well as their faith, in front of the participants."

SAA band director and chaperone Lisa Froelich posted on Facebook that the SAA students were "Musiciansaries." Froelich recounts: "I saw God at work in a few different ways. The biggest moment was Friday night. The festival participants are almost entirely from public schools, so they don't observe Sabbath as we



Honors Chorus students participate in a master class during the Music for All National Festival.

do. They planned an ice cream social for Friday night that gave a very secular vibe and not the atmosphere we were hoping for our students on Sabbath. Wanting to still allow the students to socialize and get to know the other schools, we were conflicted on what to do. We spoke to the organizers about our situation, and they were very understanding and wanted to help make us feel comfortable.

"Three of us sponsors prayed together that God would turn this situation around for His glory and allow our students to be a witness to the others. When we finally entered the room, the secular music/scene had stopped, and two choirs from other schools ... sang a beautiful, a cappella sacred song. It completely changed the previous mood. Then SAA was able to go up to the stage and share one of their praise songs, and several students from the public schools got up and joined them. ... God gave us a huge answer to prayer. I'm thankful for His looking out for our school and students, and for moments like these that bring people from different states, denominations and backgrounds together."



Jonathan Rivera ('22) and David Ovalle ('21) get their picture snapped between rehearsals.

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CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Academy Choir and Band Tour Europe

This spring I, along with the Spring Valley Academy choir and band, had the amazing opportunity to take a music tour to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. As a member of both the choir and band, we practiced our music for months, learning songs by Mozart, Beethoven, Dvorak, Vivaldi and Schubert, among others. For me, the best part of the tour was the music. We not only performed in some incredible venues, but also heard some spectacular musicians play. Upon our arrival in Salzburg, Germany, we held a concert in the Great Hall at Salzburg University, a room where Mozart once played. Many local people came to hear us play and sing. Even though we were excited and nervous, our music still sounded fantastic!

We left Salzburg the next day and headed for Vienna, Austria, stopping by a neat salt mine on the way. That night we went to Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* performance at the Karlskirche, one of the most ornate, elaborate and gorgeous cathedrals I have ever seen.

The following day, we got the chance to perform at St. Stephen's Cathedral, a 12th-century church in the heart of Vienna. After every cut-off, the echoes of our music left floating in the air sent shivers down my spine. The experience of performing in such an ancient space was mind-blowing. I've never felt anything else like it.

On Sabbath we worshipped with the Prague congregation, an Adventist church in the Czech Republic. It felt very familiar and comforting to be worshipping

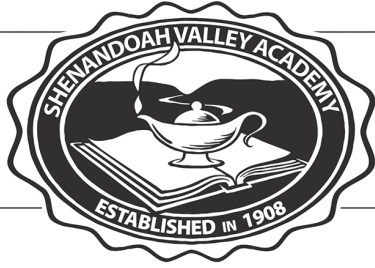
together with other believers, even though I couldn't understand a word of the service. That afternoon we did some more exploring, then we went to the Czech Museum of Music to prepare for our last performance. Our final song was *Radetzky March*, an arrangement by Johann Strauss Sr. We followed the European tradition of having the audience clap along, and it was fun to watch strangers get excited to make music with us.

The next morning, my roommate and I decided to wake up early for a hike. Along with some of our friends and Mr. Wilkins, our principal, we set out before sunrise toward the city center. We watched the dawn break while standing on the famous Charles Bridge over the Vltava River. It was a perfect "last hurrah" before we packed up and headed to the airport for the long flight home.

Looking back, I can't believe how blessed we were to have a tour experience such as this. I am very thankful for our band director, Mr. Donald Huff, and our choir director, Mrs. Cristy Doria, who helped us prepare for the difficult music we needed to make memorable performances. I am appreciative of all the parents, both the chaperones and those who stayed behind and supported us along the way. But most of all, I am so grateful for my school's emphasis on music, which allowed my friends and me to travel across the world and make unforgettable memories while praising God.—Annika Cambigue ('20)



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IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

The Holy Spirit Leads Mission Trip 2019

We had planned to go to Cuba, but just before the trip, plans fell through,” shares Darlene Anderson, school nurse and mission trip medical clinic organizer. “Upon arriving, we soon realized we had been led to Puerto Rico as an answer to prayer!”

The day 52 Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students and 24 parents, faculty and staff arrived in Guayama, Puerto Rico, Juan Rivera, the president of the South Puerto Rico Conference, shared that he and others had prayed that God would send someone to help them. Within days, SVA Principal Don Short called.

Each year an SVA team of mission trip volunteers commit to spending spring break serving God by serving and loving people. Evangelism and outreach is a significant goal of these trips. This year students led daily worship and a VBS program for children at the Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist School; a pastor with us held a weeklong evangelistic series at a local church; and students led worship in music and spoke at five churches on two consecutive Sabbaths.

Making a physical impact on the community is also a central goal. This year the team made renovations on the Three Angels school and the Salimas church,



Senior Daniel Palacios participates with a young Puerto Rican student in door-to-door evangelism.

both damaged by Hurricane Maria in 2017. They repaired five roofs and painted six buildings in total.

A health ministry team, led by Anderson, included students, nurses and a dentist. They held medical clinics in five locations—sometimes not knowing where they would be next. The Holy Spirit, however, led them to opportunities to love and heal with the compassion of Jesus. A local resident expressed how the clinic was helping meet needs: “Since Hurricane Maria, our world has been turned upside down. People are depressed and hurting. Many people have moved to the United States, and our economy has fallen apart. People have medical needs. ... People need to be given hope.”

“We prayed with everyone who came to the clinic. Actually, mostly my student translator, Ceiry Flores, prayed. I caught a few words this tenth-grader would say in her Spanish prayer,” shares Anderson.

Rivera expressed, “You have no idea how great of an impact your team has made on the churches here in the Guayama area!”

Tim Harley, campus chaplain, reflects, “Initial plans were to work and minister in Cuba, but circumstances made it clear the Holy Spirit forbade it. When Principal [Donald] Short called, the people of Puerto Rico said, ‘Come over ... and help us,’ and we knew the Spirit was saying, ‘Go.’”



Junior Rachel Brosfield paints a building damaged by Hurricane Maria.

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Students Go International, Visit Morocco

Every other year, Takoma Academy (TA) sponsors an international educational trip. This year they chose Morocco. Initially, some students were hesitant about being so far away from home, however those reservations dissolved by the end of the trip. Sophomore Kendall Crawford says, “We think that every technological advance and every step forward we have makes us better than everyone else. When we go somewhere like Morocco, we see villages that don’t have Wi-Fi and other advances, and we tend to think, ‘So this is what happens in an underdeveloped country.’ If we push that mindset away, we realize that this is their life and they don’t want to change it. That way we can learn to appreciate their culture.”

When they arrived, the students immersed themselves in the Amazigh culture and Moroccan gastronomy. They spent the first two nights in Tizi N’oucheg—a village in Southern Morocco. They witnessed the Berber women prepare special meals and learned that the women were very industrious. “I didn’t expect all the women to be so strong-willed and kindhearted. They do everything! From cooking to farming to making rugs and chairs from scratch,” sophomore Katherine Pierre observed.

The group then visited the 14th century village of Ait-Ben-Haddou. Several scenes from the film



Sophomores Jordan Curry, Gabrielle Francis, Jade Dugger and Kendall Crawford enjoy their time at the bottom of the Todgha Gorge.



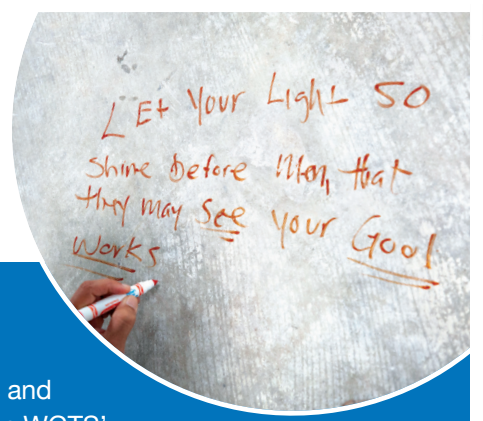
Takoma Academy students reach the top of a hill in the Sahara Desert.

Gladiator and a few biblical movies were filmed there. The students participated in a scavenger hunt, created by their Rustic Pathways tour guides and refined their Darija (Moroccan colloquial Arabic) language and bartering skills.

Soon after they visited Todgha Gorge, a popular tourist location in Tinghir. The kids were awed by the 1,312-foot cliff-sided canyon, especially after learning that warriors climbed the side of the caves to hide their weapons and prepare for war.

One of the final activities of the trip was a camel ride to the Sahara Desert. Senior Asia Rigby emphasizes, “Even though the camel ride was scary, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Witnessing the sunrise and sunset was amazing. Just being there overnight was breathtaking.”

Most of all, the trip allowed the students to appreciate what it’s like to be in a relaxed, stress-free and uncomplicated environment. Junior David Allard adds, “What impacted me the most is seeing all these beautiful sights and how they were untouched by industries and machines. Seeing how pure they are speaks volumes.”



Praying for New Ministry Center

A large and wonderful group of board members, staff, Adventist pastors, supporters and volunteers gathered in April to pray together and request God's presence and blessing on WGTS' new ministry center in Rockville. "It was an incredible experience to dedicate the space and all involved to the work God has called us to," says General Manager Kevin Krueger. Greg Scott, Associate Director at Adventist Review Ministries, says, "It was an honor to participate ... I am excited to see what God is going to do with and through this new facility."

The group stopped and prayed as they came to each area of ministry, including the Service Gateway reception area, the on-air studios, the programming and video production areas, the engineering rooms, and the Prayer Center. "We also took time to write Bible verses and other spiritual messages on the bare floors and walls in each area that will exist under the surfaces as an ongoing reminder to us of what will happen in the space," says Krueger.

Mark Sigue, Vice President for Ministry at Washington Adventist University, says, "This experience was so powerful. I was asked to join in to be a blessing, but I left the place the one being blessed."

Please continue with WGTS in prayer for the ministry to the Nation's Capital that will be generated in this new space.



hands and heart

WGTS Listeners Bless Mothers

It's the power of an encouraging word. It's the thought behind a handwritten note. After WGTS listeners helped women in homeless and domestic violence shelters last year with diapers, wipes and Metro cards, the idea of blessing these women, many of them mothers, through a second Hands and Heart project became a way to reach out this spring.

WGTS invited listeners to send in handwritten cards that we could pass along to mothers who might not receive one this Mother's Day. Listeners overwhelmed WGTS with their generosity, with more than 10,000 cards coming in from school groups, churches, and women's and girls' ministries. The cards were delivered to more than a dozen shelters in Maryland, Virginia and D.C.



The WGTS staff prepare to take more than 10,000 Mother's Day cards to mothers at shelters throughout the DMV.

Lance Jordache, of Spencerville church in Maryland, holds up a card he crafted for a mom in a D.C. area shelter.





CLASS OF 2019

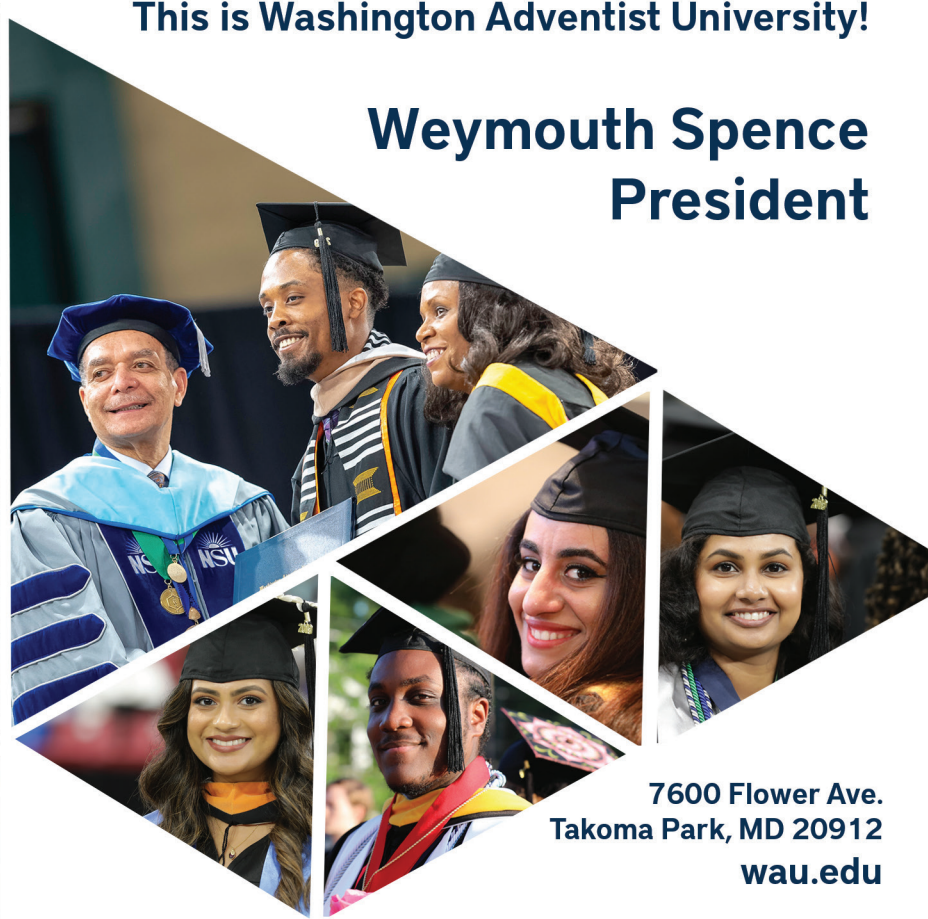
Our focus at Washington Adventist University continues to be on the success of our students. At this spring's commencement students, parents and well-wishers were excited to celebrate the success of the Class of 2019, having satisfied their degree requirements. Graduation is the crowning event of a student's academic chapter. These graduates have earned the WAU seal of approval and are now prepared to enter their professional careers or continue their graduate education. We extend much praise and appreciation to the dedicated and committed faculty and staff who guided and supported their academic journey.

The industry of higher education is complex and is continuously changing. The traditional learning models have expired. It is the expectation now that higher education institutions create a learning environment that is based on assessment data to create personalized learning pathways. Learning spaces, such as classrooms, library, study areas, and even residence halls, must now demonstrate flexibility, mobility, and integration for effective student engagement.

The students we are preparing for the 21st Century are unique and diverse in faith, and geographic origin. What is continuing to excite us is that they are seeking a Christian education, an education that will not only prepare them for service to humanity, but also for eternity.

This is Washington Adventist University!

**Weymouth Spence
President**



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CONGRATS!



COACH BEN JOHNSON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

If it takes an incredible work ethic to be a part of the Acro-Airs acrobatic team at Washington Adventist University. Imagine what it takes to be the coach, minister, planner, advisor, fundraiser and motivator for this team. Ben Johnson, Athletic Specialist and Director of Acro-Airs, has played these roles for the past 20 years.

Having always been athletic, Johnson started gymnastics at a young age but also went on to play volleyball, basketball, and several other sports. Currently, he actively trains and races as a cyclist with a community of WAU Acro Air alumni.

He was recruited to come to CUC (WAU) and approached for both basketball and gymnastics by the Athletic Director but initially decided to accept an offer from Winston Salem University. The gymnastics coach, however, continued to encourage him and he decided to transfer to CUC (WAU). After four years Johnson went from being a team member to the captain to Assistant Coach then a year later he became the Head Coach by the age of 24.

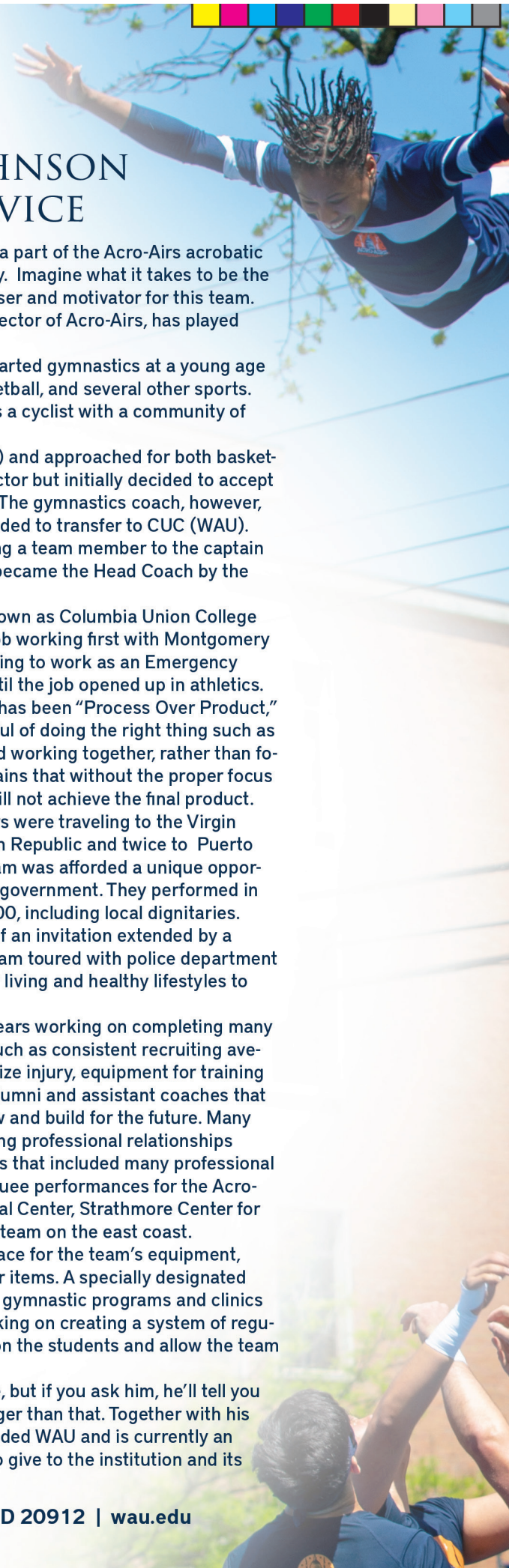
After graduating from what was then known as Columbia Union College in December of 1997, Johnson took a job working first with Montgomery County teaching part-time while continuing to work as an Emergency Medical Technician, for a few months until the job opened up in athletics. One of Acro-Airs motto's over the years has been "Process Over Product," with the idea of keeping everyone mindful of doing the right thing such as conditioning, fitness, building a team and working together, rather than focusing on the outcome. Coach Ben explains that without the proper focus on the process, individuals and teams will not achieve the final product. His most memorable tours with Acro-Airs were traveling to the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, Canada, the Dominican Republic and twice to Puerto Rico. In the Dominican Republic, the team was afforded a unique opportunity of being sponsored in part by the government. They performed in front of crowds that numbered over 5,000, including local dignitaries. The Virgin Island tour came as a result of an invitation extended by a former Acro Air member. In the VI the team toured with police department detectives sharing a message of healthy living and healthy lifestyles to local schools and community centers.

Coach Johnson has spent the past 20 years working on completing many goals in improvement of the program; such as consistent recruiting avenues, training programs that help minimize injury, equipment for training and safe skill building and a system of alumni and assistant coaches that always ensures the teams ability to grow and build for the future. Many of the early goals also included continuing professional relationships previously build and expanding new ones that included many professional venues for paid performances and marquee performances for the Acro-Airs including Children's National Medical Center, Strathmore Center for Performing Arts, and almost every NBA team on the east coast.

He hopes to one day have a separate space for the team's equipment, allowing them to workout and store their items. A specially designated space would also allow the team to host gymnastic programs and clinics teaching skills and safety. He's also working on creating a system of regular funding that would ease the burden on the students and allow the team to tour more often.

Twenty years may sound like a long time, but if you ask him, he'll tell you that he plans on being around much longer than that. Together with his wife, Sarah Toth Johnson who also attended WAU and is currently an assistant on the team, they have more to give to the institution and its students.

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YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Mental Health and the Faith Community Conference

By Nestor Bruno

Pastors, chaplains, and other caregivers spend their time helping people learn how to care for themselves in areas such as resiliency, depression, burnout, loss, use of medications for emotional illness, and nutrition and mental health. Those professionals who wish to expand their knowledge will soon have a unique learning opportunity. The annual George T. Harding IV Conference on Mental Health and the Faith Community will be offered September 29-October 1 in Dayton, Ohio. Co-sponsored by Kettering Adventist HealthCare, the Harding-Buller Foundation of Worthington, and Ministry Care Services, the event will feature presentations by experienced mental health professionals featuring dynamic experiential learning modules.

This year's event will include presentations by Bruce Anderson, MD, psychiatrist, St. Helena, California; Torben Bergland, MD, associate director, Health Ministries Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Tim Jennings, MD, psychiatrist, author, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Alan Nelson, MD, psychiatrist,

Carbondale, Colorado; Mary Ann Schaepper, MD, child and adolescent psychiatrist, Loma Linda, California; and Sul Ross Thorward, MD, psychiatrist, director, behavioral health, South East Alaska. Elder Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, will present the keynote.

The 2019 conference is themed "The Challenge of Caring." It focuses on the fact that when people in churches and communities are taught how to manage their own self-care, they become more confident about their care, less dependent, and more resilient. Pastors and chaplains, who are typically

inundated with the demands of providing effective spiritual and emotional support to people in crisis, find immense value in helping people become better at their own self-care.



The 2018 Conference included topics such as "No Health Without Mental Health," "The Mind: God's Design and What Went Wrong," "The Importance of Relationships in Human Development," "Trauma-informed Care," "Is Heroin Easier to Find than Hope?" and "Women's Issues in a Changing World." Attendees, who came from across the United States, Canada, and abroad, gave the event a high rating for its content, usefulness, and practicality.



Details about the conference and registration information are available at ministrycare.org/conference. Group discounts and scholarships are available for couples that register together and for organizations that register ten or more people. The conference will be held in the Kumar Conference Center at Soin Medical Center.

Regular registration fee is \$99, with early-bird fee of \$75 available until September 1. For details contact nestor.bruno@ketteringhealth.org

THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Cutting-edge Brain & Spine Center Opens

Kettering Adventist HealthCare consolidated three offices into one state-of-the-art brain and spine center located on the Kettering Medical Center campus. The new space allows for specialists in neurology, neurosurgery, anesthesia pain management, and rehabilitation to be in one location. This allows for a better multidisciplinary approach to patient care.

The new space has 39 exam rooms, digital imaging, a minor procedure room, and an immersive dream room for creating relaxation, visualization, ambiance, and holistic stress relief.



Great Place to Work

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has been named a Fortune Best Workplace in Health Care and Biopharma for the third year in a row!

The network ranked number 24 on the list, which is based on surveys from more than 730,000 employees across the industry. Great Place to Work, Fortune's partner in making these lists, also surveyed network employees about their experience on the job. Employees answered questions about the extent to which they trust leaders, the respect with which people are treated, the fairness of workplace decisions, and how much camaraderie there is among the team.



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7/6	Pastor Kermit Netteburg
7/13	Pastor David Weigley
7/20	Pastor Mark Sigue
7/27	Pastor Nathan Krause
8/3	Pastor Morgan Kochenower
8/10	Pastor Anthony Kent
8/17	Pastor Pranitha Fielder and Pastor Kelan Fielder
8/24	Pastor Bonita J. Shields
8/31	Pastor Mike Speegle
9/7	Pastor Stephen Chavez
9/14	Pastor Ronald Halverson, Jr.
9/21	Pastor Andrea Jakobsons

sligochurch.org/sligobythesea

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ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE. Show your care and compassion as a registered nurse, and join the Adventist HealthCare family in Maryland. Bring your experience and passion to make a difference in the lives of our patients. For information and to apply, AdventistHealthCare.com/careers.

UNION COLLEGE invites applicants for an accounting teaching faculty position. Qualified applicants will be committed members of the Adventist church and have a master's/doctorate degree or significant experience and willingness to pursue a master's degree. Find more information at ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa Forbes at lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks to fill a faculty position in the School of Journalism and Communication (SJC). Candidate will bring his or her creativity, energy and academic and professional excellence to the SJC. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Dean of Graduate Studies. Candidate

will assume a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provide academic, administrative and strategic direction to Graduate Studies. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Vice President For Spiritual Life who will oversee all areas of spirituality on campus, provide spiritual mentoring and programming for students as well as spiritual support for employees and spiritual guidance for campus decisions. This role involves collaboration with the university church and its pastoral staff to foster Christian growth and fellowship between campus and church. VP will direct team members in the Chaplain's office. For a full description and qualification criteria, visit southern.edu/hr.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Website Development Manager. The Website Development Manager works closely with the Director of Marketing and University Relations to create and implement the strategy and goals for the university website, digital advertising and social media efforts. As a full stack developer, this position requires a high level of website design and development proficiency. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Director of Records and Advisement, who will have direct supervisory

responsibility for management of all aspects of the Department of Records and Advisement. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

STALLANT HEALTH RURAL HEALTH CLINIC in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, as well as a licensed clinical social worker. Please contact Marva at marva@stallanthealth.com for further information.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking candidates for Associate or Assistant or Full Professor of Nursing with Adult Clinical Focus, Leadership-Preceptorship, and Associate or Assistant or Full Professor of Nursing-Adult Clinical. Master's degree or doctorate preferred. California RN license by expected start date, preference for candidate with experience in teaching. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources at (707) 965-6231 or visit puc.edu/v/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks faculty for Discipleship & Religious Education. The individual will hold a faculty appointment in the Department of Discipleship & Religious Education and carry regular faculty responsibilities related to teaching, service, research and publication, and administration. For more information and application, andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2.

MISCELLANEOUS

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOL, FAACP, has practices located in Silver Spring and Columbia, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sleep apnea treatment, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (301) 649-5001 or (410) 461-6655. Mention this ad and receive a 10 percent discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

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TRAVEL/VACATION

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley and friends, November 17-25. \$3,295. Includes air, breakfast and dinner buffets daily, all tips and taxes. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles; other departure cities available. Call Maranatha Tours at (602) 788-8864.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANASSAS ADVENTIST PREPARATORY SCHOOL in Manassas, Va., will be celebrating 50 years of service to their community and church October 12. Festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please invite all former staff and alumni by sharing the event page on Facebook: [facebook.com/events/319882628794471](https://www.facebook.com/events/319882628794471).

UCHEE PINES INSTITUTE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, June 23-29. Speakers include Mark Finley and John Bradshaw. For more information, visit ucheepines.org or call (877) UCHEEPINES.

OBITUARIES

BALDRIDGE, Bob, 81, of Dover, Del., passed away February 27, 2019, from complications of heart disease. In 2013 Bob moved to Delaware to live with

his daughter, Gwynne Hoffecker, and her family. He found a warm welcome at the Dover (Del.) First church. When Bob was first married, in 1959, he and his wife, Reba, began to take Bible studies and shortly thereafter were baptized into the Adventist church. He was later rebaptized at the Springfield (Ill.) church. In the 1950s Bob began a long career as a pioneer in the age of computers while serving in the Air Force. As a civilian, his love for the constantly changing world of computers continued and took him and his family from Georgia to work at the Florida Hospital in Orlando. After eight years, Bob moved on to other computer pursuits in Illinois, Tennessee, Alabama, Wisconsin and West Virginia, where he eventually retired. Bob loved backpacking in the Smoky Mountains and took every opportunity to do so. West Virginia is where he reached his lifetime goal of living on top of a mountain. After many years atop his mountain, and 53 years of marriage, his wife, Reba, passed away. With deteriorating health, his four daughters convinced him to move to Delaware. When he drew his last earthly breath, he was surrounded by his family. Survivors: his four daughters and their husbands; Kay (Terry) Cheser of Alabama, Fay (Ken) Woods of Georgia, Gwynne (Kevin) Hoffecker of Delaware, and Lynne (Vladimir) Corea of Maryland; seven granddaughters: Laura, Stacy, Angie, Mandy, Marci, Brianna and Abby; and two great-grandchildren, Cassidy and finally a boy, Brian.

BOSEMAN, Ruth J., born May 22, 1924, in Knoxville, Tenn.; died January 2, 2019, in Cleveland, Ohio. She was a former member of the Glenville (Ohio) church and transferred to Temple of Praise in Cleveland, Ohio. Ruth was raised in the Adventist church and baptized at the age of 12. She graduated with a B.S. in Education from Cleveland State University and specialized in teaching those with learning and behavioral challenges in the Cleveland Public School System for more than 30 years. Ruth is survived by her sons: William C. (Becky) Boseman Sr. of Cleveland, James H. (Ronni) Boseman of Twinsburg, Ohio, Frederick A. (Linda) Boseman Sr. of Cleveland, and Alex T. Boseman of Cleveland; grandchildren: William C. Boseman III of Georgia, Charita R. Boseman of Washington, D.C., F. Allen Boseman of Cleveland, Justin J. Boseman of Twinsburg, Stefan J. Boseman of Garfield, Ohio, Alex T. Boseman Jr. of Cleveland, Alexis Boseman of Atlanta, Ga.; and a sister, Margaret Martin of Cincinnati, Ohio.

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Baltimore	8:30	8:34	8:36	8:37
Cincinnati	9:01	9:05	9:07	9:08
Cleveland	8:57	9:01	9:04	9:05
Columbus	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05
Jersey City	8:25	8:28	8:31	8:32
Norfolk	8:22	8:25	8:27	8:28
Parkersburg	8:50	8:53	8:56	8:57
Philadelphia	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:47	8:51	8:53	8:54
Reading	8:31	8:34	8:37	8:38
Richmond	8:28	8:32	8:34	8:35
Roanoke	8:38	8:41	8:43	8:44
Toledo	9:06	9:10	9:12	9:13
Trenton	8:22	8:26	8:30	8:32
Wash., D.C.	8:31	8:34	8:37	8:38

KINSEY, Herbert Dean, born June 27, 1932, in Siloam Springs, Ark., to Herb and Mary Kinsey; died February 14, 2019, in Austin, Texas. He was a member of the San Marcos (Texas) church. He served as a deacon, elder, Sabbath school teacher and in many other areas. He received a bachelor's degree in history from Southern Missionary College, (Tenn.), and his master's in school administration from Boston University. Dean married Dolores Sontag in 1995. He spent 36 years working in education, both in the classroom and in administration, four of those at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., as a dean and teacher. After moving to San Marcos, Texas, he worked with financial planning for the last 18 years of his professional life. Dean was known for his quick wit, kind smile and compassion. You could always find him puttering in his yard full of Texas wildflowers or bicycling in the Texas foothills. He loved photography, writing and spending time with his grandchildren. Dean and Dolores also travelled extensively. Survivors: his two sons, Scott in Florida and Rick in Arkansas; two grandchildren, Kameron and Brooke; and a brother Glen, who lives in Pennsylvania.

KOWALSKI, Mildred, born August 12, 1931, in Luzerne, Pa.; died November 29, 2018, in Luzerne. She was a member of the Slocum church in Wapwallopen, Pa. She is survived by her husband, Frank Kowalski; and three daughters, Lynette Foote, Shelly Gray and Lori Weinert.

PETERSEN, Marilyn M., born December 15, 1930, in Springfield, Ill.; died January 6, 2019, in Silver Spring, Md. She was a member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Marilyn grew up in Indianapolis, Ind. She began playing the piano at the age of six, and by age nine was playing for church services. In her lifetime, she regularly played the piano and organ for five different churches, and she was frequently contacted to be an accompanist for soloists, weddings and funerals. Even at age 88, she was playing for residents and accompanying the Glee Club at her assisted living center. Marilyn taught elementary school for 41 years, all in the public school system. She retired in 1993, and in 1994 pursued a second career in hospital chaplaincy at Washington Adventist Hospital

Bulletin Board

in Takoma Park, Md., where she volunteered in that capacity until 2008. She passed to her rest after a brief illness.

RUTAN, Robert R., born July 28, 1930, in Pittsburgh, Pa., a son of the late Emory and Ishmael Masters Rutan; died November 7, 2018, at the Trumbull Regional Medical Center, in Warren, Ohio. He was a member of the Warren (Ohio) church and served as an elder, usher, Sabbath School teacher and pastor's assistant. Robert worked selling *The Bible Stories*, as a literature evangelist for 12 years. He also drove a school bus and was the grounds superintendent for the Warren City Schools, prior to retiring. Robert was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served from 1951 to 1953 as a medic during the Korean War. He continued his service until he was honorably discharged in 1957. He married the former Alice A. Esau, October 14, 1950. They shared 68 wonderful years of marriage together. He enjoyed playing several instruments, as well as singing and playing guitar. Robert and his brothers were known to sing at events, churches and hospitals. He filled his life with the

love of music and the gift of bringing it to others. Robert also enjoyed gardening and woodworking, and loved to travel with his wife, as well as numerous friends in the Amish community, with whom he had a warm relationship for more than 35 years. He was known for the large sunflowers he grew and the wooden geese he made. Robert is survived by his wife, Alice; two children, Charles R. (Sandra) Rutan of Howland, Ohio, and Yvonne J. Shaker of Bazetta, Ohio; six brothers; a sister; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Joni Rutan of Davie, Fla.; and numerous nieces and nephews. Robert is predeceased by a son, Gary S. Rutan, and a great-grandchild.

SHULL, Warren L., born March 19, 1927, in Hagerstown, Md.; died October 4, 2018, in Hagerstown. He was a member of the Hagerstown church, where for many years he served as their head deacon. He lived a full life doing what he loved. Surviving are his wife, Virginia (Peggy); his daughter, Christine; his sister, Charlotte; a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter; nieces and nephews.

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Columbia Union Revolving Fund

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