

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY/AUGUST 2020 • VOLUME 125 • ISSUE 4

Safe at Church?

#church

too

Celebrating 2020 Grads

Plus: In Crises, Members Serve and Share Hope

A Gold Mine for Ministry



A few months ago, due to the coronavirus, our churches moved worship and ministry online. Uncharted territory for many, it turned out to be a gold mine for ministry!

When we launched our Reach and Connect online evangelism initiative last year, we had no idea that God was preparing us for this moment. We just knew we had to be online because that's where the people are.

When the virus hit, our Hispanic pastors streamed a live Easter week evangelism series on Facebook, drawing nearly 200 viewers each night. Many decided to be baptized, including our coordinator's uncle who watched the meetings 3,500 miles away in Peru!

Our English-language churches participated in It Is Written's "Hope Awakens" meetings, where our pastors and 184 volunteer Bible workers interacted with 2,000 viewers. Once again, people accepted Jesus.

MORE THAN NUMBERS

Online ministry is much more than numbers; it's about people like Alisa, who God led to our Seventh-day Adventist Church family in a very special way.



In 2018 I received an intriguing email from a couple in Europe asking me to perform their wedding. We'd never met, but they had watched my sermons online.

Alisa and Esra met in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. He was an Adventist from Iceland. She grew up in Russia and was unfamiliar with Jesus or the Bible. As they became acquainted, Esra slowly introduced Alisa to Christianity, starting with *The Desire of Ages*. She devoured all 864 pages in a day-and-a-half and excitedly told Esra, "I've read

hundreds of books, but never one like this! While reading, my room filled with light, giving me peace I've never known." She described how the "hole inside her heart" from a hurtful childhood miraculously shrunk in the presence of the Light!

Alisa says my *Prophecies of Hope* lessons and videos helped her discover God's purpose for her life. After finishing the online studies, she was baptized. A year later, accompanied by my wife, I had the privilege of uniting Alisa and Esra in marriage in Reykjavik, Iceland (pictured).

Online evangelism is powerful! It helps us reach across oceans, cultures and neighborhoods. And in this new world with COVID-19, it's helping to fulfill the Great Commission to connect people with Jesus!

Gary Gibbs serves as president of the Pennsylvania Conference.

VISITOR

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The *Visitor* is a publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 64,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the Mid-Atlantic area and 81,000 online. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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DOG AND OWNER MINISTER THROUGH ZOOM

Swiffer, a Great Pyrenees/Labrador mix, and his owner, Sarah Porter, a member at Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., have provided pet therapy to medical staff with Pets on Wheels since 2018. But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, their visits to local hospitals stopped. Porter and other volunteers brainstormed ways to continue serving, and decided on conducting virtual visits. Now, as featured on the local NBC news affiliate, Swiffer and other pet volunteers join Zoom calls to connect with workers at nursing stations.

5 Things You Should Know
(columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things)

- 1** For the first time in many years, the Columbia Union Conference experienced a 5.4 percent drop in tithe, reported Treasurer Emmanuel Asiedu at the May Executive Committee meeting. Despite this First Quarter decline, Asiedu says he has been impressed with members' generosity. "Their giving was more than my expectation, given the COVID-19 crisis and overall financial crisis," he notes.
- 2** Between late January and late April, 216 additional Columbia Union churches received tithe and offerings using adventistgiving.org, bringing the number of participating churches and companies unionwide to 596 out of 848 in total.
- 3** Following the murder of George Floyd, the Union President's Council, chaired by President Dave Weigley, issued a call to "band together, and pray for healing, forgiveness, change and peace." The union set up a task force to recommend ways to facilitate dialogue, create understanding and address the systemic issues of racism in the church and community. Submit ideas to taskforce@columbiaunion.net.
- 4** In honor of the 125th anniversary of the *Visitor* magazine, join the *Visitor* staff in continuing to make 2020 healthy. Register for the virtual *Visitor* 5K, to take place September 20–26. Participants may walk/run at the time and place of their choice. Registration fees will include a bib, medal, tech shirt, mask and donation to Adventist Community Services.
- 5** Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., announced recommendations from the Board of Trustees to proactively adopt a consolidated educational model that offers 48 degree programs, and suspends six with the possibility of reinstatement. "The mission of the university is critical, and we want to be sustainable," said Spence. School administrators plan to resume classes on campus in August. —*WAU Staff*



RETIRED: Dan Jackson retired July 1 after 10 years as the North American Division president and 48 years in ministry. In a worship thought for the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee, he said, "There is desolation in many places, but we have the hope, the faith and the promise that we may shelter under the wings of the Almighty with our Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus Christ."

PAYING IT FORWARD

About four years ago, Kyle Hardinge, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., was at a local hospital after his heart surgery. Today he, with his 3-D printer, is returning the care by making ear savers that make mask wearing more comfortable for hospital staff.



VICTOR IS LONELY ■ Lately, Victor, the *Visitor* mouse, has been searching for you. He needs 15 kids to find him so that he's not alone. Then: 1) Have someone take your picture with him. 2) Tag us on Facebook. 3) Wait for a Bible memory game from LivingWell in Silver Spring, Md.

100

Percent of Columbia Union's 75 Pre-K through higher education schools that moved to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic

COVER PHOTO BY AMY MITCHELL. JACKSON ILLUSTRATION BY JIM STARR

“Despite the pandemic, we’re continuing to carry on the mission.”

—Dave Weigley, *Columbia Union Conference president, in his report during the May Executive Committee meeting that occurred on Zoom for the first time in the union’s history.*

IN REOPENING, COMMITTEE URGES CAUTION AND COMPASSION

Two members representing Allegheny East Conference spoke to the Columbia Union Executive Committee about the importance of proceeding with caution when making decisions about reopening churches and schools.

Gina Brown, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University (DC), shared that mental illness is on the rise and urged church members not to ignore it. She added, “Our senior [citizens] are significantly lonely, and everybody is being [impacted].”

She encouraged committee members to reach out: “We can have distance isolation, but not social isolation.”

Milton Brown, CEO of Trocar Pharma, Inc., who is researching therapeutic drug treatments for COVID-19, shared that until 70 percent of the country has either been infected; researchers have found a safe and effective vaccine; or until there is a treatment that mitigates or reverses the impact of the disease, the virus will not cease. He emphasized that no lives should be lost as a result of reentering our schools and churches too soon. “We have to take caution,” he said.

Committee members then proceeded to vote their commitment to prioritizing this goal.

EDUCATION EXTENDS TEACHER CONTRACTS

Office of Education Vice President Donovan Ross postponed school accreditation visits until next year and received approval to extend current accreditations by one year so that schools that are up for accreditation can continue operating.

Ross commended the responsiveness and flexibility of teachers in meeting the needs of the union’s nearly 10,000 students via distance learning. “Throughout all of this, there has been a concerted effort to support each other and our students,” he said, noting how some teachers provided tutoring, drove to students’ homes to drop off/pick up materials and others made and distributed bread to students’ families and hospital staff. Some schools hosted or will host online graduations.

He also noted that despite the uncertainty, most of the conferences have extended teacher contracts for the upcoming school year.

HOW THE VISITOR COVERED THE 1918–1920 PANDEMIC



ERROL STODDART, pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., speaks at a rally in Newark following the police killing of George Floyd. “I’m standing here today because Jesus would be here right now. This is where Jesus would be—with the people in the crowd, fighting for justice and equality,” he declared.

Columbia Union Visitor archives from 1918–1920 provide a snapshot of life and ministry for members of Columbia Union, which was only in its 11th year at the onset of the “Spanish Influenza Pandemic.” During a deadly two-year period, 50 million people perished globally, including 675,000 in the United States.

“All our churches are closed, and some lines of the work are at a standstill. The plague ... is raging everywhere and there are many dead bodies in every place,” wrote West Virginia Conference President T. B. Westbrook in a November 7, 1918, front-page call to prayer.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

THE REST OF THE STORY: Read full content at columbiaunionvisitor.com/upfront.

ACS AUMENTA PARA SATISFACER LA DEMANDA

Cuando la primera ola de la pandemia de COVID-19 golpeó los estados del Atlántico Medio, los líderes de Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas y Respuesta a Desastres (ACS) de toda la Unión de Columbia intervinieron para satisfacer una mayor necesidad.



“Por primera vez, muchas familias han tenido que decidir dónde van a encontrar comida para su mesa”, dice Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente del Desarrollo

de Ministerios en la Unión de Columbia, quien supervisa los esfuerzos a nivel unión. “Existe una gran demanda de alimentos en nuestros servicios comunitarios, despensas de alimentos y centros de recolección”.

VICTOR ESTÁ SOLITO

Últimamente, Victor, el ratón de la revista *Visitor* te ha estado buscando. Necesita 15 niños que lo encuentren para que no esté solo. Luego, 1. Haz que alguien te tome una foto con él.

2. Publícalo/etiquétalo en Facebook.
3. Espera a que te llegue una memoranda de la Biblia de LivingWell en Silver Spring, Maryland.



5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

1 Por primera vez en muchos años, la Unión de Columbia experimentó una caída del diezmo del 5.4 por ciento, informó el tesorero Emmanuel Asiedu en la reunión del Comité Ejecutivo de mayo. A pesar de esta disminución en el primer trimestre, Asiedu dice que ha quedado impresionado con la generosidad de los miembros. “Dada la crisis del COVID-19 y la crisis financiera general, su contribución fue más de lo que esperaba”, señala.

2 Entre fines de enero y fines de abril, 216 iglesias adicionales de la Unión de Columbia aceptaron el diezmo y las ofrendas usando adventistgiving.org, elevando el número de iglesias y compañías participantes en toda la unión de 848 a 596.

3 En honor al 125 aniversario de la revista *Visitor*, únete al personal del *Visitor* para continuar haciendo que el 2020 sea saludable. Regístrese para el *Visitor* 5K virtual, que tendrá lugar del 19 al 26 de septiembre. Los participantes pueden caminar/correr en el momento y lugar de su elección. Las tarifas de inscripción incluirán una medalla, babero, camiseta y una donación a Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas caridad.

4 Weymouth Spence, presidente de la Universidad Adventista de Washington (WAU) en Takoma Park, Maryland, anunció las recomendaciones de la junta directiva para adoptar de manera proactiva un modelo educativo consolidado que ofrece 16 programas de licenciatura y suspende seis con la posibilidad de reincorporación. “La misión de la universidad es crítica, y queremos ser sostenibles”, dijo Spence. Los administradores escolares planean reanudar las clases en el campus en agosto.—*Personal de WAU*

5 Donovan Ross, vicepresidente de la Oficina de Educación de la Unión de Columbia, compartió con los miembros del comité ejecutivo que su equipo ha pospuesto las visitas de acreditación escolar hasta el próximo año y recibió la aprobación para extender las acreditaciones actuales por un año. Ross también señaló que, a pesar del futuro incierto, la mayoría de las conferencias han extendido los contratos de maestros para el próximo año escolar.



Algunas semanas, los miembros de la iglesia El Faro de la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey en Cliffs Park alimentan a más de 1,000 personas.

300+

Número de misioneros digitales que llegan intencionalmente a su comunidad para Cristo en la Conferencia de Pensilvania

FOTO POR JORGE PILCO

Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

5 Choses à Savoir

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses)

1 Pour la première fois depuis de nombreuses années, l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia a connu une baisse de 5,4% de la dîme, déclare le trésorier Emmanuel Asiedu lors de la réunion du Comité Exécutif du mois de Mai. Malgré cette baisse au 1er trimestre, Mr Asiedu se dit impressionné par la générosité des membres. « Leurs dons ont nettement dépassé mes attentes, compte tenu de la crise COVID-19 et de la crise financière globale », note-t-il.

2 Entre fin janvier et fin avril, 216 autres églises de l'Union de Columbia ont accepté la dîme et les offrandes sur adventistgiving.org, ce qui porte le nombre d'églises et d'institutions participantes à l'échelle de l'union à 596 sur 848.

3 En l'honneur du 125e anniversaire du magazine *Visitor*, joignez-vous au personnel de *Visitor* pour continuer à faire de 2020 une année de bonne santé. Inscrivez-vous au *Visitor* virtuel 5K, qui aura lieu du 19 au 26 septembre. Les participants peuvent marcher / courir à l'heure et à l'endroit de leur choix. Les frais d'inscription couvriront les éléments suivants : une médaille, un dossard, un T-shirt et un don à charité.

4 Weymouth Spence, président de la Washington Adventiste University of Takoma Park, dans le Maryland, a annoncé les recommandations du Conseil d'Administration pour adopter de manière proactive un modèle éducatif consolidé qui propose 16 programmes d'études et en suspend six avec possibilité de réintégration. « La mission de l'université est cruciale et nous voulons être durables », a déclaré Spence. Les administrateurs scolaires prévoient de reprendre les cours sur le campus en août.—*Personnel de l'UAU*

5 Donovan Ross, vice-président du Bureau de l'Education de Columbia Union, a déclaré aux membres du Comité Exécutif que son équipe avait reporté les visites d'accréditation des écoles à l'année prochaine et a reçu l'approbation pour prolonger d'un an les accréditations actuelles. Mr Ross a également noté que malgré l'avenir incertain, la plupart des fédérations ont prolongé les contrats des enseignants pour la prochaine année scolaire.

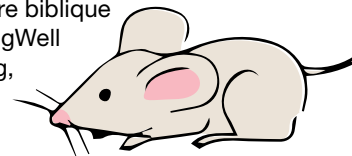
21

Nombre de baptêmes suite à une récente série d'évangélisation en ligne présentée par les Ministères Hispaniques de la Fédération d'Ohio



SOLITUDE DE VICTOR

Dernièrement, Victor, la souris de *Visitor*, vous cherchait. Il a besoin de 15 enfants pour le trouver afin qu'il ne soit pas seul. Ensuite, 1. Demandez à quelqu'un de vous prendre en photo avec lui. 2. Postez-le / « taguez » nous sur Facebook. 3. Attendez qu'un jeu de mémoire biblique arrive de LivingWell à Silver Spring, dans le Maryland.



ACCÉLÉRATION D'ACS POUR RÉPONDRE À LA DEMANDE

Alors que la première vague de la pandémie de COVID-19 frappait le centre de l'Atlantique, les dirigeants des Services Communautaires Adventistes et de la réponse aux catastrophes (ACS) de toute l'Union de Columbia sont intervenus pour répondre à des besoins accrus.

« Pour la première fois, de nombreuses familles ont dû chercher où trouver de la nourriture pour mettre sur leur table », explique Frank Bondurant, vice-président pour le développement des ministères à l'Union de Columbia, qui supervise les efforts au niveau de l'Union. « Il y a une énorme demande d'épicerie dans nos services communautaires, nos garde-manger et nos centres de collecte. »

Les membres de l'église des Oranges de la Conférence Allegheny East dans le New Jersey nourrissent plus de 250 familles par semaine.

FOTO : STUART RICHARDS

Inspiration for Times Like These...



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- ▶ Live cell phone evangelism training sessions
- ▶ “Meet the Staff” videos
- ▶ New and archived prophecy-focused sermons at awr.org/prophecies
- ▶ Videos and Pathfinder honor trainings for kids

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Adventist World Radio 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Safe at Church

Promoting a Culture that Prevents Abuse

#church

too

By Elizabeth Anderson

Ililiana* is a Generation X Seventh-day Adventist who attends church with her three daughters. The way she worships today has been shaped by a series of violations during her tween years.

"I was molested by an elder at the church," she told the *Visitor* staff. "My mother trusted [that] when I was in church, I was fine, and I was safe. And that absolutely was not the case."

Praying and Preying

That sense of trust church members tend to place in others can be attractive for good reasons *and* nefarious ones.

"Predators love church because there's an automatic feeling of trust," says Erica Jones, Women's Ministries assistant director for the North American Division (NAD).

"You want to volunteer to be a Sabbath School teacher? You want to be an elder or a deacon? There's this automatic feeling [that] they're good. ... They're doing the right thing," Jones adds. But that's not where things should end. "It's not trust or verify;

it's trust *and* verify," so that those with access to young folks will be safe.

"Our background screening, ... called Adventist Screening Verification (ASV), is for anyone working with children/youth. It's for employees, staff and anyone over 18, [even volunteers]," she says.

Upon inquiry, the *Visitor* magazine learned that all Columbia Union Conference churches participate in ASV, or a similar program, and most churches also require office holders to undergo background checks.

"We take seriously our duty to protect our members as they worship. Screening programs help us to reduce risk and are a first line of defense in the prevention of potential issues," says Fred Warfield, Human Resources director for the Potomac Conference.

Josue Feliciano, youth pastor at Chesapeake Conference's West Wilmington (Del.) church, says, "It is important to make the church body aware of our position and [that] they should also be on the lookout. A healthy church is a church that looks for any suspicious behavior."

He adds, "Having a safe program ensures that children have a safe place to grow and learn about Jesus. Children are the church's biggest asset, and we need to protect them."

Church leaders around the world are paying attention too.

During the Annual Council 2020 Spring Meeting, General Conference Executive Committee leaders stated they are working on this issue and rolling out measures to implement voted principles, with division leaders pledging to continue working on “detailed protocols to prevent or respond to any complaint of sexual abuse in the church,” reported the *Adventist Review* in a May 8, 2020, online article.

Nurturing a Culture of Boundaries

E-87, a section of the NAD Working Policy that discusses Sexual Ethics and Misconduct, has guidelines to follow if a sexual abuse instance takes place. Local church leaders and members can also work to promote a culture that respects boundaries and places safety as a top priority in the following ways:

1 Ask a Child’s Permission to Touch Them—For Any Reason
Adventist Risk Management’s Child Protection resources on appropriate touch state that after permission is granted, only touch a child at the shoulder level or above, except when necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of a child. Only give children side hugs, and refrain from inappropriate physical contact such as rough physical play, horseplay or physical reprimands.

2 Use the Two-Adult Rule
“Where there is a child, there should always be two adults,” Jones says, meaning non-familial adults. “I’m talking about leaders in the church—Pathfinder leaders, AY leaders ... your child should never [be] alone with anyone.”

3 It Starts at Home
The prevalence of sexual abuse and assault is all the more reason to have frank and open discussions with minors so they are aware that such predators exist and that men, women *and* even other children can be perpetrators.

Those discussions should start early by “having a relationship with your child that they can come and tell you anything. So that starts way before you hit the church door,” says Beverly Sedlacek, a licensed therapist and co-founder of Into His Rest Ministries.

That relationship includes creating a safe space where children can talk about what makes them uncomfortable—even comfort breaches that may not meet the threshold of criminal child sexual abuse. Churches can also create a safe space for adults to report their concerns if a leader—or anyone in the church—pressures them into uncomfortable situations.



Respect the Greeting Offered

Remember, no one is obligated to greet with hugs. Handshakes and bows are also signals of respect. “You can smile and say hello,” says Jones. That respect includes honoring a child’s desire not to speak to or hug an adult if they are uncomfortable doing so.

Additionally, cultural differences can create discomfort. “What for some may be just a simple behavior or comment, for others is offensive. [We] must make it a point to learn the cross-cultural behaviors of other members and the community,” says Sarah Frodelly, who works at the New Jersey Conference assisting the executive secretary and is also a certified human resources specialist.

Gaps in this knowledge could lead to miscommunication “demonstrated with word, actions [or] behaviors,” Frodelly says, citing hugging at church as an example. “For many Hispanics and Caribbeans, hugging is a normal way of greeting someone. However, in some cultures, hugging can be undesirable.”

Prevent Abuse at Your Church

“We are very loudly and clearly saying the Seventh-day Adventist Church stands against all forms of abuse and violence. We not only want to address it, we want to prevent it,” says Jones, who also directs the NAD’s *enditnow* campaign that seeks to raise awareness and advocate against violence.

**Name has been changed to protect the victim*

Participate in the **enditnow emphasis day, August 22.**

Download (or order) **free resources, including a sermon packet in English or Spanish, at enditnownorthamerica.org/ein-emphasis-day. Also, plan to watch the **Summit on Abuse, November 13–14.****

enditnow

During Shutdown, Increased Online Evangelism Brings Many to Christ

Pastors of Pennsylvania Conference's 26 Hispanic churches had an evangelism series planned for spring. But with coronavirus pandemic social distancing in place, they were forced to move the event to social media where they took turns preaching on the theme, "Love Written With Blood."

The weeklong series received more than 19,000 views and was shared 678 times. Organizers believe that more people were impacted by the series than if it would've taken place "in person."

More than 458 Spanish- and English-speaking members also became digital missionaries. Some gave Bible studies to 15 or more people through text messaging, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger, reports Pedro Alberteris, pastor of the Lancaster, York and Harrisburg Spanish district. "People who did not share the gospel before are now doing it here," he says.



Braulio Jimenez, a Pennsylvania Conference Bible instructor, follows up with people interested in Bible studies after the conference's online series.

Other church members across the union continued to participate in evangelism efforts during the first months of the coronavirus pandemic. Twenty-four churches hosted It is Written's "Hope Awakens" virtual event. Other churches, like Mountain View Conference's Logan and Williamson churches in West Virginia, held their own online series and Bible studies.

Chesapeake Conference leaders also recognized a need to reach out online during the quarantine. More than 1,400 people joined their "Forecasting Hope" Bible prophecy series online in April and May.

The series was originally only offered to conference churches, but, because of growing interest, members from New Jersey, Iowa, Missouri and Canada also registered, totaling more than 80 congregations.



Debbie Rivera, associate pastor at Chesapeake Conference's Ellicott City church, welcomes viewers to the "Forecasting Hope" online Bible prophecy series.

Allegheny West Conference leaders held their first virtual camp meeting. They also converted a pre-scheduled evangelism and service event, "Impact 2020," into an initiative where local churches distributed clothing, household items and food for the community.

"People are in need," says Pastor John Coaxum, who coordinated the initiative. "We have been pushing service and discipleship to our young adults, and God has provided us with this opportunity to serve."

In addition to hosting an online evangelism series resulting in 21 baptisms in Ohio and more than 30 in El Salvador, staff at Stereo Adventista, a radio station run by Ohio Conference's Hispanic Ministries Department, shifted the emphasis of the programming, reports Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator.

Before the social restrictions in Ohio, Simpson says the station drew between 1,500 and 2,000 daily listeners. During the first months of the pandemic, there were between 5,000 and 10,000 daily viewers through Facebook Live, YouTube and on the Stereo Adventista app.

Church members are very enthusiastic about continuing to use cyber evangelism, adds Simpson.—*V. Michelle Bernard*



RIVERA PHOTO BY ANDRE HASTICK

ACS Ramps Up Service to Meet Record Demand

As the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Mid-Atlantic United States, Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response (ACS) leaders from across the Columbia Union Conference stepped in to meet increased need.

“For the first time, many families have had to figure out where they are going to find food for their table,” says Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the Columbia Union, who oversees efforts from the union level. “There is a huge demand for groceries.”

Ignacio Goya, Chesapeake Conference’s ACS leader and pastor of the Linthicum and Pasadena churches in Maryland, says the number of food pantries the conference operates jumped from eight to 20. The facilities served more than 1,100 families in March and 2,000 in April, compared to about 700 per month in 2019.

Four of the conference’s churches also served as collection sites for personal protective equipment (PPE), later distributed to frontline and essential workers.



Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., also responded to an increased need for food. They normally serve about 150 families a week in their 35-year-old pantry, but once the layoffs and furloughs began, requests increased to 250 to 375 families a week (pictured above). Staff have faced challenges, as many volunteers are age 50 and above, making them more vulnerable to the virus, so youth members stepped up to help. “It’s nice to know while this is going on ... that people can still come and get what they need,” says Rachael Groce, a church youth leader who volunteered.

Pantry director Valencia Maponya and her team are also planning an online summer program for children.

AEC’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., has been serving their neighborhood by encouraging firefighters (pictured top) and police officers, volunteering at food kitchens, making and distributing masks



Rosie Stansberry and other members of Capitol Hill church’s sewing circle (ages 17 to 92) have made 200 face masks to share with community members.



for seniors and donating surgical masks to Howard University Hospital (DC) and a domestic abuse shelter.

In addition to distributing food for 10,000 meals each week, Potomac Conference’s Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington in Silver Spring, Md., secured and distributed 40,000 diapers.

Allegheny West Conference’s Hilltop church in Columbus, which previously served more than 170 hot meals twice a week, now serves more than 300 meals via carryout. “Thanks to our community partners (pictured), everyone also takes home a bag of groceries,” says Pastor Jack McCrary.



In addition to hosting a PPE collection site, Chesapeake Conference’s Ellicott City (Md.) church adopted 15 families to which they are delivering groceries. They are prepared to continue for three to six months, says Associate Pastor Debbie Rivera.

“It’s an opportunity for people to know our church exists and that we exist to serve,” says Rivera.—Visitor Staff

CHURCH OF THE ORANGES PHOTO BY STUART RICHARDS

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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Seven-Year-Old Recovers From Being Hit by Car

Earlier this year, the Yeboah family of the Philadelphia Ghana church had their lives turned upside down when their 7-year-old daughter, Jayzlyn, was hit by a car after exiting a school bus. As a result, she suffered a major brain injury causing her to be hospitalized for six months.

Doctors said her condition was grim and she needed to be airlifted to another hospital. But the unfavorable weather stood in the way. Doctors told the family they would have to transport her via ground travel and would need them to sign a waiver. "That's when we knew how bad she was," says Dickson Yeboah, Jayzlyn's father.

The next several weeks proved to be touch-and-go, as Jayzlyn's condition bounced between critical and stable. "They prepared us for the fact that she would probably be a vegetable," recalls Dickson. However, the family chose to make their daughter's condition a matter of prayer. They solicited prayers from Pastor Appiah Kwarteng, church family and friends.

They began to see God's hand move in Jayzlyn's condition. She became more responsive, moving her limbs, speaking and even singing. "It was truly a miracle," says Afia Johnson, Jayzlyn's mother. Even the doctors agreed—they had never seen someone with



Jayzlyn's mother, Afia Johnson, visits her daughter who was hit by a car.

an injury like hers recover the way she did.

Local media outlets documented her release from the hospital, as she continued rehabilitation from home.

"We are so grateful to the support we received from everyone, and for the miracles God is still performing in Jayzlyn's life!" exclaims Dickson.

Berean Church Featured on MSNBC for Food Pantry

MSNBC recently featured the Berean church in Newark, N.J., for their efforts in providing meals to needy families during the COVID-19 crisis.

Prior to the outbreak, the Berean church operated their food pantry twice a month on Sundays, faithfully



feeding 100 to 200 families. Due to the pandemic, however, the demand for food increased. Many people, including church members, were furloughed or lost their jobs completely.

When food suppliers asked if they would be willing to receive more food for distribution, community service leader Felice Williams and Pastor Henry Davis got on board.

"I believe this is a calling for us," says Williams. "We are a compassionate church, so if this is the need, and this is where we are placed, then this is where we need to be."

The community service team opened their food pantry every Sunday and served twice as many families. The need was so great they often ran out of food while cars were still in line.

"We are just grateful for this opportunity to serve. People are hurting, and we want to help," says Davis.

To view their story on MSNBC, visit tinyurl.com/ycd33vke.

West Philadelphia Becomes Coronavirus Testing Site

In the midst of the pandemic, the West Philadelphia church became a host site for COVID-19 testing, serving more than 200 people from their community. Ala Stanford, a pediatrician in Philadelphia who observed the lack of testing being done in low-income communities of color, organized the effort. She shared her desire with her pastor, Marshall Mitchell, of the Salem Baptist Church (Pa.). He reached out to various clergy who had churches located in the zones identified as having the most infections.

That's when Mitchell reached out to Nick Taliaferro, pastor of West Philadelphia. "I said, 'Say no more. Crack the whip, and we'll make that trip,'" Taliaferro responded.

Testing started at 10 a.m., however, by 8:15 a.m., cars were already lined up down the block and around the corner. Even though the rain posed a challenge for medical professionals to administer the free tests in a drive-through fashion without compromising the testing process, they stayed dry under the shelter of the church's roof overhang. For the many individuals who arrived on foot, members set up a canopy for testing in the middle of the parking lot.

The call for testing was particularly for those exhibiting symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, sore throat,

shortness of breath, fever, weakness and loss of smell and taste. Others who were tested included anyone exposed to someone with the virus.

"It warmed my heart to see all of these people who knew that our church would be serving them that day," says Taliaferro. "Nothing is more rewarding than to know that people trust the spirit of your service."



Health care workers from the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium prepare testing kits inside the church.



The West Philadelphia church becomes a drive-through testing center for COVID-19 testing.



A doctor performs a free COVID-19 test in the parking lot of the West Philadelphia church.

Our First Virtual Camp Meeting Experience

We began the process of planning camp meeting just three weeks before going live. Prior to that, we made the decision to cancel camp meeting because of COVID-19, and decided to hunker down until the pandemic was over. However, God had another thought: *I've got a captive audience.* We quickly brought the idea to our staff, and decided to have a 10-day virtual camp meeting on social media. In recent years, we held camp meeting for just two days, but God reminded us that we are living in the end times and this was our opportunity to share His message with the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) and the world.

During the 10 days, each morning we began with corporate prayer at 5 a.m. on the prayer line. Keeping in mind we are blessed to be a multicultural conference, we gave our Korean churches the opportunity to share the good news every morning at 7 a.m., and their services streamed live across North America and even into other countries.

We also accommodated our Haitian community by rebroadcasting sermons by Pastor Jacky George of the Philadelphie church in Columbus, Ohio.

In our planning meetings, we acknowledged that many individuals comment negatively about the Spirit of Prophecy, despite having never read it. We concluded that if there was one thing that needed to be preached, it was the prophecy found in God's Word. Prophecy enables us to have a sense of hope, so we had a special prophecy series during these 10 days. We also highlighted *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings* and our essential health message.

We included a series in doctrine because it is what God uses to help protect us from the deception that will take place in the last days. We also shared why it is necessary to have family worship in the home. At



Benia Jennings, Allegheny West Conference's multimedia coordinator, sits with President William T. Cox Sr., to discuss his sermon on the book of Revelation.

the end of each sermon on Revelation, we interviewed our pastors so that viewers could relate to stories of their everyday struggles.

One of the most important decisions we made was to spend time in daily worship with all of our pastors and teachers reminding them that the times we are living in are an indication that Jesus is soon to come.

Although the virtual part of camp meeting has concluded, the "camp meeting" itself is not over. Our conference has made it our mission to continue to share God's last day message with the world. We have come to realize that the Lord truly works in mysterious ways. Though camp meeting was almost canceled altogether, we were able to reach more than 700 thousand viewers on social media.

We believe that Jesus is soon to come, and it is high time for us to fulfill the calling of God upon AWC. We have experienced a renewed purpose in ministry by sharing the three angels' messages; valuing the prophecies and doctrines of Scriptures; and promoting the Spirit of Prophecy, our health message and family worship. This virtual camp meeting has shown us that all things are possible when we agree to be led by the Spirit of God.—*William T. Cox Sr., President*

Stephen D. Lewis, William T. Cox Sr., Samuel Thomas Jr., and Sergio Romero open camp meeting with a panel discussion.



Southeast Member Encourages Others During Pandemic

As many parts of the country sheltered in place due to the coronavirus pandemic, the term “new normal” took root in everyday life. Children were home-schooled, health care was done virtually and work meetings were facilitated through Zoom and other electronic resources. So much changed so quickly. Only months ago, church members from the Southeast church in Cleveland, Ohio, enjoyed the simple pleasure of opening doors and walking freely into a church so many consider home.

Veronica Felix (pictured) is usually one of the first faces members and visitors see upon entering. She greets everyone with a cheery “Happy Sabbath” in a soothing Jamaican accent, and is always ready to hug members when distributing tithe envelopes. Felix wears many hats—wife, mother, grandmother, hospitality leader, Personal Ministries leader, communication director and deaconess. Southeast church family and friends know her as a person who can be depended on for an encouraging word, heartfelt prayer and a smile.

Known for encouraging others, Felix recently found herself in need of that same encouragement. As a resident associate working at an assisted living facility, she is responsible for patient care and is directly involved in the daily lives of seniors—members of the COVID-19 vulnerable population. As the virus suddenly swept through her facility, it brought with it confusion, fear and uncertainty.

“When COVID-19 first started, there was pandemonium in our facility. Nurses, co-workers, residents and family members—everyone was panicking,” says Felix. “As a Christian on the job, I had to remind people that God is in control. ... For the first three weeks, everyone was running scared. I had to encourage them to speak life, not death.”

At the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, one of the assisted living facilities shut down to contain the spread. Regretfully, four residents were impacted—two recovered and two passed away. The residents were frightened because they were on lockdown in their apartments and family members could not visit them.

Felix went the extra mile to encourage the residents by offering whatever solace she could. In addition to taking vitals and meeting their immediate needs, she stepped outside of her comfort zone.

“I became an entertainer,” she smiles. “I started to sing and dance, just to cheer them up.” Felix also helps to make phone calls so residents can see and speak to their loved ones during “window visits.” The residents



write notes on big cards and hold them up for their families to read.

Felix has been in the field of patient care for 22 years, but has never seen anything like this before. Staff is working overtime testing, filling out questionnaires and taking temperatures and vitals, all in an effort to keep everyone safe. “Some days, I just don’t want to go in, but I know people are depending on me,” she says. “I have to be mentally and physically refueled to give to residents. It can be overwhelming.”

So how does someone who gives so much to others cope? Felix states, “When I get home, I also have my granddaughter to care for, but I always take an hour to recuperate and pray for God to give me strength for the next day.”

She also has a routine of juicing, drinking lots of water, getting a good night’s rest and reciting Scripture. Psalm 121 is helping her get through the storm.

Co-workers ask her how she stays grounded in the middle of chaos. “I take a blood bath every day; I’m covered by the blood [of Jesus],” she tells them. Felix tries to remember she is there to uplift, encourage and be a support to staff members and residents. When they say to her, “You are different,” Felix responds, “Christ was the greatest servant, and I am glad to be a co-laborer with Him in serving others.—*Cecily Bryant*



CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CURRENTS

Great Comfort

There are many scripture passages so broad and deep in addressing human need that many generations of Christians have found comfort and hope in them. Among these great passages is Psalm 91. It opens with a combination of invitation and promise: “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust’” (vv. 1–2, NKJV).

We are assured that we can not only visit, but also set up residency in the closest proximity to our God. Being in His shadow is a guarantee that we are never far from Him, as He is aware of our needs and able to quickly respond. The imagery of a fortress is used to describe the strength and impenetrable defense provided by God. Regardless of the attacks of the enemy in our lives, we find safety and refuge in our God.

The following verses in Psalm 91 paint many word pictures of God’s protection and culminate with the exclamation, “He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (vv. 15–16).

In rapid succession, we are given four precious promises. First, God will answer us when we call out to Him. Second, God will be with us in our times of trouble. Third, God will deliver us. Fourth, God will give us a long life, that is, salvation and eternal life.

Whatever great crisis comes our way, we are fortified by the presence and power of God.



Rick Remmers
President

Schools Maintain Excellence in Distance Learning

In mid-March, teachers and students across the conference were unable to meet in their respective school buildings due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. To adapt to this new reality, educators in all 11 Chesapeake Conference schools began offering comprehensive distance learning experiences for their students.

“We saw it coming and prepared ahead of time,” says Janesta Walker, superintendent of schools for Chesapeake. “We met with the teachers right before spring break to discuss what school would look like in a few weeks, and started providing online resources such as Zoom, Google Classroom and Schoology.”

Although school buildings were temporarily shuttered,

these closures did not prevent local families from maintaining a sense of collective community.

“It is a blessing that we are able to keep a connection between the students and teachers, even in this time,” says Melissa Baggett, principal of the Rocky Knoll Adventist School in Martinsburg, W.Va.

With school buildings closed, students were unable to meet in person for the annual week of spiritual emphasis. Thus, five Highland View Academy (HVA) students led a virtual Student Week of Prayer for this special gathering.

“The student speakers and the Campus Ministries Department agreed that Week of Prayer was more important now than before. This was a way to keep our student body connected and still allow for the Holy Spirit to work through these students and the sermons they had prepared,” says Mandy Corea, Campus Ministries director for HVA, located in Hagerstown, Md.

“I realize how blessed we truly are with our ability to be at school together under normal circumstances and within a religious environment,” says Megan Cook, elementary math teacher at Frederick Adventist Academy (Md.). “Our schools provide so much more than academic education.”



Rebecca Malin, a sixth-grader at Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.), completes schoolwork through distance learning.

Prophecy Series ‘Forecasts Hope’ During Pandemic

“It seems as if one morning, we all woke up, and everything was different,” says David Klinedinst, Evangelism and Church Growth director for the Chesapeake Conference. “While we were unable to hold in-person seminar meetings here in the Chesapeake Conference region under coronavirus-related mandated restrictions, we still felt a commitment to advancing our evangelistic mission.”

After prayer and evaluation, the conference decided to offer a message of hope titled “Forecasting Hope,” an online Bible prophecy seminar streamed live from April 18–May 2. In addition to the Chesapeake region, the 1,420 registrants included churches and individuals from New Jersey, Iowa, Missouri and Canada.

“Originally, this series was only going to be available to churches conferencewide,” says Klinedinst.



Elvis Mogoï, pastor of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, welcomes the online audience.



The “Forecasting Hope” media team provides support for the online seminar livestream.

“However, as we shared, it began to generate more and more interest. Our purpose was to be able to reach our communities during this pandemic with the hope found only in Jesus.”

The meetings featured several interactive elements, including Q & A segments, prayer requests, live chat and giveaways. At the conclusion of the series, each Bible study interest was paired with a local Seventh-day Adventist church for follow-up.

“The ‘Forecasting Hope’ series made a significant impact on the Middletown Valley community,” says Alex Santrac, lead pastor for the Middletown Valley and Catoctin View (Md.) churches. “As a pastor of the district, I have received several requests for Bible study, and I have already started the journey of

deepening the relationship with Christ together with three to four people. Some of them were in contact with the [Adventist] Church before, but they were never seriously engaged in growing their faith in the Lord. I fully support this kind of initiative when open-minded and seeking-people can find Christ through a digital media experience.”

After viewing the final message, 56 viewers submitted requests for further Bible studies. While the live recordings are complete, the video broadcasts can still be viewed and shared online at forecastinghope.com.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the seminars,” says viewer Norma Darrah. “I have been spiritually moved, and now I have so much more understanding.”



David Klinedinst, Evangelism and Church Growth director for Chesapeake, shares a message during the “Forecasting Hope” seminar.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Returning Home

Charles Kilgore's story involves many broken pieces, yet, throughout, God's hand was on his life and brought about his return to the Seventh-day Adventist church of his childhood.

Growing up in Charleston, W.Va., I attended Charleston Junior Academy, an Adventist elementary school. At the age of 11, I was baptized by Pastor Kenneth Taylor of the Charleston church, following a series of meetings held by Joe Crews. School friends, loving teachers, church fellowship and the Pathfinder club positively impacted my life, yet there was no Christian influence at home.

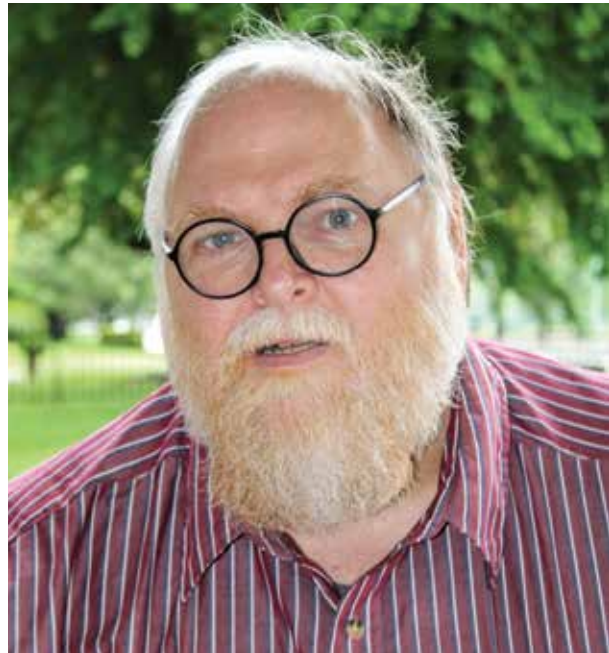
As I transitioned to public school, I was immediately impacted by poor influences throughout middle school and one year of high school, resulting in bad substance abuse choices. By the age of 15, I was an alcoholic.

Moving to Florida with hopes of continuing high school, I dropped out after three days, took a job and partied heavily. With poor choices deeply impacting my teenage life, and working in construction, where I was surrounded by others who also suffered from addictions, my mother brought me back to West Virginia. Several years after I returned, my atheist stepfather shot and killed himself.

I later moved to the Carolinas to work with my middle brother, Jim. I walked around with plenty of cash in my pocket but an empty heart. People around me used harder drugs, and I, a heavy drinker, was unhappy with my life. One night, sitting on my bed with a gun in my hand, I had thoughts of ending my life. I remembered my stepfather's death and told myself, *No way! There is something better.*

Quitting my job and emptying my apartment, I headed to Virginia, where my older brother, Bill, was employed at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. Picking up a motel Bible during the trip, I read the passage, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." And that's all it took. I was brought to my knees as I cried out to God.

The Holy Spirit, combined with Bill's prayers for my conversion, led me back to an Adventist environment, where I attended the New Market church on the academy's campus. The next year was life-changing, as I received my GED, was rebaptized and began ministerial studies at Southern Missionary College (Tenn.). Graduating in 1993, I went to Korea as a student missionary to teach English and Bible.



Unfortunately, while I was there, I met a woman who reintroduced me to my old alcohol habits, resulting in the loss of my teaching position. Eventually I married her and taught nine years in various teaching positions at public institutions. One day I returned home from work to find my wife dead on the floor. The following year I received news that my brother Jim, the biggest mentor and influence in my life, had died. I was devastated.

I spent 17 years in Korea, and taught more than 10,000 Koreans—ages 5–72—to speak English, but Jim's death was a major catalyst to heavier drinking. Again, I decided I had enough of this life. I told God, however, that if He would provide me with a way back to the United States, I would return to Him. In 2010 I returned permanently to West Virginia and quit drinking.

In 2019, my brother Bill contacted Pastor Joel Klimkewicz of the Charleston church, who, in turn, lovingly guided me back to church. In 2020 I celebrated 10 years of sobriety, and, by profession of faith, was re-established as a member of the Charleston family, the same church I was a member of more than 45 years earlier.

We Forged Ahead Despite the Unknowns

Leaving the country during a global pandemic might have seemed like a crazy idea, but, at the time, we didn't have any idea how extensive the coronavirus pandemic would become when we—students and staff from the Mountain View Conference (MVC) schools—hopped on a plane for a mission trip to Monteverde in Costa Rica.

When we arrived, everything we had planned—evangelistic meetings, Vacation Bible School and more—was shut down. As a result, our work was limited to building a church. However, God opened a door to minister to the local children on the street near where we stayed. Each evening kids participated in Bible studies, crafts, games and singing.

Though the team members prayerfully decided to go to Costa Rica, it wasn't until we heard Graciela's testimony that assured us that we had made the right decision.

Nearly seven years ago, five worshippers in Monteverde grew to 50, and they started building a church on a piece of land in which they were making payments, said Graciela. Over time, community leaders turned against them, and a bulldozer erased every evidence of their church-building work. "We don't want Adventists here!" the landowner said.

"We found out we didn't really even own the land. Even though we had paid a lot of money ... the original owner kept the deed and eventually resold it right out from under us," Graciela recounted. "We began praying and fasting. ... Then we started to collect funds again, but it seemed like we would never have enough."

Years passed and the church continued to grow in number. But they still faced the reality of not owning a building, and also encountered opposition from a neighboring church of another denomination that went so far as to pray and fast against our progress. Finally, the church family saved enough money to purchase another plot of land and a few supplies. Our MVC mission team was a huge blessing to them.

Some of the most kindhearted people we had ever met gave up their homes for us to sleep and sacrificed time and money to feed us. Three times a day, a church member cooked us delicious Costa Rican meals from her home—the very same place where they hold weekly church services until the church building is completely built.

We ended up cutting the trip short to ensure we got home before travel became too difficult, but we believe



God used us to bring encouragement and help to our new friends, and we surely received a blessing ourselves.—*Nadelle Bertus and Stacy Blanzky, teachers at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va.*

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NEWS NEW JERSEY

The Closing of Doors Opens Up Others

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, the doors of many businesses closed, from gyms, retail stores and restaurants to schools and houses of worship. At the time of writing this editorial, we are going on more than three months of this new reality. This crisis, however, has widely opened what I consider to be “doors of opportunity.”

One door that was open long before stay-at-home orders was the door of online evangelism. This door didn't suddenly open as a result of the pandemic. Many pastors, evangelists and ministries had an online presence already, even implementing the use of live streaming. So when churches had to adapt to an online presence, within days they figured out how to engage the congregation on social media, worship together and reach people for Jesus. I praise God we were forced to become more tech savvy.

Just this past May, the New Jersey Conference witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit working through online evangelism with “Encounters of Faith and Hope”—a live stream event aimed at encouraging people and sharing the hope of Jesus. Led by President Jorge Agüero, Personal Ministries director and speaker Carlos Torres and the support of many others, the project was a blessed success. It is amazing to see how many people and how far the gospel message can reach and transform lives. This message can indeed reach every internet-connected device, drawing people to the feet of Jesus. To God be the glory for this door of opportunity we have now entered. What other doors does God have waiting for us to walk through?



Eduardo Monteiro
*Prison Ministries
Director*

El Cierre de Puertas Abre Otros

A medida que evolucionó la pandemia de COVID-19, se cerraron las puertas de muchos negocios, desde gimnasios, tiendas de mercadería y restaurantes hasta escuelas y lugares de culto. Al momento de este editorial, estamos pasando más de tres meses de esta nueva realidad. Sin embargo, esta crisis ha abierto ampliamente lo que considero “puertas de oportunidad”.

Una puerta que estaba abierta mucho antes de las órdenes de quedarse en casa era la puerta del evangelismo en línea. Esta puerta no se abrió repentinamente como resultado de la pandemia. Muchos pastores, evangelistas y ministerios ya tenían una presencia en plataformas digitales, incluso implementando el uso de la transmisión en vivo. Entonces, cuando las iglesias tuvieron que adaptarse a una presencia en línea digital, en cuestión de días descubrieron cómo involucrar a la congregación en las redes sociales, adorar juntos y alcanzar a las personas para Jesús. Alabo a Dios porque nos vimos obligados a ser expertos en tecnología.

Justo en mayo pasado, la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey fue testigo del poder del Espíritu Santo trabajando a través del evangelismo en línea digital con “Encuentros de fe y esperanza”, un evento en vivo dirigido a alentar a las personas y compartir la esperanza de Jesús. Dirigido por el presidente Jorge Agüero, el Director de Ministerios Personales y orador Carlos Torres, y el apoyo de muchos otros, el proyecto fue un bendecido éxito. Es sorprendente ver hasta dónde puede llegar el mensaje del evangelio y cuántas vidas se pueden transformar. Este mensaje puede llegar a todos los dispositivos electrónicos conectados a Internet, atrayendo a las personas a los pies de Jesús. A Dios sea la gloria por esta puerta de oportunidad en la que hemos entrado. ¿Qué otras puertas tiene Dios esperando ser usadas que pasemos?—*Eduardo Monteiro*



PHOTO BY WILL FOLSOM

Return to Jesus, as I Did

I was born and raised in New Jersey as a Seventh-day Adventist, and attended church every Sabbath. My family was involved in every church activity and religion was embedded into our lives through the Bible, home worship, church worship and prayer.

At the age of 18, my family moved to Puerto Rico, but I remained in New Jersey to attend college. Quickly church and worship took a backseat in my life. This period lasted for more than 20 years.

A few months prior to the coronavirus pandemic, I felt the Holy Spirit talking to me in subtle ways. I felt ashamed by the life I had chosen and how I'd completely put God aside. I began to pray and ask Him for help.

I woke up one morning and that inner voice told me to make some changes, so I began pouring all the alcohol in my house down the drain. I immediately felt a burden lifted off my shoulders. It was at this moment, I understood where happiness came from and how to fill the void I'd felt for a long time.

A close friend of mine invited me to her house where a small Bible study group met, led by Alex Pastor, pastor of the Paterson Eastside Spanish church. I was able to gain an in-depth knowledge of



Police officer Jose Albino stands with Pastor Alex Pastor after returning to God.

God's true love for me and what religion truly meant, and I gave my life to Him.

If you're feeling alone, depressed, upset, angry, anxious, deserted or empty, give God the opportunity to work in your life. Let Him in, and He will bring you to a spiritual level you have never imagined.—*Jose Albino*

From Witchcraft to Jesus Christ

For this year's spring evangelism series, Carlos Torres, the Personal Ministries director for the New Jersey Conference, and a team of 16 young adults, led the "Encuentros de Fe y Esperanza" (Encounters



Norma Matias and her husband, Santiago, encountered Christ through their small group and the "Encounters of Faith and Hope" program.

of Faith and Hope) program—a study of Jesus in the gospels and a doctrinal bridge to the Seventh-day Adventist message.

Each night more than 200 families across the United States and Latin America listened to the Word of God from their electronic devices. After the meetings, the viewers were encouraged to connect with Adventists willing to talk about any subject matter they wished.

One such couple, Santiago and Norma Matias, had been exposed to witchcraft in their lives and sought out freedom from it. They had turned to witchcraft healers to remove the eerie feelings and shadows Norma, specifically, witnessed.

Prior to COVID-19, they had been attending a small group and continued via Zoom following the pandemic. As a result of the small group, their hearts found a new healer and friend in Jesus.

Later when Torres extended the invitation to accept Jesus, the couple agreed to the invitation and Ever Gonzalez, the pastor of the Vineland church, baptized them. No longer has witchcraft troubled their lives, for Jesus came to the rescue.

Worthington Church Fuels Warm Community

Keychain Leadership; Empathy Today; Jesus' Message; Warm Relationships; Prioritize Everywhere; Best Neighbors—these are the six core commitments at the foundation of building a Jesus-centered community and at the heart of the Growing Young Adventists (GYA) initiative within the Ohio Conference.

Introduced one year ago under the leadership of GYA-certified presenter and conference Youth Director Edward Marton, GYA is going strong in more than 10 churches across the state. "This is not the next 'new' program or fad; we are not starting a new church," shares Marton. "This becomes part of the church's own culture."

The Worthington church chose to focus on the Warm Relationships commitment, where they aim for peer and intergenerational friendships rather than stylized worship or programs.

Many years prior to embarking upon the GYA journey, Senior Pastor Yuliyán Filipov worked with church leadership in casting a new vision for Worthington. Recognizing a disconnect between the generations, he found ways to encourage mentorship, discipleship and love for others within his congregation. Understanding many churches were at risk of being "one generation away from extinction," he began a journey to build a "lasting spiritual legacy."

This journey was strengthened in recent years with the addition of Youth Pastor Jeremy Wong and his chaplain spouse, Brooke, to Worthington's leadership team. The couple made youth a priority in the church budget, creating a place where youth wanted to belong.



Gary Gilson and Fewa Adediran play a game during a social, structured to build relationships and encourage the interaction of multiple generations.

According to Wong, youth programs are strongly supported by the church. Last year, 15 young people decided to be baptized—a direct result of Worthington's emphasis on growing younger and fostering intergenerational relationships.

Socials are structured to build intergenerational relationships through the context of having fun together organically, yet intentionally. As a result of these efforts, many young adults have shared that Worthington "is home."

This past February, Filipov and his team took relationship building to the next level by modifying their Sabbath routine. Sabbath mornings now begin at 9 a.m. with a prayer breakfast open to all members. This is followed by Sabbath School, then a combined worship service at 11 a.m. During the first week of this new schedule, more than 300 people attended the worship service. Filipov has also noticed new faces among those in attendance and several who returned to the church after hearing about the changes.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions impacting social gatherings, Wong observed church leadership and parents adopting and sharing the legacy vision, working together to create a space for people of all ages to grow and thrive. During the pandemic crisis, he has transitioned this work to virtual platforms and has been successful retaining those relationships.

Worthington will soon celebrate their 100-year anniversary, as their lasting spiritual legacy will continue to provide hope for all ages.



More than 300 people gather for worship each Sabbath during Worthington's combined service, created to be a place where all ages are wanted and belong.

Isolated, But Not Alone, Youth Unite During Crisis

Young people may particularly have a difficult time making sense of what is happening in the world today. Their brains are still maturing and they lack experience, leaving them vulnerable and confused. They have been socially isolated from their peers, teachers and churches for months. Add the seemingly endless news cycles, and children and teens (and even adults) may feel overwhelmed, anxious and scared. Many feel alone.

Retaining that connection and sense of community is challenging in the best of times for adolescents and teens; during a pandemic, it requires innovative thinking and a willingness to work *well* outside the box. So what are Ohio youth and young adult pastors doing to ensure that these susceptible individuals—who may be isolated—are not alone?

The Kettering church has a pastoral duo who stay linked with their youth and young adults. Pastors Jason Calvert and Paddy McCoy employ a mix of technology and “old school” methods to remain connected to their youth and congregation. According to McCoy, “Young adult elders are each calling and caring for 20 to 25 of their young adult community members, evaluating their health, prayer needs and other needs.” Calvert shared that the high school students are calling approximately 50 elderly and/or lonely church members each week.

In addition to Sabbath School and prayer meetings held virtually, the pastors offer live weekly Bible studies, daily devotional videos and interactive games and challenges for biweekly prizes. Sometimes to



Pastors Jason Calvert and Paddy McCoy connect with the youth and young adults of their church via the Kettering Connect weekly podcast.

encourage youth members celebrating birthdays, “We simply drive by a student’s home [parade style], honking and yelling and cheering!” says Calvert.

In April the Kettering church launched “the Hub,” an online initiative to connect church families with God and one another during this time of isolation. Visitors to the site, ketteringadventist.org, find innovative resources, live online events and opportunities to contribute content ideas to help it expand.

Both pastors regularly text their respective community members, letting them know they are praying for them and are available to talk via whatever means preferred. “I truly believe that all the work to create content and be a constant online presence helps our members feel like we are wrapping our arms around them, even from a distance,” says McCoy. Metrics for the various platforms seem to support this belief, as weekly viewership of worship services has recently quadrupled, while virtual Bible studies have nearly tripled, including a global following.

McCoy receives positive messages from near and far, such as one from a Kettering College (Ohio) student: “Hey Pastor Paddy! I look forward every Sabbath to live streaming the service all the way from up here in Michigan and enjoy all of your podcasts and Wednesday connect chats with Pastor Jason. It is such a blessing to be connected to such a wonderful community.”



Pennsylvania Pen

Teachers Rise to the Challenge

Praise God for Seventh-day Adventist Education! During the COVID-19 crisis, I have seen our teachers rise to the challenge, ensuring that students have a safe online destination where they are continuing their classes and developing their relationship with Jesus. From online videos to Google Expeditions to prayer challenges with friends, they have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make sure their students are receiving the education necessary to be ready for next school year, and that they are ministered to emotionally and spiritually.

This same dedication is also available to our constituency every year in our brick-and-mortar classrooms. There, dedicated teachers are present every day to make sure our students get the best. And now that this pandemic has shown us that we can be successful in the virtual world, we have new tools at our disposal to bless even more students. I invite you to contact your local church school or the conference to see how you can register your child in one of our outstanding schools next school year.



Jeremy Garlock
Education Superintendent

Education Continues to Thrive During Pandemic

Who would have ever thought that a worldwide pandemic would completely transform how Seventh-day Adventist schools reach kids for Jesus while maintaining high educational standards? On March 16, Pennsylvania Conference transitioned to distance learning, due to a mandate from the governor's office.

Schools immediately needed to change everything—from how teachers connected with students, delivered lesson material and educated students to rely on Jesus during this crisis. This was a mammoth task to launch with such short notice. While some public schools were unable to accomplish this, educators across the conference rose to the occasion to satisfy academic requirements and to follow the call God gave them to teach and share the gospel.

Educators used a variety of means, including Zoom, Google Classroom, Google Hangouts, phone calls and text messaging to personally connect with their students. They delivered material by emails, scanned documents, text messages and information packets mailed or dropped off at homes. Teachers spent countless hours online, phone calling, messaging and emailing to ensure students (and parents) understood the assignments.

Beyond academics, teachers intentionally connected students to Jesus. This looked different in each school. Some students wrote Bible verses on sidewalks and driveways to encourage neighbors. Others shared scripture, notes, letters and pictures with area medical professionals, patients and residents, paramedics, grocery store workers, truck drivers, mail carriers and family

members. Still others prepared new recipes for their families or completed art projects to help loved ones know Jesus better. Several students even made masks to send to those on the front lines fighting the pandemic.

"I'm proud of our educational team," shares Jeremy Garlock, education superintendent. "Education and the gospel did not stop because of the pandemic. Each day teachers, their students and families drew closer to Jesus. They learned to adapt, change and learn in spite of this sudden crisis. More importantly, God blessed all of us to draw closer to Him during this storm."—Jennifer Miller, Principal of Mountain View Christian School



Deb Wasmer (top row, center), the first- and second-grade teacher at the Harrisburg Adventist School, has worship online with her students.

Dare's Community Impact Leaves Legacy of Service

Those who know Jeannette Dare can testify she has a love and passion for people and a desire to care for them in practical ways. Dare brought this passion and care to her work as Pennsylvania Conference's Adventist Community Services director for the last 13 years. Since 2007 she has worked to equip and encourage churches to meet the needs of their communities in practical ways, believing this would open doors for sharing the gospel. She helped churches plan programs and events with low costs adapted to their specific location.

Dare created the "Living the Mission" resource, filled with ideas for programs aimed at relieving suffering in communities, empowering individuals with life skills and building a relationship with the local community. Her "Community Concierge" program shared tips and resources for ministry.

"Jeannette has served from her heart with a genuine concern for people and our churches," says Gary Gibbs, conference president.

"Her very practical ideas and resources have built a strong foundation for community services and congregations as they meet real community needs. We are grateful for all Jeanette has done and for how she has served her God and this conference."

Todd Casey, Pennsylvania's new Adventist Community Services director, will continue to build on the strong foundation Dare has created. "It is my prayer that each of our churches become a center of hope and healing to our communities through the services we provide," says Casey. Let our churches ask, "If we ceased to exist, would the community notice?" Let us answer the call of Jesus to reach out to our dark and dying world."



Conference Honors Scheib for Commitment to Ministry



Pam Scheib began her Pathfinder and Adventurer ministry in 1999 when she said, "I do" to her husband, Michael. Since then, she has served as a Pathfinder club staff member, club director and area coordinator, to ultimately becoming the Pennsylvania Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer Ministries director in 2010. Scheib became a Master Guide in 2003 and achieved both the Pathfinder Leadership Award (2006) and the Pathfinder Instructor Award (2009). She also served as a member on the Executive Advisory Committee for the 2014 and 2019 international Pathfinder camporees, and has been the camporee director for the 2007, 2012 and 2016 Columbia Union Pathfinder camporees. Under her direction, the union's Pathfinder Bible Experience grew from three participating conferences to seven. During the past five years, attendance became too large for most church buildings, so under her leadership as Columbia Union Pathfinder director, she moved them to gymnasiums instead.

"The Pennsylvania Conference appreciates all that Pam has done for young people across our state for the last 10 years," shares President Gary Gibbs. "Her commitment to Pathfinders and Adventurers has helped to build a strong program that has touched many lives. We thank Pam for her many years of sacrificial service and for the ministry to young people that she will surely continue."

Todd Casey, Pennsylvania Conference's Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, states, "Club ministries is one of the best ministries our local church can offer young people."

Casey, a Master Guide, looks forward to building on the foundation Scheib has laid in Pennsylvania. He joined the conference team April 1 and will lead Pathfinder clubs, Adventurer clubs and the summer camp program as part of his Youth Ministries responsibilities.



PotomacPeople

*growing healthy,
disciple-making churches*

Our Faithful God Provides

I love the story of Joseph as he journeys from spoiled brat to prime minister of Egypt after interpreting Pharaoh's perplexing dream of fat cows/plump grain compared to scrawny cows/thin grain.

The interpretation? He, God, will provide seven years of abundant harvest prior to a seven-year period of famine! Pharaoh believes God's message and Joseph administers the years of plenty. God is proven faithful.

Accountants are particularly drawn to these next verses in Genesis, "As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. ... [Joseph] piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure" (Gen. 41:47-49, NLT).

We live in financially troubled times due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, God has proven faithful, just as he was to Joseph and Pharaoh.

God continues to fulfill His promise: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse. ... If you do ... I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant" (Mal. 3:10-11, NLT).

For the past five years, Potomac Conference members have brought their tithe to the "storehouse." Each year operating gains have been recorded. Thus, we have entered this unprecedented crisis with financial working capital reserves well in excess of the 100 percent recommended amounts.

In this time of uncertainty, I want to thank you for your active belief in God's faithfulness. As a conference family, may we look forward with confidence!



Dave VandeVere
Vice President for
Finance

LivingWell Brings Peace Amid Crisis

With the COVID-19 virus increasing people's desire to understand health in a new and unpredicted way, LivingWell, Potomac's health and bookstore, continues to be a light to the community in Silver Spring, Md., by bringing messages of physical and spiritual health.

"When bad things happen, God's light shines brighter," says Melissa Leddy, general manger. "We've gotten a rush of new customers who are more interested in living new and healthier lives. They realize LivingWell is a source for vital products and information. A big draw is our selection of all-natural vitamins and supplements and the many plant-based foods we offer, especially due to the rising interest in vegan or vegetarian lifestyles. More than ever, people are paying attention to their overall health and immune system and are seeking information on how to live healthier."

Recently a young woman of another Protestant faith visited the store, concerned about the troubling events in the world. She asked staff member Kim Persaud about the book *The Great Controversy*. She questioned if it could answer some of *her* questions, including her curiosity and confusion surrounding the Sabbath.

With Persaud's help, the young woman left with a smile and an abundance of health food, free Discovery Bible Studies, several books and contact information

for two pastors to help answer her questions.

"Customers are very intrigued with the store as a whole," says Persaud. "Even just the idea that such a place exists in the first place. People are just so happy that we have all this information for them to make their lives better."—*Eric Sloan*



LivingWell continues to be a vital resource for people looking for a healthier lifestyle.

PotomacPeople

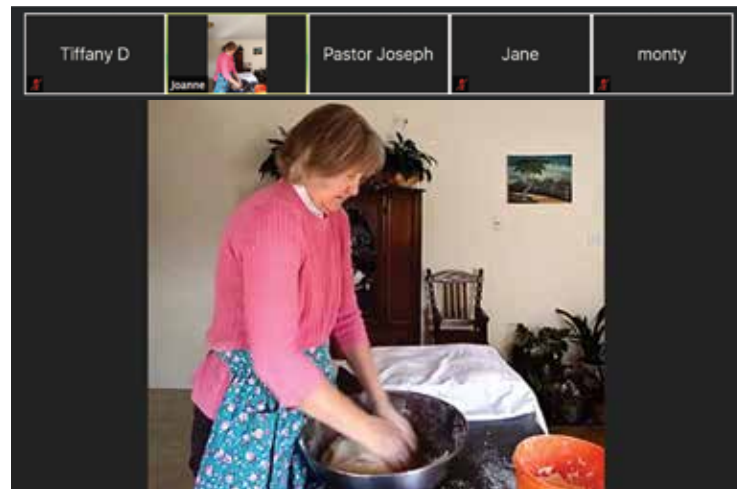
101 Classes Introduce New Hobbies to Members

You don't need to be enrolled in college to take a 101 class in the intricacies of gardening, maneuvering remote controlled helicopters, creating stained glass or baking bread. Members at Potomac Conference's Harrisonburg and Charlottesville churches in Virginia have been tuning in weekly via Zoom to discover what hidden talents fellow district members can teach each other.

The idea for these "101 Classes" started in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wanting to provide a healthy source of entertainment and intellect for his members, District Pastor Kosly Joseph asked Joanne Goodwin, the treasurer of the Charlottesville church, if she would be willing to share her baking talents when she mentioned she had to get off a call with him to teach a friend how to bake bread via Skype.

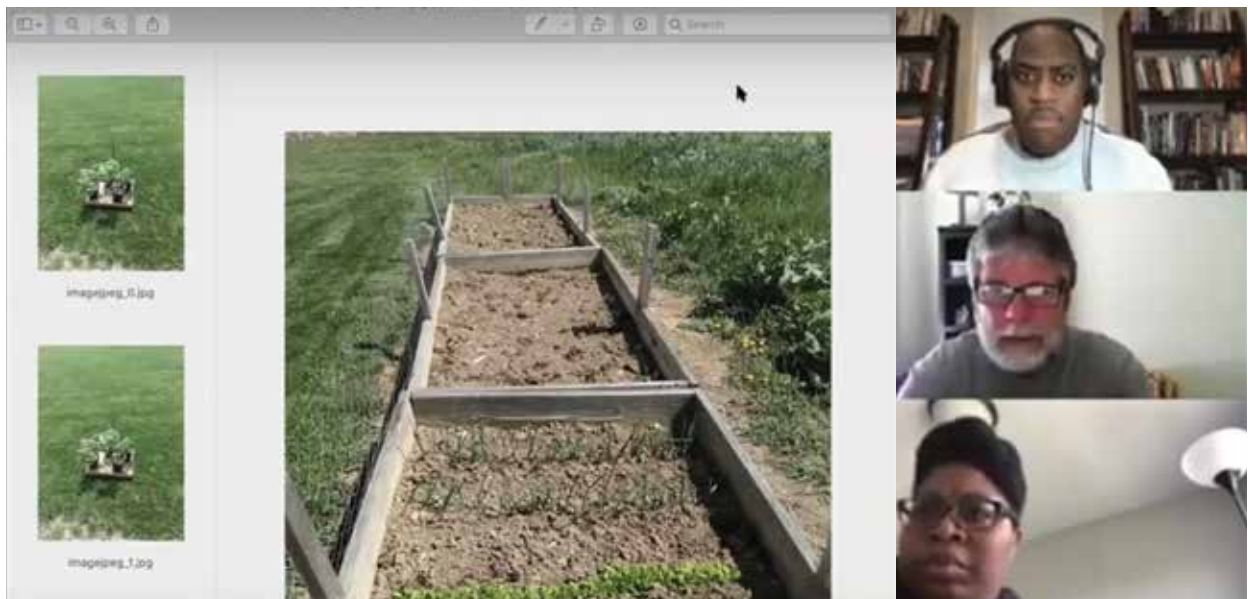
"Every session is simply an introduction that focuses on what one needs to know to get started in a certain hobby or craft," explains Joseph. "Currently we have held sessions on baking, gardening, maneuvering remote controlled helicopters and the basics of web surfing. And we are working to schedule more, like how to do stained glass projects."

Currently, members convene once a week, generally on Sundays, to learn something new. "What really gets me excited is the number of different members who are taking advantage of these sessions," says Joseph. "It's bringing different people across congregations together."



Joanne Goodwin, treasurer of the Charlottesville church, demonstrates the basic steps needed to bake homemade bread.

While the idea initially grew out of the state-mandated necessities to physically distance, Joseph says the 101 classes and growing virtual culture are here to stay. "This is a much easier way for larger groups of people to connect," he explains. "It cuts down on commuting time and allows people to learn from the comfort of their own homes—while quarantined and beyond."



Tim Conley (pictured in middle), head elder at the Harrisonburg church, teaches a 101 class on gardening, including basic tools and simple vegetables to grow for first-time gardeners.

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



Blue Mountain Academy

COMMUNIQUE

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

It's been a year Blue Mountain Academy students won't forget. The coronavirus is only one reason; it definitely impacted the year, as everyone headed home, classes went online and campus remained quiet over graduation weekend. Yet, through this crazy time, they trusted God, shared His Word and invited people to pray together.

"This year has been a roller coaster," shares senior Jared Chandler. "There have been amazing times, and there have been times when we thought everything would end. As we embark together on a new voyage, I encourage you to stick close to the One who knows you and has a plan for you. This year has shown all of us that we don't know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future. If you rely on God, He will get you through anything."

The students of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) are another reason this year will not be forgotten. They are an amazing group of strong leaders who connected more closely to God and encouraged each other to commit to Him.

"What I liked best about BMA was how I was able to learn how to be a leader and how to make a

difference," shares senior Gwynavere Culpepper. "The teachers really strove to teach us about God and how we can stay connected to Him. ... BMA trains students to leave with good work skills, academic knowledge, how to live healthy, and, most importantly, to prepare us to live for Jesus. ... If you are looking for a safe environment for your kids to go, BMA is that school."

BMA is looking forward to celebrating graduation August 2, 2020. As they say goodbye to the Class of 2020, they are excited to welcome students back to campus, where, they too, will have the opportunities to build a relationship with God, who will carry them through anything.

"The things that I liked best about coming to BMA were the spiritual atmosphere of the campus, the cultural diversity and the encouraging staff who empower the students," shares Esteban Grajales. "At BMA, there are so many opportunities to express yourself, whether it is through music, acrobatics, art, singing, poetry, literature, serving or leadership opportunities. ... You will see that it soon becomes a home away from home."

If you're not already a student at Blue Mountain Academy, learn more at bma.us, and register today!



In alphabetical order: Moses Adindu, Guilherme Alves, Arleny Aquino, Yuliana Arteaga, Erika Cabezas, Si Hyun Cha, Jared Chandler, Gabriel Couto, Andrea Cubero, Gwynavere Culpepper, Henrique da Silva, Ellen de Jesus, Alan Diaz, Vanessa Garcia, Natalya Gonzalez, Esteban Grajales, Marielis Herrera, Annelise Jacobs, Misgana Lebso, Hyeongjin Lee, Yuansong Li, Justin Mason, Adrian Morales, Ally Murphy, Yuri Nunes, Liselotte Perez, Maria Perez, Paulett Perez, Abigail Pineiro, Rachel Pineiro, Jose Pinillo, Oscar Polanco, Gabrielle Reis, Gabriel Sanchez, Kaiyuan Tang, Brianna Terrell, Tatianna Terrell, Penelope Vasquez, Wenfei Yu (with class sponsors Brian Barnhurst and Barbara Mathias)

Communiqué is published in the *Visitor* by the Blue Mountain Academy ■ 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526
Phone: (610) 562-2291 ■ Fax: (610) 562-8050 ■ bma.us ■ Principal, Burney Culpepper ■ Editor, Esther Hernandez

CONGRATULATIONS HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY CLASS OF 2020



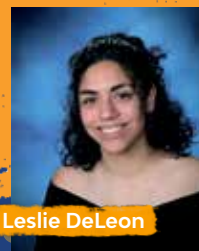
Ethan Baker



Bradley Banuag



Zoe Bronson



Leslie DeLeon



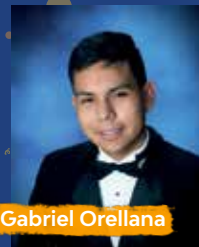
Chispa Kayonga



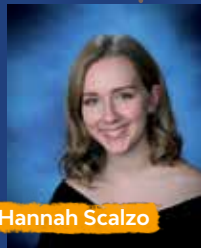
Rebecca Lim



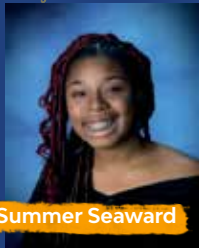
Arthur Lopes



Gabriel Orellana



Hannah Scalzo



Summer Seaward



Kristen Steed



Urna Uuganbayar



Jacob Zimmer



-  HighlandViewAcademy
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 www.hva-edu.com

*We know that our 2020 graduates will excel
in all that Christ calls them to do!
May they serve God and others with kindness
and compassion always! We will miss you!*



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

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Kenneth Bruen



Sirr Chung



Joshua Diaz



Steven Escano



Martiann Forbes



Jaya Gibbons



Jackie Grant



Jose Lizardo-Martinez



Barath Mathanbabu



Carolina Niebles



Carlos Santos-Marquez



Alexandra Seferis



Lynell Stanislans-Niles



Samantha Szelest



Karla Torres



Nancy Washburn

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Phone: (732) 981-0626 ■ Fax: (732) 981-0770 ■ lakenelsonacademy.org ■ Principal, Elisa Maragoto ■ Editor, Ashley Boggess

PFA POST



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



The Quintessential Class of 2020



Congratulations

Back Row: Steven Aroh, Jordan Williams, Charlton Dias, Reese McKoy, Shemaiah Hoppie, Jozeph Miller, Joseph Cheatham II, Curtis Rollins, Langston Crawford, Jervon Ricketts, Justin Alfred, Zhan Richmond
Middle Row: Alayna Crawford, Brianna Hayden, Simeon Ferguson, Brandee Clairmont, Irvin Fordham, Mikela McPherson, Lorelle Moore, Taelor Thomas-Mattison, Daylon Wheeler, Tyler Lindo, Serenity Bell, Jaeyden Stokes, Olyvia Fields, Kieren John-Lewis, Khani Holliday
Front Row: Auldwin Johnson (Sponsor), Erin Harrell, Sarah Williams, Anaeya Perry, Afinna Clare, Cenaia Browne, Brandon Clairmont, Grace Williamson, Calen Thomas, Lenise Shaver, Imani Nieves, Nana Ossei-Wusu, Keiry Zapata, Ricardo Sotilleo, Joya Hairston, Ronice Simms, Sh'Dai Forrester, Tunicha Butler (Sponsor)

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Phone: (610) 326-5800 ■ Fax: (610) 326-5152 ■ pineforgeacademy.org ■ Principal, H. Clifford Reynolds, III ■ Editor, Tracey Jackson

Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Joy Agwu	Zachary Alignay	Jacqueline Atterberry	Katelyne Atterberry	Caleb Bailey	Savannah Bayles	Erin Beers	Kelly Bejarano	Russell Benjamin
Alyssa Brown	Olivia Brown	Joshua Caruthers	Samuel Davis	Jackson Fachner	Lorena Feliciano	Wilfredo Flores	Bereket Geremew	Lindsey Gispert
								
Vanessa Gutierrez	Adam Henriquez	Erica Howell	Christopher Ince	Zoe Jenkins				
Jehlyssa Kennedy	Larissa Krueger	Miriam Luka	Noor Madanat	Matthew Nashed				
Rebecca Olyside	Nina Palivela	Aliya Pemberton	Jocelyn Polanco	Rhymiel Prudente				
Ivan Rada	Sasha Ram	Keyla Reyes	Kwame Roberts Jr.	Caleb Salazar	Matthew Soliman	Marvenis St. Luc	Xavier Taylor	Giselle Vasquez
								
Paulette Velazquez	Thea Wangness	Natasha Weber	Jacqueline Whitsett	Ronald Williams	Jess-Linton Wilson	Laura Wortman		

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
- Joshua 1:9

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868
Phone: (301) 421-9101 ■ spencervilleacademy.org ■ Interim Principal, Tissiana Bowerman ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Congratulations

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Praying for you as you graduate - for pride today, hope for tomorrow, and for love and support to go with you always!



1st Row: Dema Ndamukunda, Claude Irankunda, Torvy Wilkins 2nd Row: Nicole Mikov, Karolyn Martines, Sofia Nbrampeba, Carmen Flaker, Jingjing Li, Sandy Martinez, Celine Muhoracyeye, Esperance Nyirandahiriwe, Tatum Mullenix 3rd Row: Annika Cambigue, Hannah Shull, Grace Lawrence, Makenna Lunde, Olivia Colquhoun Back Row: Ayden McCoy, Caleb Burns, Yangbin Lu, Max Shull, Michael Scribner

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Aubrey Benton



Rachel Brossfield



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Amber Ennis



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Cristian Flores



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Kiera Griffin



Katie Harter

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Andrea Huaytalla



Marc-Anthony Jones



Emmanuel Cruz



Basam Mohamed El
Sayed-Gonzalez



Falloy Moonga



Tania Mooroven



Melanie Moraes



Ethan Odiewuor



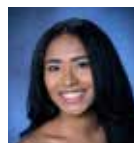
Gabrielle Patrick



Christopher Reedy



Olivia Sarmiento



Rose Serrano



Leah D. Shaw



Gabriel Lowe



Stella Souza



Harty Sullano



Abigail Thomas



Santiago Tivoli



Abby Tolbert



Natalee Townsend



Diego Vargas



Giselle Villatoro



Josselyn Villatoro



ShaDiamond Wilson

































































Welcome to the
SVA Alumni
Association
Class of 2020

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www.ta.edu TATO DAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

 John Alberty	 David Allard	 Jared Allen	 Allison Angel	 Clinton Ayoh	 Kristi Barnes	 Jade Berryman	 Michael Brown	 Anika Barrow			
 Maria Cardona	 Reina Cardona	 Marco Carrillo	 David Case	 Jasmine Chavez	 J. Solomon Collins	 Imani Cousins	 Jaden Curtis	 Karl De Leon			
 Tiffely Deguzman	 Maximo Diazdelvalle	 Doriah Donovan	 <p><i>Congratulations!</i> 2020 CLASS OF</p> <p>"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it, if you can dream it, you can become it."</p> 			 Mori Darich Diaz	 Jennifer Dumbabin	 Liliana Escobar			
 Jaden Elliott	 Kathy Espino	 Grant Ewell				 Kiera Fyfield	 Samantha Gill	 Dajah Gordon			
 Darius Hardie	 Chloe Henry	 Solomon Hill	 Aliya Jones	 Donielle Lowe-Better	 Lauren McIver	 Julia Mencia	 Jeremiah Mitchell	 Sherina Moses	 Ethan Mouzon	 Kai Nisbett	 David Nwankwe
 Joseph Ongwala	 Hannah Palote	 Nicole Perez	 Yamrice Prother	 Khalis Price	 Jellney Robinson	 Darwin Rodriguez	 Derion Ross	 Daeovan Ross			
 Rachelle Rubin	 Kyla Scott	 Gregory Simpkins	 Katrina Singh	 Keynigh Smith	 Kelise Starks	 Keni Tangora	 Roman Thompson	 Tyrae Washington			

TA Today is published in the *Visitor* by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
Phone: (301) 434-4700 ■ ta.edu ■ Principal, Carla Thrower ■ Editor, Salena Fitzgerald

WGTS Receives Industry Award for Community Service

During their virtual convention “Momentum,” the members of the Christian Music Broadcasters association selected WGTS 91.9 for the “Community Service Award.” This award is “presented to a Christian broadcaster, radio station or associated professional who, during the past year, has shown outstanding effort in community service.” CMB brings Christian radio media professionals together to help them develop programming that will reach listeners worldwide with the message of the Gospel.

Our employees and volunteers served approximately 69,147 individuals in 2019 through several Hands and Heart community service initiatives. Generous listeners provided more than 11,000 Mother’s Day cards for mothers experiencing homelessness, a backpack for every foster child in Washington, D.C., and more than 21,000 pairs of socks for those experiencing homelessness in the District.

“We are so honored to be recognized with this award. We know that God has entrusted us with an amazing ministry platform to leverage for Him—engaging listeners in serving others is a huge cause and a magnificent calling,” says General Manager Kevin Krueger.



Hope on Fridays

Getting to the end of the week is usually a relief as people prepare for the weekend and a day or two of rest. With the additional stresses brought on by coronavirus, our WGTS 91.9 staff started Hope-Filled Fridays, which was a day filled with hopeful messages and special prayers to round out the week. For seven weeks, each Friday was filled with special programming, including messages of hope from music artists, authors, and local leaders. Each hour there was a different prayer theme with a time to offer prayers for first responders, health care staff, and teachers and students.

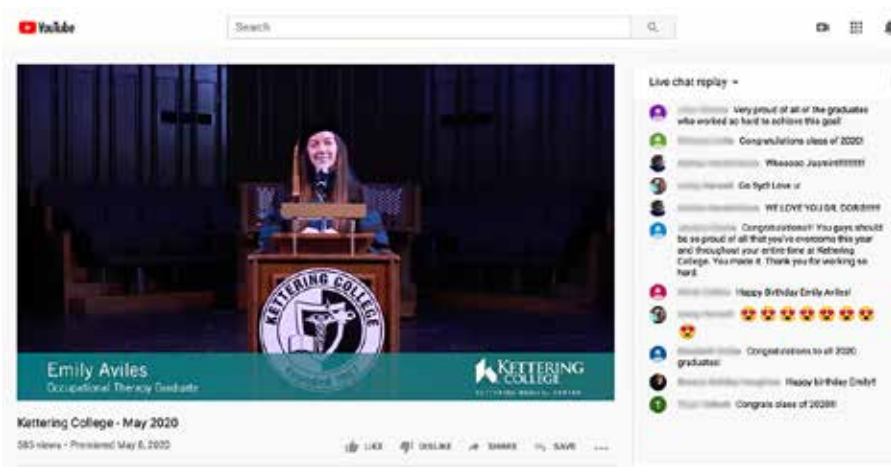
“Hope is more than a brand. It has been a way of life,” says WGTS Program Director Brennan Wimbish.

WGTS On-Air Hosts Share Videos of Encouragement

Find encouragement and hope for your day through WGTS 91.9. For this tough time of change and uncertainty brought on by coronavirus, our on-air hosts shared on video their personal strategies and stories on how to find encouragement and hope. You can watch the videos at wgts919.com/stayencouraged.



KETTERING COLLEGE



Kettering College hosted a virtual commencement ceremony for their spring graduates that included pre-recorded speeches, slides with graduates' names and degrees, as well as an interactive chat feature during the ceremony on YouTube.



Kettering College Holds Virtual Commencement Ceremony for Spring Graduates

By Lauren Brooks

On Friday, May 8, 2020, Kettering College held a virtual commencement ceremony for their spring graduates instead of an in-person ceremony, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kettering College collaborated with StageClip to create a digital platform where graduates could record a video message or submit a photo and a personal message that would be displayed during the commencement ceremony.

The Kettering College Public Relations and Marketing Office filmed a welcome address by Kettering College president, Nate Brandstater; a graduate reflection by Emily Aviles, an Occupational Therapy doctoral graduate; and the announcement of names by Scott Bennie, Rafael Canizales, and Paula Reams, all academic deans at Kettering College. The footage from all the addresses and announcement of names were edited together to create a commencement ceremony and streamed live on YouTube for graduates, their families, and friends to create a celebratory, communal event.

StageClip also created a special Kettering College Snapchat filter for graduates who didn't have a cap and gown to film their video message or take their photo for the commencement ceremony. After the ceremony, the spring graduates received an individual clip to share on social media.

Over 100 people tuned in to the virtual commencement ceremony, with Kettering College faculty, staff, friends and family of graduates sending congratulations through the chat feature on YouTube.

"Nothing matters more to us than the success of our students," said Brandstater. "Commencement is the most public way we celebrate that success, and I am thrilled to be joining our faculty and staff in celebrating digitally the amazing accomplishments of our students."



TO OUR GRADUATES



Congratulations on your outstanding academic accomplishment! A few years ago, you entered through the Gateway to Service at Washington Adventist University, seeking the required knowledge on your career pathway to become a competent moral leader in preparation to serve in communities throughout the world. We are excited that you chose WAU to support you on your career journey. Your success is not a surprise; it is well earned. As you leave the University through the Gateway to Service, put knowledge into action, and change the world by linking scholarship with service. Continue to be committed to a belief and value system that results in responsible moral choices and the care of the body, mind, and spirit.

The purpose of the Washington Adventist University experience is not only for you to earn a degree, but to prepare you to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Your earned degree is not designed to elevate you above others but to vertically connect you to God and horizontally connect you with others in meaningful ways. Make every interaction with people an opportunity to leave people feeling a little better. Become a hero by submitting yourself to the needs of others. Class of 2020, put your academic accomplishments to work by serving your community; your every act of service makes a difference!

COVID-19 interrupted our scheduled 2020 celebration of your outstanding accomplishment. Nevertheless, please take note; it will take place when circumstances permit.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to our valued faculty and the entire WAU learning community for their dedication and commitment to your success. You are now a distinguished alumnus of Washington Adventist University! You are now a lifelong partner in making the mission of WAU a reality for others!

Congratulations! May the Love of God, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be your support throughout life's journey!

Sincerely,

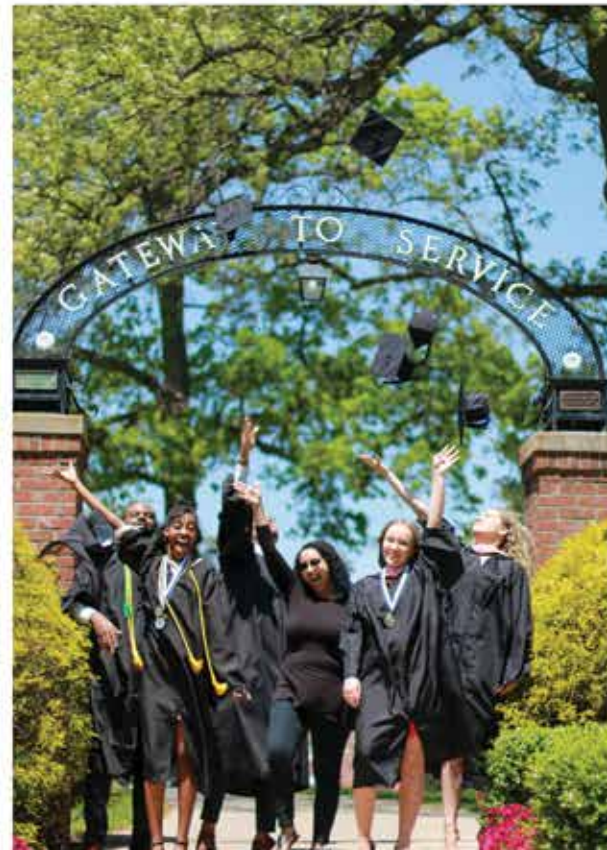

Weymouth Spence, President





WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**WE
CELEBRATE
YOU.**



Thank You Hospital Teams

For many years, travelers in just about any part of the world have been able to rely on being guided by a rectangular blue service sign with a big H in the middle. Of course, it means Hospital.

People who saw that sign could assume that there was a place nearby with people who could help – people with the skills, the experience, and the commitment to take on the most difficult human problems.

They can still say all these things, but as a result of COVID-19, the appreciation that we have for hospitals has risen to new levels. As we have watched our care teams respond effectively and efficiently to the coronavirus pandemic, our admiration for their skill and experience has often been transformed into astonishment about the truly amazing people that they are. As we have observed the careful and compassionate manner in which they have cared for those suffering from COVID-19, we have been humbled by their commitment and courage.

As we have seen how they work to secure the safety of every person with whom they interact – their fellow workers, the families of our patients, and those good people who come to have a bone set, to give birth, or to continue their cancer treatment, for instance – we have sensed a determination to get through this together; to move as methodically and carefully as we can against a common foe.

Ask someone today what that H on the sign stands for, and they might tell you that it stands for a place where everyone – physicians, nurses, therapists, engineers, pharmacists, interns, housekeepers, cooks, food service workers, managers, security officers, volunteers, office staff, chaplains, technicians, administrators – EVERYONE is focused on a return to health, a return to safe communities, and the long-term triumph over a viral foe.

Thank you to each care team and to each member of each team. Thank you for every interaction that has left a patient feeling more hopeful, more confident, or more aware of the love and compassion with which they are regarded, even in the most difficult and dire circumstances. Thank you for coming back each day, dedicated to service and to the fulfillment of our Mission.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Leaders cheer on our caregivers to show how blessed we are to have them as they provide compassionate care to those in need.

On the Front Lines

As the first cases of COVID-19 were reported, we could not imagine how our lives and the way we provide care would change. From across Adventist HealthCare, a team of experts quickly began preparing to ensure our facilities and caregivers were ready.

In just a few short weeks, Adventist HealthCare added an additional 178 beds across our three acute-care hospitals to care for the influx of COVID-19 patients. This included Maryland's first medical-surgical field hospital to provide care for COVID-19 patients at Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center. Additionally, in partnership with the State of Maryland, 200 temporary beds are being added at the former Washington Adventist Hospital for patients recovering from COVID-19. Also, telehealth was launched for many services so patients could see their doctor safely from home.



The dedication of our caregivers is rooted in a commitment to our Mission of extending God's care. This can be seen in daily acts of service and in special moments. At White Oak Medical Center, "Code Happy" can be heard, announcing when a recovered COVID-19 patient is able to return home. All are encouraged to cheer and give voice to hope and blessing. This sense of unity in the ministry of healing is the heart of our care – guiding us to serve when others need us the most.

Serving the Community during Challenging Times

Reflections from throughout Adventist HealthCare on providing care during COVID-19



Stephanie Grant

Managing Chaplain
Shady Grove
Medical Center

Stephanie Grant's team has faced new challenges and increased demands

to provide spiritual care to patients, families and hospital staff during the pandemic.

With no visitors allowed in the hospital, the pastoral care group has become the bridge between hospitalized patients and their families. They have turned to phone calls, text messages and other means to keep patients and families connected and offer spiritual and emotional support.

Stephanie says knowing that everyone is in this together is a source of strength, along with her faith. "My relationship with God gives me everything I need to walk through this and not be afraid."



Jordan Roddy

Director of Ancillary Services
Fort Washington
Medical Center

When the state of Maryland asked Fort

Washington Medical Center to pilot the state's first "surge tent" for the expected influx of COVID-19 patients, Jordan Roddy welcomed the opportunity.

Jordan recognizes God's hand in this challenge. His mission work setting up field hospitals in South America, the South Pacific and Africa had uniquely prepared him.

His responsibilities during the pandemic mean long, tiring days. But he has learned to lean on others for support — especially his family, his team and the community. "We've had an outpouring of support. I'm so proud of Adventist HealthCare's commitment to serving these patients."



Richard Samuel, MD

Physician
Urgent Care

In more than 30 years of practice, Dr. Samuel says this pandemic is the most challenging time of his career. People who come for testing are terrified, no matter what symptoms they have.

Part of his role is to communicate test results and offer guidance on next steps. Dr. Samuel puts the Adventist HealthCare values into action, providing compassion and reassurance with each conversation.

While facing potential exposure to the coronavirus each day, Dr. Samuel says his faith has become stronger during this time. "God has given me this responsibility. It's not about me, but the people I take care of and serve."



Vania Baioni, RN

Forensic Nurse Examiner
Shady Grove Medical Center

As a nurse for 28 years, Vania Baioni is a hugger. Social distancing has been a challenge.

In her forensic nurse role, Vania sees victims of abuse every day. "Unfortunately, being quarantined has not been kind to the women and children that live with their abusers," she says. She meets with another nurse to read the Bible and pray together before each shift.

Vania has reached out to help her native country of Brazil. With the support of other nurses in the Forensic Unit, they donated over \$1,000 to provide personal protective equipment for nurses in Aracaju, Brazil.



Arturo Albino, RN

Charge Nurse, COVID-19 Unit
White Oak Medical Center

After 22 years as a bedside nurse, Arturo Albino had been asking himself why he is still in the same role. "God is answering my question. He prepared me for this time. It is my calling," he says.

Arturo's 32-bed unit is designated for COVID-19 patients. As a charge nurse, he helps staff manage their stress and frustration.

After the panic and fear that came with receiving the first COVID-19 patients, he now admires the atmosphere of calm among his coworkers. "Our patients are separated from family, friends and church. We can be their family while they are in the hospital."

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Casting the Net

By Marcia Ehlers



Over the last 25 years, many underserved families in the Dayton area have come to know the Good Neighbor House (GNH). GNH, Seventh-day Adventist urban ministry, provides food pantry services, clothing, household items, and medical and dental services. Over the past few years, Dayton has seen an increase of refugees, and this

pandemic brought along a challenge to supply food to families who not only had varied dietary needs, but also a language barrier. GNH knew they had to reach out to their community partners for help, and the “net” was cast.

Kettering Adventist HealthCare came up with funding for this project. GNH contacted one of their food vendors in Cincinnati, who helped them establish a list of specialized items for immigrant families. The “net” was opened.

Darren Wilkins, principal at Spring Valley Academy (SVA), organized volunteers to help deliver the food items. He was also able to chart and map addresses of the families since quite a few children from the refugee community attend SVA.

But where could they store all the extra produce? Fred Goddard, owner of Goddard’s Painting and member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church left a voicemail with GNH staff, letting them know his box truck was available for use. So, the last stretch of the “net” came into place as a Goddard’s box truck pulled into the ministry’s



parking lot. GNH volunteers Doug Brown and Johnathan Duffy helped pack both trucks full of these specialty food items. And the “net” was launched.



Wilkins “fishermen” then showed up, masked and ready to distribute boxes of food. And the “net” was hauled in. An estimated 140 families—about 575 people total—received the blessing of this food. Wilkins sent a wrap-up letter of the story of the “net.” He shared, “this is a great example of how our

organizations can team up for the greater good. There is a small amount of food left over from the mountain we started with. GNH will distribute the rest from their food pantry.”

And again, as the Bible says, Jesus’s fishermen were “not able to haul [their catch] in, because of the quantity of fish” Good Neighbor House took the remains of this “fishing trip” and gave the food to 17 families who are members of

the Springfield Spanish Church. They were also able to work with the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition helping fill food orders for 35 families.

We live in a time where masks, not fishing nets, are commonplace. But even from behind a mask, your words and hands are still free to launch a net of faith and share the quantity of blessings you haul back.

To donate, visit goodneighborhouse.org



KETTERING
Adventist HealthCare.

THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Community Come Together to Support Each Other

Kettering Adventist HealthCare partnered with Kroger Health to offer COVID-19 drive-thru testing at some of its medical centers. Community members registered through Kroger Health's online virtual screening tool program, which is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to help determine an individual's eligibility. Health providers also registered patients who were eligible.



The drive-thru testing locations had a self-administered swab that was ordered and observed by the provider. Results took approximately 48 hours and were communicated through Kroger Health's program to the provider, who then informed the patient of the results.

Facing COVID-19 Head On

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has spent over 50 years helping and healing the communities they serve, and now the communities have stepped up and helped the hospitals during this pandemic.

- Local churches gave money or meals to hospitals.
- An 8th grade STEM teacher donated 17,000 3D-printed surgical mask straps.
- Johnson & Johnson manufactured sanitizing liquids and gave them to all hospitals and downtown churches.
- Jets from the Ohio National Guard did a fly over.



- Cards, flowers, desserts, and food were donated to the hospitals from restaurants and businesses.
- Local law enforcement and fire departments showed their support.
- Hospital volunteers raised money.
- Dayton Association of Chinese Americans donated homemade masks.



Departments within the hospital supported other teams in non-clinical ways. Chaplains created a "respite room" for staff to come and get emotional and spiritual support. Kettering Adventist HealthCare CEO, Fred Manchur, also connected with staff through weekly videos that shared the latest updates.



To reassure the community, the Marketing Department filmed interviews with medical professionals about extra safety measures being implemented throughout the network.

While the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, one thing remains constant: Kettering Adventist HealthCare's dedication to ensuring local residents receive high-quality, safe care.





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(410) 997-3414

EMPLOYMENT

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

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

seeks faculty for International Language Studies. This is a half-time position to teach Spanish language courses from elementary to advanced levels. The academic load will be 12-14 credits per academic year, divided into two semesters. No teaching assignment during the summertime. For more information, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

MISCELLANEOUS

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEGREES. Feed the world with Agribusiness. Beautify the world with Environmental Landscape Design. Care for the creatures that share our world with Animal Science. Change the world with International Agriculture Development. See our new Agriculture Education Center at andrews.edu/agriculture; email:

agriculture@andrews.edu; call: (269) 471-6006.

REAL ESTATE

LOOKING FOR COUNTRY PROPERTY: Young married couple with child looking for country property to purchase or possibly rent. Please call Wilner: (301) 792-2882.

NEW MARKET HOUSE FOR SALE: Just six minutes from Shenandoah Valley Academy. Three parklike acres with 310 feet of frontage on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Two levels, 2,400 sq. ft., 2 BR, full bath and a full kitchen on each level. Upper level has new kitchen appliances, granite countertop with new paint and flooring throughout. Lower level has walkout. \$289,000. Land contract may be available. Phone: (828) 808-7748.

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SERVICES

MARYLAND ADVENTIST OPHTHALMOLOGIST, PAMELA D'SOUZA-DAVID, MD, is a board-certified eye surgeon with additional fellowship training in glaucoma. She offers routine eye exams, as well as cataract and glaucoma evaluations and

surgery. Her office is located in Laurel, Md., and she is accepting new patients. Call: (240) 917-2770 for appointments.

TEACH SERVICES: Helping authors make their book a reality. Call (800) 367-1844 for your free manuscript evaluation. We publish all book formats and provide worldwide distribution. View new books at TEACHServices.com or ask your local ABC. View used Adventist books at LNFbooks.com.

MARYLAND ADVENTIST PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, callouses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if needed, at Adventist hospitals. Offices in Laurel and Maple Lawn/Fulton. Call (301) 317-6800.

MOVE with an award-winning agency. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for your relocation needs. Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

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!

TRAVEL

ENJOY SOME PEACEFUL TIME IN NATURE: Cabin with loft available for rent on 130 acres in beautiful Southern West Virginia. Secluded, with all the comforts of home. Weekly and weekend rates available. For more information, call (304) 261-4069.

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.

INDIANA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, October 9-10, will be conducted at the academy located in Cicero, Ind. There will be a golf tournament Friday, October 9. For reservations, contact Bill Summitt at IAgolfclassic@gmail.com, or call (317) 437-8104. The October 10 Sabbath services will be streamed via YouTube at Indiana Academy Alumni or on the alumni website at iaalumni.org. For questions about weekend events, contact Janet Schalk White at janet.white@earthlink.net.

LEGAL NOTICE

POTOMAC CONFERENCE CORPORATION THIRD QUINQUENNIAL MEETING

Legal notice is hereby given, that the Third Quinquennial Meeting of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, September 27, 2020, at Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the corporation's 2015-2019 report, elect executive officers, vice presidents, and members of the Executive Committee and other board and committee members; consider recommendations for amendments and revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists as well as Board of Education, Shenandoah Valley Academy and Takoma Academy Bylaws; and to transact such other business as may come before the delegates.

The Organizing Committee will meet Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 10 a.m., at the Richmond Evangelistic Center located at 5300 Walmsley Blvd, Richmond, VA 23224. The Nominating Committee will meet Sunday, September 13, 2020, at 10 a.m., at the Potomac Conference Corporation office located at 606 Greenville Ave, Staunton, VA 24401.

William K. Miller, *President*
Jose L. Vazquez, *Secretary*

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Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary to download an obituary submission form.

Bulletin Board



V
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SEPTEMBER 20-26
Your entry includes a tech shirt, medal, mask and donation to Adventist Community Services.
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Sligo by the Sea

2020 WORSHIP SERIES

No services at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
 Location to be announced

SABBATH SCHOOL 10 A.M. | WORSHIP 11 A.M.

JUNE 6/27	Pastor Kermit Netteburg
JULY 7/4	Pastor Charles Tapp
7/11	Pastor Nathan Krause
7/18	Pastor Therezinha Barbalho
7/25	Chaplain Dan PaBon
AUGUST 8/1	Pastor Anthony Kent
8/8	Pastor Andrea Jakobsons
8/15	Pastor Bonita J. Shields
8/22	Pastor Richard Castillo
8/29	Pastor Mike Speegle
SEPTEMBER 9/5	Pastor Rick Remmers
9/12	Pastor Don McFarlane
9/19	Pastor Gerald A. Klingbeil

sligochurch.org/sligobythesea 301-270-6777

Sunset Calendar

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28
Baltimore	8:37	8:35	8:31	8:26	8:20	8:12	8:04	7:54	7:44
Cincinnati	9:08	9:06	9:02	8:58	8:51	8:44	8:35	8:26	8:15
Cleveland	9:04	9:02	8:58	8:53	8:46	8:37	8:28	8:18	8:07
Columbus	9:04	9:02	8:59	8:54	8:47	8:39	8:31	8:21	8:10
Jersey City	8:31	8:29	8:25	8:20	8:13	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:36
Norfolk	8:28	8:27	8:23	8:19	8:13	8:06	7:58	7:49	7:40
Parkersburg	8:56	8:54	8:51	8:44	8:40	8:32	8:23	8:14	8:04
Philadelphia	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:16	8:08	7:59	7:49	7:39
Pittsburgh	8:54	8:52	8:48	8:43	8:36	8:28	8:19	8:09	7:59
Reading	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:26	8:20	8:12	8:03	7:53	7:43
Richmond	8:35	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:19	8:12	8:04	7:55	7:45
Roanoke	8:44	8:42	8:39	8:35	8:29	8:22	8:14	8:05	7:55
Toledo	9:12	9:10	9:06	9:01	8:54	8:45	8:36	8:26	8:15
Trenton	8:32	8:30	8:27	8:21	8:15	8:07	7:58	7:48	7:38
Wash., D.C.	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:27	8:21	8:13	8:05	7:55	7:45



**YOUR FUTURE IS
LARGER THAN
YOUR CAREER.**

TAKE A "LARGER THAN LIFE" APPROACH TO YOUR FUTURE. MIND. BODY. SPIRIT.



WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Washington Adventist University is located in Washington DC, our nation's capital. The university offers a dynamic blend of professional and liberal arts undergraduate and graduate degree options as essential for today's career opportunities. WAU also offers opportunities for spiritual enrichment and growth through its ministries and Sligo, our University Church. Founded in 1904 in scenic Takoma Park, this institution provides a distinctive learning environment through which Christian education is experienced by students from diverse global communities. Its location allows proximity and access to professionals and internships where critical decisions are made. Our vision is to provide a "Gateway to Service" for graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to our world.



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Columbia Union Revolving Fund

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE



Reaching Hearts International Seventh-day Adventist Church, Laurel, Md.

When we started our journey with a vision for a new church plant in the year 2000, we were worshipping in a tent in Spencerville, Md., hoping to soon have a church of our own. Under the leadership of our then conference President, Elder Charles Cheatham, working closely with our pastor, myself, the treasurer, and a few others, we finally prevailed in a landmark religious liberty victory in federal court that changed the law of the land. That change opened up the providential door for us to build our church on 17 acres of fertile farm land in West Laurel, Md. All of our prayers to God in every hour of struggle leading up to the legal victory would have been for naught if the Columbia Union Revolving Fund had not come to our rescue at the last hour. Our friends at the Columbia Union Revolving Fund, working hand in hand with the executive officers of the Allegheny East Conference found a way for us to realize our long-held dream. Today we worship in a beautiful facility with a large cross that reaches high toward the sky, showing the whole world that our church is a gift from God.

—Thomas Kunjoo, Treasurer

Since 1968 the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has been providing low-interest loans and financing for Seventh-day Adventist church and school building and renovating projects so as to facilitate growth. What started as a \$200,000 fund with investments from members has grown to a \$182 million resource that makes ministry possible.

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