

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 • VOLUME 126 • ISSUE 1

RUBY GALVÁN

How her small steps brought big miracles

+ How do I know I'm ready?

A renewed buzz about the end times



Welcome to the
Year of
the Bible

'Bible Gazers'



Being sheltered in place during the pandemic means I get to walk my dogs every morning and evening. At night, I have discovered anew the starry heavens, and, thanks to an app on my phone, I am able to view stars with constellation descriptions. One in particular has caught my eye—Polaris, the North Star—which appears to maintain its position, providing an excellent reference for direction.

In writing about the North Star, Harvard University Professor Bill George, author of the book *True North*, notes that our lives should be principle-centered, embracing stellar values that guide us. *I like that!*

TRUE NORTH STAR

In our personal spiritual walk, the Bible is like the North Star—a constant in our lives. Its God-given wisdom and counsel are applicable in every major decision we make. While others might wonder about the future—in light of the current pandemic, violent storms, drought and devastating wildfires—“Bible gazers” find clear answers in its prophetic projections. “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21, NKJV).

Scripture also informs our corporate beliefs regarding salvation, grace, the work of the Holy Spirit, the doctrine of the church, the second coming of Christ, etc. As New Testament writer Jude stated, “I found it necessary

to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3, NKJV). This is the faith—the *only faith*—we are admonished to uphold.

Furthermore, Ellen White says, “The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.

‘Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction which is in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work’ 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, R.V.” (*The Great Controversy*, vii.1).

As we begin 2021—the Columbia Union Conference Year of the Bible—please join our union family in making the Bible your “North Star”—that guiding light to brighten your path as we journey together toward the kingdom.

Dave Weigley is president of the Columbia Union Conference.

About the Cover: Ruby Galván was photographed by Colin McGuire in Columbus, Ohio.

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Volume 126 ■ Issue 1

5 Things You Should Know

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things)

1 In a video shared at the North American Division and Columbia Union Conference year-end meetings, Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, reported that mission and ministry continue, despite the disruption and restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic.

2 Due to the pandemic, Donovan Ross, union vice president for education, reports an enrollment drop of about 1,000 students this school year. He notes an increased need for early childhood development centers in some areas. They, along with schools, have been able to support local families by providing supplies, aftercare and even food at some locations.

3 Frank Bondurant, union vice president for Ministries Development, reports that in 2020, conferences and churches received \$1.2 million in funding to continue mission projects, including 75 church plants, seven compassion churches and various other initiatives.

4 Copies of the *2021 Columbia Union Calendar* and the Year of the Bible devotional book were mailed to every household across the union in December. Additional copies of both items are available from Pacific Press® Publishing Association, while supplies last. Calendars are free, with the cost of shipping. Books are available for a special rate of \$5 each, plus shipping, until January 31. Call (800) 447-7377 to place an order. For additional questions, email yearofthebible@columbiaunion.net.

5 Ten months into the pandemic, many churches and schools are still meeting virtually. The *Visitor* staff asked leaders around the union what they've learned about online ministry during this time, and gleaned tips on how local leaders can make the most of important communication tools, no matter how long the pandemic continues.

VICTOR'S CUBBYHOLE

Hey Kids, Victor the *Visitor* mouse is back this year, and he's memorizing Bible promises. In upcoming issues, look for games and puzzles to help you learn favorite Bible verses.



9,000

People who registered for Forecasting Hope, an online evangelistic series hosted by the Chesapeake Conference and SermonView.

UNION ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee elected Rick Remmers to serve as the union's executive secretary. Remmers started his new role in January to fill the vacancy left by Rob Vandeman,



who announced plans to retire during 2021.

Remmers has been the president of the Chesapeake Conference since 2011. He previously served as the conference's executive secretary.

"He's analytically gifted and a seasoned administrator who will bring a wealth of knowledge about how organizations work," says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. "He leads with a pastor's heart, will bring a depth of understanding and experience to the position and will hit the ground running."

Remmers says he is looking forward to learning, growing and contributing in new and different ways. He will oversee the union's Ministerial and Human Resources departments. He will also serve on union boards and committees, attend conference executive committees and help to support the union's eight conferences, two health care networks, university and health sciences college.

Remmers is married to Shayne, and they have two young adult children, Andrew and Kari (pictured).



UNION YEAR OF THE BIBLE BEGINS

The Columbia Union Conference has designated 2021 as the Year of the Bible by promoting a strong focus on the primacy of the Word of God. Leaders are encouraging increased Bible reading, study and memorization, and providing opportunities for members to contemplate and share how the Bible impacts their lives in meaningful ways.

The idea was sparked when President Dave Weigley, in rereading the first chapters of *The Great Controversy*, noted that apostasy started after believers stopped following the Word of God. “Let’s make the Word our foundation, our bedrock,” he says. “Spending time in the Bible transforms lives.”

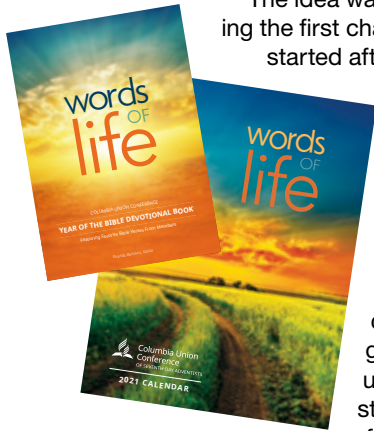
To aid members on this journey, the union has published *Words of Life*, a daily devotional book with testimonies from members. “We are so thankful for those who sacrificed their time and energy to write from their heart,” adds Weigley.

From stories of how a pastor overcame severe congenital birth defects to miracles of God’s saving grace, the “overarching theme is how God is there for us time and time again. This book is filled with hopeful stories, incredible testimonies and inspiring accounts of how God loves His children and will do anything for

them, even in times of grief and sadness,” says editor Ricardo Bacchus, an assistant director of communication at the union.

Members will also be inspired by one-minute video devotionals from Steve Carlson, Kettering College chaplain, as well as through the union’s 2021 calendar, that features monthly Bible readings.

“Our theme comes from John 6:67–68, when the disciples recognize Jesus as the One who can provide ‘words of eternal life,’” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for Strategic Communication and Public Relations. “In this challenging time, the calendar, book and videos are intended to encourage our union family and keep us connected to Jesus and each other.”



YEAR OF THE BIBLE

Columbia Union Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Download – Watch the videos and read devotionals on the union’s app.

Subscribe – Receive weekly emails with devotionals and links to share on social media.

Share – Repost weekly inspirational images and save phone wallpaper from the *Visitor’s* Instagram page.

Find out more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/yearofthebible.

UNION DISCUSSES RACE, SETS GOALS

Union Executive Committee members recently voted to adopt five goals outlined by the Task Force on Race, Equity and Inclusion, commissioned last June following the wrongful deaths of George Floyd and other unarmed black citizens. Recommended by the union’s President’s Council, the goals will further enhance and build upon grassroots initiatives and promote dialogue and education to facilitate change, says Dave Weigley, union president. The union plans to host a leadership summit in February to discuss the biblical view of diversity. The goals are:

- Embrace, nurture, promote and portray a culture that values, represents and celebrates the union’s diverse heritage and the richness of its diverse membership.
- Use a biblical, historical and prophetic perspective to educate members on the issues and impact of racism on mission and ministry. Promote God’s ideals and call for harmony, equality, inclusion and unity in diversity.
- Facilitate increased collaboration between state and regional conferences, particularly in areas of geographical overlap.

- Provide educational opportunities, greater understanding, an exchange of information and ideas, and a platform to nurture acceptance and understanding of the history, experiences and contributions of various cultures and faith traditions.
- Create relationships within the communities where our organizations are located. By building relationships, we become trusted partners with leaders of community organizations, thereby increasing our effectiveness in addressing their relevant needs.

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

5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

- 1** En un video compartido en las reuniones de fin de año de la División Norteamericana y de la Unión de Columbia, el presidente Dave Weigley informó que la misión y los ministerios continúan a pesar de la interrupción y las restricciones de la pandemia del coronavirus.
- 2** Debido a la pandemia, Donovan Ross, vicepresidente de educación en la unión, informó una caída en la matrícula de alrededor de 1,000 estudiantes este año escolar. Señaló una mayor necesidad de centros de desarrollo de la primera infancia en algunas áreas, que, junto con las escuelas, han podido apoyar a las familias locales al proporcionar suministros, cuidados posteriores e incluso, alimentos, en algunos lugares.
- 3** Los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia votaron a favor de adoptar cinco metas delineadas por la Fuerza de Trabajo de la Unión de Columbia sobre la Raza, Equidad e Inclusión. Los objetivos adoptados, recomendados por el Consejo de la Presidencia de la unión, mejorarán aún más y se basarán en las iniciativas primarias y promoverán el diálogo y la educación para facilitar el cambio.
- 4** Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente del Desarrollo de Ministerios de la unión, informa que en el 2020 las iglesias y conferencias de la Unión de Columbia han recibido \$1.2 millones en fondos que continuarán apoyando proyectos misioneros dentro del territorio, incluidas 75 plantas de iglesias, siete iglesias de compasión y varios otros proyectos.
- 5** En diciembre, se enviaron por correo a todos los hogares de la unión, copias del libro devocional del Año de la Biblia y del Calendario de la Unión de Columbia 2021. Copias adicionales de ambos están disponibles en Pacific Press® Publishing Association hasta agotar existencias. Los calendarios son gratuitos, solo pague el costo de envío. Los libros están disponibles hasta el 31 de enero por una tarifa especial de \$5 cada uno, más el envío. Llame al 800-447-7377 para realizar pedidos.

COMIENZA EL AÑO DE LA BIBLIA DE LA UNIÓN

La Unión de Columbia está celebrando el 2021 como el Año de la Biblia al promover un fuerte enfoque en la primacía de la Palabra de Dios, alentar una mayor lectura, estudio y memorización de la Biblia y brindar oportunidades para que los miembros de todas las edades

contemplan y compartan cómo la Biblia impacta sus vidas de manera significativa.

Para ayudar a los miembros en esta jornada, la

unión ha publicado Palabras de Vida, un libro devocional con testimonios de los miembros. "Estamos muy agradecidos por aquellos que sacrificaron su tiempo y energía para escribir desde su corazón", agrega Weigley.

Los miembros también serán inspirados con los devocionales en video de un minuto de Steve Carlson, capellán de Kettering College, y con el Calendario 2021 de la unión que presenta lecturas bíblicas mensuales.

Encuentre cómo ver los videos y leer los devocionales en la aplicación de la unión en columbiaunionvisitor.com/yearofthebible.

LA UNIÓN ELIGE NUEVO SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO



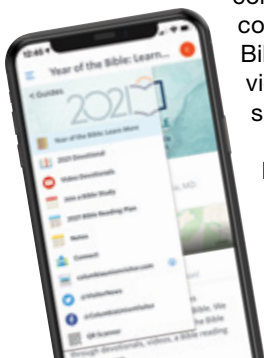
El Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia eligió a Rick Remmers como secretario ejecutivo de la unión. Remmers (fotografiado con su esposa, Shayne) comenzó su nuevo cargo en enero para cubrir la vacante dejada por Rob Vandeman, quien anunció planes para retirarse durante el 2021.

Remmers ha sido el presidente de la Conferencia de Chesapeake desde el 2011. Anteriormente se desempeñó como secretario ejecutivo de la misma conferencia.

"Tiene un talento analítico y es un administrador experimentado que aportará una gran cantidad de conocimientos sobre cómo funcionan las organizaciones", dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia. "Él lidera con el corazón de un pastor, y esto aportará experiencia y una comprensión profunda al puesto y comenzará a funcionar inmediatamente".

Emmanuel Asiedu, tesorero de la unión, agrega: "Es un líder con grandes habilidades técnicas, [y] siempre lidera con el corazón".

Remmers dice que supervisará los departamentos ministeriales y de recursos humanos de la unión. También se desempeñará en juntas y comités de la unión, asistirá a los comités ejecutivos de las conferencias y ayudará a apoyar las ocho conferencias de la unión, dos redes de atención médica, la universidad y la facultad de ciencias de la salud.

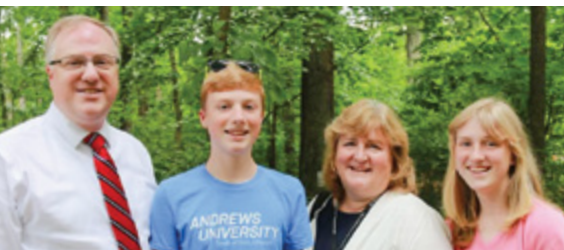


Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

UN NOUVEAU SECRÉTAIRE EXÉCUTIF À L'UNION

Le Comité Exécutif de l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia a élu Rick Remmers au poste de secrétaire exécutif. Remmers a commencé son nouveau rôle en janvier pour pourvoir au remplacement de Rob Vandeman, qui a annoncé son intention de prendre sa retraite en 2021.



Remmers est le président de la Fédération de Chesapeake depuis 2011. Il était auparavant secrétaire exécutif de la fédération.

« Il est doué en analyse et un administrateur chevronné qui apportera une mine de connaissances sur le fonctionnement des organisations », déclare Dave Weigley, président de l'Union de Columbia. « Il dirige avec le cœur d'un pasteur, apportera une compréhension et une expérience approfondies à ce poste et se mettra sur le terrain. »

Remmers dit qu'il supervisera les départements ministériels et des ressources humaines de l'union. Il fera également partie des conseils et des comités de l'union, assistera aux comités exécutifs et aidera à soutenir les huit Fédérations de l'union, deux réseaux de soins de santé, l'université et le collège des sciences de la santé.

Remmers est marié à Shayne et ils ont deux jeunes enfants adultes, Andrew et Kari (photo).

COUP D'ENVOI DE L'ANNÉE DE LA BIBLE DE L'UNION

L'Union de Fédérations de Columbia célèbre 2021 comme l'Année de la Bible en mettant

5 Choses à Savoir

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses)

1 Dans une vidéo partagée lors des réunions de fin d'année de la Division Nord-Américaine et de l'Union de Columbia, le président Dave Weigley a rapporté que la mission et le ministère se poursuivent malgré les perturbations et les restrictions dues à la pandémie de coronavirus.

2 En raison de la pandémie, Donovan Ross, vice-président de l'union chargé de l'éducation, a signalé que pour cette année académique il y a une baisse dans les inscriptions s'élevant à environ 1 000 élèves. Il a noté un besoin accru de centres de développement de la petite enfance dans certaines régions, qui, avec les écoles, ont été en mesure de soutenir les familles locales en leur garantissant des fournitures, des soins de suivi et, même de la nourriture, à certains endroits.

3 Les membres du Comité Exécutif de l'Union de Columbia ont voté en faveur de l'adoption de cinq objectifs définis par le Groupe de travail de l'Union de Columbia sur la race, l'équité et l'inclusion. Les objectifs adoptés, recommandés par le Conseil du président de l'union, seront davantage renforcés et s'appuieront sur les programmes communautaires et favoriseront le dialogue et l'éducation pour faciliter le changement.

4 Frank Bondurant, vice-président pour le développement des ministères à l'union, rapporte qu'en 2020 les églises et fédérations de l'Union de Columbia ont reçu 1,2 million de dollars de financement qui continueront à soutenir des projets missionnaires sur le territoire, y compris 75 implantations d'églises, sept églises de compassion et divers autres projets.

5 Des exemplaires du calendrier de l'Union de Columbia 2021 et du livre de dévotion de l'Année de la Bible ont été envoyés par la poste à tous les foyers de l'Union en décembre dernier. Des exemplaires supplémentaires des deux sont disponibles auprès de la Pacific Press® Publishing Association jusqu'à épuisement des stocks. Les calendriers sont gratuits avec les frais de port. Les livres sont disponibles au tarif spécial de 5 \$ chacun, plus les frais d'expédition, jusqu'au 31 janvier. Appelez le 800-447-7377 pour placer vos commandes.

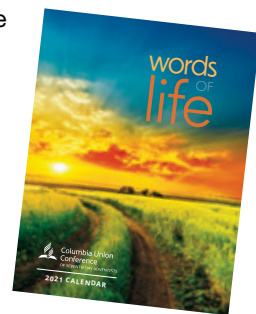
l'accent sur la primauté de la Parole de Dieu, en encourageant une lecture, une étude et une mémorisation accrues de la Bible et en offrant aux membres de tous âges la possibilité de contempler et de partager comment la Bible a un impact significatif sur leur vie.

Pour aider les membres dans cette expérience, l'union a publié Words of Life, un livre de dévotion quotidienne contenant les témoignages de membres. « Nous sommes très reconnaissants envers ceux qui ont sacrifié leur temps et leur énergie pour écrire avec

leur cœur », ajoute pasteur Weigley.

Les membres seront également inspirés par les dévotions sous forme de vidéos d'une minute de Steve Carlson, aumônier du Kettering College, et par le calendrier 2021 de l'union qui comprend des lectures bibliques mensuelles.

Pour en savoir plus, visitez columbiaunionvisitor.com/yearofthebible.



A POWER STRONGER THAN WITCHCRAFT

AWR
ANNUAL
OFFERING
MARCH 13, 2021



Commander Liam's reputation is that of a hard man who has complete control over his country's military.

In fact, to ensure his continued success and protection from his enemies, a few months ago he hired a modern-day "witch."

Recently, he received an unexpected text message. It had a link to the **Unlocking Bible Prophecies** series from **Adventist World Radio**. He wasn't sure who'd sent it, but he enjoyed the powerful presentation and the speaker's soothing voice that seemed to calm his soul. New messages began arriving daily, and as he listened, something changed in his heart.

Soon his resident "witch" began to notice the change in him and demanded to know who was sending the messages. She said, "That woman you're listening to has a magic more powerful than mine—I want some of that power! It gives me a strange sense of peace I haven't felt before. How can I receive these messages too?"

That's the power of Adventist World Radio and cell phone evangelism—you never know who's listening and how the Lord is working on their hearts. To read the rest of this story and see how your support is reaching millions around the world, **visit awr.org/offering**.




TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT AWR:


On Sabbath, March 13, mark the offering line on your tithe envelope.


Or give now by visiting awr.org/offering

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Small Steps

BIG MIRACLES

By Cynthia Mendoza

In 2017, after her brother had repeatedly invited her to attend church, Esmeralda Ramírez began visiting Ohio Conference's Dublin Hispanic church regularly. Over time, she felt impressed to give her life to Christ, and, at an evangelism festival in December, her heart was moved by what she heard. As a result, she started hosting small groups and Bible studies in her home.

Before her baptism, Ramírez's home was known as "party central," with a continuous flurry of socializing and drinking. After her conversion, however, she felt a tug on her heart to use her home for a new purpose: to bring others to Christ. Following her baptism, she turned her home into a "center of hope and salvation" for small groups and Bible study.

Shortly after her baptism, her husband followed suit, and, since then, more than 15 of their family and friends have given their lives to Christ through baptism. Even in early 2020, after the coronavirus pandemic hit, the Holy Spirit used her to bring four more friends to Christ.

TODAY IS THE DAY

Ramírez is one of the many Columbia Union Conference members who participated in the union's caravan of commitment last spring called El Día Es Hoy (Today Is the Day). This caravan visited all of the Hispanic districts in the union's territory—making approximately 70 stops.

In their effort, church leaders challenged members to commit to pray for five people in their circle of influence—from immediate family members to co-workers and neighbors. Members also prayed that they could



Eduardo Morales and Esmeralda Ramírez have transformed their home into a haven for small groups and Bible studies. ■ Ruby Galván and René Flores embrace on the day of his baptism.



11,000

The number of Hispanic people in the union who have accepted Christ since 2016. Behind each one, there is a story—the result of much prayer, small steps and big miracles.

bring at least one person to the Lord in 2020. More than 5,000 members committed themselves to this call.

When the caravan arrived at Ohio Conference's Delaware Hispanic church, Ruby Galván, a mother of four, felt convicted to pray for the salvation of her husband and others in her sphere of influence. She had been an active Seventh-day Adventist for many years. Her son, 11, and daughter, 14, also started praying for their father.

As a symbol of faith, the family received a baptismal robe to represent that, one day, in the near future, those whom they were praying for would be baptized.

By gently posing the question: "What do you think about ... ?" Galván often respectfully engaged her husband in thoughtful conversations about certain topics of faith, such as the confession of sins to Christ alone.

"By thinking things through and common sense, he came to his own conclusions," Galván said of their conversations.

In August 2020, her husband, René Flores, was baptized—something he wasn't planning to do that day. He did not wear the robe his family had been given or bring a change of clothes, but that didn't keep him from getting baptized—socks and all—making him the first Adventist among his nine siblings.

Through Galván's willingness to be used by the Holy Spirit, and her efforts to reach out and serve, six other people also gave their lives to Christ in 2020, including a few former Adventists who were subsequently rebaptized and are now active in church.

When the quarantine hit, in-person evangelism was significantly reduced, but members and churches started increasingly using technology to continue sharing the gospel to "a community oppressed by fear and uncertainty," says Rubén Ramos, Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries.

Social media outreach also yielded meaningful outcomes for the kingdom of God—some even from thousands of miles away. Through social media, Lorenn

Personal Evangelism Tips

Do you have a desire to be used by God to help build up His kingdom, but are not sure where to start? He is ready and willing to equip you with what you need. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/smallstepsbigmiracles for 4 simple ways to get started.

Johanna Arevalo Yzarra, now a member of Chesapeake Conference's Wilmington Spanish company, saw a link for an upcoming week of livestream evangelism. After tuning in and experiencing God, she sent the link to her brother in Colombia, South America, who was also touched by the Holy Spirit. Shortly thereafter, both siblings were baptized—Yzarra in Delaware and her brother in Colombia.

Thanks to the willingness of Columbia Union members to share their faith—despite the pandemic—many people have given their lives to Christ through baptisms in lakes, rivers, portable baptistries and even bathtubs at home.

And since 2016, more than 11,000 Hispanic people in the union have accepted Christ through baptism and profession of faith. There is a story behind each one, and it is the result of much prayer, small steps and big miracles.

"Scripture is full of examples of how the most insignificant and humble acts of faith become the spark that releases the miraculous acts of God's power," says Ramos. "There are no circumstances so dark and overwhelming that God's people, advancing under His command, cannot overcome."

Miracle in a Bathtub

Five years ago, Victor Rivera was given a diagnosis of cancer and told he had six months to live. Prior to his death in 2020, his prayer to see his son grow to at least 8 years old was answered. Read Rivera's story at columbiaunionvisitor.com/miracleinabathtub.



Soon and Very Soon?

A renewed buzz about the end times reveals a deeper concern.

Given the Seventh-day Adventist Church's history and distinctive focus on the second coming of Jesus Christ, it's not surprising that, during tough economic times, after natural disasters or amid seasons of great uncertainty, many members speculate how "near" the end is. The *Visitor* team talked with four pastors and captured excerpts of their perspectives.



Cesar Gonzalez, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Cambridge and Beacon of Light churches on the Eastern Shore of Maryland

After the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, a religious wave washed across the country. Many churches were full of attendees, and talk of "the end" was on everyone's lips—the same as it is today. I find it alarming that this sort of talk almost always hides a deeper concern.

In the last few months, I have had dozens of conversations that start with the end times and soon become personal. "Pastor," people ask, "how do I know if I am ready?"

It makes me wonder: *How could so many Adventists still be unsure of what salvation and redemption mean?*

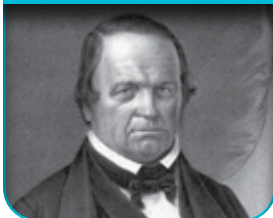
First, our evangelism should focus more on discipleship for a broader audience. Prophecy is the deep end of the pool in a society that is more and more secular. We must find ways of more effectively portraying Jesus as the answer to the universal search for meaning, peace and happiness within every human.

Second, we must go beyond cranial knowledge to a divine revelation that the real Babylon is inside all of us. It is because of our enduring focus on global powers and external Sabbath-keeping that so many Adventists still don't comprehend that these are emblems that represent the real cosmic conflict within our hearts. Without this deeper understanding, our people will continue to wonder—crisis after crisis—if they are indeed ready for the end times.

Is it Time Yet?

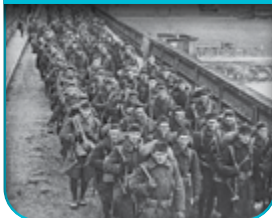
These major world events have raised speculation about the timing of Christ's return. As the pandemic continues, members are once again asking about the signs of the times.

The Great Disappointment



Oct. 22, 1844

World War I



1914–1918

The Spanish Flu Pandemic



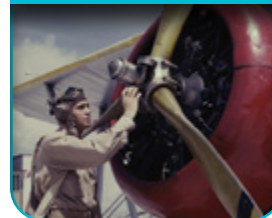
1918–1920

The Great Depression



1929–1939

World War II



1939–1945



Lance Moncrieffe, *volunteer lay pastor coordinator for the Pennsylvania Conference, and volunteer lay pastor of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia*

In talking to many people about current events possibly relating to the end times, the one consistent response appears to be, “I’m not ready.”

I view this as a very special time where God has used circumstance to show us that we’re going to have to depend on Him ... but I understand where others come from, where they question what’s happening.

[But] if indeed this is some portion of God speaking to us and waking us up in a time before He is coming, then certainly the actions that are [found] in Revelation 14:6–8 are what we ought to be doing now.



Naomi McKey-Tricomi, *pastoral assistant for Mountain View Conference’s Weirton and Wheeling churches in West Virginia*

We are called to be disciples, to prepare our fellow travelers. We are supposed to follow the example of Jesus when we witness. If a person is ill, hungry or demon possessed, they need to be healed, fed and given a measure of God’s love to prepare them to accept the gospel.

Yes, there are many signs that would indicate our Lord’s soon return. However, we must always live every day as if it is our last day. We can understand all the prophecies, memorize our Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but if we do not develop a personal, loving relationship with Jesus, it is death to our souls. That relationship is our ticket to the kingdom.



Heather Crews, *pastor of Potomac Conference’s Courthouse Road in North Chesterfield, Va.*

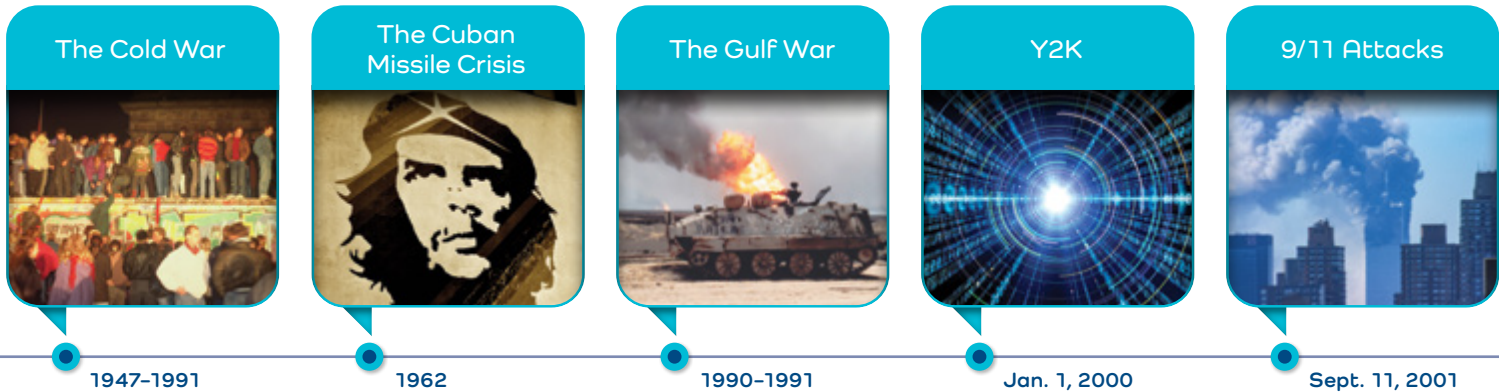
I paused as I read a question a pastor posed on social media: “What if we are in the time of trouble and it’s simply different than what we have been taught?” Just reading the question made me hope. What if we are? I breathed a long pause of expectation.

I grew up reading books that described end-time events. The authors portray plagues, national Sunday laws and running to hide at summer camps in the mountains. I felt fear as I turned the pages. Those stories left out the sense of hope that I feel walking through our current difficult times.

I am eager to see Jesus! I trust that my salvation is sure. My salvation is certainly not because of anything I am or have done, but because of who my Savior is. He paid the ultimate price to make my salvation certain.

In this light, I feel my role as a pastor, first and foremost, is to make sure my people know Jesus. If these are the last days and the next thing we see is Jesus’ face, we will be OK. If the Lord tarries to allow more to come to repentance (see 2 Peter 3), we will be OK. Whatever point we are in earth’s history, the best preparation is a closeness with Jesus as we journey with Him. He will make sure we will be OK.

JOIN US: The *Visitor* staff will dig deeper into this topic on the next *Visitor News Live*, January 29, 7 p.m., at facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor.



Columbia Union Revolving Fund

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE



Remnant Seventh-day Adventist Congregation Moves to Permanent Home

The Remnant Seventh-day Adventist congregation moved to its newly purchased church complex in November 2018, fulfilling a long-standing need and dream. The new facility, located at 15121 McKnew Road in Burtonsville, Maryland, houses a sanctuary with a capacity of 400, a number of class/meeting rooms, offices, kitchen and a fellowship hall/gymnasium that can hold more than 500 people. Senior Pastor Sujjan John, Youth Pastor Regie Samuel and the church members are immensely thankful to God for His leading and mercies. They request your prayers and goodwill as they have entered a new phase in their ministry and service.

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 \$185 million resource that makes ministry possible.

By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF has helped further the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more:

(866) 721-CURF | columbiaunionrevolvingfund.org



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Rehoboth Church Relaunches Food Pantry in Pandemic

In response to the pandemic, Rehoboth church members in Reading, Pa., wanted to reach their neighboring community. After assessing community needs, Catrice Davis-Ford, Rehoboth's Adventist Community Services leader, proposed relaunching the church's food pantry.

Davis-Ford discovered Helping Harvest, an organization that partners with churches for food distribution. To spread the word about the relaunch, members shared flyers within a five-mile radius and began preparing for the COVID-safe initiative.

Church members distributed food on the church grounds, making it safe and easy for individuals to pick up their pre-packaged boxes and keep the line moving. The meals included enough food for a family to eat for two weeks.

A Helping Harvest representative suggested they start small and prepare food for 50 families. Davis-Ford, however, felt impressed to prepare for 120 families. Her instincts prevailed, as they ended up serving 134 families. At a table, members distributed Bible-based literature and tracts. At the end of the day, only one tract remained.

Rehoboth plans to continue the food distribution



Community members line up to receive food at the recently reopened Rehoboth church food pantry.

every fourth Monday of the month and also provide emergency meals as needed.

"This is all about fulfilling the gospel commission," says Davis-Ford. "It's not about us; it's about helping others, and that is why we do what we do."

First Church Dedicates Community Prayer Box

The Prayer Ministries team of First Church in Washington, D.C., recently dedicated their community prayer box. The concept for the box came about when the team, inspired by Hebrews 4:16, sought to connect

with their community in a meaningful way. After a team member saw a "Free Book" sharing box, in which community members "take a book or leave a book," they formulated an idea to start a community prayer box.

The group wanted a box that would be durable, weather-resistant and represent their care for the neighborhood. They ended up choosing a steel church barn mailbox, and a church member hand inscribed the calligraphy on the box.

The team's prayer is that the community prayer box will be an instrument used to connect church members with their community, because they want to be known more for their ministry than their location.

"In this chaotic and difficult time, it is essential that Christians hold the rope for each other in prayer," shares Delores Braithwaite, Prayer Ministries coordinator. "In this time of depression, discouragement, loneliness, illness, unemployment and grief, knowing that others are upholding us in prayer, by the power of God, we will be able to survive."



Neighbor Vernelle Fitzgerald submits the first community prayer request to the First Church.

Germantown Member Creates 2021 Calendar

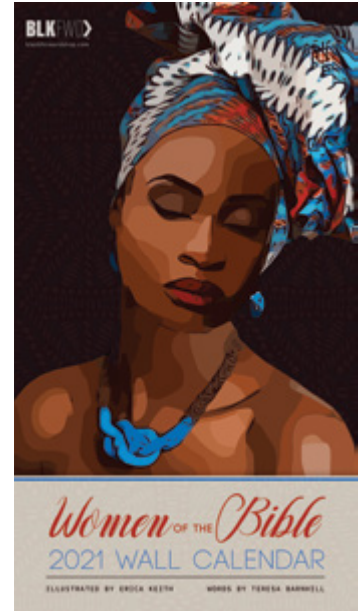
Erica Keith, a member of the Germantown church in Philadelphia, grew up reading Bible stories. “While I learned some good lessons from the stories, many of the stories focused on the men of the Bible,” remembers Keith. As an artist, she realized she had the ability to create images of the women in the Bible whom she envisioned. This year, Keith decided to produce the *Women of the Bible* 2021 calendar (pictured).

Focused on the artwork, she solicited the help of her friend, Teresa Freeman Barnhill, to assist with the editorial portion. The calendar features depictions of Eve, Leah, Zipporah, Ruth and Naomi, Rachel, Leah, Bathsheba, Esther, Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth and Hannah.

Each page includes a tagline for each woman and highlights a Bible verse that references her. It also includes dates of particular significance to the black experience, such as “Juneteenth”—the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Keith, who has enjoyed drawing from an early age, spent several years working for Hallmark Cards, and was instrumental in the launch of their Mahogany line, which is geared toward African-American heritage.

In the spring, Keith also plans to release a *Women of the Bible* devotional. “I hope that women will be able to see themselves in these Bible characters and be inspired by their stories,” says Keith. The calendar and devotional are available at blackforwardshop.com.



Funeral Leads to Baptism

Toward the end of 2019, Minnie Redcross, one of the matriarchs of the Hillside church in Harrisburg, Pa., passed away. Among those present at her funeral was her great-great-niece, Dereasha Leaks.

At the service, Leaks felt impressed by the Holy Spirit that she needed to return for a Sabbath worship service. Shortly after, she began attending services

regularly. Her husband, Kevin, also enjoyed attending, and soon they began studying with one of the church elders and his wife. Eventually, Leaks decided to fully embrace the Sabbath message and requested to be baptized.

However, due to the pandemic, the church began worshipping virtually in March, and the precautions associated with the pandemic made the logistics of a baptism difficult. Hillside Pastor Donald McKinnie asked Johnny Vachon, a church member who owned a pool, if he would be willing to host a baptism. With safety protocols in place, the baptism went on as planned.

“It was my privilege to baptize the Leaks family,” says McKinnie. “They have kept the faith and continue to grow in the Lord. Heaven is rejoicing, and so are we.”



Hillside Pastor Donald McKinnie (pictured left) examines baptismal candidates Dereasha and Kevin Leaks (white robes) at an outdoor service.

Conference Welcomes Goodman Family

The Allegheny West Conference welcomes Keith and Evelyn Goodman, along with their three children, Keith Jr., Charles and Kaelyn. Keith recently accepted the call to serve as senior pastor of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, and Evelyn has stepped into the role of principal at Columbus Adventist Academy (Ohio).

A native of Oklahoma, Keith earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology at Oakwood College (Ala.) in 1996, and later graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).

From 1996–1998, Keith served as an intern at the Straford Memorial church in Chicago, under Charles Joseph, Sr. In January 1999, he joined the North Philadelphia church as the assistant pastor to William Hall, Sr., a position he held until 2006, when he was asked to serve as senior pastor. Keith also pastored the Macedonia church in Chester, Pa.

Ndubuisi Nwade, associate pastor at Ephesus, believes God has called Goodman to the church for such a time as this: “Pastor Goodman’s arrival heralds the beginning of a new chapter for the church,” Nwade says. “I believe his leadership will help steer us in the direction we all desire to go. He’s very conscientious, very passionate. I’m looking forward to seeing what God is going to do through him and us.”

Evelyn has more than 20 years of experience in education in both public and private sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Education, with an emphasis in Special Education. She has served as a community leader in numerous capacities, and is skilled at team building, strategic planning and evangelism. In addition, Evelyn is a talented speaker, recording artist and songwriter.

Keith says, “Our coming to Allegheny West Conference has been a wonderful experience. I’ve found the administration to be very helpful and kind. [President] Brown has been a fatherly figure, very supportive, often offering words of wisdom. I appreciate coming in just shortly after his election and hearing his emphasis on civic responsibility. [Executive Vice

President] Johnson was actually my dean when I was at Pine Forge Academy and has been a tremendous help in our relocation. [Chief Financial Officer] Jermaine Jackson is very competent with great follow-through. We were greeted very warmly by the church members, and I’ve enjoyed working with First Elder Ben Oyortey, in particular. I find the congregation at Ephesus to be very hardworking, very active and very passionate about ministry.”

He adds, “What makes this particular assignment unique is that we know so many of the people here, either from Oakwood or Pine Forge. Also, Evelyn happens to have family members both by blood and by marriage living in this area.”



Keith and Evelyn Goodman, senior pastor of the Ephesus church and principal of Columbus Adventist Academy, respectively, along with their three children, Charles, Keith Jr., and Kaelyn, join the Allegheny West Conference family.



Corporate Prayer Results in Miraculous Healing

After a sudden illness, Rosalind Beswick, pastor of the Hillside church in Zanesville, Ohio, underwent emergency surgery. Upon learning that Beswick had taken a turn for the worse, Allegheny West Conference employees collectively offered prayers of petition for healing. The very next day, Beswick’s family announced her health had considerably improved. Beswick shares her story:

This experience has shown me just how many people my life has touched, that they would be willing to advocate for me before the Lord ... and God showed them a present-day miracle. God brought me back from death. In the middle of the surgery, my heart stopped three times, and I believe that Jesus covered my heart and started it again. The doctors said that they had to bring me back two times, but on the third time, my heart stopped for nine seconds, and then, all of a sudden, it just started beating again. I believe that Jesus put His power in my heart. I had a pacemaker put in my chest to control my heart, but honestly, I think it was Jesus maintaining the beat of my heart. They’ve told me that there is no way that I was supposed to survive this. I lost two-thirds of my blood. They told my daughter that “she’s not going to make it.” She answered, “Oh yes, she’ll make it.” They had to give me a lot of transfusions. Glory be to God, I’m still here.



Several Ohio Conference churches reached out to me and my church members to offer gifts and supplies. I am so thankful to the members of the Ohio Zanesville church who stopped by to let me know that they were praying for me. It shows that we are truly all one family in the body of Christ. ... I thank God each day for the gift of life.

In response to widespread prayer, Rosalind Beswick, pastor of the Hillside church, miraculously recovered from life-threatening complications during surgery.

Shiloh Church Provides ‘Breakfast With Seniors’

Seniors have been hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Needing to exercise greater caution, contracting the virus is particularly dangerous to them. As a result, during this COVID-19 season, seniors are often lonely, sedentary and depressed. But this crisis created an opportunity.

The Shiloh Cincinnati church runs and operates Shiloh Adventist Gardens—a 64-unit senior living facility—and is always looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ and bring joy to an often-forgotten population. Last fall, the church brought breakfast and a smile to the residents. Shiloh member Amanda Smith organized the meal preparation and food delivery.

Residents were surprised, overwhelmed and overjoyed by the gesture, and appreciated that someone took the time to visit them. Property manager Daryl Foster says, “The residents of Shiloh Adventist Gardens Apartments enjoyed the delicious breakfast that was prepared just for them. One of my residents, Nancy O’Tool, has come by the office three times to say that she loved the breakfast, including the pumpkin pancakes. Another resident wanted to know if we had

extra meals because she wants one more.”

Smith adds, “Although dealing with the reality of COVID-19 has created some distance between us, in many ways, it has certainly brought us together.”



Daryl Foster, administrator/manager at Shiloh Adventist Gardens, delivers food to a resident, as part of Shiloh church’s recent “Breakfast with Seniors” event.

New Year, New Opportunities

It's January 2021, and we turn a new page in our calendars. But now, perhaps more than ever, we hope to not only turn a literal page, but a figurative one as well. We seek to turn a new page on the global pandemic. We seek to turn a new page with the employment rate in our nation. We seek to turn a new page to reclaim a sense of "normalcy" again.

The question before us is, "How do we lean into this new year with faith instead of fear, and trust without trepidation?" The answer lies within what we choose to fix our eyes on: "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18, KJV).

What we choose to focus on will have a tremendous impact on our path, direction and well-being. God's divine nature allows Him to see the end from the beginning. Graciously, He lends a portion of His vantage point to us so that we may live in the light of grace, salvation and His eternal promises. The invitation in Scripture is clear: see what is happening in the world, but look and focus on the God who has the whole world in His hands.

Let us, therefore, begin this new year by making a renewed commitment to God. We don't know exactly what 2021 will hold, but we do know Whom we can trust through it all. Let us choose to fix our eyes on Jesus—the author and finisher of our faith. Let us look to our Heavenly Father, who has sovereignly laid out new and unique opportunities for us to grow spiritually and to engage in meaningful outreach and evangelistic activities in our respective communities. Let us look to the Holy Spirit to fill us and transform us anew, so that we may collectively and effectively spread the everlasting gospel in the year to come.



Andre Hastick
*Assistant to
the President for
Communication*

Rick Remmers Elected Union Executive Secretary

The Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee recently elected Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president, to serve as executive secretary for the Columbia Union. Remmers accepted the call and took up his new responsibilities January 1.

"It has been a great honor and privilege to serve in leadership here in the Chesapeake Conference," says

Remmers. "I will always treasure the friendships made and find deep fulfillment in the ministry we've been able to share in together for the glory of God."

Remmers has spent 20 years in the Chesapeake Conference, having served almost five years as senior pastor of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., approximately five years as senior pastor of the Hagerstown (Md.) church, more than one year as the executive secretary of Chesapeake, and, for the past nine years, as president.

"Chesapeake has been greatly blessed by the exemplary presidential leadership of Dr. Remmers," says Jerry Lutz, executive secretary for Chesapeake. "As a dedicated servant of the Lord, with a heart of a caring, compassionate pastor, and the vision and wisdom of a gifted administrator, he has guided our conference to new levels of spiritual and numerical growth. I am quite confident that, in his new position, Dr. Remmers will serve the constituent conferences, institutions and members of the Columbia Union very well."



Conference Welcomes Humphreys to Education Team

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently named Renee Humphreys as associate superintendent of schools. Humphreys fills the vacancy of Michael Jakobsons, whose wife, Andrea, accepted a call to serve as lead pastor of Ohio Conference’s Kettering church.

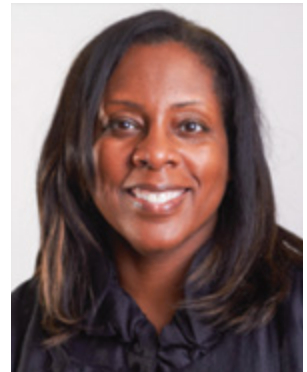
Humphreys has more than 35 years of educational experience in public and Seventh-day Adventist schools, including superintendent of education for the Lake Region Conference (Ill.) from 2014–2018. Before arriving to Chesapeake, she served as principal/teacher at Ephesus Junior Academy in Richmond, Va.

“I am excited that the Chesapeake Conference has a desire to be intentional to represent the character of Jesus by loving all of God’s children and embracing differences through the lens of servant leadership and compassion,” says Humphreys.

“Dr. Humphreys has a heart for service and a strong desire to educate students for eternity,” says Janesta Walker, superintendent of schools for Chesapeake.

Humphreys assumed her new role in August 2020. There are 10 schools within the Chesapeake region, with an approximate enrollment of 950 students in grades pre-K–12.

“This is a pivotal time to be a part of Adventist education, and I’m grateful that God has called me to serve His children in the Chesapeake Conference,” adds Humphreys. “I am looking forward to using my experiences and talents to help support the growth and care of our schools.”



10 Join Ellicott City at Outdoor Baptismal Service

Ten people recently joined the Ellicott City (Md.) church, nine through an outdoor baptism and one through profession of faith. Among those baptized was Karen Santangelo, who had been studying the Bible with her aunt, and decided to search online for a nearby church. She discovered the Ellicott City



Debbie Rivera, associate pastor of the Ellicott City church, baptizes Meghan Stewart into the church.

church website and became a regular viewer of their online worship services.

Santangelo was familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as her family heritage includes both Catholicism and Adventism. When her mother passed away 17 years ago, Santangelo felt the need for something more. When her brother passed away five years ago, she felt even more determined to learn more about God.

“I had a lot of questions about death and other things, and the more I searched, the more I felt I was getting a step closer to God,” says Santangelo. “I knew the stories from the Bible, yet all of it felt so new.”

As she continued to study the Bible with her aunt, Santangelo was convinced she had found what she had been searching for all these years.

“How it all came together and how I happened to catch the announcement about an upcoming baptism was God’s perfect timing. I felt convicted, and I just had to do it,” she adds.

“It is wonderful to see that the Holy Spirit is always working in people’s lives,” says Paulo Macena, lead pastor of the Ellicott City church. “Only God could connect the dots in Karen’s life in such a way that she couldn’t resist His calling for baptism, even during a pandemic.”—*Fylvia Fowler Kline*

PHOTO BY CRISTINA MACENA

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Church Planting Is a Worthy Investment

In 2017, the Mountain View Conference Executive Committee met to strategically plan for the future. With the assistance of Celeste Ryan-Blyden, vice president of Strategic Communication and Public Relations for the Columbia Union Conference, we prayerfully asked, “Who is the Mountain View Conference, and what should our focus be?” Committee members suggested several ideas, including church planting.

To grow a garden, you must first prepare the soil, then put the seed in the ground. If conditions remain favorable, the plant begins to sprout. If the new plant continues to get nourished, it will grow and prosper into full maturity.

In a similar way, we work the soil in our surrounding community through outreach and needs-based evangelism. We prayerfully make friends and build relationships in the community, and eventually form a small group. The fledgling group continues to grow, as more and more are invited to join. As decisions to follow Jesus and His truth are made in connection with other like-minded believers, a synergy develops. The new group works toward the common goal of growing a new congregation that serves the surrounding community and shares the everlasting gospel.

Church planting is different than church revitalization and improvement. In a church plant, you strive to build a new congregation, not grow an existing group. A church plant necessitates developing a brand-new church culture, not working with an established culture. In a church plant, you have an opportunity to set the DNA of the new congregation with qualities like soul-winning and outreach—integral parts of the identity of the new church.

In an established church, soul-winning and evangelism are often considered special events or programs that might be carried out once or twice a year. In a church plant, this is an everyday life and practice, as all members are expected and encouraged to be engaged in ministry.

Planting churches should never cause you to ignore already established churches. Rather, they are a great addition in reaching the unreached. Mountain View Conference has towns, cities and even counties



Six church planters are in the process of planting churches: (left to right) Jared Briggman, South Parkersburg; Anthony Burrell, New Hope Community (Hurricane); Miguel Bernedo, Parkersburg Spanish; Jose Espinoza, Morgantown Spanish and Clarksburg Spanish; Heroes Sical, Petersburg; and Gustavo Parada, Charleston Spanish (not pictured: D. W. West and Chris Trent, who are reopening Point Pleasant and Williamson, respectively).

that have no Seventh-day Adventist presence. Over the next 10 years, our goal is to plant at least one church in every county where we currently have no presence. We will also strive to establish a church in every prominent city or town in West Virginia and Western Maryland. This is a daunting task, but it is vitally important if we are to reach the masses of people before Jesus’ return.

Church planting takes time and money, but it is a worthwhile investment, as it provides one of the best opportunities to grow our conference and fulfill the mission of Jesus. Your prayers and support are welcome and very much appreciated so that we can continue to plant more churches and grow them to maturity.



Mike Hewitt
President

A Conference History Lesson

Longtime Mountain View Conference (MVC) members may know interesting facts and statistics about the conference. Recent members who have moved here from other areas may be unaware of its early history. In either case, reviewing the past brings one face-to-face with God's miracle-working power and what He has accomplished. As Ellen White says, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (Review and Herald, October 12, 1905).

Did You Know?*

- Mountain View Conference was formerly known as West Virginia Conference, established in 1887, with only two ministers: President W. J. Stone and Secretary W. R. Fogglin.
- In its first year, West Virginia Conference had about 200 Sabbath-keepers and totaled \$346.72 in tithe.
- The conference held its first camp meeting in September 1887 in Parkersburg, W.Va., with 125 attending.
- The Fairmont (W.Va.) church was organized April 24, 1888, first named the Amos church. In 1912, the seven members transferred their church organization to Fairmont.
- The Parkersburg (W.Va.) church—organized in 1894—had no full-time pastor until 1947.
- In 1903, the Charleston (W.Va.) church was formed, starting with approximately 12 members who met in a home.
- With a membership of 10, the Morgantown (W.Va.) church was organized in September of 1906. Members met in various homes for the first 10 years, and then moved their meetings to an old storeroom that served as a chapel.
- The work in Wheeling, W.Va., began as a result of a six-month evangelistic effort, culminating in the



West Virginia Conference was established in 1887, and the building constructed in Parkersburg, W.Va., in 1955, where, since 1971, the Mountain View Conference has called home.

organization of a church with 30 members in March 1927 and the purchase of a building in 1947.

- In 1928, a two-week evangelistic camp meeting was held in Buckhannon, W.Va.
 - The Frostburg (Md.) church branched off from the Cumberland (Md.) church, and was organized in 1938 with 44 charter members. They first met in homes and later in the Gunter Hotel in Frostburg.
 - In 1970, the conference purchased 167 acres near Huttonsville, W.Va., and it operated as a youth camp the following year. In February 1974, the conference purchased an additional 151 acres. This property is now known as Valley Vista Adventist Center.
 - In September 1971, West Virginia Conference voted to change its name to Mountain View Conference.
- * Most of the information used in this article was taken from "A History of Mountain View Conference," presented at the 1975 MVC Constituency Meeting.

NEWS

NEW JERSEY

‘Therefore, I Will Go!’

The title of this editorial—a combination of God’s call to the prophet Isaiah and the Great Commission—implies obedience, consecration, dedication, surrender, perseverance and intentionality.

Isaiah 6:8 reads, “Then I heard the Lord asking, ‘Whom shall I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go?’ And I said, ‘Lord, I’ll go! Send me!’” (TLB). Knowing that the “the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few” (Luke 10:2, KJV), the Lord asks the same question in the midst of this pandemic: “Who will go?”

The Lord’s soon return is evidenced by unprecedented natural disasters, social chaos, fear and anguish. Jesus says, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28, KJV). But for the Lord to come, the preaching of the gospel to every nation, tribe and language must be fulfilled (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6).

Jesus has commissioned us to “go and make disciples in all the nations” (Matt. 28:19, TLB), and the One who possesses all authority and power will enable us to fulfill this mission.

God asks, “Who will go?” Jesus commands, “Go, and make disciples!” Therefore, I will trust and obey—and go!



Jorge Agüero
President

¡Por lo Tanto, Iré!

El título de este editorial—una combinación del llamado de Dios al profeta Isaías y la Gran Comisión—implica obediencia, consagración, dedicación, entrega, perseverancia e intencionalidad.

Isaías 6:8 dice: “Después oí la voz del Señor, que

decía: ¿A quién enviaré, y quién irá por nosotros? Entonces respondí yo: ‘Heme aquí, envíame a mí.’” (RV 1960). Sabiendo que “la mies a la verdad es mucha, más los obreros pocos” (Lucas 10:2, RV 1960), el Señor hace la misma pregunta en medio de esta pandemia: “¿Quién irá?”

El pronto regreso del Señor se evidencia en desastres naturales sin precedentes; caos social, miedo y angustia. Jesús dice: “Cuando estas cosas comiencen a suceder, erguíos y levantad vuestra cabeza, porque vuestra redención está cerca.” (Lucas 21:28, RV 1960). Pero para que el Señor venga, la predicación del evangelio se debe cumplir a cada nación, tribu y lengua (Mateo 24:14; Apocalipsis 14:6).

Jesús nos ha dado un mandato “id, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones” (Mateo 28:19, RV 1960), y Aquel que posee toda la autoridad y el poder nos capacitará para cumplir esta misión.

Dios pregunta: “¿Quién irá?” Jesús manda: “¡Ve y haz discípulos!” Por lo tanto, confiaré y obedeceré, ¡Yo iré!—*Jorge Agüero*



PHOTO BY ZAC DURANT

Conference Prioritizes Digital Evangelism

After the Great Disappointment of 1844, something remarkable followed. Those who had experienced it endured many challenges, but they were not alone. An invisible presence of the Almighty led them by the hand. With renewed strength, they preached the eternal gospel within their immediate circles of influence, neighborhoods, towns and regions, until the message reached the entire country and beyond.

It is easy to overlook the significance of this feat, but consider that, just months before the Great Disappointment, the first long-distance telegraph was sent. The extensive cable infrastructure in the country would take years to build. Radio was still decades away. The pioneers were quick to adopt the most advanced technology available to them at the time: the printed page. Through newspaper articles and literature leaflets, they succeeded in propelling the message of hope to the world.

An essential lesson from the pioneers is the art and mastery of spreading the Word. Embracing today's digital tools for evangelism can meet the needs of others in real-time. Jesus was a master storyteller who used parables to reach others. Today, New Jersey Conference leadership is committed to prioritizing digital evangelism to spread the gospel.



The conference is empowering their pastors, lay leaders, youth and adults to evangelize to their circles of influence through social media platforms, like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, etc. God's children are called to follow Jesus' example of engaging communities both near and far, accepting them as they are, meeting their tangible needs, earning their trust, and then, inviting them to accept Christ into their hearts.—*Evangelism Director Eduardo Monteiro*

Member Joins Vineland After Walmart Encounter

Nancy Viera had just learned she was dying from cancer. This news brought sadness and despair. Not knowing what to do, she walked to Walmart to clear her mind. While there, she met an elderly woman who gave her a copy of *The Desire of Ages*. Their



conversation about Jesus' love led to personal Bible studies, and, as they studied together, Viera learned about the Sabbath.

One day, Viera asked her Pentecostal pastor why they didn't worship on Saturday. He couldn't give her a biblical answer. She continued studying the Bible with her new friend, and six months later decided to begin keeping the Sabbath.

Last fall, Viera was baptized into the Vineland church (pictured), and since then, she has told many friends about the Sabbath truth. Vineland also celebrates the baptisms of more than 41 people since the pandemic began, because the mission is not in quarantine.—*Vineland Church Pastor Ever Gonzales*

Scan code to read articles
from New Jersey News (and
other news) in Spanish.



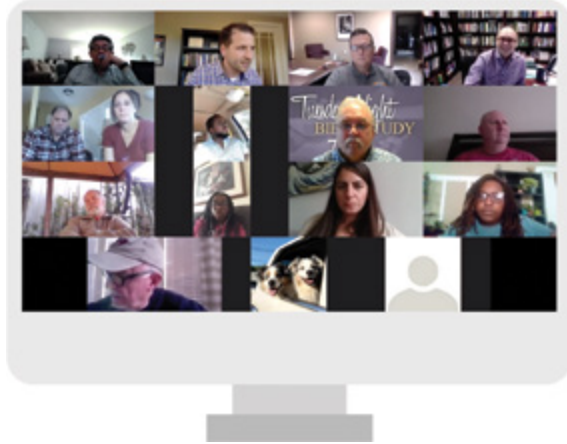
Growing Young Cohort Enters Second Year

The Ohio Conference Youth Department has entered its second year of “Growing Young Adventists”—a church transformation process designed to foster inter-generational worship, fellowship and service.

Ten churches journeyed through the Growing Young process at the beginning of 2020, bringing all generations together in Christ and in service for the community. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and disrupted many of the churches’ plans. In stride, they adjusted to other ways of reaching youth and young adults through digital means. Of the original 10 churches, eight have decided to continue on the Growing Young journey, and four new churches have joined to form a new year-two cohort.

Growing Young Adventists is a journey that engages all generations in the life of the church community, using six essential strategies: keychain leadership; empathy for youth and young adults; taking Jesus’ message seriously; warm relationships; prioritizing young adults and young families in church decisions; and being the best neighbors to one another and the community.

Jake Mulder, author of *Growing Young*, along with six coaches from the conference office staff, are



mentoring leaders from each of the 12 churches in the year-two cohort (some pictured). Each church will choose one of the six essential strategies in which to grow and experiment throughout the year, as they look to see Ohio Adventist faith grow young in 2021.
—Youth Director Edward Marton

The Miracle More Than 40 Years in the Making

With camp meeting approaching, it was clear that something needed to be done about the cratered dirt road leading into Camp Mohaven—the conference’s summer camp and retreat facilities, located in Danville. The cost to repair it was \$10,000, with no funds in the budget available. Prayerfully, the conference moved forward on the project, not knowing where the money would come from.



More than 40 years prior, a member passed away and left the conference a small interest in mineral rights in West Virginia. Three months before the conference’s road dilemma, a coal company phoned Harry Straub, director of Planned Giving, wanting to buy these rights. After months of negotiating, the company made an offer of \$10,000—exactly one day after the conference voted to repair the camp’s road.

“As we witness time after time, our wonderful God always provides!” praises Ken Franklin, chairman of the Camp Mohaven leadership committee.

Carrie Brown, Camp Mohaven manager, comments, “[The driveway] had gotten to the point that it was hard to get in and out of camp, especially when it rained. Now the road provides great access into camp for every church, outreach group and individual that desires to be at camp.”

Straub adds, “Going out in faith, God provided the funds that we needed over 40 years, before we knew we needed them.”—*Planned Giving Administrative Assistant Jackie Smith*

Hispanic Ministries Grow Through Crisis

Despite the severe crisis of our global pandemic, the conference's Hispanic Ministries seem to be growing instead of diminishing. Most churches are physically closed. Many members and pastors have been diagnosed and hospitalized with COVID-19. Yet the church continues to focus on mission, preaching and reaching people through every means possible. Throughout the pandemic, more than 250 people have been baptized in different creative ways, places and circumstances.

As a result of the missionary growth, two new church plants have been added in the last few months: the Lorain Hispanic and Canton Hispanic churches.

God has also been faithful to His people during these trying months. By the end of October, members from the Hispanic Ministries churches alone gave more than \$1 million dollars in tithe in support of the Lord's work.



Elder David Santiago opens his home for members of the Lorain Hispanic church plant, as Pastor Anthony Infantes (pictured standing) shares the Word of God.



"It took us a full year to reach the million-dollar tithe mark in 2018. Now, in just 10 months, and in the midst of a pandemic year, God gave us the same amount, and a little more," praises Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator. "The church is being mobilized like never before. More people are being contacted, more digital messages are being sent and the church is more committed now than ever before!"

Peter Simpson (bottom, left), Hispanic Ministries coordinator, prays with members of the Canton Hispanic church plant.

Calendar of Events

January 1: Joint Allegheny West and Ohio conferences 31-day Bible Reading Challenge: bit.ly/31DayBible

February 2: Pathfinder Bible Experience (area clubs)

February 18: Ohio Conference Education Department Geography Challenge

February 27: Pathfinder Bible Experience (conference-wide)

Pennsylvania Pen

Lifting the Veil

On a warm fall morning last year, I awoke to Pennsylvania's beautiful rolling hills and mountains enshrouded in a thick fog. That day, a familiar sight just a hundred yards away vanished in the mist. Similarly, as we enter 2021, the months before us are hidden in mystery. Its blessings, opportunities and dangers will only come into focus as time lifts the veil.

No matter what the year holds, one thing is clear: God's people in Pennsylvania will be actively engaged in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The "120 in 2020" evangelistic initiative—moved to April 2021 because of COVID-19—is on track to host simultaneous evangelistic meetings in every church. This united outreach will help our worried neighbors find heavenly peace and direction.

I invite you to participate in the exciting monthly Faith in Action challenges this year. These mini-mission assignments are easy to execute and will energize your walk with God. Efforts include making a list of people you want to influence for Jesus, texting them and connecting with them by sending a card, sharing a book or by some other means. The possibilities are endless. These projects are filled with incredible potential to help prepare our neighbors for Jesus' return, so that when the fog lifts, together we will see Him face-to-face.

Learn more at paconference.org/faithinaction.



Gary Gibbs
President

Door-to-Door Invitation Results in Baptisms

A year ago, 12-year-old Emilee Pearsal and her friend, Khaleisha, along with their mothers, participated in the Faith for Family evangelism outreach program with their Chestnut Hill church family in Philadelphia. Knocking on doors and distributing flyers, they invited people to an upcoming Revelation seminar at the church.

Matthew Pondexter found the invitation Pearsal left on his door and attended the series. He fell in love with the church family and began attending their services. Soon, Pondexter was a regular at prayer meeting on Wednesdays and vespers on Fridays. On Thursday evenings, he attended baptismal classes, led by Lance Moncrieffe, Chestnut's volunteer lay pastor. On Sabbath afternoons, Pearsal likewise



began attending baptismal classes with other youth.

This past fall, Moncrieffe baptized Pondexter and Pearsal (both pictured) into the Chestnut family. Moncrieffe later baptized Khaleisha over the Christmas holiday.

"It's exciting to hear how God has worked in Emilee and Matthew's lives—and also in the lives of the more than 230 people who joined a Pennsylvania Conference church by September, just before fall meetings impacted others for the kingdom," shares Tim Bailey, ministerial director. "Please join me in praying for the spring 2021 evangelistic events, as pastors and lay members across our conference share the gospel in their communities. God will again do amazing things this year!"



Conference Plans Historic Evangelism Initiative

More than 200 volunteer Bible workers and 400 digital missionaries are engaged in Bible studies across Pennsylvania, both in person and online. Members are intentionally praying for and connecting with friends, neighbors and co-workers—meeting needs, building relationships and sharing the gospel—through bi-weekly Faith in Action outreach steps. Pastors, members and conference leaders are studying, training and preparing to preach evangelistic messages. Churches are connecting with their communities and planning for events. People are praying daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Pennsylvania Conference is embarking on the biggest evangelism initiative in its history: 120 evangelistic events in 2021. More people are involved than ever—praying, sharing Bible studies, learning to preach and inviting others to attend the meetings.

“We believe that united together, we will fulfill the mission of reaching everyone, everywhere,” states Tim Bailey, evangelism director. “That’s why we’re encouraging total member involvement in our upcoming evangelistic event. Each person can do something. Some will preach. Others will greet and make visitors feel comfortable. People will pray for the meetings and each person who attends. Those trained will share Bible studies and disciple new members. Not only will we serve God and see people commit their lives to Him, but it will change each of us as we experience



God working in and through us in new ways.”

To get involved, “talk to your pastor,” Bailey encourages, “and visit paconference.org/faithinaction. “We’ve created simple step-by-step actions that will only take a few minutes every two weeks. They are designed to assist you in intentionally praying and connecting with others, showing the love of Jesus and inviting others to church.”

Unite Together in Prayer

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for



them by My Father in heaven” (Matt. 18:19, NKJV).

When God’s children pray together, He promises to answer. Lives are changed. Healing happens. People come to know God.

We believe He will bless each of us individually, our families and friends, our churches, our schools, and impact those for whom we are praying as we unite together in prayer. Pray daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, on those we love and on our churches and schools. Register today to be part of this life-transforming movement at paconference.org/by-my-spirit. Unite with others in prayer by sharing your requests and praying for others at [facebook.com/groups/PaUnitedTogetherinPrayer](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PaUnitedTogetherinPrayer). And know that we are also available to pray for and with you. Share your requests with us at prayer@paconference.org.



The Instinct of Hope

In the animal kingdom, species like wallabies and armadillos are not thought to be creatures of hope, rather creatures of instinct. National Geographic hasn't spotted them writing New Year's resolutions or making birthday wishes, rather "wallabying" and "armadilloing" until they die, generally living one survival moment to the next. To truly hope is to be human.

At the beginning of a new year, we look to the future with hope and optimism. "This year will be different!" we think. "This year, I resolve to ...," and we insert a task to accomplish or a different mindset. Coming out of a particularly tough 2020, many of us hope for a simpler, less anxiety-provoking 2021, because we don't hope in the past—we hope in the future.

God's grace allows us to hope and be creators of our own future. Galatians 6:7–8 reminds us that the choices we make today determine some of our outcomes for tomorrow: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life" (NIV).

Let our new *life* resolution be to generously sow seeds that will produce a rich harvest of truth, love, mercy and justice, and spend time walking humbly with our God. As Paul reminds and assures us, we participate in creating a new future by reaping what we sow.



Bill Miller
President

Kosly Joseph Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Kosly Joseph, district pastor of the Harrisonburg and Charlottesville (Va.) churches, always dreamed of being an airline pilot. "I earned a private pilot's license in 1999, and worked as an air traffic controller, guiding pilots in and out of JFK airport in New York City, and then Albany airport in upstate New York," he shares. "I loved it."

Growing up as a pastor's kid, Joseph doesn't remember a time when he wasn't serving in church. So when he was given an ultimatum to work on Sabbath or lose his job, he quickly made a decision: "I chose to follow God, and He led me into several jobs that prepared me for my future," Joseph explains.

God then started hinting He had something else in store for Joseph. Strangers and co-workers would constantly ask him if he had ever considered being a pastor. His unique blend of gifts and life experiences eventually propelled him into the ministry.

After graduating from the seminary in 2010, Joseph accepted a call to the Potomac Conference as a coach for Church Community Builder—a software that helps leaders engage with members—and the pastor of the French American company in Takoma Park, Md. He later served as an associate pastor of the Takoma Park (Md.) church until 2018, when he took his current post in Virginia. And, on his birthday last fall, he was ordained to the gospel ministry.



Kosly Joseph (kneeling alongside his wife, Michele), district pastor of the Harrisonburg and Charlottesville (Va.) churches, is ordained to the gospel ministry.

Camp Holds Historic Dedication, Groundbreaking

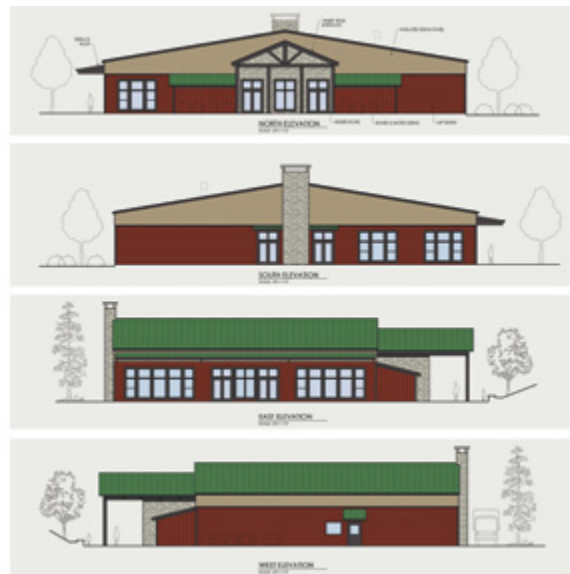
Implementation of the much-anticipated master plan at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., officially got underway this past fall. On a rainy, overcast day, a heartfelt dedication and groundbreaking ceremony for the new cafeteria and meeting space marked the beginning of an exciting journey. “The words ‘this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it’ ran through my mind all day,” says Ray Queen, camp director. “I am thankful for the rain, the circumstances, the future, and, that in the end, God always wins!”

Kicking off phase one of the master plan includes building a new cafeteria (pictured), which will hold about 300 people—double the capacity of the previous facility—allowing the space to have multiple functions. “While it is meant to first serve as a cafeteria, we can use it for additional meeting space,” explains Julie Minnick, associate director. “We will be able to better accommodate multiple groups that are booked at the same time.”

Construction for the building is already underway, and camp leadership anticipates the structure to be completed by mid-May of 2021. “This new building will be a blessing,” says Queen. “It will sit on top of the ridge line with some of the best views the camp has to offer. It will really be a place of tranquility and relaxation.”

After years of addressing problems in the previous dining hall, the bulk of the building had to be demolished. The kitchen was deemed safe, however, and continues to serve guests.

Queen and Minnick agree that, by way of the master plan, this new building is the beginning of raising the standards of the camp and its future. The plan consists of three phases, and is designed to improve



the overall guest experience. It includes creating additional adult housing and meeting spaces—including an adult retreat center—making major improvements to the campus with the construction of a new multi-purpose building/gymnasium, and upgrading roads and access points.

“Camp Blue Ridge is here to help you refresh, relax and rejuvenate!” says Minnick. “Whether you’re looking for a family getaway, church group retreat, youth group adventure or summer camp, we have it all!”

For more information, visit campblueridge.org or call (540) 466-1583.—*Jyremy Reid*



Potomac Conference staff (left to right) Josant Barrientos, youth director; Tony Reyes, Stewardship and Planned Giving director; Jerry Martin, Camp Blue Ridge (CBR) building maintenance manager; Ray Queen, CBR director; Julie Minnick, CBR associate director; Scott Cleveland, conference executive committee member; Kurtis Gaitan, CBR facilities manager; and Lane Bleich, recently retired staff member, break ground as the much-anticipated master plan at Camp Blue Ridge officially gets underway.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

Students Baptized During FOCUS Week

“At Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), we believe that true education focuses on academics, along with social, physical and spiritual development of our students,” states Burney Culpepper, principal. “This year’s FOCUS (Focus On Christ’s Ultimate Sacrifice) week impacted our staff and students in a powerful way, causing them to grow in their relationship with Christ and strengthen their understanding and desire for the Word of God.”

For the week of spiritual emphasis, seniors Christina Gibbs and Summer Dekle, along with juniors Matthew Ullom, Joosung Kim and Aby Sosa, took turns speaking for morning worship. Each evening, Dee Casper, the director of Pennsylvania Conference’s CORE School of Evangelism, shared that the way we view God can affect our experience with Him.

Casper explains: “We walked through how Jesus came and suffered alongside us—and went through more than we may realize. We [also] discovered that God truly is enough for us and how we can handle the seemingly silence of God, find purpose in our pain, and focus on the faith of Jesus and the price He paid for us.”

As Casper preached, junior Joseph Berry experienced God in a powerful way: “For the first time,



Junior Sooyeong Na plays the violin with the BMA orchestra during FOCUS week.

I genuinely felt that God was speaking to me and answering my prayers,” Berry shares. “I was moved that night and felt convicted. I stayed for the prayer circle, a choice that I had not even considered. ... That night in my room, I was determined to hear the voice of God.”

For the next three days, Berry fasted, prayed and listened. And during the final evening of FOCUS, he was convicted that he was holding onto things that were preventing him from “hearing” God. Berry responded to Casper’s final invitation to surrender completely to God. That Sabbath, Sanghae Kim, pastor of the BMA church, baptized Berry and fellow junior Kyle Williams. Three other students are currently studying to be baptized.

“FOCUS week definitely benefited my spiritual life,” shares senior Catarina Falcao. “I saw [the speakers’] leadership skills, their commitment to God and how He is calling them and using them. I want that experience! Each student leading out inspired me to do more, and their example continues to inspire me today.”



Pastor Sanghae Kim reads the baptismal vows to candidates Kyle Williams and Joseph Berry.

Academy Feels Like Home

Students who don't live within driving distance of a nearby Seventh-day Adventist academy can still obtain a great Adventist education by living in a dormitory. This arrangement not only offers families more convenience, but it gives students the opportunity to enjoy the entire academy experience—from breakfast in the morning through recreational time or sports practice in the evening.

Considering dorm students are “at home,” they have the opportunity to join dorm worships, spend more time with friends and do homework in quiet locations—all without leaving the school campus.

Stephanie Jaqua, a Highland View Academy (HVA) senior, describes some other advantages of living on campus: “We always help each other out with homework, and the deans are also always available to help in any way. We enjoy fun events like Girls' Club, Galentine's—around Valentine's Day—home leave parties and more. Going out in the school vans to get a treat is always so exciting. We play music and sing along during our small trips. Both deans are so kind and considerate, always planning activities for us to be occupied or even time to relax.” To watch more of Jaqua's dorm experience, visit hva-edu.com, or search for “HVA Feels Like Home” on HVA's YouTube channel.

Students who live in DeHaan Hall and Hartle



Hartle Hall residents Kevin Oliveira and Gabriel Moraes display Christmas decorations.



Class of 2021 students Jiamya Morris, Luci Borges, Izabel Sigulinsky and Christina Rada hang out together in a dorm room at DeHaan Hall.

Hall—the girls' and boys' dorms, respectively—have the freedom to enjoy the amenities on campus: the workout room, weight room, computer labs, dorm kitchens and front lobbies. Dorm students can also participate in boys' or girls' club activities and make trips to Black Rock or a portion of the nearby Appalachian Trail.

“Living in the dormitory throughout my four years at HVA deepened my experience by helping me to develop closer bonds with my friends, learn time-management skills and how to be more independent,” says Luke de Goede, a former Hartle Hall resident ('18). “I realized how much it helped me when I got to college and was already accustomed to living by myself, making my own schedule and staying focused, while other students struggled to adapt to college life and being away from home. I have so many great memories from living in the dorm and will hold many of those friendships for life.”

To learn more about dormitory living, visit hva-edu.com, and click on “Residence Halls” in the Student Life tab, or follow DeHaan Hall's Instagram page: [instagram.com/dehaanhall](https://www.instagram.com/dehaanhall).



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Academy Celebrates Fall Week of Prayer

At the beginning of March 2020, Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) completely changed. Yet amid clouds of doubt and uncertainty, God bestowed His blessings and shined His light of mercy, grace and love on His children, evidenced by LNAA opening its doors in the fall.

At the start of the pandemic, even meeting in person was in serious question. But last fall, God allowed them to celebrate a Week of Prayer.

Themed “From Jacob to Israel,” Chaplain Webster Sterling presented the Week of Prayer message, staged against a wall in LNAA’s backyard. Many students viewed the services via Zoom, while in-person students had the opportunity to post prayer requests on the wall or a cross. At the end of the week, students burned their requests as a petition to God—an academy tradition for many years.

Sterling, using creative plays by the senior class to demonstrate his points, detailed the dramatic life of Jacob, how he had to run from his home to his uncle’s after deceiving his father. Each morning, Sterling asked the students questions to see if they remembered



Third-graders Lucas Saintil and Hector Flores post prayer requests on a cross.

anything from the previous day’s sermon. They received a reward if they answered correctly.

The Week of Prayer also included music, performed live by LNAA’s praise team and band. For special music, children of all ages and grades participated.

“It truly was a blessing to have Week of Prayer. God made a way to make it happen in the middle of a pandemic, through the trials and tribulations placed before us,” says Elisa Maragoto, principal. “Just as Jacob was changed into Israel through hardships, God still works to make a change from within.”—*Junior Honors Student Rod Olofernes*



Jaden Leon dedicates his life to God through baptism at the Week of Prayer.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 21 | National Honor Society Induction Ceremony |
| February 3 | Black History Heritage Chapel |
| February 13 | Gospel Benefit Concert |

PFA POST



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

Nurse Booker Honored for Exemplary Service

Pine Forge Academy (PFA) students and staff recently recognized the exemplary work and dedication of Audrey Booker, who served and retired as the school nurse in September 2020.

Booker accepted the “temporary” position in 2010 after her prior retirement as school nurse at a public high school in Reading, Pa. This temporary position turned into 10 years, in which Booker endeared herself to the students, becoming a mother, grandmother, counselor and friend to all. During her tenure, her expertise and care extended to all who matriculated through PFA.

Booker was always willing to taxi students to the hospital, therapy and doctor appointments, and those desperately needing trips to Walmart. Having a natural heart for giving, she was known to leave sweet treats in the dorms or gifts in the faculty lounge or staff mailboxes. She also gave special gifts to graduating seniors before leaving campus.

Through the coordination of Booker, PFA continues to be a Miller-Keystone blood bank mobile center. Hosting two yearly blood drives for 10 consecutive years and providing education to the school



community, Booker assisted in the collection of more than 400 units of blood that has saved at least 1,200 lives. She has ensured that graduating seniors who meet donation requirements are entered into the Miller-Keystone High School Hero Cord Program, and has helped other students earn donation scholarships and various science awards and internships.

As a trained American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED instructor, she devoted many weekends training staff and students, and was a vital participant in COVID-19 preparedness and health task force planning for the school’s 2020–21 reopening.

Booker, noted as “brown eyes and cute” among her PFA graduating class (’55), devoted countless hours of loving attention to the school where she worked and attended. It is PFA where she met the young man who would become her lifelong, loving husband and best friend, Robert Booker (’56), who served as the director of Communication for the Allegheny East Conference until 2014, and is a former PFA faculty member. The couple are the parents of two PFA graduates, Cheryl Booker (’80) and Robert Booker, Jr. (’85), and the Bookers remain supportive of various family members who send their children to PFA.



Dean of Young Women Lisa Marshall (left) and Principal H. Clifford Reynolds, III, present former Pine Forge Academy nurse Audrey Booker with an Award of Appreciation for her 10 years of dedicated service.

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Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Senior Creates Website to Help Online Students

When the coronavirus pandemic began last March, students from Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) moved to an online educational experience. Wanting to help kids who were struggling to adjust to online learning and to grasp concepts virtually, Abby Shim ('21) began tutoring them, free of charge.

"For the most part, it went well," says Shim, "but I decided to take it a step further and make a website so that my students could upload their worksheets prior to their session and to make it easier for parents to communicate with me." Shim's website, powertothepupil.org, enabled her to meet the needs of those she tutored in a more helpful way.

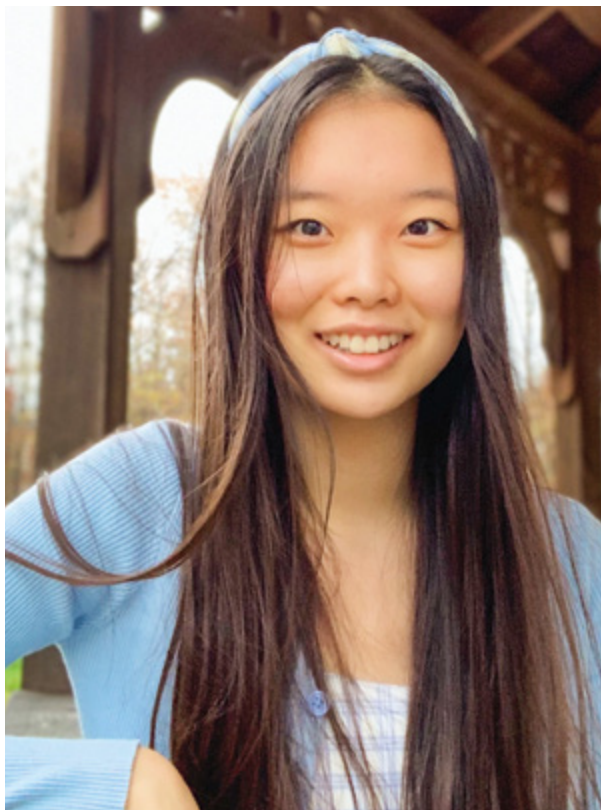
"It's very fulfilling seeing students being able to understand a concept they struggle a lot with. As a student myself, I know how satisfying it is to finally understand a tough homework problem or master a topic just in time for an upcoming test," says Shim. "Additionally, I believe that the best way to learn something is to teach it yourself! I find that, whenever I teach someone a concept, I force myself to understand the material better."

High school students at SAA need 20 hours of community service each year to graduate. As a result, Shim reached out to fellow high school students to collaborate with her in tutoring.

Due to her busy schedule, Shim limits herself to only tutoring students within the SAA community. Plus, tutoring is not the only activity that keeps her busy. This year, along with her studies and workload, she is the Student Association president and high school yearbook editor.

As a result of her exceptional academic promise, the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program recently named Shim one of 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation.

"Abby is organized, efficient, resourceful and God-centered. She is also a compassionate student who



Senior Abby Shim tutors other students who have difficulty managing online courses.

willingly serves her peers and the community," says High School Principal Ellenor Paul-O'Neil. "On any given day, you can find Abby thinking of innovative ways to make a difference, while still balancing her responsibilities."

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Seniors ‘Grow in the Wilderness’

At the beginning of each school year, the senior class makes a pilgrimage to Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio, for the Senior Survival adventure. Exchanging daily classwork and cell phones for tarps and fresh air, this time allows seniors to focus on life’s basic issues and be challenged in new ways.

This year, staff members tasked each senior to construct their own lodging, using nothing but a plastic tarp, rope, duct tape and anything in the natural surroundings. The days consisted of worship programs, journaling, moments of relaxation and team building activities. Many activities became catalysts for relational growth and new admiration for one another.

While staff modified several activities due to the pandemic, the seniors quickly adapted to the socially distanced activities: horseback riding, canoeing, archery and cooking meals at their campfires.

Senior Survival is also part of the senior Bible grade, measured through the evaluations of staff and group members. Sponsors design the team building activities to challenge seniors individually and strengthen them as a class. Senior Jonathan Lutterodt shares, “It showed us that we work best when people with different strengths and weaknesses come together.”

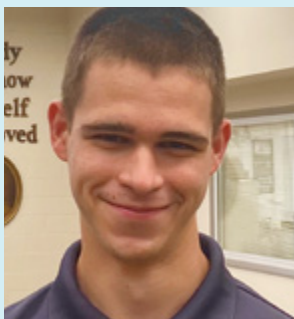


Seniors enjoy the annual Senior Survival experience at Camp Mohaven.

Senior Deejon Cook adds, “Senior Survival was an amazing experience ... it’s refreshing to give up social media and technology for a few days in exchange for team building activities and life in the wilderness with your classmates and sponsors!”
—Chaplain Justin Janetzko

Senior Named ‘Commended Student’

Principal Darren Wilkins recently announced that the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program named senior Benjamin Shull a Commended Student, one of 34,000 throughout the nation, recognized for exceptional academic promise. This year, Commended Students were those who placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million who entered the scholarship program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



A spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation comments, “These students represent a valuable national resource, and recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in the nation.”

Wilkins adds, “We hope this recognition will help broaden Ben’s educational opportunities and encourage him as he continues in his pursuit of academic success!”

Ben is the son of Sonya and Ted Shull (’86) of Dayton, Ohio.

Senior Ben Shull is named a Commended Student in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program.



IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God - Value Knowledge - Accept a Life of Service

Students Say 'Thank You' for Giving in 2020

It means a lot for me to attend SVA because...

I love hearing about Jesus at school, and the music and sports programs. ■ I enjoy the academics and focus on spirituality. ■ In-person learning is more beneficial for me than online. ■ I appreciate the good education I get here. ■ Coming from a small school, having more friends and more opportunities is amazing. I am truly thankful. ■ It's such a friendly and supportive environment. Over four years, I have grown to love the unique SVA experience. ■ I get to have a Christian experience and enjoy the Adventist system of education. I don't know how I would be if I did not attend SVA. ■ Of the many people I meet and how my relationship with Christ has changed. ■ It gives me the opportunity to experience an atmosphere filled by the Holy Spirit. ■ I'm able to talk to God, to hear and learn about Him every single day. ■ I've made cherished memories and valuable friendships. ■ I've been here all four years and have really felt God's presence. ■ I feel so blessed to be here and make lifelong friends, including my friend, Jesus. ■ I'm in a school that believes the way I do, where teachers want me to be the best I can be. ■ This school is very close to God, and I really enjoy that. ■ I really love the people and the environment I'm surrounded by. ■ This school is making a very big impact on me. It is my first year, and I am loving it. ■ It is helping my relationship with God. I'm very



grateful because it is something I've been needing. ■ I've learned a lot academically, and have grown so much closer to God. ■ It is such a huge blessing to me. ■ This is the place where God changed me. It is where I have to be, and it is my decision to come back every single year. ■ Attending SVA has always been a dream of mine. My favorite part is the yearly mission trip because I love helping people in need. ■ I've developed a love for this school because I see what it is doing in my life. The atmosphere, people, vespers, church services, afterglows, everything that we do here, it really changed me. Now I am more of a God-fearing man whose goal is to center his life around Jesus.

Thank you...

For giving to make all of this possible for me and for many others. ■ May God bless you for blessing others! ■ Please keep doing what you're doing because I hope others can have the same experience. ■ Thanks to you, my dreams have become a reality.

Thank you so much!

—Students to SVA Donors,
2020 Thank-a-Thon



www.ta.edu TATO TODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Academy Offers Virtual Cooking Class

Takoma Academy (TA) continues to instruct classes virtually, with the hopes of implementing a hybrid plan in the near future. With concerns of lack of social interaction, TA administrators continue to brainstorm and innovate new ideas to accommodate more active social learning skills.

Accordingly, when the opportunity presented itself for a healthy interactive cooking class, staff members could not refuse. Local chef Roberta Lowe offered her expertise, giving a different perspective on vegan cooking to students and staff. Lowe, founder of Blossoms Events and Catering, LLC, is determined to revolutionize cooking at home. She has trained with celebrity chefs, and brings a flare to vegan cuisine that both meat eaters and vegetarians enjoy.

Since October, participants have received step-by-step coaching and cooking tips. This allows them to learn and practice skills by cooking favorite dishes for their families.

Principal Carla Thrower is delighted to have Chef Lowe on board:

“Vegan food *can* taste good. This class has given me so many ideas for meals that I can prepare for myself and for my family. I look forward to the next class where we will be making vegan cannoli.”



Staff Attacks Fitness Challenge Head-On

Physical health has affected everyone differently during the pandemic. At a monthly Takoma Academy (TA) staff meeting, a teacher voiced the struggles of maintaining physical fitness while balancing a heavy workload. After considering various solutions, staff started a fitness challenge that ran in late 2020. “The fitness challenge gave us a sense of camaraderie, I believe, which is hard to do when we’re not seeing

each other,” says team leader Kelli Collins, TA’s data specialist.

Other team leaders included Vice Principal Keith Beckett; math teacher D’Anyia Brezzell; and P. E. teacher Trey Douglas. Leaders drafted five to six team members. Participants received one point for every 30 minutes of exercise.

During the challenge, several teachers didn’t miss a day of walking. English teacher Gabrielle Ziegler ended up exercising the most hours, totaling 86 points. “Once you create the habit of working out, you start to love the way you feel and look, and your overall mood can change,” says Ziegler. “You just have to set small goals, and it’ll naturally become part of your daily routine.”

Team Brezzell, also known as “Goal Diggers” (runners-up to Team Beckett), finish a hard workout in TA’s fitness center: (left to right) Chaplain Leah Burgess; communication lead Salena Fitzgerald; math teacher D’Anyia Brezzell; academic specialist Shemika Campbell; art teacher Emily Lopez (not pictured) and English teacher Gabrielle Ziegler.



WGTS Encourages Thousands at Night of Hope

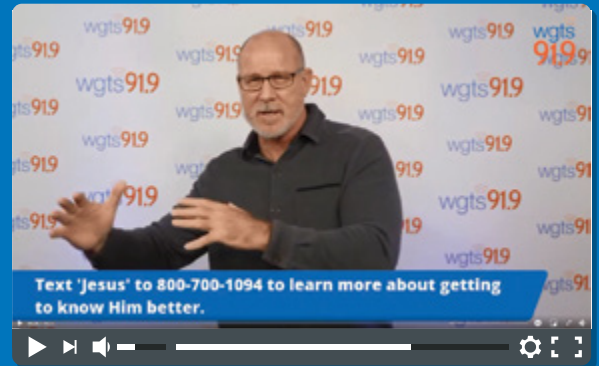
In a time when everyone could use an extra dose of hope, WGTS held their Night of Hope online as a way of bringing listeners closer to Jesus and showing how He can offer hope.

“There are two ways to look at the virus and how it has affected us. Sure, it’s changed how we do everything, and it prevents us from meeting in person. At the same time, it has been a blessing in disguise, allowing us to reach thousands of people who wouldn’t ordinarily be able to come to an event,” says General Manager Kevin Krueger. “We are talking to many people about Jesus for the first time and we’re expanding our media platform to do it. That’s a blessing we couldn’t have dreamed of even 10 months ago.”

Christian music group Casting Crowns provided the music, and Christian music artist Darren Mulligan of the group We Are Messengers shared his story about how Jesus pulled him away from a life of sin. As he finished, Darren asked listeners who wanted to receive Jesus to pray with him. Throughout the evening, pastors and counselors were available to talk with listeners, and as the evening concluded, New Hope church Pastor Mike Speegle shared about getting to know Jesus better. More than 100 viewers requested a study guide prepared by the North American Division and more than a dozen attended a three-week Bible study with Speegle and WGTS host Jerry Woods.

Between the live webcast and views of the recording, over 50,000 impressions were made with thousands watching the video from at least 10 states.

This event has been faithfully supported by Adventist Healthcare.



New Hope church Pastor Mike Speegle invites Night of Hope viewers to participate in Bible studies to get to know Jesus.

Listeners Strong in Their Support of Hands and Heart Projects

Many things have been uncertain during the past several months, however, many other things have stayed strong. “One of those things is the generosity of our WGTS listeners – especially as they have supported our 2020 Hands and Heart projects,” says General Manager Kevin Krueger.

Through a series of food drives throughout the year, listeners donated over 28,000 pounds of food through our campaign called “Operation Fill the Pantry.” This food was quickly distributed and will help many families in our region.



During our Days of Compassion, over 700 children around the world were sponsored by WGTS listeners. The monthly support from listeners will provide these children with food, healthcare and education.

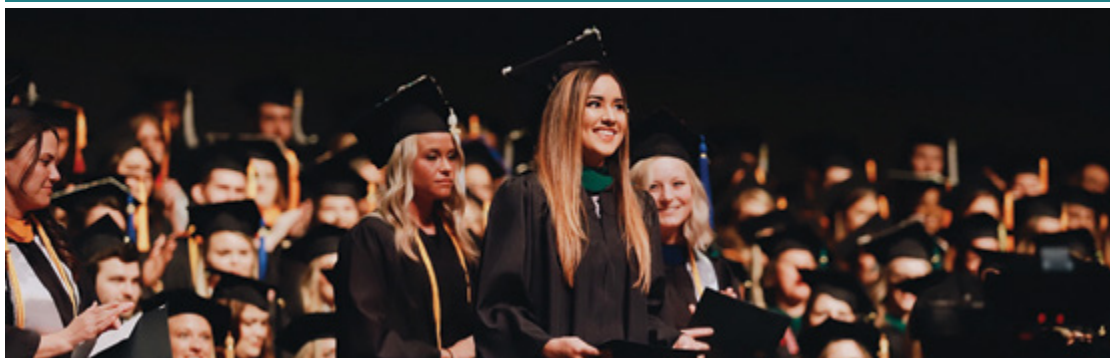
Finally, near the holidays, our listeners donated hundreds of toys so that families in need could provide toys for their children.



KETTERING COLLEGE



Winelia Flores Ortiz, a 2019 Kettering College graduate served on the frontlines as a respiratory therapist during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is now working on her doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy at Kettering College.



On the Frontlines

By Lauren Brooks

Winelia Flores Ortiz, a 2019 graduate chose to attend Kettering College because she wanted to make a difference in people's lives. She earned her degree in respiratory therapy because she has family members who suffer from respiratory illnesses. "Never in a million years could I have imagined a pandemic happening less than a year after graduation," Ortiz said.

While others were at home under self-quarantine, Ortiz was on the frontlines—working on the COVID-19 unit at Sycamore Medical Center, serving patients, answering tough questions, and having even harder conversations with patients with failing health from March to June 2020. "It was more challenging, scary, and nerve-racking than I can describe," she said. "But my experience at Kettering College prepared me for the unprecedented."

Because of her education at Kettering College, she was prepared to care for people at their most vulnerable. Ortiz credits the knowledge and competency she gained at Kettering College as what helped her through the crisis. Her hands-on learning through the simulation lab made her feel confident in a room with seasoned nurses and health care providers.

Her team had to innovate often, from expanding care options and training additional staff, to adapting to equipment challenges and finding new resources. Ortiz leaned on her training in decision-making and problem-solving from her courses, which helped her look for new approaches while stretching their resources as far as possible.

The high expectations of her professors echoed in her mind—to care for the whole person, stay calm, restore health, and communicate.

"The compassion and spiritual care I learned at Kettering College was, perhaps, even more important during this crisis," Ortiz said. "Nothing could have fully prepared anyone in our field for all of the challenges we are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, but being trained at Kettering College gave me the knowledge, flexibility, compassion, and dedication to serve on the frontlines."



LOOKING TO JESUS...



Have you ever seen the horses employed in pulling carriages around a city or town? Part of the equipment that allows the drivers to direct the horses are blinders that keep the horse focused ahead and not on the distractions in their peripheral vision. These exist for us humans, and they come in the form of stress, worry, and obligation. We can become so focused on specific aspects of our day-to-day life, and it drives us to make decisions driven by our fear, worry, and perceived obligations. At a university, this becomes all the more challenging as we have so much work that must be done. You might be a student planning for the future, or a professor planning for the next exam, or maybe you're the president planning for the success of your entire campus. Either way, you can become focused on aspects that will distract you from the line that might bring you greater happiness and possibly more success.

I would propose that you choose to have Jesus Christ as your driver, the one leading you to your next destination. He would like you to focus on the aspect of your life that will lead you to a closer relationship with Him. The blinders that we receive from Christ come in the form of light, peace, and confidence. Your ability to see from a Godly perspective will allow you to find the path that will lead you to a place where patience and joy are the main aspects of your day-to-day existence.

As we begin this new year of 2021, we've just survived a year that could be called one of the bleakest in our history. We saw so many unprecedented moments that we might have become sick of the word "unprecedented." In times like these, it is more important than ever that all of us choose Christ, the founder, and perfecter of our faith.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV)

WAU will continue to push forward and look for the best ways to create distinctive, moral leaders for the 21st Century. We will continue to pursue every method of showing Christ to our students in a way that makes it possible for that relationship to last a lifetime. We will conquer the hills and the valleys as we have Jesus Christ guiding us on our path.



Weymouth Spence, President

RECENT BAPTISMS AT WAU



Rodrigo Lima (front) prepares for baptism. The Baptism was performed by Brendon Albury (back). Photography by Richard Castillo

Washington Adventist University's community continues to be a community of prayer and faith. During this challenging time in history, distance is ideal in preventing infection; not so ideal in fellowship and communal worship. Despite the challenges, the Holy Spirit has been working to soften hearts and lead individuals to commit to a life in Christ.

On two consecutive weekends, a student and an employee of WAU have made this commitment publicly through baptism at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of WAU. Sligo has made special COVID-19 accommodations for baptism to minimize the chance of spreading infection. During each baptism, the church community, friends, and family who could not attend in person can attend virtually via zoom. The zoom windows are projected onto the church screens, and the baptismal candidates can communicate with their friends and loved ones on the screen. Pastor Charles Tapp said, "We want to ensure that everyone feels as safe as possible while still allowing each candidate to share their commitment with their loved ones and friends."

Rodrigo Lima, a senior student, working in the admissions office, was baptized after being nurtured by fellow students and WAU staff. Rodrigo came to WAU from Brazil and wanted to be baptized ahead of traveling back to his home. "I believe there is no greater honor than to commit my life to the service of God."

Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Wanda Canales, played a large role as a leader with Rodrigo. "We're overjoyed that Rodrigo made this decision.

The admissions office has been a better place because of his presence, and this choice just drives home the fact that we all are accountable in leading others to Jesus and showing the way."

Antonica Neto was baptized on a second weekend to allow for time to take the needed preventative measures between candidates. Antonica is a recent addition to the WAU Staff, joining the Admissions and Recruiting team in October of 2020. Antonica is Angolan but a long-time resident of the D.C. area. She is fluent in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. During her baptism, she used each of these languages to express love and thanks for the support that led her to make this public commitment. "I can't explain the joy that I'm feeling right now..."

WAU's VP for Marketing and Recruitment, Bill Jackson said, "We honor the decision made by our admissions staff and students. These moments of joy lift us all and energize us to bring more and more souls to a place where they will find what they need to make these great life-altering choices."

WAU President Weymouth Spence is encouraged by these public decisions. "Our intent at WAU is to create committed, distinctive, moral leaders that will make a difference in the world around us. These decisions are a bright light in a world dimmed by death, destruction, and uncertainty. WAU wants to bring more of these bright lights to be a witness to one of the core aspects of our mandate as an Adventist University."



Antonica Neto (front) prepares for baptism and looks up at the screen holding many of her friends and family gathered on Zoom. The Baptism was performed by Richard Castillo (back). Photography by Dachele Cuke

That Nothing Be Lost

In the Bible, the story of how Jesus used a small boy's lunch to miraculously feed more than 5,000 people speaks to God's abundant care for every person, in even our mundane daily needs.

But look what happens next, as it is told in the Gospel of John: "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost'" (John 6:12, KJV). Having graciously provided for their hunger, Jesus now invites His followers and all of the crowd to join in next part of the story.

"Gather up the fragments," He says. The leftovers, the crumbs, that which might otherwise be lost. Just when people were thinking of taking an after-lunch nap, Jesus has other ideas. He seems to be saying. "Your part is just beginning. Get up, and make sure that nothing is lost – that even the smallest fragments are saved."

Months and months into this wretched pandemic, I know of no one who is fully satisfied with how things are going. The battle against COVID-19 is long and difficult. As fatigue sets in and frustration mounts, it is important to recognize the way in which God has strengthened us, blessed us and provided for us.

And it is also at this moment that the words of Jesus, spoken over the results of His miraculous intervention for a hungry multitude, suddenly take on new relevance and urgency: "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

The standard of divine love is that nothing be lost. Every life, every person, every situation, every need, every day, every time – this is what our Mission demands of us. I've said it before, and it bears repeating: This is our most sacred responsibility – that people trust us with their lives. Nothing – nothing – can set that aside. This is the foundation of healthcare. This is the foundation of our society. It is elemental.

God's love leaves no one outside of providential care. We have seen what happens when there is inequity in the access and delivery of healthcare. There are those who would make some persons more expendable than others, who would allow privilege and position to determine our policies and our response. Our Mission is clear: "We extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing."

It is our highest privilege and responsibility to be fully engaged in extending God's care to those we serve. May our prayer be for clarity, strength, and persistence in this task and calling – because the circumstances and our Mission insist on nothing less.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Andrew Catanzaro, MD, left, consults with two team members about the research on a potential new drug to combat COVID-19.

Advancing COVID-19 Research Studies

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, Adventist HealthCare has been caring for those afflicted by the disease as well as actively working to prevent the spread of the virus in the community. Part of that effort has been participating in research that could help determine the best treatments for COVID-19 patients.

SACCOVID™ Study

In early April, scientists, researchers and members of the infectious disease department at Adventist HealthCare participated in a clinical trial with drug manufacturer Oncolmmune Inc. The SACCOVID™ clinical trial enrolled 203 participants with severe or critical COVID-19. Adventist HealthCare was one of only 15 organizations in the phase 3 clinical trial, with patients participating at both Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville and Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center in Silver Spring.

Patients who added SACCOVID™ to the standard of care showed significantly faster recovery and reduced disease progression to death or respiratory failure than those who received a placebo. In fact, the study found that in comparison to patients who received a placebo, SACCOVID™ patients had a:

- 60% better chance to achieve clinical recovery
- Median recovery time that was four days shorter, 10 days vs. 6 days
- Reduced risk of death or respiratory failure by more than 50%

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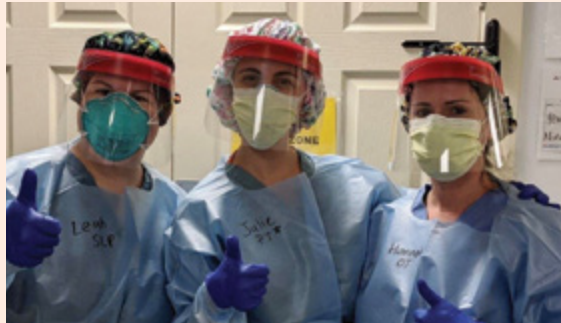
Recent Quality Achievements

for Adventist HealthCare

Advancing COVID-19 Research *Continued*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is reviewing the clinical study to help determine the safety and efficacy of the drug.

“There are a lot of levels of excitement and gratitude about these results,” says Andrew Catanzaro, MD, and lead infectious disease expert at Adventist HealthCare. “This drug enhanced our compassionate care for COVID-19 patients because it had such a profound effect. It’s very exciting.”



Team members at Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation studied how therapy could impact COVID-19 recovery.

Physical and Occupational Therapy Study

In April 2020, Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, converted an inpatient recovery unit into an alternate care site to help with the surge of COVID-19 patients in the area. Soon after patients were admitted, Hannah Ouellette, an occupational therapist, recognized an opportunity to measure how physical, occupational and speech therapy could impact the recovery process.

Over the next several months, a research team applied various tools to evaluate COVID-19 patients on walking distance and endurance, activities of daily living and functional independence, as well as memory, concentration and executive functioning. Data analysis determined that patients could not only tolerate the three-hour daily requirement of therapy, but that they also made significant improvements in every outcome measure for each approach.

“We are amazed at this team’s drive,” says Rob Grange, Administrator of Takoma Park Rehabilitation Hospital. “In the face of myriad challenges associated with creating a COVID-19-specific unit, they went above and beyond to apply their expertise, learn and share their findings in hopes of positively impacting COVID-19 recovery on a much larger scale.”

“[It] had such a profound effect. It’s very exciting.”

– Andrew Catanzaro, MD

Convalescent Plasma Study

Convalescent plasma is another treatment with promise in the battle against COVID-19. In April 2020, Adventist HealthCare participated in a study sponsored by the Mayo Clinic to investigate whether patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who were suffering from severe symptoms improved faster after receiving plasma from patients who previously had recovered from the virus.

From April to August, 152 patients received plasma transfusions at both Shady Grove Medical Center and White Oak Medical Center. Adventist HealthCare was able to provide researchers with data on when the plasma treatment proved most effective during the course of the disease.

Adventist HealthCare is committed to providing the best patient experience to every person, every time – and that means providing the highest quality care.

Some recent recognitions of our commitment to excellence in extending God’s care include:

- Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services 5-Star Quality Award for Shady Grove Medical Center
- American Heart Association and American Stroke Association Gold Plus for Shady Grove Medical Center and White Oak Medical Center
- Society of Thoracic Surgeons Rated Top 4-10% in Heart Surgery Nationwide for White Oak Medical Center
- American Heart Association Lifeline NSTEMI (Heart Attack) Gold Achievement Award for White Oak Medical Center
- Maryland Patient Safety Center Awards for Shady Grove Medical Center, White Oak Medical Center and Fort Washington Medical Center
- Forbes America’s Best In-State Employers 2020 for Adventist HealthCare

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Reaching Beyond the Cities

By Christina Keresoma



Kettering Adventist HealthCare knows the importance of receiving great care close to home. To continue providing high-quality care near where people work and live, Kettering Adventist HealthCare recently expanded services at its Jamestown Health Center. The primary care practice now includes

- 20 exam rooms (10 additional rooms from before)
- X-ray
- Outpatient lab
- Expanded office hours

Jamestown Health Center is part of the network's Rural Health Clinic strategy, and is one of three Rural Health Clinics in the organization.

"The need for rural health care clinics is increasing across our region," said Ken Park, director of Rural Health for Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "By having three rural health clinics, we've expanded access to high-quality primary care closer to home for our rural community patients."

The Rural Health Clinic program is intended to increase access to primary care services for patients in rural, underserved communities by using a team approach of physicians and non-physician providers, such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide care. According to Health Resources and Services Administration, as of January 2020, there are 53 rural health clinics in Ohio.



THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Offering Innovative Robotic Technology

Kettering Adventist HealthCare is the first in the region to offer innovative Stryker Mako robotic technology for joint replacements. For people suffering from knee or hip pain, daily activities like walking can put immense stress on their bodies.

Local orthopedic surgeons are offering patients a technologically advanced joint replacement procedure tailored to each patient's unique anatomy. To tailor each procedure, the surgeons are using Stryker's Mako Robotic Arm-Assisted System for total knee, partial knee and total hip replacements.



Prior to surgery, a CT scan is taken of the joint to generate a 3D virtual model of the patient's unique anatomy. The 3D model helps the orthopedic surgeon see things he or she can't typically see with an X-ray alone.

Throughout the procedure, Mako provides real-time data to the surgeon. This allows the surgeon to continuously assess the movement and tension of the new joint and adjust the surgical plan if desired.



"Patients have a quick recovery, less swelling, less pain, and less trauma to the soft tissue. It's exciting to be able to offer this technology that allows us to place a hip or knee replacement in more of a normal position, making it feel more like a normal joint," says Chad Weber, DO, an orthopedic surgeon who performs joint replacements with the Mako System at Grandview Medical Center.

Seeing Prescription Cost in Real Time

With the help of a new program, patients at any Kettering Adventist HealthCare hospital or medical office will be able to see prescription benefit information in real time. The program is used when a provider is prescribing medication, and it allows the provider to see all the out-of-pocket medication costs before they order. This prescription benefit information also allows patients to know medication cost, medication alternatives, and pricing at multiple pharmacies, giving patients full transparency of costs and improving access to needed medications.



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EMPLOYMENT

STALLANT HEALTH, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for an optometrist as well as an NP or PA to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthhealth.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS: High quality, 20-gauge steel. Includes picture of the second coming of Jesus in the head panel; picture of the Ten Commandments on either side; I Thess. 4:13-18 below the head panel and the three angels' messages at the end of the casket. Under \$800. For more information, call our office: (865) 882-0773 or (865) 804-2388. Look for our website coming soon.

SERVICES

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 believes uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH SERVICES helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Call (800) 367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit LNFBOOKS.com for used books and your local ABC or TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOI, 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

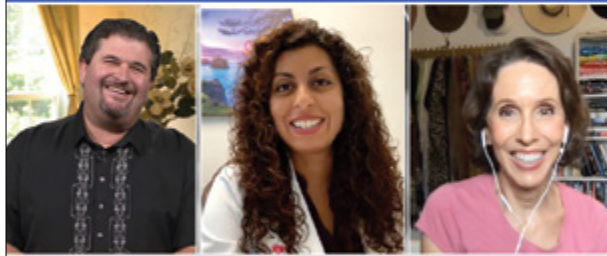
JOIN UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY celebrating 100 years of ministry and service. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to celebrate God's goodness and leading at our centennial weekend, September 17-19, 2021. Visit our website for details and updates, unionspringsacademy.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

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 be held online/virtually and convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 14, 2021.
The purpose of this meeting is to receive the corporation's 2015-2019 reports, elect executive officers, vice presidents and members of the Executive Committee and other board and



**HOPE
AT HOME**



A weekly worship experience from our home to yours. Includes singalong music, a children's feature, an interview segment with self-care tips for a healthier mind, body and spirit, and a story-based sermonette, all focusing on the hope that Christ brings for this life and the next.

SUNDAYS AT 9AM EST
HopeTV.org/AtHome

Bulletin Board

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 online/virtually on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 10 a.m. The Nominating Committee will meet online/virtually on Sunday, February 28, 2021, at 10 a.m.

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

OBITUARIES

HUGHES, Deborah J. “Debbie,” born January 8, 1953, in Baltimore, to Arthur Buckmaster and the late Dolores (Heck) Buckmaster; died May 21, 2019, at her home in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Debbie was a human resource administrative assistant with the Licking County Energy Cooperative for 12 years. She was a pastor’s wife for 38 years and a deaconess at the Newark (Ohio) church for 15 years, where she worked as a co-minister with her husband, Tom. As a pastor’s wife, she also locally

served at the Newark, Lancaster, Zanesville and Reynoldsburg churches. Debbie was an avid reader of her Bible and Christian books. She was a member of the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry and co-founder of the Bible Biker Ministries. Debbie and Tom rode over 11,000 miles roundtrip to Alaska and the Arctic Circle in 2002. She enjoyed driving her Mustang GT convertible and was a world traveler. Debbie was also a singer, songwriter and recording artist, and loved playing with her dog, Harley. She was a selfless person, loved everyone she met, loved her co-workers and was often a prayer partner to many. In addition to her father, survivors include her husband of 38 years, Pastor Tom Hughes; children, Laura (Henry) Pardo, Michael T. (Andrea) Hughes and Jessica B. (Justin) Hughes; grandchildren, Olivia, Alexander and Eden Pardo; Carter, Haley, Cara and Angela Hughes; and Straton and Elspeth White; siblings, Richard (Karen) Buckmaster, Thomas Buckmaster and Vivian (Jerald) Baker; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Interested in placing an obituary?
Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary.

Sunset Calendar

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Baltimore	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:15	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55
Cincinnati	5:26	5:32	5:39	5:47	5:55	6:03	6:11	6:19	6:27
Cleveland	5:07	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:47	5:56	6:05	6:13
Columbus	5:17	5:23	5:31	5:38	5:47	5:55	6:04	6:12	6:20
Jersey City	4:39	4:45	4:53	5:01	5:09	5:18	5:27	5:35	5:43
Norfolk	4:59	5:05	5:11	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:41	5:49	5:56
Parkersburg	5:13	5:20	5:27	5:34	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:07	6:15
Philadelphia	4:46	4:52	4:59	5:07	5:16	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:48
Pittsburgh	5:04	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:34	5:42	5:51	5:59	6:07
Reading	4:48	4:54	5:01	5:09	5:18	5:26	5:35	5:43	5:51
Richmond	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:45	5:53	6:00
Roanoke	5:13	5:19	5:25	5:33	5:40	5:48	5:56	6:03	6:10
Toledo	5:14	5:21	5:28	5:37	5:45	5:54	6:03	6:12	6:20
Trenton	4:43	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13	5:22	5:30	5:39	5:47
Wash., D.C.	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:57

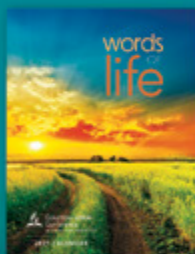
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