

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

MAY/JUNE 2022 ■ VOLUME 127 ■ ISSUE 3



TURNING THE CORNER

From cemetery to church pew:
How José Martínez found his true home

It's Our Responsibility



Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world ... and then the end will come” (NKJV).

In Greek, the word “gospel” is εὐαγγέλιον, meaning “good news.” But what good news is this referring to? The price of gasoline decreasing? COVID-19 a thing of the past? Wars becoming obsolete? No. This good news is something much more transcendent: Jesus is coming to establish

His eternal kingdom and forever put an end to suffering, injustice, discrimination and death. There is only one condition for this to be fulfilled: the good news—the gospel—has to reach the whole world.

Our name alone, Seventh-day “Adventists,” refers to the “good news” of Jesus’ return. Ever since the Adventist movement was established in 1863, we have taken on the responsibility of announcing the “parousia”—the second coming of Jesus.

More than 52 million people live within the Columbia Union Conference territory. The task of announcing the good news to others does not lie in divine hands; it is a privilege entrusted to the church.

In other words, this undertaking was given to you and me. Every Adventist who shares the good news is an evangelist.

The question is, why is this simple act so hard to do? Perhaps, we don’t believe Jesus’ parousia can happen in our time. Or maybe we feel it is only the responsibility of pastors and leaders to share this message. In my experience, only three elements are indispensable for sharing the good news:



1. **Love Jesus** wholeheartedly.
2. **Love people**, regardless of race, skin color, language, social position or culture.
3. **Love our church**, as feeble and imperfect as it is.

Ellen White puts it this way: “If you would go forth to do Christ’s work, angels of God would open the way before you, preparing hearts to receive the gospel. Were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue. This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 438).

The time to share the good news is now. I want to tell as many people as possible, as soon as possible. How about you?

José D. Espósito serves as the assistant to the president for evangelism at the Columbia Union Conference.

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CONTACT ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiunionvisitor.com
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5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
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Number of church plants the Columbia Union helped fund in 2021 **66**

Frank Bondurant, vice president of Ministries Development, reports that each year the union helps resource funds to local projects. In 2021, his office helped local churches, church plants, projects and outreach initiatives obtain \$618,200 for ministry efforts and fund 66 church plants.



Seven teams from four Seventh-day Adventist schools, including New Jersey Conference's Tranquility Adventist School in Andover (pictured), recently converged on Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.) for the Mid-Atlantic Adventist Robotics League FIRST LEGO League Qualifying Tournament. Read more on page 33.

“Teachers are responsible to make meaningful connections with every one of their students, not just the ones that they automatically connect with. A positive and healthy teacher-student relationship is key for optimum student outcomes.”

—Alison Jobson, associate director of early childhood education for the Columbia Union Conference. Learn more about the importance of cultural competence in the classroom from Jobson's presentation at columbiaunionvisitor.com/culturalcompetence.

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Number of Columbia Union Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) teams who made it to the union's recent PBE event. Eleven of those teams continued to the North American Division's event. Visit columbiaunion.org/2022pbe to see the results.

REPORTING FROM ROCKY KNOLL

Hey, kids! Students from Chesapeake Conference's Rocky Knoll Adventist School in Martinsburg, W.Va., recently produced and wrote the first episode of Chanel 52 RKS News—a video broadcast. Watch a news report at columbiaunionvisitor.com/52rks. Have your parents email us at visitor@columbiaunionvisitor.com about the projects you are doing!
—Victor the Visitor Mouse



I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you.—2 Kings 20:5

Download the Columbia Union app and join the Visitor's 2022 Scripture Memorization Plan, which focuses on praising God.

EMPTY PEWS: A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS? Recent research

shows that one out of three practicing Christians has stopped going to church entirely during the pandemic. Researchers at Baylor and Harvard universities also recently shared work that suggests that religious service attendance and regular gatherings with other believers, rather than private religious practice, is a greater predictor of health and well-being. They noted those who regularly attend are less likely to become depressed or commit suicide, among other unhealthy behaviors/results.



CARAVAN STOPS IN 16 LOCATIONS

Pandemic concerns prevented Columbia Union's Multilingual Ministries Department from hosting their celebration of evangelism at the Baltimore Convention Center this winter, but 100 percent of the deposit was returned—a huge answer to prayer, reports Rubén A. Ramos, vice president of Multilingual Ministries.

Instead, the team took the event to local churches. Ramos organized a caravan that stopped in 16 locations, ministering to members and friends from 26 churches. José Espósito,

assistant to the president for evangelism, urged members to get personally involved in the gospel mission.

COLUMBIA UNION SETS PRIORITIES

At the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting in March, members voted to approve five priorities for the remainder of the quinquennium, ending in 2026.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, noted that the union leadership was very intentional in creating these priorities and took the time to engage many

THE 2021–2026 VOTED PRIORITIES ARE:

- Spiritual Renewal
- Mission Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Education
- Community Engagement

5 Things You Should Know

columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things

1 The Columbia Union Conference continues to be in a strong financial position, reports Emmanuel Asiedu, union treasurer. During the recent executive committee meeting, he shared that, as of December 2021, the union had a record 10.54 percent increase in tithe and maintains a 163 percent working capital.

2 Delegates across the world will meet in St. Louis, June 6–11, and online to elect the world church's leaders and vote potential changes to the church's constitution. Due to pandemic concerns, the event will only consist of business meetings, worship and Sabbath services. Find the schedule and links to the livestream at columbiaunionvisitor.com/2022gcsession.

3 Looking for ways to spruce up your church or school communication plan? Watch a replay of Pennsylvania Conference's Digital Discipleship & Evangelism training and Allegheny East Conference's Connection and Ministry Communication Conference for expert advice and seminars—including best practices for carrying out effective hybrid, online and in-person communication ministry.

4 It's camp meeting season! Attend meetings in person or online for spiritual encouragement and fellowship. See a complete list of the meetings on the "5 Things" tab on our website.

5 Staff from Adventist Development and Relief Agency and members in Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania have been rallying to help people fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine. Visit adra.org/partnerwithus to support the church's continuing international relief efforts there and around the world.

constituents in the process of setting them.

In October, union and conference administrators and executive committee members responded to a survey, weighing in on the challenges facing the church and suggesting opportunities for service.

"I am not surprised that the grassroots input from across our union was spot on, in touch and relevant, because it was representative of the age, gender and ethnicity that comprises our union family," says Celeste Ryan Blyden, union executive secretary, who oversaw the process. "It will help to inform and guide our focus, work and shared initiatives during this quinquennium."

REACHING ALL GENERATIONS

During the recent Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting, Rubén A. Ramos reported that second- and -third generations of immigrant families are seeking more services in English so they can worship in English rather than their parents' native languages.

Ohio Conference's Columbus Ghanaian church recognized this need and recently created a service in English. Watch our video at columbiaunionvisitor.com/generations to see how they built their thriving community.

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



NO SABÍA CÓMO REGRESAR A CASA

Alberto Ramírez creció en contacto con adventistas del séptimo día, pero se sentía lejos de Dios. Gracias a un compañero de trabajo y amigo, recientemente volvió la Iglesia y se siente en casa. Mira su historia en columbiaunionvisitor.com/albertoramirez.

LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA ESTABLECE PRIORIDADES

En la reciente reunión del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia, los miembros votaron aprobar cinco prioridades para el resto del quinquenio, que finaliza en 2026.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión, señaló que el liderazgo de la Unión fue muy intencional al crear estas prioridades y se tomó el tiempo para involucrar a muchos constituyentes en el proceso de establecerlas.

En octubre, los administradores y miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión y las conferencias respondieron a una encuesta, opinando sobre los desafíos que

LAS PRIORIDADES VOTADAS SON:

- Renovación espiritual
- Compromiso con la misión
- Desarrollo de liderazgo
- Educación
- Participación de la comunidad

TRADUCCIÓN DE JULIANA SAVOY

5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas

- 1** La Unión de Columbia continúa gozando de una sólida posición financiera, informa Emmanuel Asiedu, tesorero de la Unión. Durante la reciente reunión del Comité Ejecutivo, compartió que, a diciembre del 2021, la Unión tuvo un aumento del 10.54 por ciento en el diezmo y mantiene un capital activo del 163 por ciento.
- 2** Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente para Desarrollo de Ministerios, informa que cada año la Unión ayuda a financiar proyectos locales. En el 2021, iglesias locales, iglesias que están siendo plantadas, y diversos proyectos e iniciativas recibieron \$ 618,200 a través de su departamento, para actividades ministeriales y para financiar 66 nuevas iglesias.
- 3** ¡Es época de campestres! Asista a reuniones en línea o en persona para recibir aliento espiritual y camaradería. Vea la lista completa de campestres en columbiaunionvisitor.com.
- 4** Delegados de todo el mundo se reunirán en línea y en St. Louis del 6 al 11 de junio para elegir a los líderes de la iglesia mundial y votar posibles cambios en la constitución de la iglesia. Debido a las preocupaciones por la pandemia, el evento solo consistirá en reuniones administrativas, cultos de adoración y servicios sabáticos. Encuentre el calendario de reuniones y cómo ver la transmisión en vivo en columbiaunionvisitor.com/2022gcsession.
- 5** **29 equipos de conquistadores** de la Unión de Columbia que llegaron al nivel unión participando en PBE (Pathfinder Bible Experience). Once de esos equipos se ubicaron en primer lugar y pasaron al nivel división. Visite columbiaunionvisitor.com/2022pbe para conocer los resultados.

enfrenta la iglesia y sugiriendo oportunidades de servicio.

Varios miembros del Comité señalaron la importancia y la intencionalidad de la primera prioridad: la renovación espiritual. Pete Palmer, presidente de la Conferencia de Allegheny East, dijo, cuando las iglesias ayudan a las personas a enamorarse apasionadamente de Jesús, el resto de las prioridades encajan en su lugar.

CARAVANA CON 16 PARADAS

Las preocupaciones por la pandemia impidieron que el Departamento de Ministerios Multilingües de la Unión de Columbia organizara su celebración de evangelismo en el

Centro de Convenciones de Baltimore este invierno, pero el 100 por ciento del depósito fue devuelto, una gran respuesta a la oración informó Rubén A. Ramos, vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingües.

Entonces el equipo llevó el evento a las iglesias locales. Ramos organizó una caravana que se detuvo en 16 lugares, ministrando a miembros y amigos de 26 iglesias. José Espósito, recientemente nombrado asistente del presidente para evangelismo, predicó en los diferentes lugares, incluida la iglesia Lawndale de la Conferencia de Pensilvania, instando a los miembros a involucrarse personalmente en la misión del evangelio.

Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

5 Choses à Savoir

columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses

1 L'Union de Fédérations de Columbia continue d'être dans une condition financière solide, rapporte Emmanuel Asiedu, trésorier de l'union. Lors de la récente réunion du Comité Exécutif, il a indiqué qu'en décembre 2021, l'union avait enregistré une augmentation de 10,54 % de la dîme et maintenait un fonds de roulement de 163 %.

2 Frank Bondurant, vice-président du Développement de Ministères, rapporte que chaque année, l'union aide à financer des projets locaux. En 2021, son bureau a aidé les églises locales, les implantations d'églises, les projets et les programmes d'extension à recevoir 618 200 dollars pour les efforts du ministère et à financer 66 implantations d'églises.

3 C'est la saison des Camp Meetings (réunions de camp) ! Assistez aux réunions en ligne ou en présentiel pour bénéficier d'un encouragement spirituel et de la communion fraternelle. Consultez la liste complète des réunions sur columbiaunionvisitor.com.

4 Les délégués du monde entier se réuniront en ligne et en présentiel à Saint-Louis du 6 au 11 juin pour élire les dirigeants de l'Église mondiale et voter des changements potentiels au Manuel d'Église. En raison de préoccupations liées à la pandémie, l'événement ne comprendra que des réunions d'affaires, des cultes et des services du sabbat. Pour connaître le programme de la réunion et savoir comment suivre la diffusion en direct, rendez-vous sur columbiaunionvisitor.com/2022gcsession.

5 Le personnel de l'Agence de Développement et de Secours Adventiste (ADRA) et les membres en Pologne, Ukraine, Bulgarie et Roumanie se sont mobilisés pour aider les personnes fuyant le conflit en Ukraine. Visitez adra.org/partnerwithus pour soutenir les efforts de l'église en matière de secours international.

J'ai entendu
ta prière et j'ai
vu tes larmes ;
je te guérirai.

-2 Rois 20:5

Téléchargez l'application
Columbia Union et rejoignez
le plan de mémorisation des
Écritures 2022 de Visitor, qui est
concentré sur la louange de Dieu.

L'UNION DE COLUMBIA FIXE DES PRIORITÉS

Lors de la récente réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia, les membres ont voté pour approuver cinq priorités pour le reste du quinquennat, qui se terminera en 2026.

Dave Weigley, président de l'Union de Columbia, a fait remarquer que le leadership de l'union a été très intentionnel dans la création de ces priorités et a pris le temps d'impliquer de nombreux membres de la

LES PRIORITÉS VOTÉES SONT :

- Renouveau spirituel
- Engagement missionnaire
- Développement du leadership
- Education
- Engagement communautaire

communauté dans le processus d'établissement de ces priorités.

En octobre, les administrateurs et les membres du Comité Exécutif de l'union et des fédérations ont répondu à un sondage, s'exprimant sur les défis auxquels l'Église est confrontée et suggérant des possibilités de service.

Plusieurs membres du comité ont souligné l'importance et l'intentionnalité de la première priorité : le renouvellement spirituel. Pete Palmer, président de la Fédération Allegheny East, a déclaré : « Lorsque les églises aident les gens à tomber passionnément amoureux de Jésus, les autres priorités se mettent en place. »

29

C'est le Nombre d'équipes de l'Union de Columbia Pathfinder Bible Experience qui ont participé au récent événement de l'union. Onze de ces équipes se sont classées premières et ont poursuivi leur route jusqu'à l'événement de la Division Nord-Américaine. Visitez columbiaunion.org/2022pbe pour les résultats.



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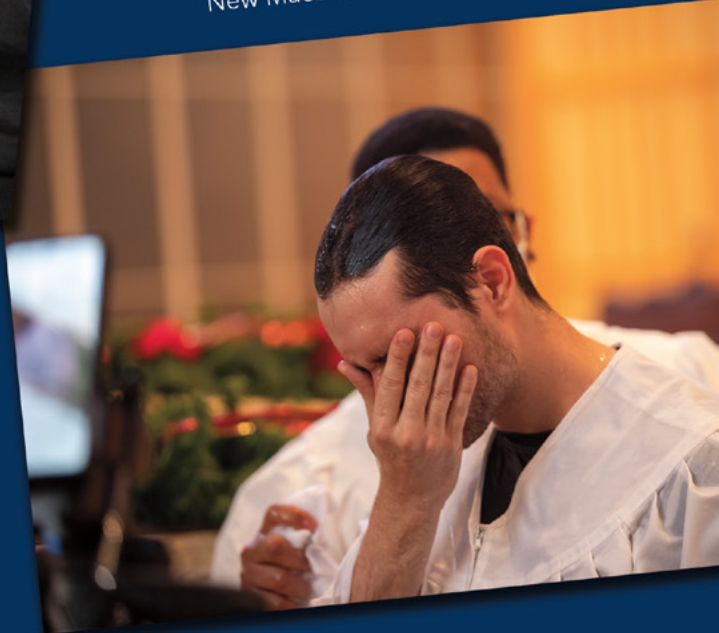
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TURNING THE CORNER



After a lifelong battle with addiction, José Martínez left his life of homelessness to find a true home. ✦ BY RICARDO BACCHUS

Eight-year-old José Martínez didn't know what to do or who to turn to. His mom abused him verbally and physically, frequently saying, "Why didn't I get an abortion?" His brother bullied him. His sister ignored him. His stepdad, an alcoholic and drug addict, deserted him. Martínez longed to be wanted; he felt abandoned instead.

One day in his hometown of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, Martínez saw his brother and cousin smoking weed. Wanting an escape from the reality of life, he tried it and was instantly hooked. *Finally, I found something that makes me feel whole*, he thought.

Three years later, Martínez observed his uncle doing cocaine. Heavily under the influence, his uncle gave some to Martínez. From that point on, they often got high together, triggering Martínez's aggression. Whenever he "got a hit," his violence bubbled to the surface, often resulting in fights at school. One time, he was so angry he almost burned the building down.

When he was 13, his mom smelled weed on him. This intensified her abuse toward him, so he went to live with his biological dad in Arecibo. But his dad worked two jobs and was never around. This left him alone with his stepmom, a user who sexually abused

him. "I would get so angry at her that I wanted to kill someone," Martínez says.

To curb his aggression, he got into competitive wrestling, winning medals for Puerto Rico. Around this time, his curiosity piqued. *What drug could make me feel happier?* he wondered, as weed was losing its potency. That's when he turned to crack cocaine.

When Martínez's dad discovered his new drug of choice, he took him to a treatment center. After Martínez sobered up, he went back home to live with his dad, but his stepmom soon kicked him out.

Homeless at 16, his only friends were drug addicts and his new favorite companion, heroine. At 17, his mom began looking for him, posting his photo around Arecibo. A police officer recognized him and took him to a detoxification center. Four days later, Martínez escaped the facility. This became a vicious two-year cycle: detoxing, escaping, returning to drugs.

THE PHOTO

In 2014, a friend from his wrestling days saw him begging for money at a streetlight. This friend had a mutual friend who knew Rosemary Figueroa, a girl Martínez grew up with who was now living in Cleveland. Figueroa was shocked to see a photo of

the boy she used to babysit, now looking so hurt and damaged.

“The second I saw that photo, I fell in love with him,” Figueroa says. “I knew I could help him. I was determined to.”

After meeting up with Martínez, Figueroa and her three daughters took him in. She put him in 12-step programs and treatment centers in Cleveland, only for him to leave and resort to the streets. She frequently searched for him, often finding him eating out of garbage cans. As a result of his addiction, she and her daughters lost everything multiple times. But Figueroa believed change was around the corner.

Figueroa and her daughters educated themselves in case Martínez ever overdosed. That day came when her youngest daughter knocked on the bathroom door and Martínez didn’t answer. She looked under the door and saw him lying on the floor. Attempting to commit suicide, he mumbled, “Leave me alone. I want to die.” Figueroa managed to push the door open and get him up and moving.

“There was a warrant for his arrest because he was on probation,” says Figueroa. “I didn’t want to turn him in but visiting him in jail was better than visiting him at the cemetery. I told him he was not going to die on me. We will do this together.”

This cycle went on for six more years, with the family often eating white rice and ketchup because that’s all they could afford. Sometimes, when there was no food, they imagined eating so they wouldn’t feel hungry.



Rosemary Figueroa snatched José Martínez from the grips of death. “I had faith that God was going to get him out of that life and we would have a good future together,” she says.



Martínez used to stand at this corner to solicit money for drugs. Now he stands here every Sabbath to share the love of Christ.

THE TURNING POINT

While living on the streets again, Martínez encountered a mechanic who offered him a job. For some reason, the mechanic, a former drug dealer who was hooked on drugs, listened to Christian music while working. “The mechanic talked to me about God while smoking marijuana,” Martínez says. “He told me God loved me. He wanted me to get off the streets. I guess God can use anybody to give you the message.”

It was at this mechanic shop that Martínez met a regular customer, William Medina, a church member from Ohio Conference’s Roca Eterna Mission church in Cleveland. Roca Eterna was across from the cemetery where Martínez slept. On Sabbath mornings, Medina would invite him to church, which was held in the lobby of an apartment building across the street.

Martínez would turn him down because he either hadn’t showered for days or his clothes were bloody and mangled. “Everyone is going to laugh,” he told Medina. But Martínez felt that God was beginning to transform his life. *I want you to be well, just let Me*, he could hear God call.

In 2020, Martínez and Figueroa got married. He finally had a permanent place to live. But Figueroa repeatedly found him sleeping at the cemetery, begging for money and doing and selling drugs.

Medina continued to faithfully invite him to church every Sabbath.

One day, Martínez returned home. Trying to get high in his bathroom, his needle broke. He looked in the mirror and broke down in tears. “My body started shaking. I cried out to God, ‘I’m killing myself. Please give me one more chance, and I’m going to take it.’”

When he exited the bathroom, the phone immediately rang. It was a friend who had been homeless with him in Puerto Rico. Eight years clean, he invited Martínez to Connecticut to try a medicine that was helping him stay clean. Under the supervision of a doctor, Martínez started taking a medication to treat drug addiction. His cravings began to fade. Four months later, he stopped using hard drugs altogether. Having sobered up except for weed, he thought, *I will visit William's church!*

The first Sabbath Martínez visited Roca Eterna, he felt right at home. "I felt loved. They treated me like family, like as if they already knew me," shares Martínez. "They didn't care that my clothes were dirty. They told me, 'We are going to take care of you.'"

Martínez shared his church experience with Figueroa, but she was hesitant to attend because she didn't believe his "conversion" was real.

"Maybe he'd go [to church] just for a few days or weeks, but I thought he would stop going or turn back to drugs. Or he was just doing it just for others to see," she says. "But he kept going every Sabbath, so one Sabbath I went with him."

Having grown up in a different religion, Figueroa initially felt out of place when she stepped through the doors, but once she started talking to the members, they involved her, and she began participating. The couple tried to get their daughters to go, but Martínez's anger was getting in the way.

"At church he was so nice, but we would come home, and he would get so outraged about every



Standing outside of the apartment building where Roca Eterna meets, Pastor Wilson Baca says, "I want more addicts to attend our church. José is instrumental in bringing people to Christ because he knows what it's like to live on the streets."



Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Ohio Conference, prays with Figueroa and Martínez prior to their baptism.

little thing. He was acting like a hypocrite," she says. "What I failed to realize was that he was having a war inside of him as he was trying to leave his old life. Satan didn't want to let him go."

It wasn't until church members advised and taught Martínez how to act toward his family that his demeanor and attitude started to change. Their daughters could see he was truly transforming and began attending church too.

'DEALING GOD' AT THE CORNER

"My life began to transform," says Martínez, who is now off weed. "The love I felt from my new church family empowered me to do great things." Now, instead of asking for money and using drugs at the corner where he used to sleep, he spreads the gospel.

"On Sabbath mornings, I would stand at the corner, inviting people to come to church. Because of the way I looked, with scars and tattoos, I was able to reach out to the homeless, prostitutes and addicts because they could relate. I shared my testimony on how I got out of that terrible life, and they listened. I still do this to this day!"

Wilson Baca, pastor of Roca Eterna, welcomed this evangelizing. "Both José and Rosemary gave and continue to give Christian books to passersby and those in cars."

In fact, the entire church—comprised of 30 members—has now joined the effort. After church, members hit the corner. "There are people who say this is what they've needed and have cried with us," says Martínez. "People say, 'You guys have something special. Can you pray for me?'"

Wanting to learn more about the Bible, the couple studied with Ángel Díaz, an elder at Roca Eterna. They later asked for baptismal lessons, culminating with their baptism May 29, 2021, at the conclusion of a “2023 Initiative” evangelistic campaign led by the Ohio Conference.

Sometimes Martínez, now 31, sees people asking for money or doing drugs on the corner where he slept, and he feels bad because he knows what they are going through. “I run into people who I sold drugs to or bought drugs from,” he says. “When they see me, they say, ‘You’re a new man. Whatever happened on the streets stayed on the streets.’ All I do is give them the Word and scream ‘God loves you!’ I tell them, ‘My life changed; God changed me. I was like you. I did it. You can do it too.’”

Baca says, “[The couple is] a blessing to our church. They have taught us many things. With Jesus and help and support from others, anyone can beat an addiction. If you didn’t know their story, you would never know how much they’ve gone through in their lives. And now their passion is service.”

At Roca Eterna, Martínez greets, sings up front, offers prayer, picks up tithe and offerings and manages the audio/visual. He also fixed the roof of the apartment building where they worship. Figueroa helps lead song service and conducts a monthly youth and young adult bilingual church program.

‘EVERYWHERE I GO’

Working legally for the first time in his life, Martínez offers roadside assistance—a job that allows him to take off Sabbaths. At work, he shares the love of God with stranded drivers and co-workers. He also blasts Christian music. As a result of his new lifestyle, four of his friends now attend Roca Eterna. Another friend, a former user, got baptized. “Everywhere I go, I share my testimony,” Martínez says. “When you have God, people don’t see your tattoos. It’s beautiful having Him in my heart.”

Martínez’s dream is to own a treatment and rehabilitation center “or to go to school to become a street or church pastor,” he says. “Whatever I do, I want to be an important tool for God here on earth. My ultimate goal is to go to heaven with my church members and addicts I have reached.”

JOSÉ’S 5 TIPS TO STAY SOBER

- 1 **Get help.** Go to rehab centers or try medications that help you get off drugs.
- 2 **Add God to the mix.** You can’t beat addiction on your own. Put your trust in Him.
- 3 **Join a support group in the community or church.** Call a friend or church member.
- 4 **Avoid triggering situations.** For instance, if your temptation is alcohol, don’t go to a bar.
- 5 **Distract yourself.** If a craving hits, do something productive until the urge goes away. Repeat as often as necessary.



Watch Martinez and Figueroa share their testimony at columbiaunionvisitor.com/josemartinez.

Figueroa, whose 15-year-old daughter, Amarie Sanchez, was baptized March 19, 2022, thanks Roca Eterna for everything they’ve done for them. “They are our best supporters. They’ve never turned their backs on us,” she says. “Don’t lose faith or hope. Miracles happen because I’ve witnessed them. God wants broken people because He fixes them. And He’s not done with us yet.”

Baca agrees, “Our church gives second chances and care to others. Many people come who have addictions. We accept addicts. We offer programs for addicts. And José and other former addicts give presentations because they have lived it. I want more people like José to come.”

Martínez, who will be celebrating two years of sobriety August 2, 2022, testifies, “I feel important because the only person that I need to love me already gave His life for me. One day, I will see Him face-to-face. Jesus saved my life, my house, my wife. ... God picked me up and did something for me that I never thought was possible.”

Ricardo Bacchus serves as an associate director of Communication for the Columbia Union Conference and the managing editor for print for the Visitor magazine.

In Need of Help?

If you or a loved one struggles from addiction, visit adventistrecoveryglobal.org to learn more about how to help the entire family heal. You no longer have to suffer from the pain, turmoil and bondage it causes. **Start your new, whole life today!**

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE



A lighthouse is raised at Port Elizabeth

The Spanish church of Port Elizabeth in New Jersey was organized about eight years ago with the vision of evangelizing the people of one of the most important international ports in the United States. Several places had been rented for them to meet and worship, and, from the very beginning, each of its members longed to have their own temple to make evangelism more successful.

Thanks to divine providence; the commitment of the members led by first elder David Goris and treasurer Víctor Vía; the support from the conference administration; and the willingness of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) to trust the church and facilitate the loan, they were able to purchase the property.

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*

Former Conference President Passes Away



At the age of 95, Meade C. Van Putten, former president of Allegheny East Conference (AEC), passed away February 27, 2022. Van Putten was a pastor in the Lake Region Conference from 1951–1962 and was ordained in 1956. He served as the secretary/treasurer of the Lake Region

Conference from 1962–1971.

Van Putten moved to the AEC, where he worked as treasurer from 1971–1978. He became executive secretary in 1978, until he was elected president in 1981. He served in this position for seven years.

Van Putten was elected associate secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He served in that position from 1988–1990 until he took a call to be undertreasurer for the North American Division. He retired in 1995.

His ministry impacted several pastors who joined AEC during his leadership.

“He was a spiritual giant and gifted administrator who led decisively while serving with humility and distinction,” reminisces Stephen Richardson, pastor of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church. “I fondly remember while a college student, he personally informed me of my seminary sponsorship. An excellent communicator, he treated me as a son rather than merely an employee.”

Mark McCleary, pastor of the Liberty church in Baltimore, remembers, “I was hired during Van Putten’s administration in February 1985. He and his family always stayed in touch. In fact, I spoke with him over the phone just two weeks before his death, and he easily recognized me and was very welcoming, as usual. I appreciated his integrity and encouraging interactions.”

Pete Palmer, AEC president, shares, “While we sorrow with the family at the loss of a tremendous leader, a loving husband, an exemplary father and grandfather, we thank the family for sharing Elder Van Putten with Allegheny East Conference for



Meade C. Van Putten was elected president of Allegheny East Conference in 1981, where he served in this position for seven years.

over 17 years. We praise God for Elder Van Putten’s Spirit-filled leadership.”

Van Putten’s wife, Daphne, preceded him in death in March 2019. Left to mourn his passing are his siblings, David Van Putten and Frederick Van Putten; his children, Lolita Van Putten, Meade Van Putten, Jr. (Kathy) and Darla Adams (Gary); six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Conference to Hold Virtual and In-Person Camp Meeting

The Allegheny East Conference will host a virtual camp meeting, themed “More Than ... Conquerors,” from June 26–July 1, concluding in person July 2 on the campgrounds in Pine Forge, Pa. For the schedule, speakers and other information, visit visitaec.org/campmeeting.

Liberty Church's Food Distribution Remains Intact



The Community Services Department at Liberty church in Baltimore has not skipped a beat with food distribution, even during the pandemic. Under the direction of Margaret Hollman, Liberty's Community Services leader, the church distributes food every first and last

Sunday of the month and every third Tuesday. More than 80 families receive food at each distribution.

Guests are given a number when they arrive. Once their number is called, they make their way around several tables divided into various categories such as produce, meat, snacks, frozen meals and even vegetarian food. Liberty's bread program allows them to provide a variety of specialty breads of which visitors can choose.

Hollman found that allowing community members to select their own items prevented waste. Previously, they distributed boxes with preselected breakfast, lunch and dinner items. They soon learned that many of those boxes were discarded by the side of the road. "We realized we needed a new system where people could select the items they knew their family would eat," says Hollman.

Liberty has received a lot of positive feedback from the community. Even though the distribution service opens to the public at 10 a.m. on Sundays and

1 p.m. on Tuesdays, people begin lining up as early as 7:30 a.m. "People share with us that they are very happy with our food options," says Hollman. "We provide food items they do not get at other distributions."

Hollman wants to ensure there is enough food to serve their community long-term. "Sometimes people say, 'You're getting too much food,' but I see myself acting like Joseph in the Bible, storing up for when the need arises. I want Liberty to be a place where people can always go to get what they need," she says.

Along with Hollman, 15 to 17 volunteers assist with the food program, from unloading the trucks and setting up tables to managing the parking lot and distributing items. Hollman's fellow church members recognize her dedication to the program. "Sister Margaret is Liberty's Dorcas, a red-carpet star and God's disciple," says Sharon Pettaway, an elder at Liberty. Member Stacey McKoy adds, "She exemplifies steadfastness and dedication to ministry."



Teen Leadership Training Participants Enjoy Retreat



The conference's Pathfinder Ministries Department recently hosted a Teen Leadership Training (TLT) retreat at the Mt. Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. More than 30 TLT trainees, 14 TLT mentors and nine staff members gathered for a weekend of training and activities that included a bonfire vespers, indoor and outdoor games and team challenges.

Participants left inspired and equipped. "The program has encouraged me to adjust how I view myself and how I can be a part of spreading the three angels' messages," shares TLT trainee Zora Wills from Genesis church's Jaguars club.

Lutheran Minister Baptized at Blessed Hope

When Stephen Lewis became the pastor of the Blessed Hope church in Cincinnati, he soon learned that he was not the only minister in his congregation. James Matthews, former pastor of the Roselawn Lutheran church whose building Blessed Hope purchased and now occupies, regularly attended services.



It all began when the Maranatha and Emmanuel churches merged into one congregation, choosing Blessed Hope as their new name. While looking to purchase a larger facility, one of the Maranatha church elders met Matthews, and they instantly clicked. Matthews willingly negotiated a fair price for the purchase of the Roselawn church. He lived just a short distance from the church and continued to attend worship services in his former church building—now on Saturday instead of Sunday.

“Matthews expressed an interest in becoming a Seventh-day Adventist. When I found out he was not a member, I intentionally shared messages that emphasized our fundamental beliefs during Wednesday evening and Sabbath sermons,” says Lewis.

“After presenting 12 weeks of these messages,” he continues, “our entire church went on a 21-day fast. The fast was threefold: those who were meat-eaters went 21 days without meat; those who were vegetarian went 21 days vegan; and those who were vegan committed to 21 days of eating raw foods. Matthews was a meat-eater but chose to go vegan for the fast.”

Matthews had a scheduled doctor’s appointment that coincided with the end of the fast. He later

shared the results of the visit with Lewis. “His blood tests left his doctors amazed at his blood sugar, cholesterol levels and overall health. They asked what he had done to cause the change. As a result, he fell in love with our health message. He and his wife have continued to embrace their newfound plant-based lifestyle and diet and reported losing over 30 pounds as a result,” says Lewis. “Not long after, I began talking to him about being baptized, and his response was, ‘I was waiting for you to ask; my wife and I want to be a part of the next baptism.’”

After a series of doctrinal studies, Matthews and his wife, Diana, got baptized. He is now an active member and powerful influence in the church. Lewis says, “He is one of our local elders at the church and organizes prayer meetings and Bible studies. I’ve often noticed the way he looks at our Bible studies; it’s as if he’s handling bars of gold. His appreciation for the truths he discovered rekindled my and the other members’ desire to study the distinct beliefs of our church.”

Lewis believes there is much that churches can glean from Matthews’ experience in becoming a new Adventist. “I believe people, even clergy, are interested in learning what the Bible teaches, which lines up with what we believe, as our doctrinal teachings come directly from the Bible,” he says. “There are many sincere ministers of the gospel of other faiths who are hungering for more.”



Recently joining the Blessed Hope church through baptism, Diana and James Matthews have found peace and joy in the beauty of the Adventist message.



Southeast Spotlights Innovative Sabbath School

Barry Brooks, Sabbath School superintendent of the Southeast church in Cleveland, and his team represent success that grew out of adversity. The COVID-19 pandemic led this group to lean on Jesus and think outside of the box. Their combined efforts and dedication produced a creative and spiritually vibrant online Sabbath School.

The team consists of Brooks, his wife, Denise, their daughter, Brittini, and fellow church members Janviere Lavender, Elva Battle, Charity White and Reuel White. Whether their efforts involve planning, teaching or enhancing the online experience or hand-delivering Sabbath School lessons, other members say the result of their teamwork is excellence.

When COVID-19 caused churches to close in 2020, Brooks says they “had to make some moves to try and stay safe.” Changing the format from Saturday morning conference calls to Friday night Zoom meetings allowed for a more interactive experience.

What makes this endeavor so unique is efficient programming and outstanding presenters, say church leaders. Well-informed facilitators ranging from clergy to laypersons guide participants through lesson study.

There is something to keep everyone engaged. Kids Korner, hosted by White, features online Christian games for children. Brooks states, “White is doing things I don’t have the skillset for. The online Christian games connect to stories about Jesus and the prophets.”

Brooks attributes much of the success to church leadership. Stan Hood, senior pastor, and his wife, Alisa, have taught Sabbath School and assist with programming development. Alfred Booker and Donald Burden, former Southeast pastors, have served as guest teachers.

Borrowing from Southeast’s vision, Brooks shares that their goal is to “engage people by presenting Sabbath School, equip them by learning God’s Word and empower them to go out and tell the story of Jesus Christ.”

This team is continuing to develop ideas to keep members engaged and gain new ones. As Brooks always reminds class after lesson study, “When you miss Southeast Sabbath School, you’ve missed a lot!”—*Cecily Bryant*



Sabbath School team members (top row, left to right) Denise Brooks, Barry Brooks, Brittini Brooks; (seated) Charity White, Elva Battle and Janviere Lavender have taken programming at Southeast church to the next level. Not pictured: Reuel White.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May 22** Central Ohio Youth Federation
- May 26–28** Hispanic Camp Meeting (location TBA)
- June 11** Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day
- June 17–19** English Camp Meeting (Columbus)

For the latest information, visit awconf.org/calendar.

PHOTO BY REUEL WHITE

These Three Things

“For I know where I came from and where I am going” (John 8:14, NKJV).

Jesus made three things about Himself clear to those who questioned His identity or the veracity of His claims: He knew Who He was, to Whom He belonged, and where He was going. These three *certainties*, which Jesus often found the opportunity to articulate in His many encounters with doubters and critics, comprised the firm foundation of His earthly mission and ministry.

For example, when Lucifer challenged the identity of Jesus, saying to Him in the first two of the three wilderness temptations, “If you are the Son of God” (Matt. 4:6, NKJV), both of Jesus’ responses clearly indicate there was no *if* in His mind about *Who* He was. That matter had been confirmed just days before at His baptism when His Heavenly Father audibly announced, in no uncertain terms, “This is My beloved Son” (Matt. 3:17, NKJV). This proclamation not only confirmed that Jesus was indeed the Son of God but reaffirmed that He *belonged* to God—the One Who sent Him to redeem the world. Knowing with unshakable confidence Who He was and to Whom He belonged prepared Jesus for the public phase of His ministry.

The third certainty, knowing *where* He was going, was made plain many times throughout His earthly ministry, but perhaps most profoundly when He responded to the Pharisees when they vigorously challenged the veracity of His claim to be the “light of the world” (John 8:12, NKJV). Jesus answered with certainty: “For I know ... where I am going” (vs. 14). While that statement was likely an allusion to the cross before Him, it most certainly was a prophetic reference to His resurrection and triumphant return to heaven. Could the Pharisees have said the same thing about their ultimate destiny with certainty?

It’s occurred to me that the same three certainties that undergirded the mission and ministry of Jesus may be the same for each of us and *must* be if we are to fulfill *our* mission and ministry. Do you know who you are (a child of God), to Whom you belong (your Heavenly Father) and where you are going (heaven)? The answer to these questions can make all the difference in the world in one’s life. For anyone living *in* Christ, the answer, by faith, can be *yes*. And so may it be for us all, especially in these uncertain times as we prepare for His return.



Jerry Lutz
President

‘Generation Rain’ Encourages Teens to Find Purpose

High schoolers recently gathered for “Generation Rain” at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., to meet new friends and learn more about discovering their purpose.

Generation Rain is an annual retreat organized by Chesapeake Conference’s Youth Department for ages 13–19. The name of the retreat derives inspiration from Joel 2:28, aiming to help young people discover and follow God’s plan for their lives.

“We’re training young people for the last generation,” says Carl Rodriguez, youth director. “Our goal is to disciple young people to allow the Holy Spirit to fill their lives so they can serve a new mission for God.”

This year’s theme focused on purpose, featuring keynote presentations from Chelsy Tyler, the student and volunteers pastor at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md. The weekend also featured breakout seminars on relevant teen topics, discussion groups and social activities.

Scan the QR code and watch the video to learn more!



Atholton Organizes Baby Shower for Afghan Family

A Sabbath School class from the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., recently threw a baby shower for an Afghan refugee family that had relocated to the area.

Members from Atholton's "Three M" Sabbath School class (Mission, Message, Mingling) purchased a bassinet, baby clothes, diapers and other essential supplies for a pregnant Afghan woman. The class became aware of the woman's needs while volunteering with Chesapeake Conference's Adventist Community Services (ACS) earlier in the week.

"While we were talking with a family, the pregnant daughter of the couple walked out ... and [we] found out she was due in two weeks," says Jackie Smith, one of the Sabbath School class members. "She asked if we had anything for the baby, and we said, 'No, but we certainly can get something for you.' We asked, 'What do you have?' and she said, 'Nothing.' ... When I mentioned it to our Sabbath School class, everybody got on board."

Over the next 48 hours, members from the class began contacting friends, scouring internet deals and shopping in retail stores to gather essential supplies. They brought all the gifts to the hotel where the family was staying and invited them to come down to the meeting room for a surprise.

"The whole family was just so appreciative," Smith says. "It was just so fun to see how everything came together."

Smith believes Seventh-day Adventists have an excellent opportunity to reach people from a part of



Sabbath School class members provide a bassinet, baby clothes, diapers and other essential items for an expecting Afghan family.



Jackie Smith (pictured left) and other members from the Atholton church's "Three M" Sabbath School class work to minister to an Afghan family.

the world that has historically been challenging for Adventists to do mission.

"We're doing the work of reaching people in the 10/40 window* right here at home," Smith says. "These people that God is bringing to us still have friends and families in parts of the world that are hard to reach. It's such an opportunity that God has placed at our feet. How can we not minister in such a practical way?"

Chesapeake Conference's ACS continues to support Afghan refugee families resettling in the conference's territory through the work of its local churches.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church has helped provide all the basics refugee families arriving in Maryland need to survive," says Ignacio Goya, Chesapeake Conference's ACS director. "But there are other needs beyond what the government and emergency help can cover, and this is where local church members can come into action to advance the mission of God."

**The 10/40 window is the name given to the world region between approximately 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude, representing one of the most significant mission challenges for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Foundation for Revival—Scripture, Grace, Faith, Christ

2022 Camp Meeting Valley • Vista Adventist Center, Huttonsville, W.Va. • June 24–July 2 • mtviewconf.org

Through the years, there have been many dynamic speakers and baptismal decisions made on the beautiful grounds of Valley Vista Adventist Center. We expect this year's camp meeting to be the same, as the 2022 line-up of speakers and activities won't disappoint.

To the hundreds and thousands of individuals who live around the camp community, we will have an open invitation on the first weekend to come to our Gospel Jamboree, featuring The Lesters, along with talented musicians from the Mountain View Conference. The rest of the week will follow with gospel presentations geared for the whole family.

Each morning after breakfast, we will gather to enjoy a "family style" worship with Uncle Jon from *Your Story Hour*. The remainder of the morning will include programming for all ages. In the afternoon, there will be a two-hour slot for social activities: swimming, horseback riding, caving, cycling, tubing, a zipline/ropes course and more. There will be an afternoon meeting and a featured speaker each evening.

We pray the entire camp meeting time will motivate and spiritually inspire us all. Come join us as we prepare to "tell everybody about Jesus."



Tim Bailey
President

FIRST WEEKEND SPEAKER

Born in Cuba and fully bilingual, Pastor **Roger Hernandez** has had the opportunity of participating in events in both English and Spanish. Hernandez is a speaker who motivates people to action. He connects well with audiences of all generations and is known for delivering messages in a style that is clear, simple and engaging.

Hernandez's hobbies are reading, writing, traveling and playing



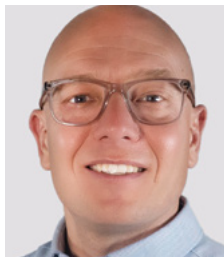
a variety of sports. Some of his passions are mentoring, public speaking, church planting

and helping in the revitalization process of congregations.

Hernandez is a prolific writer and the author of more than 30 books, including the sharing book of the year twice. Roger's family includes his wife, Kathy, four adult children and two granddaughters.

SECOND WEEKEND SPEAKER

Nathan Renner was raised in rural South Dakota in a small mining community. At 20 years old, he became a Christian and immediately felt the call to ministry. He



spent his early years of ministry in public evangelism as part of a team of young new converts. Recently, he accepted the position of senior pastor at the Madison (Tenn.) Campus church. Prior to this, Renner was the lead pastor of the Discover Life church in Sonora, Calif., where he launched an annual free clinic with more than 300 volunteers serving the community's medical, dental and vision needs.

He enjoys spending time with his wife, Becky, and their adult children, Levi and Laurel. An avid outdoorsman, he likes to rock climb and fly fish.

FIRST WEEKEND CONCERT

The Lesters' greatest desire is to carry the message of Jesus Christ to others! Brian Lester's grandparents, Harvey and Opal, began this Christian music ministry in the 1920s. The current group is comprised of Brian (left), his son, Jonathan, and daughter-in-law, Bailee. They are dedicated to leading people to Jesus by sharing the joy of Christ through music and personal testimony.



SECOND WEEKEND CONCERT

2 Little Fish is a contemporary Christian band composed of Stacy Blanzky, a teacher at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., and Audrey Hunt,

(continued on the next page)

MOUNTAIN
VIEWPOINT

(continued)

a physician in Charleston W.Va. They want to spread the hope of Jesus to as many as they can through their music. Blanzky and Hunt believe that a small gift in the hands of God can multiply and become an incredible blessing to others.



Valley Vista Happenings

Lifeguard Training

June 12-17

Camp Staff Training

June 19-23

English Camp Meeting

June 24-July 2

Teen Summer Camp

July 3-10

Junior Summer Camp

July 10-17

Adventure Summer Camp

July 17-24

New Believers' Retreat

July 29-31

Wellness Camp

August 7-19

Hispanic Camp Meeting

August 26-28

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NEWS NEW JERSEY

Lift Your Eyes!

When the disciples asked Jesus, “What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Matt. 24:3, NKJV), Jesus answered them by listing several signs that would occur before his second coming—including pestilence, such as COVID-19, and wars similar to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Jesus specifically mentions one sign that will mark the end of time: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14, NKJV).

The gospel is being preached in many ways. Now, with social media, it’s reaching unimaginable places. Every single Sabbath from October 2020 through April 2022, the New Jersey Conference witnessed how the Lord added to His church those who have accepted Him through baptism.

Pastors have been baptizing candidates in rivers, bathtubs, swimming pools, backyards, at the beach and other spots.

The time has come. We need to lift our eyes and do the work that Jesus has commanded us: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19, NKJV).
—*Jorge Agüero, President*



Pastor Andre Ascalon baptizes Mason and Matthew George.



Pastor Ángel Laurencio baptizes Lucas Selva.



Pastor Martin Forbes baptizes Andrea Odaa.



Pastor Fismed Omar baptizes Luz Jiménez with Lilitiana Alguera’s assistance.

Vine Haven Instructor Receives 'Hi5 for Teachers' Award

Fabiola Moreno, a teacher at Vine Haven Adventist School in Vineland, N.J., recently received a Hi5 for Teachers Award. Hi5 for Teachers is an organization that exists to affirm and encourage K-12 teachers and students in the North American Division in tangible ways. Teachers are nominated, and if selected, receive \$500 from the organization. Of that amount, \$250 is for them to use at their discretion and the other \$250 is to use for a classroom project. Moreno plans to use the money to buy multimeters, circuit boards and other materials to enhance the electrical science unit she will be covering and some gym equipment to use during the winter months.

In college, Moreno switched majors because she felt God's call to become a teacher. In 2016, she became a part-time teacher's assistant at Vine Haven and has now worked there for three years. Last summer, she took two classes for certification, as well as STEM and middle school math courses.



Abdiel Custodio (at pulpit), Vine Haven school board co-chair, presents the Hi5 certificate to Fabiola Moreno (left), joined by some of her students.

Leaders say Moreno is a faithful worker in God's ministry who goes above and beyond the call of duty.—*Dulce Gabriel, Principal*

Willingboro Church Hosts Veteran's Luncheon

The Willingboro church's mission is "[to serve] the community with love and compassion." On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, they were able to do just that. In collaboration with the Food Bank of South Jersey, Willingboro provided a choice of vegetarian or

nonvegetarian cuisine and a Tribute Service for veterans at the Foster Military Lodge. Attendees included guest speakers Andy Kim, a New Jersey congressman, and Kaya McIntosh, mayor of Willingboro, who gave speeches affirming and thanking veterans for their selfless service to our country. Bruce A. Banner, pastor of Willingboro, paid tribute to the honored soldiers by singing, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Representatives from the Food Bank of South Jersey gave a brief nutritional talk and a live cooking demonstration on barley jambalaya. This dish was included in each to-go meal package, as well as the ingredients for recipients to prepare it at home. In addition, attendees received an Adventist Community Services gift bag with *Steps to Christ*, various tracts, personalized thank-you cards made by the Willingboro children and a collectible church keychain.

Member Kellie Ashlock shares, "My son and I had a nice time making cards for the veterans ... as we wanted to help them feel appreciated for the service they provided."

Tricia Yeo, representing the Food Bank of South Jersey, adds, "Willingboro ... does an amazing job in bringing the community together."



Willingboro member Terrina Williams, Pastor Bruce A. Banner, Congressman Andy Kim and member Beulah Williams attend the veteran's luncheon.

Even Amid a Global Pandemic!

Not too many people have heard the story I'm about to share with you. When the pandemic broke in Spring 2020, many conference administrators contacted the North American Division asking for counsel on how to continue ministry in the new economic fabric brought on by COVID-19.

The division called a meeting of conference presidents and shared their recommendations, saying, "We advise you to develop three new budgets. The first budget, you should assume a 10 percent deficit in tithe from whatever you received in 2019. Your second budget should assume a 20 percent deficit and your third budget should assume a 30 percent deficit in tithe."

That meant furloughing and terminating numerous employees, including pastors, teachers and office workers. That also meant that many children would not have the benefit of receiving a Seventh-day Adventist education.

Let me tell you what no one said at that meeting in Spring 2020. Nobody said, "Get ready for a huge increase in tithe! Watch how God is going to work and how His people are going to press together. Watch how something unprecedented is going to take place, even amid a global pandemic!"

I invite you to scan the QR code (above) to watch conference officers sharing details on how God



has been working in our territory. As we navigate ministry two years out from the first days of the pandemic, God has blessed His people in tremendous ways. The Ohio Conference constituency has been faithful! You have stepped up to the plate and answered the call. God has used you in a tremendous way!

Ellen White tells us we need to continue to press together as a people and all the more so as we see the day of the Lord approaching. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for pressing together as we continue to do mission here in Ohio.



Bob Cundiff
President

**2022 CAMP MOHAVEN
SUMMER
CALENDAR**

- MAY 9-12 | OUTDOOR EDUCATION SCHOOL
- MAY 13-15 | ADVENTURER RETREAT
- MAY 20-22 | MEN'S RETREAT
- MAY 20-22 | YOUNG ADULT RETREAT
- JUNE 3-5 | HISPANIC CAMP MEETING
- JUNE 10-11 | ENGLISH CAMP MEETING
- JUNE 12-JULY 16 | SUMMER CAMP
- JULY 3-9 | FAMILY CAMP

Beavercreek Church Inspired by ‘2023 Initiative’

“It doesn’t matter if the goal is completely met, but it does matter that there is a goal,” said Delthony Gordon, pastor of the Beavercreek church, as he presented the conference wide “2023 Initiative” to the church board in May 2021.

Gordon shared the idea of 2,023 Ohio baptisms by the year 2023 and challenged the board to set a baptismal goal for their church. After discussion, they unanimously picked 21 baptisms and extended the challenge to each ministry of the church.

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) team was one of the first to accept the challenge. Excitement ran high as members began to invite neighbors and friends. About 40 children attended the “Investigation Station: Genesis Factor” VBS, learning about creation and Sabbath rest. Ryan and Suzi Hayes of 3ABN Kids Camp Creation Crafts closed out the week’s programming, inspiring church youth with “Seeing the Invisible: Discovering God through the Eyes of Science.”

Next, Bible instructor Miguel Harris and the outreach team organized a church booth at Beavercreek city’s fall Popcorn Festival. Church volunteers greeted community members with a smile and distributed chilled bottled water. Members made balloon animals and flowers for the kids (and kids at heart). They also shared more than 750 literature packets and children’s coloring books and prayed with booth visitors in need.

Beavercreek also hosted its second Community Guest Day, inviting community leaders from Feed



Beavercreek church members provide literature, coloring books and more at the citywide Popcorn Festival.

the Creek charity, Bridges of Hope charity, the police department, the school district and the City Council to greet the congregation. Following the worship service, members and guests alike mingled during an internationally themed fellowship meal.

Beavercreek’s Bluebirds Adventurer Club is also actively engaged in outreach. Director Heather Greutman reports the club has grown to 23 members with some joining from the community after church members invited them.

Beavercreek’s summer of outreach resulted in a beautiful story of friendship evangelism. A couple, themselves baptized the year before, each invited their friends to visit the church. After in-home Bible studies and one friend attending VBS with her children, the couple’s friends made decisions for baptism. Gordon baptized five new members last fall, including his own son.

Gordon beams, “One of the biggest blessings for me this year is baptizing my son Jonathan! Never in my dreams did I think I’d get that privilege, as ministry was not my original plan in life. Obviously, God had other plans!”

Beavercreek church continues to challenge members to share their faith with friends, family members and co-workers. Seeing how God blessed the church efforts during the first months of the “2023 Initiative,” the church board reconvened in October to set a new goal of 40 baptisms by 2023. With the Holy Spirit in the driver’s seat, Beavercreek is moving forward together in mission!—*Helene Riggs*



After his baptism, Jonathan Gordon hugs his father, Delthony, pastor of the Beavercreek church.

Pennsylvania Pen

Pathfinder Skips Gifts to Feed Homeless Community

This past Christmas, 16-year-old Pathfinder and drill instructor Isaiah Ramos asked his parents to take the money that is usually spent on gifts to instead buy pizza for those experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia.

With encouragement from his grandfather William, an elder at the Maranatha Hispanic church, Ramos petitioned the congregation to join him. Moved by this young person's passion for service, church members immediately flooded him with donations.

"Isaiah got up to tell us his plan to feed the homeless on Christmas Eve, and ... everyone started pulling out bills," shares Janelly Davila, Pathfinder director.

Twelve Pathfinders and their parents gathered on Christmas Eve to share pizza and water with the population experiencing homelessness in their city. They also helped folks brave the cold winter with blankets, coats and shoes. A local pizza shop even donated five extra-large pizzas upon hearing about the group's mission.

"My goal is not just to help the homeless have one lucky night of food and warmth. I want their community to have consistent support," shares



Ramos. "I've been a Pathfinder since I was 10, and it's taught me everything I need to know about the Lord. I don't want to help other people just because it looks good but because I've learned to truly care about others over the last six years."

To learn more about Pathfinder clubs or stay up-to-date with the latest Youth and Young Adult Ministries projects, visit paconference.org/youth-ministries.—*Natalie Lilly, Communication Intern*

Become 'Unshakeable' at Camp Meeting



Join the conference's "Unshakeable" camp meeting, June 14–18, 2022, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. Keynote presenter David Asscherick, a Light Bearers speaker and ARISE cofounder and instructor, will share God's Word evenings and on Sabbath.

Weekday seminar speakers include Greg Steinke, medical director for LifeMed Clinic (Tenn.); Eric Walsh, medical director for CT Market HHC/GoHealth (Conn.); Cedric Vine, associate professor of New Testament at Andrews University (Mich.); and Dee Casper, CORE Evangelism Training Program director.

Children and teens will have the opportunity to enjoy activities and meetings planned just for them. Young adults will be able to attend morning sessions with Asscherick and afternoon activities like hiking, kayaking, a climbing gym and evening bonfires. Families will come together each morning for a "Rock Solid Faith" family worship, featuring John Kent.

Learn more at paconference.org/camp-meeting.

CORE Students Radically Change, Witness

Students from CORE—an evangelism and training program—recently ministered to refugee communities in Houston, Texas, with Reach the World Next Door, giving them the opportunity to learn cross-cultural witnessing.

While on the mission trip, a man noticed the cross on the shirt Dee Casper, CORE director, was wearing. The man asked the students, “Are you with a church?” He told them he longed for a Christian community, but, because of negative experiences, he didn’t have Christian friends. When he learned the group had just landed, he realized God had sent them.

Later, he came to a health fair where the team prayed with him and Casper gave him a Bible, *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*.

These young adults spent two weeks praying and distributing diapers, clothes, food and furniture to refugees and others in need. They also preached and shared music during an evangelistic series at one of the Cambodian churches.

“Our students were radically changed. ... They realized that the world ... is about serving others,” Casper shares. “Evangelism isn’t just going up to



CORE student Matthew Ullom tells Bible stories to refugee children during a recent mission trip.

preach to people. ... When we listen to people and meet their needs, it opens their desire to learn and willingness to hear the gospel.”

Learn more about CORE and enroll for next year’s program at coreevangelism.com.



Young people ages 7-16 are invited to join us
June 19-July 17, 2022
Find info and register at:
laurellakesummercamp.org





MAPS Holds Outdoor Education Pavilion Grand Opening

With the increasing challenges of COVID-19, emotional health and technology addictions facing education today, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School (MAPS) in Virginia has sought a creative answer to these struggles by incorporating outdoor education into its classes.

The school recently celebrated the grand opening of its brand-new Outdoor Education Pavilion. This space provides a launching pad for many outdoor education experiences and classes. It is equipped with a whiteboard, collaborative learning seating and storage areas for learning tools. Members of the Manassas church collaborated with the school to build this incredible facility. Throughout the day, students experience the joy of learning in God's book of nature, and, on the weekends, church members and friends fellowship and soak up nature together.

Ruth Davis, the K-2 teacher, says, "MAPS is excited about being on the cutting edge of outdoor learning and is committed to using the Outdoor Education Pavilion to excite wonder and a love for nature in our students."

Ellen White writes, "The field and hills—nature's audience chamber—should be the schoolroom for little children. Her treasures should be their textbooks. The lessons thus imprinted on their minds will not be soon forgotten" (*Child Guidance*, p. 48).



Dainett Bowers, who teaches grades 3-5, inspects soil with fourth-grade students Lucas Baker and Jayden Vasquez.

GracePoints Is on Point!

If the last two years have taught us anything, if we want to reach people—the church and the unchurched—we must think outside the box to connect with individuals in hopes of fulfilling their spiritual needs. GracePoints does just that.

GracePoints is a weekly video cast hosted by Melvyn Warfield, senior pastor of the Community

Praise Center (CPC) in Alexandria, Va. A labor of love, GracePoints began as a way to connect with his church family during the pandemic, he says. Every Wednesday, he emails the church with a short message of encouragement and the GracePoints devotional.

The name GracePoints comes from Warfield's love of talking about the grace of God, giving practical points every week to help people live out their faith and get to know Christ better.

Warfield says, "I am focused on making this ministry a part of the call to go 'Beyond the Walls.' The messages focus on reaching people at any stage of their spiritual journey, providing them with encouraging but challenging lessons of grace."

The messages are intentionally brief. Warfield understands there is a short time frame to seize someone's attention and keep it. In the time it would take to fill up one's gas tank, he wants to fill up their spiritual tank.

GracePoints can be found on CPC's Facebook page, YouTube channel and social media platforms.



PHOTOS BY RUTH DAVIS AND MILLI MIKE

Serving the Community Reaps Large Dividends

It is not uncommon to find church leaders struggling to find ways to go beyond the premises of the church to minister. In the Potomac Conference, however, pastors, principals, teachers and office workers are being challenged to do just that—to extend themselves “Beyond the Walls.” For the last year, congregations around the conference have been intentional in living the gospel of Jesus by reaching out to help those in their local communities.

Jorge Quintiana (pictured right), pastor of the Virginia Beach (Va.) church, shared with his members his vision of doing more to help those in their community. Several meetings and lively discussions later, the church felt God was leading them to assist Tapestry, a local nondenominational congregation in need of a facility to hold its Sunday worship services.

Quintiana believes that that decision was one of the best of his ministry: “As pastors, it’s natural to perform well when we are in church but going outside the physical structure can put us in a space where we are not as comfortable,” he says. “It’s not that leaders and members don’t want to reach out to their communities, but sometimes people are scared of what they don’t know.”

According to Quintiana, what they did not know was the strong bond of kinship that would be formed with members of Tapestry; it is not unusual to have members of Tapestry worship with the Virginia Beach congregation.

Gary Spell (pictured), pastor of the Tapestry congregation, was moved by the kindness shown to his members, that as a way of saying thank you, his church recently presented a \$10,000 check to the Virginia Beach congregation. He also asked Quintiana to teach him about Sabbath observance. What began as outreach for the Seventh-day Adventist congregation has turned into an opportunity to share their faith.

Spell says, “We want to bless this church because the pastor and his members have been such a blessing to us.” He told Quintiana that their bond is so strong that, “when we leave this church, I want it to be the saddest day of your ministry.” Quintiana believes it will indeed be a sad day.

Encouraged by opportunities to minister “Beyond the Walls,” Quintiana focused his sermons on intentional engagement with the community. One such



message left such a deep impression with a visitor that he wrote a check for \$150,000 to be used, he said, for God’s glory. The same visitor returned the following week with another check for \$50,000.

What Quintiana knows for sure is that we serve a God that will bless beyond what we ask when we are faithful to do His will.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD CASTILLO



THE BMA EXPERIENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

Life-Changing Experience Touches Student Body

Rafael Tavares, a junior at Blue Mountain Academy, was born into a Christian home with a praying mother. As a young person, he decided to enjoy life and leave the church. Despite his decision, he knew his choices weren't glorifying God. "I didn't understand the impact of my choices—the movies I watched, the music I listened to," Tavares shares. "But God kept sending me people who showed me His love and truth."

Sitting in the back of Christian seminars his mom made him attend, Tavares tried to not listen. "My mom kept praying for me, and something caught my attention," he said. "At one seminar, Scott Mayer, [the director of Little Light Studios], showed us a video of an experiment on how the brain responded when watching certain things. God revealed to me how sin wasn't only physical but also our thoughts."

The Holy Spirit started convicting him. "I realized that I was wasting my time on things that wouldn't do me any good," Tavares says. "When we discover the truth of the Bible, our hearts are convicted to be transformed. If you know of a person that is needing God, pray for them, show them love. Just like my mom, who never gave up on me, I encourage you to not give up. ... My life will never be the same."



At the end of FOCUS week this school year, guest speaker Mayer shared Tavares' testimony. "He invited other students to choose Jesus as their guide and to allow the Bible to light their paths," says Burney Culpepper, BMA principal. "It's powerful to see God impact the lives of a student and then use that young person to speak into the lives of other students."

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To live new experiences

To reach your dream

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To be a leader through service

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Your Legacy—in Families and Adventist Education

“Legacy” can mean your reputation, good works or what you leave to your family or charities when you pass away. For several Highland View Academy (HVA) alumni and families, their legacy has been to put their sons and daughters through a Seventh-day Adventist high school setting where the chances of developing an education for eternity is greater. Several of these families describe their legacies below:

HVA was built on the former Negley family farm, with the Negley sons, David ('59), Nathan ('60) and John Negley, Sr. ('66) all graduating from the school. John would also send his son John Negley Jr. ('88) to the academy (both pictured below).



Around that same era, three of the five Melashenko brothers attended and/or graduated from Mount Aetna Academy/HVA: Lonnie ('64), Joedy, associate alumnus ('66) and Dallas ('68)—who are now known for their work in Adventist media ministries and singing evangelism.

Other family legacy trees include Mary (Negley) Huntzberry ('63), her daughter Katrina (Huntzberry) Bishop ('87) and granddaughter Ashley (Dunbar) McMullen ('07).

Some families graduated closer to each other and later brought their children. Sam Pierce ('86) and his wife, Kimberly (Coleman) Pierce ('85), sent their children, Kayla (Pierce) Anderson ('13), Wade ('17) and Rebecca ('19) to HVA.



The Pierce Family celebrates their legacy at Rebecca's graduation in 2019.

And on graduation day, we see more members as families congregate for the special occasion. Siblings Herbert Dennison III ('96) and Angie (Dennison) Brown ('93) have sent their children to the academy: Adam Brown ('21) and current students Herbert Dennison IV ('23) and Joel Brown ('22), pictured with his mom, Angie.



School leaders still count on the legacy families who have sent their children to be educated in an Adventist Christian setting here at HVA. They hope others start their own legacy by sending family members through Adventist education.

For more information, scan the HVA QR codes!





the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

12 Students Inducted Into National Honor Society

Earlier this year, Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) had the honor of holding the annual induction ceremony for the National Honor Society (NHS). Twelve students were added to the LNAA chapter—nine from LNAA, two from Waldwick Adventist School and one from Vine Haven Adventist School.

Established in 1921, NHS is a national organization that uses four pillars to recognize students' accomplishments: academics, leadership, service and character.

Indeed, it is a recognition and distinction to be a part of the NHS. We are very proud of our students. Their tenacity to persevere, willingness to serve and dedication to the task at hand has placed them in a path worth acknowledging.

As I heard each of the students' speeches, Proverbs 22:6 came to mind: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (NKJV).

What way should our children go? What training leads to the destination? Or is the journey the destination in and of itself? We well know the word "training" means more than receiving an academic education and that where they should go is not bound by this world.



Student Association (SA) Chaplain Brenda Moris ('22); Class Vice President Brandon Lewis ('22); SA Vice President Rod Olofernes ('22); SA Treasurer Sara Rubio ('22); SA President Sheeba Mathanbabu ('22); and SA Social Events Coordinator Samantha Flores ('22) prepare to welcome the new inductees into the National Honor Society.



Inductees from the three partnership schools—Lake Nelson, Vine Haven and Waldwick—bow their heads in prayer as they are welcomed into the high school National Honor Society.

I believe that when training is integrated, aligned and connected to God, the destination is almost secured. Academics will connect to a God-given purpose, not just a career; leadership will be understood as the power to influence for good, regardless of position or title; service will be recognized as the greatest joy reaping the greatest benefits; and character will reflect in whose image we were created for. In so many words, the aim of "true education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 13).

In the name of Jesus, we continue to daily strive to reach that aim in the lives of each of our students. Congratulations to the 12 inductees!—*Elisa Maragoto*

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PFA POST



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

Academy Turns Up Dial on Black History Learning

Studying the history of African Americans and people of color is a year-round pursuit at Pine Forge Academy (PFA). But during Black History Month, the focus is greater with programs and activities to educate students and the community about their accomplishments.

This year, the young men of Handy Hall organized the weekend, themed “Black History and Love,” in which they displayed their leadership, administrative skills and talents with the student body on a spiritual and recreational level. Worship services included speaker Danny Williams, former PFA chaplain and creative arts director, and Jillian Monet, praise and worship evangelist. Workshops focused on “Who Am I?” and “The Purpose of Dating and Sexual Purity.”

Other events included the Blacks in Wax Showcase, organized and presented by the Honors African American Literature Class. Students dressed as favorite African American notables and gave biographical monologues. Some of the presenters included Lael Beckles ('22) as Joe Louis Clark—the inner-city high school principal from Paterson, N.J., on which the 1989 film *Lean on Me* was based; and Sarai Bartley ('22), who portrayed talk show host, television producer, actress, author and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey.



Tianna Liburd ('22) represents former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama during the Blacks in Wax Showcase.

Immanuel Cummings ('22) portrayed Elijah Eugene Cummings—an American politician and civil rights advocate who served in the United States House of Representatives for Maryland.

Additionally, PFA's United Student Movement (USM) planned a Black History-focused Spirit Week where student attire, cafeteria cuisine and school decor focused on social justice issues, celebrating the diverse cultures within the black community. Worship weekends carried different themes like Wakanda Worship, Caribbean Worship and Black American Worship, including a panel discussion focusing on “Being Black in Adventism.”

Through the biblical teaching and sharing of a rich history that stretches back to the beginning of mankind, students share that their hearts were moved to a deeper acceptance of a Faithful Father who has a plan for each of them. Students were taught the importance of knowing and loving who God created them to be so they can fulfill the purpose He has for their lives. The staff and faculty are praising God that the experiences of this Black History Month have added to the harvest reaped of approximately 16 baptismal candidates for the 2021–22 school year.



Danny Williams, former Pine Forge Academy chaplain, facilitates a re-enactment with students Jennings Fordham ('22) and Jewel Joseph ('24) during the Handy Hall weekend workshop.

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Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Spencerville Hosts Robotics Competition

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) was recently honored to host the Mid Atlantic Adventist Robotics League FIRST LEGO League Qualifying Tournament. “This was our first time competing in a robotics challenge and our first time hosting one,” says Kim Terry, elementary STEM coordinator. “I was so happy to see how excited and poised our students were. I loved seeing people come together to push student learning and build teamwork.”

Teams from South Lancaster Academy (Mass.) and Tranquility Adventist School in Andover, N.J., joined teams from Chesapeake schools Frederick Adventist Academy (Md.), and SAA for the daylong tournament. Each of the seven teams designed and programmed robots to traverse the game field and complete various “missions” to earn points. Teams also researched and developed innovative projects to solve real-world problems related to the packing, shipping, transporting and delivering industries as indicated in this year’s theme: “Cargo Connect.”

SAA seventh-grader Claire Wilt says she “enjoyed the process of communication and teamwork, having the opportunity to ... figure out solutions for the innovation project, as well as the design and coding of the robot.”

Tissiana Bowerman, SAA principal, shares, “I am so proud of how our community made this happen! Faculty, staff, students and parents came together to create an amazing event. These competitions put a spotlight on students who are pushing themselves to learn and are willing to work together to improve when they make mistakes. There were happy faces everywhere with excitement and anticipation in the air.”

Seventh-graders Dayton Stuart and Garrett Lombard, members of SAA’s team YES, do a run-through of their robot’s mission in preparation for the competition.



National Honor Society Inducts New Members

Spencerville Adventist Academy’s chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) recently inducted 41 new members and two transfer members into their chapter, bringing the total membership to 86 students. Inductees are chosen for the excellence they exhibit in areas of scholarship, character, leadership and service.

Nathan Hess, NHS sponsor, says, “I am so proud of the academic performance of each of these students, how they use their leadership influence in positive ways, and their unfailing willingness to serve their school and communities. They will be tremendous assets to our NHS chapter.”



SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY_{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Academy Launches New Course, Implements 3-D Pens

Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) is Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) new advanced life science elective course for grades 11 and 12. It is designed to expand students' knowledge of the structure and function of the human body. As the instructor, it is my desire that, while studying the complexities of the human body, students develop a better understanding of their Creator and a deeper appreciation of His handiwork within each of them! I want my students to know how wonderfully they are made.

One goal of our A&P class is to take challenging topics and make them memorable—not just to learn the topics and not practice or experience them. This is one reason I incorporated 3-D pens into my class. Awhile back, I was introduced to the concept of using 3-D printing pens by a professor at Sage College (N.Y.). Immediately, I knew this was something we could incorporate into SVA's lab instruction.

Junior Vivian Reeves, who desires to become a gastroenterologist, shares, "I like being able to be creative using a fun way of learning. I was able to visually take mental images of the proper locations of muscles." Senior Giselle Linares adds, "The advantages of using the 3-D technology is that it gives you a more realistic version of what you are studying. ... It helps you to visualize better how the muscles work."



Junior Isaac Collier and Senior Brandon McDowell use 3-D pens on a skeleton.



Seniors Logan Morrison and Giselle Linares and junior Vivian Reeves enjoy the new advanced life science elective course.

Each year, my students are asked to memorize many muscles. However, what tends to be most challenging is the learning of the origin and insertion of these muscles. Now, instead of memorizing muscle insertion and origins from a 2-D diagram, our students use 3-D printing pens to print muscles on skeletons.

"Using the 3-D pens really helped me memorize the muscle origins and insertions, and I was able to better understand the muscular system by being hands-on with the 3-D pens learning in a more engaging and creative way," states senior Logan Morrison.

Using skeletons allows the students to accurately anchor each muscle at the appropriate bone process or depression—something paper cannot do. Students are also able to see firsthand how each muscle directly articulates the bones of each body part. Implementing the 3-D pens to learn muscle origins and insertions has greatly increased student engagement and has drastically improved their level of understanding. In fact, on several occasions, I had students coming after school to ask if they could print more muscles!—Aaron Knowlton, Grades 7–12 Science Teacher



IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Students Lead Strength-Based Wellness Program Launch

As 28 students filed into the classroom, music teacher Daniel Biaggi, an adult advisor for the Sources of Strength program, observed them. “We could see in their faces several feelings,” he shares. “In some cases, curiosity or expectation. But we could also see something like a protective barrier—and a lot of skepticism.”

It was an unusual mix of students, with representatives from each class and a variety of friend groups. Each had been carefully chosen and invited to this special day of training to be a peer leader for Sources of Strength, a strength-based wellness program that focuses on suicide prevention and also impacts issues such as substance abuse and violence.

For seven hours, Stephanie Powell, the girls’ dean, and Darlene Anderson, the campus nurse, who are currently working on certifications as Sources of Strength trainers, worked with the program’s founder, Mark LoMurray. Together, they led the students in games, activities, and times of sharing and learning. Some staff and community volunteers who attended an earlier training participated as adult advisors, playing games and leading discussions with the students.

“As time went by, the students began to open up and participate,” observed Biaggi. “They got involved, lowered that barrier, and were open and vulnerable.”

At one point, students and adults could be heard laughing as they jostled together in the center of the room, mimicking the mountains, chicken farms and rivers of the Shenandoah Valley. Minutes later, the room was filled with the gentle sounds of students sharing as they sat in small groups. Each of the games, activities and sharing times were designed to help the students have fun while learning messages of hope, help and strength. Through extensive research, these messages have been shown to be protective factors against the many risks students face.

It did not take long for students and staff to observe that these messages are in the Bible and

Ellen White’s writings—themes already implemented at the academy. “It isn’t about learning something new; it’s about discovering what we already have,” says Olivia Patrick, a peer leader.

Developing and using strengths such as spirituality, physical health, generosity, gratitude and adult mentors as tools to navigate difficult times is what the program is all about. It also highlights sharing these tools with peers in order to change school culture so that it becomes strength-focused and help-seeking behavior becomes the norm.

As the day drew to a close, Biaggi notes, “I was seeing the students’ faces. There were expressions of hope like, ‘We are willing to help. This could really make a change on our campus!’” One student put it this way: “You have given me a purpose.”

—Darlene Anderson



Student “peer leaders” and faculty “adult advisors” engage in the Sources of Strength mental wellness program training.

www.ta.edu TATO DAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Where Are They Now?

TA has graduated many successful professionals in business, health care, ministry and education, as well as some very successful entrepreneurs. Two of the school's more recent graduates are highlighted below:

Mecca Parker ('15) was the salutatorian of his class, a star player on the basketball team and a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)—the school's junior engineering club. Parker (pictured below) was a quintessential scholar—mature, intelligent and determined. He was the kind of student that every teacher wanted in their class. His hard work



paid off when he was accepted into Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in Pittsburgh. He enrolled in the prestigious engineering program and graduated in 2019 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. When asked about his post-secondary experience, Parker states that “every moment at CMU was a challenge because that was just the caliber of student that they are trying to create. CMU forced me to push myself beyond what I thought I was capable of.”

After graduating from college, Parker took a job as a management consultant and worked with several Fortune 500 companies like MGM and Disney. In June 2021, he started his own company. Parker is now the founder and CEO of Park West Digital, an Airtable database software consulting and training firm.

“Confront your fears,” Parker advises. “Whatever you're afraid of is probably the direction you should go in because that means you have room to grow!”

Symonne Francis ('17) is another TA standout, a current student at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York. Francis (pictured below) applied to RIT's dual-degree program, was accepted and will graduate magna cum laude in May 2022 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She credits some of the organizations on campus for helping her to be successful academically.

Francis spends much of her time at the Engineers of Color Creating Opportunities (ECCO) center, a campus organization that provides support for minority engineering students. She serves as a mentor to students of color who often struggle to survive at primarily white institutions. Francis says that, without organizations like ECCO and NSBE, it would have been much more difficult to achieve the kind of academic success she has. She strongly encourages students to avoid the mishigas that can sidetrack ones educational goals. Offering a bit of advice for students preparing to matriculate to college, Francis says, “Have a social balance in college. The moments that you will remember are the times that you spent with friends and the memories that were made.”

Francis received the 2022 Mechanical Engineer Graduate Scholar Award that covered her tuition expenses for her final semester at RIT. She has already secured a job with the firm SPX Flow as a mechanical engineer and will begin work this summer. She encourages future students, “Focus on you! Don't be too hard on yourself, just keep trying!”



Placing the Bible Front and Center *Bible or Not and Verse of the Day—Celebrating 5 Years!*

Growing closer to God. Learning what He shares in His Word. Discovering verses that give hope, strength and peace in difficult times.

Every day, the WGTS team encourages listening families to learn more about God through study of the Bible. Each afternoon, listeners learn from a fun game named *Bible or Not*, hosted by Johnny and Stacey Stone. They started *Bible or Not* on WGTS five years ago. “As soon as it is announced for listeners to call in to play the game on-air, all 10 phone lines light up like a Christmas tree,” says Johnny.

“The Bible is key to a lifelong relationship with Jesus,” says Stacey. “*Bible or Not* provides a daily reason to be in the Word and to learn more about the Bible.”

Another daily scripture connection moment is the *Verse of the Day*. It’s shared throughout the day on-air, on the website, through the WGTS app, and all WGTS social media channels. “It has been a mainstay of our daily spiritually uplifting content for the past five years,” says Kevin Krueger, WGTS president. “It’s important to point to God’s Word in numerous ways and to do so consistently. Our goal is to provide hope through the content and also to engage listeners—intriguing them—to study and learn more through Bible study, and it works!”

Listen daily for *Bible or Not* at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on WGTS as Johnny gives a biblical-sounding phrase, and listeners guess if it’s from the Bible or perhaps a quote from someone famous. Listeners have fun with the option of “lifelines,” team members who jump in on-air and help with a hint. Get all three right, and you can win!

“Although it’s a game designed to be fun, the real purpose is to encourage moms, dads and their children to have conversations about the Bible,” says Johnny. “It makes the Bible accessible and alive, bringing it front and center, making the Bible a part of everyday life for the next generation.”



Johnny Stone's favorite Verse of the Day



Stacey Stone's favorite Verse of the Day



Whether in the studio or in the community, Johnny and Stacey Stone bring Bible or Not to WGTS listening families to learn more about the Bible in a fun way.



Kettering College Expands Nursing Program with an Eye Toward Affordability, Flexibility, and Career Fulfillment

by Courtney Dove

There are more ways than ever to earn a nursing degree at Kettering College—with expanded options for part-time study, in-person and some online courses, and a new accelerated track for those who want to complete their degree in as little as 15 months.

"The pandemic has highlighted the need for well-trained, compassionate bedside nurses. And by expanding our nursing program, we hope to bring more people into the profession as soon as possible," says Paula Reams, RN, PhD, dean of Nursing at Kettering College. "Our four nursing tracks provide options for people in many stages of life, with added flexibility to fit their educational pursuits around their job and family responsibilities."

This year, the college is doubling its Nursing program capacity to 250 students per semester.

In addition to expanding its program offerings, Kettering College is focusing on affordability, Reams says. For example, the college recently lowered tuition for the online RN-to-BSN track. Eligible Nursing students who work 20 hours a week at a Kettering Health facility receive a 30% tuition discount and a \$7,000 annual tuition credit. These savings are available to Kettering College students working in any benefit eligible role at Kettering Health. The goal is to help students cover as much of their costs as possible so that when they graduate, they have little to no debt.

Nurses who graduate from Kettering College will be in high demand, earning an average salary of over \$65,000. Additionally, the college works closely with Kettering Health to maximize employment opportunities for its graduates. Over half of the college's 2021 Nursing graduates obtained jobs within Kettering Health.

"Kettering Health will always be looking for nurses who have a heart for serving others, practice exceptional care, and exhibit God's love with every interaction," says Jennifer Schull, MHA, BSN, RN, executive vice president and chief nursing officer at Kettering Health.

To learn more about the Kettering College Nursing program and degree tracks, visit kc.edu/nursing.

Our Nursing degree tracks include

- A new, full-time **accelerated BSN track (A-BSN)** for college graduates who have fulfilled specific prerequisite courses and want to earn their nursing degree in four semesters.
- A **prelicensure BSN (BSN-P) track** for recent high school graduates, which can be part-time (five years) or full-time (three years).
- An **LPN-to-BSN track** for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) pursuing a BSN degree—available part-time (five years) and full-time (three years).
- An online **RN-to-BSN track** for nurses with an associate degree or equivalent who are already working in the field (students can take up to five years to complete this track).

Culture of Prayer

By Christina Keresoma

God gives us open communication with Him through prayer. It's our lifeline to Him. He even gives us different ways to enter these conversations with Him: praying the scriptures, prayer walks, prayer journals, prayer through song and worship, personalizing scripture, and group prayer. As a faith-based organization, our physicians, nurses, and employees can openly pray with each other, patients, and visitors.

As Seventh-day Adventists, we know prayer works. Physicians pray with patients before surgery, seeking God's hand through the procedure and the patient's healing. Environmental staff pray with patients in recovery rooms. Leadership and clergy pray over new buildings and building expansions with newly completed rooms. Leaders and staff begin meetings and events with prayer, asking God to guide the outcome and bring benefit to attendees.

Prayer is a central part of life at Kettering Health. Even our surrounding communities know we believe in the power of prayer. And our communities—and world—need it more than ever.

As we make sense of the events unfolding around the world, we see so many hurting hearts. Exhausted physicians and nurses try to keep going after caring for patients with COVID-19 and seeing the death it brought. To offer support, clergy and leadership teams brought food, encouraging notes, and set up rooms for reprieve so care providers could escape the stress. Now as hospitalizations and cases drop and our spirits lift, a new burden has fallen upon the world: the invasion of Ukraine.

Words cannot capture the heartache we feel for our brothers and sisters. Many of us here, thousands of miles from Ukraine, have wondered what we can do to help. Thankfully, God has given us the powerful gift of prayer. Kettering Health executives recently came together to



Vilis Neikurs brings supplies to Kyiv



Prayer vigil for Ukraine

hold a special prayer vigil for Ukraine. Holding fast to the truth our Heavenly Father is the one true God, they prayed with heavy hearts for those in Ukraine and confidence that God comes to help and heal the most vulnerable.

A Kettering Health chaplain has been sharing messages from a friend whom God is currently leading through the streets of Ukraine. Vilis Neikurs earned his bachelor's degree in religion from River Plate Adventist University in Argentina. Vilis, a Romanian, married his wife, a Ukrainian, in January of this year. One month later, Russian troops invaded Ukraine.

continued on next page

Culture of Prayer (cont.)

Vilis and his wife went to Romania to find a safe place. And Vilis has since been making trips in and out of Kyiv. He brings much-needed supplies to Ukrainians trapped in the city and has been smuggling as many people out as he can.

"Many trips are being made to take out people from the city and to bring food to those who remain there," said Vilis. "We need help. But, seriously, what we need the most is prayer. We are seeing them work. It is impressive how in each trip we have done from Kyiv, God closes the eyes of the soldiers who are at the borders, and they let us go through without any problems. One day we were able to take out 80 people."

Despite the sights and sounds of invasion and war, Vilis approaches the border crossings with confidence that God hears and answers prayer. He waits his turn, watching the car in front of him be searched by Russian troops. If he's caught, he knows there will be dire consequences. But every time, Russian troops wave him through. As he drives away, he sees the troops stop and search the car behind him.

Vilis knows and believes in the power of prayer. And so do we. At Kettering Health, we will continue to pray. We are proud of our culture of prayer and ask you to join us.

** Financial support has been provided through the Kettering Adventist Church and ADRA.*



*"But truly God has listened;
He has attended to the voice of my prayer."*

Psalm 66:19

Healthy Options

We were thrilled to join Gem City Market's "First Weekend" event, where community members participated in health education, a traditional African drum circle, mural painting, and taste testing soup and chili sold by the market. Gem City Market is a community co-op grocery store located in a community that became a food desert after the chain grocery stores left the area.

The Kettering Health team shared tips and tricks for healthy snacking, preparing food for the week, and

building a portion-controlled plate. To continue helping the community, the Kettering Health team will hold a monthly "Nutrition for Health" class at Gem City Market.





Living by the Golden Rule

One of the basic building blocks of many faith traditions is what often is called "the golden rule" – treating other people as we would want to be treated.

Our Adventist HealthCare **RISES** Values can be thought of as ways in which the golden rule is found in our work and practice. We **Respect** others as we would want to be respected – for instance by honoring individual preferences, including cultural, spiritual or individual considerations. The **Integrity** driving our actions parallels the integrity we expect from the people who impact us. We **Serve** with the compassion and care that we pray would be extended to us. We strive to exceed expectations in all that we do, and we hope that others share our commitment to **Excellence**. Finally, we are careful **Stewards** of the resources entrusted to our care, just as we rely on others to be careful with resources.

The golden rule empowers our efforts to be a welcoming and hospitable community – committed to health, wellness and healing. Our Vision of providing a world-class patient experience to every person, every time is motivated in part by knowing that this service is exactly what we would appreciate for ourselves.

Modern healthcare is extremely complex. There are intentional approaches that shape how we extend care, guide how we focus resources, and inform how we evaluate success. But each of the policies and practices that we have chosen are deeply rooted in our Mission. The golden rule is not just a slogan but helps articulate the Values at the heart of our organization.

Thich Nhat Hanh was a global spiritual leader whose life and work was an inspiration to people of many faiths. He affirmed the principles of honoring others with the respectful understanding you would wish to be extended to yourself when he wrote, "We have to find ways to nourish and express our compassion. When we come into contact with the other person, our thoughts and actions should express our mind of compassion."

To have the mind of compassion, expressed in all that we do, affirms our appreciation of the golden rule.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Baldrige Honors

Continuing its journey toward the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Adventist HealthCare's leadership system has earned a Malcolm Baldrige Category Best Practice Recognition, one of the nation's highest honors for performance excellence. Adventist HealthCare is the first multi-hospital health system in the Washington, D.C., region to earn this honor for outstanding leadership practices that create organizational success. The recognition establishes Adventist HealthCare as a world-class organization that can serve as a model for other businesses on how to consistently improve safety, ensure a positive patient experience, and optimize health outcomes – all while reducing costs.

"The past two years have been extremely difficult for healthcare systems," said Terry Forde, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. **"This honor is a concrete recognition that every team member across our system is united in our Mission to extend physical, mental and spiritual healing through compassionate, high-quality care – even when facing the many challenges of COVID-19."**

The program is managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and provides a rigorous evaluation of quality practices and performance. Examiners spend a minimum of 300 hours reviewing each application. Strong applicants are awarded a site visit with more than 700 hours of interviews and analyses. Adventist HealthCare was the only healthcare system to receive a site visit in 2021.

"Healthcare is a team sport," explained John Sackett, Chief Operating Officer for Adventist HealthCare. "In order to achieve this recognition, every team member needed do their part to deploy our leadership system. **When each employee puts their shoulder to the wheel, we can fully realize our vision of providing a world-class patient experience to every patient, every time."**

As community members seek care in a competitive market, the recognition acts as an independent assessment of Adventist HealthCare's comprehensive health and well-being services.

"We are so pleased to be recognized with this Baldrige best practice award," said Forde. "And, as we share our story, we are honored to serve as an example to other organizations in bringing hope and healing to the community."



HEART CARE SERVICES EXPANDED

Cardiac Associates, one of the most recognized cardiology practices in Montgomery County, MD, joined the Adventist HealthCare system on Feb. 1, 2022. This partnership will create better coordination and integration for patients and expands Adventist HealthCare's heart care services to the community. The addition of Cardiac Associates into the Adventist HealthCare family adds over 100 employees including 16 physicians and other healthcare providers, as well as three offices in Germantown, Rockville and Silver Spring.

Cardiac Associates offers a full range of heart care services including non-invasive procedures such as ECG/EKG and Echocardiography; cardiac catheterization and ablations; peripheral vascular procedures such as cardiac stenting; venous procedures and specialty clinics for arrhythmia, heart failure and blood pressure.

Feedback Informs Excellence



This spring, Adventist HealthCare incorporated Narrative Dx, a new tool to further improve patient experience. The platform combines all patient comments from various internal channels, social media sites and third-party partners in one digital location, allowing easier identification of common threads in feedback to inform constant improvements in patient care. Artificial Intelligence (AI) analysis breaks down comments into insights that are assigned ratings and organized by category, theme and subtheme. By using Narrative Dx, Adventist HealthCare teams are able to quickly obtain information on where they are exceeding expectations or better understand patient preferences to best anticipate needs and exceed expectations.

Fast Stroke Care for the Region

The faster stroke patients receive treatment, the better their outcome. Thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure that removes blood clots through a catheter, can help prevent brain damage in stroke patients – but not every hospital is equipped to conduct the procedure. Since late 2021, Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center accepts thrombectomy patients transferred from other area hospitals. This is just one example of Adventist HealthCare's commitment to offering patients the life-saving intervention they need within their own community.

AHC Recognized for Excellence in Patient Safety Innovation

Adventist HealthCare earned top honors by winning the 2022 Minogue Award, the Maryland Patient Safety Center's highest recognition for patient safety innovation. Award winners are selected by a panel of independent judges who are leaders in the Maryland healthcare community.



The winning program entry created a standard interaction between interdisciplinary care teams, patients, their families and caregivers to ensure full involvement in care decisions during inpatient hospital stays and discharge planning.

This project is one of many initiatives Adventist HealthCare has taken to find innovative ways to improve health outcomes and enhance the experience for patients. By tapping into the collaborative insight of patients, their family members and care team members, Adventist HealthCare is creating standards of care that support the best health outcomes for patients and positions the health system to best address the health needs of tomorrow.

Improved Joint Surgery



Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center now offers Mako SmartRobotics™ to further improve knee and hip replacement surgeries. This technology helps create personalized joint replacement plans using 3D CT-based planning software which ensures the optimal retention of healthy bone and soft tissue. This advancement, along with Adventist HealthCare's expert surgeons, will help optimize the best health outcomes including reduced stiffness and maximized function.

MSCHE SELF-STUDY COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED



The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. Being a member of MSCHE assures students and the public of the educational quality of Washington Adventist University. A significant part of the MSCHE continuing institutional accreditation process is an internal self-study of the university relative to the identified seven MSCHE standards. This is done to ensure institutional accountability, self-appraisal, improvement, and innovation through peer review and the rigorous application of standards within the context of our institutional mission. The self-study process was co-chaired by two of our outstanding members of the WAU learning community, Dr. Grant Leitma and Dr. Reginald Garcon. Chief Janette Neufville, our MSCHE Accreditation Liaison Officer, and her team provided excellent support for the entire self-study process. Working groups were established and charged to evaluate their assigned MSCHE Standard against the university's four institutional priorities.

Summation of the Self-Study:

- WAU's strategic plan provides the framework for decision making for advancing the University's mission. Planning and budgeting processes ensures alignment of resources with the strategic plan and annual operational priorities.
- The institutional assessment plan outlines how assessment informs goals.
- WAU takes appropriate measures to assess the financial ratios and external audit.
- Compliance with federal, state, and accreditor requirements are being ensured with the same attentiveness and processes that were established for goal-tracking and effectiveness.

Much appreciation to our Self-study team and our engaged board of trustees, faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders. The self-study report reflects a WAU learning community that is guided by bold strategies and sustained by a continuous quality improvement process. The next step in the continuing accreditation process is a virtual site visit scheduled for May 8-11, 2022.

THIS IS WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY!



Weymouth Spence, President





SERVICE IN ACTION AT WAU

Ministry at Washington Adventist University (WAU) is on the move! Over the 2022 Spring Break, twelve WAU students embarked on an immersive service-learning experience in Baltimore, Maryland. Immersion Trips are a little different than how one might normally think of “Missions Trips.” “If we want to truly honor God in our efforts to love our neighbor, we must think about the long-term effects of our service. Immersive opportunities help with critically analyzing the most effective way to understand the issues of a community and how to best serve. Students have the opportunity to be exposed not just to the needs and the challenges of a community but also to the assets and methods to enable them to have a long-term impact,” said Jason Dietz WAU Chaplain.

This year’s immersive spring break trip explored the systemic and human dimensions of complex social issues in Baltimore. The students established connections with local leaders, including Maryland state senators, Baltimore City council members, and community organizers. “The alternative spring break made me rethink my values as a human being and showed me what our goal here on earth is all about; to help those who are in need,” said Henrique Da Silva, WAU student.

Students also had the opportunity to partner with local nonprofit organizations and developed an understanding of available resources and challenges. The trip’s focus included poverty engagement, immigration, community development, social justice legislation, rural poverty, and restorative justice. “It was a humbling experience because I saw God more,” said Chris Carcamo, WAU student.

As a university, WAU has as its tag line “Gateway to Service.” As a result, it continues to seek opportunities for its students and workers to help serve the community. As a university community and by extension a broader Christian community, it is critical that we not only speak about the importance of service but endeavor each day to serve others. It is the Christian’s responsibility to be the hands and feet of God to those who are suffering, marginalized, and in desperate need of people who will take tangible steps to alleviate their challenges. Let us continue to move forward to positively impact our communities for eternity.



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Sandra Jones
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5427 Twin Knolls Rd
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Elternhaus Assisted Living is a special place for seniors, and we're looking for a key leader to help keep it that way. Elternhaus is a 23-bed, Seventh-day Adventist owned and operated assisted living home near Columbia, Md. As our DRN, you'll be more than a nurse. You'll be giving your attention to the overall well-being of our residents, coordinating their medical care and maintaining excellent communication with their family members. Perhaps most important, you will be joining our mission to provide a deeply Christian environment that will feel comfortable and safe for our Christian residents, many of whom are Seventh-day Adventists. If you're ready to explore this opportunity, please contact Tim Mayer at (240) 286-3635. Learn more at elternhausalf.com.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY-MUSIC:

Full-time tenure track position: Requires 24 teaching credits per year, including music classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, fulfilling responsibilities of the orchestral studies area, preparing and conducting the concerts of the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra (AUSO). For more information, visit: andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_10

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY-ACADEMY GENERAL-Instructor-AA:

The high school English

teacher's responsibilities include planning lessons and developing curricula; reading and understanding all prescribed texts; offering academic support to students with regard to literature comprehension, writing skills and grammar understanding; and, in addition, communication with parents regarding students' progress; and ensuring a safe learning environment are necessary for professional success. Candidate should be a Seventh-day Adventist in good and regular standing willing to teach English literature with a distinctly Adventist emphasis. For more information, visit: andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_1.

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Neb., is seeking applicants for a boiler plant operator. This is a full-time, non-exempt position with competitive pay and benefits. This individual is responsible for the operation and repair of HV/AC systems, transmission lines and associated controls. Please view the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Bulletin Board

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Notice is hereby given that the fifth quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22, 2022, by videoconferencing. This meeting is held for the election of officers and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article III, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

Jerry Lutz, *President*
Andre Hastick, *Secretary*

Notice is hereby given that the fifth quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 22, 2022, by videoconferencing at 11 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Jerry Lutz, *President*
Andre Hastick, *Secretary*

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fifth quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 22, 2022, by videoconferencing at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact other business as may come before the session

at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Jerry Lutz, *President*
Harry Janetsko, *Secretary*

OBITUARIES

STULL, Roger E., born December 14, 1944, in Cortland, N.Y.; died October 31, 2019, in Lewisburg, W.Va. He was a member of the Marlinton church in Buckeye, W.Va., where he served as a head elder and lay pastor. He worked tirelessly to remodel the church building and organized the dedication service held September 14, 2019. Roger held an undergraduate degree from Atlantic Union College and a master's degree from Andrews University. He was a teacher and a principal for over 40 years in Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia (Chesapeake, Mountain View and Potomac conferences). Survivors: his wife, Joan Gair Stull, of Lewisburg, W.Va.; son, David Lendle, of Aberdeen, Md.; daughter, Lesli Boldt, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; his brother, William Stull, of Temperanceville, Va.; and granddaughters, Olivia and Sophia Lendle, of Aberdeen, Md.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Sunset Calendar

	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
Baltimore	8:04	8:10	8:17	8:23	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37
Cincinnati	8:35	8:42	8:48	8:54	8:59	9:03	9:06	9:08
Cleveland	8:29	8:36	8:43	8:49	8:55	8:59	9:03	9:04
Columbus	8:31	8:38	8:44	8:50	8:55	9:00	9:03	9:05
Jersey City	7:57	8:04	8:11	8:17	8:22	8:27	8:30	8:31
Norfolk	7:57	8:04	8:09	8:15	8:20	8:24	8:26	8:28
Parkersburg	8:23	8:30	8:36	8:42	8:47	8:52	8:55	8:56
Philadelphia	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:19	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:20	8:27	8:33	8:39	8:45	8:49	8:52	8:54
Reading	8:03	8:10	8:17	8:23	8:28	8:33	8:36	8:37
Richmond	8:04	8:10	8:16	8:21	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:35
Roanoke	8:13	8:19	8:25	8:30	8:35	8:39	8:42	8:44
Toledo	8:37	8:44	8:51	8:58	9:03	9:08	9:11	9:13
Trenton	7:58	8:05	8:12	8:18	8:23	8:28	8:31	8:32
Wash., D.C.	8:05	8:11	8:17	8:23	8:28	8:33	8:36	8:37

Miracles Still Happen!

WATCH. BE INSPIRED. SHARE WITH YOUR CHURCH.



From "Witch" to Witness

awr.org/ranja

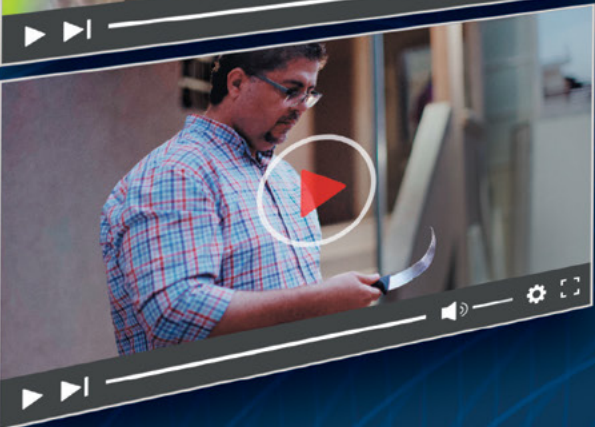
Ranja was held captive by the evil spirits that possessed her ... until the day she turned on her radio.



Trading Guns for God

awr.org/rebels

More than 700 rebel assassins just laid down their guns in exchange for a new life in Jesus ... and they're already leading others to Him!



Taking a Bold Stand

awr.org/wisam

Wisam's own family tried to stone and stab him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East!

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